



**Headteacher:** Mrs Michaela Velayudhan Tomlin

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Pontefract, a Voluntary Academy  
Newgate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 4AA

**Telephone:** 01977 701493 **Fax:** 01977 711378

**Email:** [admin@sjp.bkcat.co.uk](mailto:admin@sjp.bkcat.co.uk) **Website:** [www.stjosephspontefract.co.uk](http://www.stjosephspontefract.co.uk)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Families of St Joseph's,

The new school term has presented us with a set of challenges and I thank you for your support with this. I am sure you are all exhausted and continuing to spin many plates but please be assured you are doing a remarkable job! As we enter week four, we would like to update you with a few things.

### **Important Information**

This lockdown and the expectation set out clearly by the government are very different to the lockdown in March. Children are expected to attend live register/lessons daily, if they cannot attend then the usual daily attendance procedures must be adhered to; parents are still expected to contact school to inform us if a child is ill and unable to attend live sessions as we have to continue to track attendance and code it correctly. We thoroughly appreciate that parents are under immense pressure and many of you are working from home and trying to support children accessing remote learning, therefore if you find yourself in a situation where your work commitments are preventing your child from accessing their remote learning at times, again please contact school following the usual attendance procedures.

Please ensure that we have contactable phone numbers for you and if we ring you we are expecting a swift response on the same day. If we fail to receive first day contact from any parent school is still expected to continue to conduct the usual attendance procedures, including social distanced home visits. We have had to conduct home visits this week as we have not had sight of some children or not had first day contact with some parents/carers. We have a duty a care to know where every child is on every school day, this includes the seeing/speaking with the children at home. We will continue to follow our first day response on a daily basis – I implore you to please support us by phoning the school.

Children attending live sessions need to be fully dressed, not eating and working in an appropriate space where possible; these are all things to reinforce both behaviour and safeguarding expectations during live lessons. Children attending school need to continue to wear full school uniform and bring the appropriate PE kits. The same expectations continue to be applied in school despite not having full cohorts of children in each class.

In the event of a suspected case of COVID in school I wanted to reassure you that the same procedures we adhered to before lockdown are still being applied. If your child has symptoms in school, we kindly ask that you pick your child up as soon as possible once we have contacted you and we will continue to take advice from both Public Health England and the Local Authority infection control team, closing bubbles where necessary.

### **Remote Learning Survey Response**

We received feedback from seventy parents/carers. The feedback from the survey has been very positive and I am grateful to parents who firstly took the time to complete it and secondly who recognise the challenge that remote learning has presented us all with and the response that we as a school have made to these challenges. As a number of parents very kindly pointed out, our teachers have embraced remote learning and live lessons. We all continue to develop and move forward with Google Classrooms/remote learning in order to support our children's education. Our staff are working tirelessly to ensure that both our children in school and our children at home are receiving quality education.





**Headteacher:** Mrs Michaela Velayudhan Tomlin

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Pontefract, a Voluntary Academy  
Newgate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 4AA

**Telephone:** 01977 701493 **Fax:** 01977 711378

**Email:** admin@sjp.bkcat.co.uk **Website:** www.stjosephspontefract.co.uk

We want to make the remote learning experience as positive as we can for all of our children so I wanted to reiterate; can I please ask that if you have any issues you contact your child's class teacher or the school office. No one should be unclear of who to contact therefore, if you experience an issue accessing Google Classrooms or you have a query regarding a task set please contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo or contact school by telephone or the admin email and we can signpost you to the right person. In addition to this, children in Key Stage two can direct message their teacher on Google Classrooms.

Following two device surveys and further requests from parents/carers, all of our children should now have access to an individual device. Children from the same family should not be sharing a device and should be able to access each of the Google Classroom sessions as school have loaned a number of devices to families.

Reading books are being given out to the children attending school, however we cannot post reading books to families at home as this is a covid-19 risk and we cannot arrange for parents to collect books every week as this defeats the government's request to reduce footfall and numbers on school site. To address this and provide our children with further reading support we have implemented and shared the Oxford Owl online reading books for all children across school as well as the Reading plus online for children across Key Stage two.

Our children's mental health remains a priority for us and we ask that you inform us if you require any support with this. Mrs Clements our Learning Mentor/Mental health first aider and Denise Shone our Catholic Care worker are here to support all of the children. Please see the mental health section on the safeguarding page on our school website – this sign posts you to a variety of organisations that can support you and your child. Please contact us if you require any support with your child's mental health. Mrs Clements the School Learning Mentor has completed mental health training and is happy to discuss your child's mental health with you. Please don't hesitate to seek out this support from us, we are here to help.

Finally, if you have any issues that you wish to discuss with me on an individual basis please do not hesitate to contact me.

*'I don't think the school could do anymore to scaffold parents in the circumstances we face, it does not go unnoticed or unappreciated how unprecedented the current climate is and how wonderful the school have continued to do their best- your best is always good enough. Thank you.'* Parental comment, 2021.

Thank you for your continued support,

God Bless,  
Mrs Velayudhan Tomlin

Headteacher

