



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

Inspiring everyone to REACH through
Faith, Hope, Love

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Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Clare Howells

1st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for choosing to send your child to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that we will do the very best that we can to make sure your child is happy and successful at our school.

Starting school can be both exciting and daunting for children and parents/carers. There will be so much to learn and lots to remember for you both. Therefore, by building a positive working partnership with you, we aim to make sure that your child has the best transition into school and that it is a positive memorable experience.

During this important first year in your child's school life, they will achieve so much. Our experienced Early Years Team will ensure that they focus on the most important aspects of the foundation stage. There will be an emphasis on developing positive relationships with adults and other children so that they feel happy and safe in school, that St Joseph's is a place that they want to be, because that's when children thrive and are able to be successful academically. They will be encouraged to ask questions about our wonderful world, grow as confident individuals, as well as develop morally and spiritually. Most importantly, we want your child to develop a love of learning as they **REACH** in all that they do and strive to 'be the best that they can be'. With your help and support anything is possible!

Our 'Information for New Parents' brochure attached for your convenience and can also be found on the school website, provides all the information you might want to know as a parent with a child starting school at St Joseph's. It will hopefully answer some of the questions that you may have. However, if you do have any further questions, then please email them to: year0@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk and our Early Years teacher will respond.

I'm sure you will agree that at the moment, things are very uncertain. Therefore, in order to try to reduce any worries that you might have about the transition into school, we have considered two different scenarios based on the children returning to school before the end of this academic year (July 2020) and based on the children returning to school in September (academic year 2020-21). Both scenarios are outlined within the 'Information for New Parents' brochure.

As soon as we have been given guidance from the Department for Education, we will of course let you know, which scenario we will be following. Please be assured however, that the Early Years team are working behind the scenes, making contact with your child's nursery/preschool as part of the transition process and in building a picture of your child as unique individuals. Equally, it would be useful for our Early Years teacher to be able to contact you directly. In order for her to do so, please could we ask that you email your mobile/home numbers to year0@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk and Miss McCarthy will be in touch. Should you have any worries, concerns or questions, then please do not hesitate to use the email address above.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you and your child to our school family as we begin this important next stage in their learning together.

Kind regards

Mrs C Howells
Acting Headteacher