



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Wednesday 15 September 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and that you and your families are well. It has been lovely and uplifting to welcome your children back into school at the start of another academic year. We are very proud of the pupils and how they have settled back into a routine.

I would personally like to thank you all for your understanding and support over the past 18 months as we have done everything possible to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 within our school. You will have seen from the local and national news that cases are rising and as a school we will continue to put your children's and family's safety first.

It is with this focus of safety first that I, along with Governors, have taken the decision to return to all of our community wearing face masks in all internal communal areas as of tomorrow, Thursday 16 September.

Those pupils who had been issued with a 'mask exempt lanyard' are to wear these prominently to ensure that staff can identify them easily. We will again have a small supply of disposable face masks for those who have forgotten to bring theirs into school. I would urge you please to support us by ensuring your child/children have a supply in their bags before setting off to school each morning. If you wish to purchase a SJCS face mask these are still for sale on <https://schoolgateway.co.uk>. This is the same site where you 'top up' your child's lunch card.

For new parents yet to set up an account, please follow these instructions:

Just search School Gateway in your App store and download.

You can also login to the online version of the School Gateway if you do not have a smart phone: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>

As you will be aware the regulations from Government for schools has changed dramatically. Hence, we urge you to use the Lateral Flow Tests twice a week at home to help us to reduce the spread of the virus. Should a pupil or staff member now test positive on a Lateral Flow or PCR test, as a school we now have to leave all decisions on who should isolate to Test & Trace who will contact you personally. Whilst this may cause some parents' concern, we have to follow the regulations that have been set for the whole country.

To enhance our measures, we have also returned to limited gatherings of pupils. Assemblies will now be in single year groups and we have split the lunchtime so that pupils are mixing less. Hand

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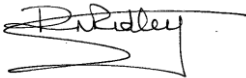
Telephone: (01722) 335 380 Fax: (01722) 410 741 Email: admin@sjcs.org.uk

Website: www.sjcs.org.uk

sanitising stations still remain in place and all pupils should continue to use them to help with basic hygiene measures. The one-way systems also remain in place to reduce the congestion in corridors. Please remember that we are continuing to use the Covid email address to answer any parental questions. This is covid@sjcs.org.uk and a member of my senior team will get back to you as quickly as is possible.

I do hope that you understand my cautiousness and hence why these decisions have been made. I would like to reiterate again our determination to keep our school as safe as possible which in turn will keep the pupils and families safe.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs RA Ridley', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mrs RA Ridley
Head teacher