



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher Mr S Belbin

2 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and I hope you and your family managed to get some form of break over half-term. By now you will know that we have had further cases of COVID-19 within the school community within the two Early Years bubbles, and so we have had to close Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 until next Monday. Homework for these classes is on Class Dojo.

The decision to close our school does not come easily, but it is an instruction from Public Health England and the Department for Education to reduce the spread of COVID-19. I hope that you are managing to ensure that these children are isolating themselves from each other.

I am aware, from various social media platforms, that this decision has not been received very well by a few parents. I can assure you that this is not a case of staff having another week's holiday, or that this outbreak is caused by staff freely mixing together outside of school. We are following national guidelines that our children should stay at home for fourteen days. I can only apologise if this has caused disruption to work and family life. I also understand the difficulties of juggling having children at school as well as at home. Meanwhile, we have had a number of the school community who have been very ill with COVID-19, who hopefully will recover soon.

Every school is suffering the consequences of this horrible pandemic, and St Joseph's is no different. I would sincerely hope that as a school community we could work together, be tolerant and caring of our school family. No one wants to catch COVID-19, to spread it to others; we all want life to carry on as normal as it is possible. However, the news over the weekend indicated that the greatest rise in cases nationally is amongst not just secondary but also primary school children. Further closures seem inevitable.

To further tighten up on our procedures to reduce transmission, I would ask that all parents are wearing masks when they drop off or pick up children. Staff will be wearing masks out and about in school. I would also suggest that no parent or visitor can come into school without a mask.

Yours sincerely

S Belbin

Mr S Belbin
Headteacher