



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Park Road, Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 2BA.

Email: [office@st-josephs-broadstairs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-broadstairs.kent.sch.uk)

Tel: 01843 861738

Executive Principal: Mr C Wright

Academy Principal: Mrs K Millership

16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Dear Parents & Carers,

## Home Learning, Free School Meal Vouchers, Covid19 cases & Home Visits

Term officially starts today! So time to ditch the onesie, try and remember what day it is and become reacquainted with Mr Joe Wicks.

### Home Learning After Easter

The 3 schools are using different platforms for delivering home learning which they will have communicated to you directly. Although these are being delivered through different systems they are following the same pattern of providing daily lessons across the week. This is in the form of English, Maths, RE and two wider curriculum lessons throughout the week. This is in addition to the remainder of any home learning packs, websites and regular logins the children have been encouraged to keep accessing. We are trying to balance the competing needs for the children to keep learning with the imperative for parents to also work from home and the competition for computer access. Please do what you can without causing any undue stress; welfare comes first.

If you have a real problem with accessing online content please get in contact with the school. We have delivered a small number of home learning packs direct if absolutely necessary.

### Free School Meal (FSM) Support

We initially set up our own system of getting the Free School Meals support to families through the Sainsbury's scheme. This delivered over £5000 directly from our school budgets to our families. We will be able to claim it back but we wanted to support swiftly. We are jolly glad we did as the government Edenred scheme is only just coming into use. **We are moving our reissue date forward 2 weeks to today, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April** to take account of the change in government policy which funded the scheme through the holiday.

Families in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to login and select vouchers for a supermarket of their choice. The new system will be paid at the full rate of £15 per week per child. We are registering your email addresses with Edenred who will be sending you the login details to enable you to access the system. Please contact us if you have problems but be aware that we are not running this new system, it is

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is part of Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Company registration no. 8176019





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direct from the government. If you are unable to access digital vouchers our offices will liaise with you. If the system takes some time to work properly, (and early press reports suggest this) please be assured we will continue to deliver the £15 per week into your accounts so that when it is working smoothly you will not miss out on any credit.

## **Covid Cases**

At time of writing we do have cases of COVID19 confirmed in families connected to all three schools. We keep these families in our prayers and hope they make a full recovery. We have no confirmed cases in children attending our provisions but some who are in isolation and awaiting test results as family members of NHS workers. We will keep parents informed if we receive additional information and we are following all published guidance.

## **Home Visits**

We continue to carry out a small number of home visits. If the school phones you, please pick up or return calls so that we can keep these to a minimum. We will be trying to visit a small number of families we have not been able to get in contact with tomorrow, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. We do have to observe social distancing for Health & Safety reasons on these visits and I will attend with a staff member from the individual school.

Finally, the number of children attending school as Key worker families is relatively low as families continue to keep children at home if possible. Our thoughts are turning to planning for the happy day when we are able to reopen. We do not know when this will be or how it will be rolled out. Different age groups? Partial opening? .... When it does happen there will be substantial challenges, particularly as some staff will be unable to return without a vaccine due to underlying health considerations. One thing parents can really help with in preparation for this moment is to really instil the theory of hand hygiene and particularly social distancing. I find with my own children that within the home, where we spend the majority of our time, it is business as usual. Social distancing does not come naturally to young children and therefore making them aware of this and reminding them when you are outside could really help us keep school as safe as it can be for children, adults and the wider community when we return.

Warm regards,

Mr Wright