

Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Telephone: (01709) 760084

Head teacher: Mrs H McLaughlin

Chair of Governors: Mr M Janvier

Friday 16th October 2020

worrywednesday@olsj.org.uk



COVID19 Update

As you are aware we have had a number of confirmed cases of COVID amongst staff since the end of September. In addition to closing the Y1 class at the weekend, we have had to close the Y2 class this week. On a more positive note, we are delighted that our Foundation Stage children and staff have returned to school.

We recognise that this is a worrying time for parents/carers and staff and want to share with you the steps we have taken today to strengthen the school's systems. On Monday morning, Mrs Evans and Mrs McLaughlin had a meeting with members of the Local Authority and Public Health England to discuss the situation in school. It was felt that the school's risk assessment is robust and that the number of cases reflects the local picture. We agreed that the situation would be reviewed each day. In addition, we have stopped all visitors to school.

Although it is challenging, we feel at the moment that we can continue to keep school open as we recognise the need for children to be in school for their mental wellbeing as well as their education. Staff and children have risen again to the challenges of teaching from home.

All the staff are very appreciative of the support shown by parents/carers; these are very difficult times but the understanding and sense of unity among all the school community makes it easier to manage. We are sure that you will all join with us in wishing any staff who are ill, a speedy recovery.

The Jess Cup

The Jess Cup is awarded each week to a child who has displayed exemplary behaviour and contribution to school life. Congratulations to last week's winner, Bobbi Jo Furness!



Harvest

This week, as we continue to explore our school value of stewardship, children have been celebrating Harvest. Usually we would collect for CAFOD or tinned goods for the local food bank. Due to current circumstances we are not asking for goods to be brought into school but you may as a family wish to donate in your local supermarket or you can use this link to make donations to the CAFOD COVID19 Fund. We always appreciate your generosity.

[CAFOD COVID19 Appeal](#)



Wearing face masks.

We have had a number of enquiries about the wearing of face masks when collecting children. The view of the Public Health Authority at the meeting on Monday morning was that social distancing was more effective than wearing a mask outside and they have not advised us to require parents to wear a mask when collecting children. This is alongside current government guidance. Adults are very welcome to wear a mask when collecting children if they choose to do so. We will of course update this advice in line with any new guidance from Public Health or Government.

As a school, we are following DfE guidelines with regard to children displaying any symptoms of COVID19. The guidelines state...

These guidelines would also apply if your child became unwell with any of the same symptoms at home. Thank you for your continued support.

Due to current circumstances we are not accepting visitors in school at the moment. This means that the visit from the School Photographer has been postponed to a later date. We apologise for any inconvenience and will inform families as soon as a date has been set.

This week, Mrs Janvier is recommending...The Journey by Francesca Sanna. There is a copy in the KS2 corridor if you'd like to read it!



Playtime snacks should be fruit or breakfast bars. Fruit is provided free for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children.



Although child-friendly apps can make using the internet a more accessible and enjoyable experience, the thousands of apps available for different types of people mean it's important to make sure children use appropriate ones. Here is a guide to safe use of apps for parents.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/#tab-1431531253-1-85>