

Parent update 1.11.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Feast of All Saints to you all. I hope you have enjoyed the company of the children over the half term break despite the poor weather. As we get ready to return to school tomorrow, there are a number of things to update you on.

Free School Meals

Manchester City Council has agreed to provide funding for all children from Nursery class to Year 11 who are eligible for a benefits related free school meal over the half term break. These are families on a low income that receive the pupil premium. This does not include children who get a free school meal through the universal scheme whereby all children in Reception year one and two receive a meal without charge. These children are not classed as free school meals for this scheme.

Eligible families will receive a cash payment of £15 per child for the week commencing 26th October. (I will check if our families can also apply for the w/c 19th Oct and will let you know). You will need to claim through the Welfare provision scheme on the Council's website - the link is copied below. The scheme will continue to be open for 2 weeks after half term up until 13th November.

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200008/benefits_and_support/6302/apply_for_a_loan_if_you_are_in_financial_crisis

Safety Measures

We will continue with the same safety measures to reduce the risk of Covid that we have had in place since September. The way that school and our families have worked together is something we should all be proud of. There are only a very small number of schools who, like us, have managed to get through the first half term without having to send any bubbles home. With your help and support we will continue to try to avoid this for as long as we safely can.

A quick recap of our safety measures:

Staggered start times and finish times according to family surname.

Start time:

Families A-G Office door at 8.45

Families H-L playground door at 8.45

Families M-S Office door at 8.55am

Families T-Z playground door at 8.55am

Home times are

Families A-L 2.55pm	Families M-Z 3.05pm
---------------------	---------------------

Nursery – classroom door	Nursery – classroom door
Reception – classroom door	Reception – classroom door
Y1 – classroom door	Y1 – classroom door
Y2 – classroom door	Y2 – classroom door
Y3 – Fire exit door (near playground)	Y3 – Fire exit door (near playground)
Y4 – Cloakroom door	Y4 – Cloakroom door
Y5&6 – Office door	Y5&6 – Office door

Please do not come into the school grounds before your allocated time, we aren't always able to have staff at the gate.

Please continue to use the one way system. I know the one of the paths is very muddy; unfortunately as it is outside the school grounds I can't do anything about it. There is a longer way round if you don't want to use it.

Please ensure the children bring **only** their reading books and packed lunches to school. Packed lunches should be disposable. Children have water bottles in school which are washed and refilled daily so you don't need to buy and send in drinks each day.

School dinners – This week we are trialling having a hot option with the school lunches. Children will continue to eat their lunches in their classrooms as before and will take breaks separately from other bubbles.

PE Days will remain the same this half term. Please send your children into school in their PE kits ie plain black shorts or joggers, white t-shirt and red school jumper. Unfortunately due to the new lockdown Y4 will not be going swimming yet.

Bubbles will remain the same. EYFS are considered one bubble as they share an outside area. In line with our risk assessment, some children in KS1 do move to other year groups for their phonics lesson.

School uniform – is expected as per our policy.

Our updated risk assessment is below (the updated sections are coloured green).

Communication with school

Communication with school will continue to be paperless. We will be switching to message via *School Spider* instead of texts this term, so please make sure you have the app on your phone.

Please email us at contact@st-johnbosco.manchester.sch.uk to contact any of the staff. Unfortunately, we can't talk at the door at the end of the day as we could in the past. Please also be patient with us, the needs of the children in the building come before everything, we will always get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you for your understanding and support of school. These are difficult times for everyone. Please be assured the safety and wellbeing of our children is at the heart of all we do.

Looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

With love and prayers,

Mrs Johnson

Headteacher