



St Joseph's RC Primary School

5 Queen's Road Aberdeen AB15 4YL
Tel – 01224 322730
stjosephsprimary@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Head Teacher
Mrs Sinead Lindsay

Respect Honesty Forgiveness Equality

Dear Parents

We are delighted to reopen the school today in preparation for our children to return, beginning on Wednesday. The School Return Plan is accessible at [this link](#) but may be subject to review after our first 3 orientation days.

I know you will be keen to get back into a routine, to get your children safely back to school and start to move forward again. We want to make this happen as safely as possible. As it is very new to us as well, please be patient whilst we respond to new guidance.

I have summarised the main aspects of the School Return Plan below:

Return Date

All children will return for one day on 12th, 13th or 14th with a full return planned for 17th August. Please adhere to the date your children have been given.

Drop off and Pick up

Getting this right is crucial for the safety of children. Guidelines for this from page 9 of the Plan.

You may need to wait outside the school grounds whilst we manage this. Please ensure that you keep your distance from others whilst you wait. Please also see information about parking and 'Park and Stride' below.

When you drop off and pick up your child or children, you must vacate the area immediately.

Access to the building

Year groups may have different doors to access the building than they would have expected, please refer to 9 - 13 of the School Return Plan and show your child which door they will enter by.

Children will not be lining up in the traditional way. When the bell rings, the doors will open, children will feed into the building, keeping left. They will sanitise their hands on entry, proceed to the classroom where they will place their belongings at their desk, change their shoes and then wash their hands. Cloakrooms will be out of use for the time being unless they are easily accessible. Children will keep their belongings in the class in this instance.

When children leave the building at the end of the day, this will be very carefully managed by the class teacher. Older siblings walking home with younger siblings will have a waiting point for their sibling.

Belongings

Children should bring as little as possible to school. Their packed lunch should fit into their schoolbag. Resources will be provided to the children which they will store in their tray at the end of the day. Children must bring a water bottle. Children must also be prepared for wet weather, please ensure that they have a waterproof jacket with them.

Library books will be in use once we have established a quarantine protocol for the books. Until then, children are encouraged to take a book in from home, but they **MUST** take it home at the end of the day. Children should not take any toys with them except where prior agreement has been made with parents whose children have additional support needs and this is part of a strategy to a positive transition.

Children will be encouraged to take home leftover lunch food and wrappings.

Uniform

Details about uniform have previously been given and a huge thanks to parents who have organised the ordering of uniform. We will continue with loose clothing for now and will discuss a return to previous uniform when we are in a position to do so.

Children must have a pair of outdoor shoes that they can do PE in and they also require indoor shoes.

Facemasks / coverings

Some of our staff will use facemasks during the day. The wearing of face-coverings is mandatory in some instances. Where a member of staff is working with a child within 2 metres for 10 minutes or longer, there is an expectation that they will use a face-covering. If a member of staff is supporting a child in intimate care, or where a child has displayed COVID-19 symptoms, there is a requirement that they wear full protective wear i.e. face covering, apron and gloves.

There is no requirement for children to use masks during the school day.

You may find the Back to School Pack [available here](#) useful to work through with your child.

Communication

Please see page 15 of the Plan for information about communication with the school and class teachers. By adhering to distancing guidelines, you will not be able to approach a teacher in the playground, nor will a teacher be able to approach you. You will be contacted by phone or email if a teacher wishes to talk to you and likewise, please contact the school office if you would like to talk to a class teacher.

Reporting absences

It is vital that we have accurate reporting of absences in the school. Please phone or email all absence information to the school office directly. Please do not send it to the class teacher. Outline clearly the reason for your child's absence. You may receive a phonecall to get more detail.

Children will not be allowed leave the building for appointments.

Please do not change pick-up arrangements for your child in the middle of the school day unless in the case of an emergency.

Dining Arrangements

In the weeks beginning 10th and 17th August, there will be no hot school meal provision. Children should take a packed lunch and if desired, can purchase a packed lunch from 17th August using the normal school meal service. Vouchers will continue to be issued for this.

Please click on [this link](#) to access information from the school catering service about lunches from 17th August.

Parking

Although walking, cycling, scooting to school is advised, we know this is not always possible, however, please be aware that there will be **NO parking** in the school carpark. Sections of the carpark are being used for distancing measures and this has significantly reduced what is available to staff who will now be double-parking, walking or using public transport. Only staff and limited school transport will be able to access the car park. Any previous agreement made with individual parents is no longer valid.

The rationale for 'Park and Stride' is on page 8 of the plan. You will find a Walking Distance map [here](#). Please use it to access free or low-cost parking within reasonable distance of the school. Thanks to our parent team for creating this map.

Email addresses

We have had some issues with email addresses on our system and will be sending out paperwork for you to check, amend and return. In the meantime, this and other communications will be emailed to all parents, followed up by a text and also posted on the school website Home Page.

We look forward to meeting the children and our colleagues again, despite the challenges this will present but as you have done before, we know you will continue to support the school as we navigate our way through this period.

Yours sincerely



Sinéad Lindsay

Head Teacher