



ST JAMES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEBBURN

15th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support while we have been putting in place our short-term arrangements for face-to-face learning. It has been lovely to see our children happy and eager to learn this week. They have been a credit to our school and you, their families and have shown great resilience.

We do not yet have any further information on the extent of the work required to the school building or the timeframe required for the related work. We will therefore continue to provide the same arrangements for face-to-face learning for the next few weeks. We will continue to tweak and improve these arrangements to ensure our pupils are having the best experience and we will provide a further update as soon as we have this information.

We appreciate this is not ideal, but we feel that providing pupils with access to face-to-face learning from our staff in a safe environment is an absolute priority. We continue thanks to our colleagues at St Joseph's and St Aloysius for their continued support and kindness whilst we navigate this unprecedented situation. Thank you to our Church parishioners for their continued welcome and encouragement.

Year 5 and Year 6

Will continue to be taught at St. Aloysius Junior School by members of St James staff. Catering is being provided by Chadwick's Kitchen following their usual menu.

Year 1 to Year 4

Will continue to be taught St. Joseph's by members of St James staff in our own small group of classrooms. We have timed our movement around the school to ensure that corridors are not used at the same time as St Joseph's students. When transitions take place for St Joseph's students the corridors and main areas are monitored at all times by St Joseph's staff.

Currently packed lunches are being provided by Chadwick's Kitchen. We are exploring the option of offering a hot meal options as a priority. We have our own areas for children to eat lunch and exclusive St James outdoor areas for breaktimes. Indoor options are also available to for us to use at break times if the weather requires.

Mrs Francesca Heslop
Headteacher
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Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

We have ensured that every classroom has a class teacher and several teaching assistants available to both support in class and chaperone to the toilets. We also have exclusive use of four portaloos and portable handwashing facilities.

Reception Class

Are being taught by our staff in the Emmaus room, which we have transformed into a wonderful learning space. Currently packed lunches are being provided by Chadwick's Kitchen. We are hoping to offer hot meal options as a priority. Our youngest children have access to exclusive outdoor space and are accompanied by St James staff at all times. Children use the toilets next to the Emmaus room which are designated to our children and are chaperoned at all times by Mrs Watson, Miss Guthrie and Ms Capot.

We are delighted that we have been able to offer Breakfast Club this week which has been a huge success. From next week we can offer our Sports Club and Little Dribblers to Year 4 and Year 1 children. Year 3 and Year 2 will swap over after half term.

The Department for Education will be supporting us throughout and will also be assisting with longer-term remediation measures so that we can bring all pupils back into school once we are fully confident it is safe to do so.

We would like to truly thank you all again for your patience with this unprecedented situation. Slowly but surely, we're getting there and that's down to your support and the resilience of our children. If you do need to contact us we now have access to our telephone line 01914832672 or please email info@stjameshebburn.co.uk and we will get back in touch as soon as we can.

Kindest Regards

Mrs Heslop
Headteacher

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