

Interim Executive Headteacher: Mrs Kate Seddon



**St. Joseph's RC Middle School**



Highford Lane

Hexham

Northumberland

NE46 2DD

☐ 01434 605124

Fax: 01434 601575

e-mail: [admin@hexhamstjosephs.uk](mailto:admin@hexhamstjosephs.uk)

Website: [www.hexhamstjosephs.uk](http://www.hexhamstjosephs.uk)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the Summer Term, it certainly has been a strange one!

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for your support and understanding over the last 17 weeks. I have appreciated your flexibility and patience on what has been the most difficult term in education that I have ever known.

### **School in September**

We are planning to have all pupils back to school in September and plans are underway to make sure this is possible. There will be more detailed information sent to you over the summer holidays once we have had some time to digest the information from the government. **Please keep checking your ParentMail accounts regularly.**

I would like to inform you that we are intending to welcome our Y5 pupils on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** to familiarise themselves with the school. All other year groups, Y6,7 and 8 will be starting on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

These key points below may answer some of your questions but please consider that these may be subject to change.

- All pupils will return in September and will form class bubbles. Pupils will stay primarily in the same room until at least October half term. Pupils within a bubble will invariably not be able to social distance all the time but staff/pupils will be encouraged to try (this will be easier with older children). There will be systems in place to minimise mixing between class bubbles during the school day. Pupils in Y7 and Y8 may mix slightly within their year group to allow setting in maths
- Pupils will wear school uniform as normal
- Pupils will be able to share resources within their bubble but these will require regular cleaning. The pupils will be encouraged to use their own pens, pencils, rulers etc. where possible. A pack of equipment will be provided for them which will remain in school. Pupils will not require a pencil case
- There will be increased cleaning of the school premises
- Regular hand washing will continue to be a key aspect of the school day
- There will be staggered drop off and collection times and parents will be expected to socially distance as they collect the children. The school may use multiple drop off and collection points. The school will let parents know drop off/collection times and location in due course during the summer

- We hope to have much of the school dinner hall available for lunch but some classes will eat within their classroom
- Break times and lunch times will be staggered to avoid mixing outside between bubbles
- We hope to have external PE coaches, SEN support and music peripatetic teachers in school but these people will need to maintain social distance with pupils where possible
- Clubs will operate on a reduced capacity at the schools. Those which involve mixing of pupils between class bubbles will only operate if there is the option to socially distance pupils (e.g. clubs that utilise outside space may be able to go ahead under these conditions). Clubs that happen indoors would be single bubbles only
- There will be no whole school events such as collective worship or assemblies where all classes come together. These may happen remotely where each class is involved on the video call
- Parents are to avoid entering the school grounds wherever possible

The school will upload the risk assessment over the holidays when we will provide further information on the finer details, form classes, drop off times etc.

You can also email the school if you have any other questions/concerns on [parentcontact@hexhamstjosephs.uk](mailto:parentcontact@hexhamstjosephs.uk)

### **Y8 Leavers**

Shirts were signed on the school field and videos were made as staff and pupils gave their farewells. They have been a fantastic year group with an impressive work ethic, 89% of them having had at least good engagement with online work over the coronavirus period! We wish them all the best at their new school and look forward to welcoming them back for a proper celebration in the near future. Thanks to Mr Rosier for organising this.

### **Congratulations**

- To one of our Y7 pupils who shaved her hair off for charity. It looks fantastic and thank you to all those who donated to the Little Princess charity on her behalf
- To one of our Y8 pupils who popped up on Newsround discussing books in Matfen
- To Mr Secker for achieving the Northumberland County Council Virtual Sports Award for his lockdown PE videos

### **Summer Activities**

The children have managed really well over this coronavirus period and should be congratulated for their hard work and resilience. Many of you will not be going away this summer but there are lots of activities for your child to enjoy.

Try the *Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge*. Every book has been specially chosen by children and librarians for everybody taking part to enjoy. Please find further information [here](#)



## **Summer support for Y7 and Y8**

NORTHUMBRIA HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST have asked schools to promote this service to young people and their families. This service was established to enable young people aged 11-18 to access support on anything in their lives without the necessity of a face to face appointment. Now more than ever, due to the restrictions in place due to Covid-19, this texting service has come into its own.

## **New starters**

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 pupils and other new pupils in Y6,7 and 8 into school in September.

## **Staff Goodbyes**

We are sad to have to say goodbye to Mrs Hassett, Mrs Miller, Mrs Henderson and Mr Spence who will all be leaving us this summer. We wish them all the best in their chosen paths.

## **Finally**

Once again, thank you for your support in my role as Interim Executive Headteacher at both St Mary's and St Joseph's schools. While it has certainly been a challenge due to the exceptional circumstances we have found ourselves in, it has also been a great pleasure. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Paul Naughton as Executive Headteacher in September.

### **Prayer for the end of the School Year**

*At the end of this unusual school year, we give thanks to God.*

*For all the teaching and learning that has taken place, both in school and online. For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that we have faced. For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed. For the respect and wonderful care that has been given.*

*We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown. For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles. For the hope that has lifted our hearts, on the dark days of lockdown, and for all the love and support that has kept us going.*

*Bless all our families Lord, as we take our holidays; may our time together leave us with memories to cherish. Pour out Your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed, ready to continue our journey together in September.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

Stay safe and have a lovely summer.

Best wishes,

Mrs K Seddon

Interim Executive Headteacher