

**10th September 2020**

Dear Parents

A big welcome to all our new families and I am sure you will have many talents to contribute to our school community. I look forward to getting to know you.

The children have made an excellent start to this term and coped well with the new procedures in place. It has been a pleasure seeing them come into school happy and smiling and positively engage with their learning. I am sure you must be very proud of them, as we are. Children in Reception and Nursery were amazing and had no problem settling in. The highlight of my week was seeing two new Reception children happily singing as they ran into school, book bag in hands eager to start the day. Our children are our strength and despite the current challenges, they are happy to be back and show incredible resilience. Congratulation St Joseph's, you're 'simply the best'

### **Curriculum**

Next week, teachers will be sending out their newsletters and information on topics to be covered this term. It will also be uploaded on Google Classrooms. Moving forward, tasks will be uploaded to help with home learning. Please do contact us if you have any issues accessing Google Classrooms. All classes will be revising summer term targets in English and Maths, from the previous year. Assessments will be carried out to identify gaps in learning and strengths. It is key that these gaps are addressed and children are confident, before we move onto this year's targets. I am confident that children will soon be back on track and working on the current year's targets.

You can help your child by ensuring they read daily and practice basic maths skills so that their arithmetic skills are sharp.

### **After school clubs**

We are hoping to resume clubs after half term, providing it is in line with Government recommendations. Information will be sent out at the beginning of October to allow you time to book.

### **School Uniform**

The children look so smart and represent us in the local community. Please ensure they do wear their burgundy school coats as this is part of our uniform. Kindly mark all items with your child's full name. Our uniform is available from School Wear United, 3 Crown Dale, SE19

I hope you have noticed the many improvements around the school over the summer break. A new path was laid in the junior school and the adventure playground has been renovated. Fences have been painted and areas reorganised to prepare for the start of gardening clubs. I will be writing to you soon, asking for donations of plants, seeds and various gardening resources to develop the gardens in the infant and junior school. If any of you have spare time to help, please do email me on:



[head@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk) My thanks to Mr and Mrs Laranja for carrying out the work on the adventure playground and the junior garden area and to Mrs McMillan for setting up areas to promote wild flowers. Each class will have responsibility for an outdoor area and will grow vegetables and flowers to promote nature.



A big thank you to the PTA, especially to Donna and Mel for all their hard work. They have organised uniform and arranged for each child to have their own wooden pencil case with stationary and

goodie bags for our new Nursery and Reception parents. These will be given out on the 14th September. Our PTA works incredibly hard and needs your help. So if you are interested please email them on [PTA@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk)

Thank you for following all the current guideline in school to ensure everyone's safety. I would ask that you kindly do not arrive too early and keep to the allocated start and pick up time, unless you have children in several year groups. **Remember Woodend is now a pedestrian zone from 8.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. You will receive a fine from the Council if you drive down Woodend during these times.**

### **Open Days**

Open days will be very different this year owing to COVID-19 restrictions and will be on the following Saturdays: 3.10.20, 7.11.20 & 5.12.20, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and on Wednesdays: 14.10.20, 21.10.20, 18.11.20 & 2.12.20 from 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Please do pass on details to any parents you know, looking for a place in Nursery and Reception for 2021.

## **UPDATE ON COVID-19**

If you or your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19),  
**Get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.**

### **Main symptoms**

**a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

**a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

**a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If you have one or more of these symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 10 days – or longer if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. If you live in the same household as someone with coronavirus symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 14 days.

### **What to do if you have symptoms**

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- ◆ Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- ◆ Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- ◆ Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

**If you have any concerns always seek medical advice  
or contact 111 for information**

I know it continues to be an anxious time for everyone, but thank you for working with us to ensure we keep everyone safe. The children have been fantastic with following safety procedures and rules. Please do remember to maintain social distancing both on and outside of school premises.

I look forward to seeing you at the school gates. Keep safe and well

**Mrs Fernandes - Headteacher**