

St Joseph's RC Primary School



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Dear Parents and Carers

The Autumn Term is now in full swing and it has been lovely to see that the majority of our pupils are quickly settling back into school, enjoying being back with their friends and engaging with their learning. I would like to thank you for your support in helping us prepare children for the new ways in which we have to work, and for encouraging them to come back to school.

As a school we have worked hard to ensure that children have been able to return to a well-managed and safe environment and we have developed a detailed risk assessment which outlines the steps that the school will be taking to reduce the risks of spreading the virus. We work very closely with our local Public Health Authority to ensure everything we do is in line with official guidance.

You will know from the news that the Coronavirus is still around us and cases are increasing in the UK. Reported cases are also increasing in Salford and this is why Salford is still part of the Greater Manchester local lockdown arrangements as well as the additional restrictions that were announced on the 22 September by the Prime Minister. There continues to be an increased number of positive tests across the city. Our school has a very clear procedure in place when we know that pupils have the symptoms of Corona virus. We will take swift action in all cases, taking advice from our local Public Health Team. When necessary, pupils will be sent home to isolate, particularly if they may have come into contact with anyone else who has been tested positive for the virus. We will ensure that your child can still access their learning if they are sent home.

It is important that all of us play a part in helping to keep the spread of the virus to a minimum and we need your help in this too.

This means for example, that only one adult should bring your child to school to avoid too many people being around the school gates at the same time. When people are close together the virus spreads much more easily. You should try to walk to school where possible and keep apart from other people at the school gates. We also ask that parents and carers to wear a face covering at any time you are near the school collecting your child, or when you are inside the school building, just as you would do in a shop.

Please continue to ensure that your child continues to regularly wash their hands with soap and water or with hand sanitiser. We know that this works to destroy the virus.

It is extremely important that we all play our part in preventing the spread of this disease and ensure that our schools are able to remain open. As a reminder, current law (Rule of 6) and additional restrictions for Salford means that you must not meet or socialise in groups of more than 6 people in any setting*. You must not meet in other people's homes or gardens or ask people round to your house or garden.

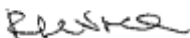
* This does not apply to people in support bubbles. A support bubble is when a single adult, with or without children can join up with one other household.

Importantly, if you or your child is displaying any symptoms of coronavirus, however mild, your household needs to self isolate and book a coronavirus test immediately for anyone who has symptoms. The symptoms are a high temperature, a new, persistent cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, loss of normal taste or smell. Please remember, however, that you should only book a test if you have symptoms. Use www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test to book a test. New appointments are added throughout the day so it's worth checking the website every couple of hours if you can't find a suitable appointment straight away. If you have any trouble booking a test, please do let us know as we may be able to help.

If you or a household member needs to self isolate there's a new government scheme to help residents be able to afford to self-isolate. If someone in your house is told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and meet various criteria, you will receive a support payment of £500. Visit www.salford.gov.uk/testandtracesupport for full details including eligibility criteria and an application form.

Thank you for your continued support on this and we trust you will be reassured by the arrangements being put in place and that welfare and a safe learning environment remains a priority for us all.

With best wishes



Mrs Rosemary Hince
Headteacher