



ST JAMES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEBBURN

6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for your continued support during this unprecedented time. We wanted to let you know that despite our pupils being in different locations we are continuing to work hard to support face-to-face learning and have been so impressed by the resilience and adaptability of our children. If you have not already done so please take a look at our Facebook page which shows the children in their new environments, it is lovely to see them enjoying themselves.

We are continuing to make improvements daily with our partners at our current locations, so we can provide pupils with the best experience in the circumstances. Y5 and Y6 have enjoyed their hot meals as normal within St Aloysius but we are now delighted to be offering hot meals to all of our children in Reception to Y4. Thank you to all of the staff at Chadwick's kitchen who have supported us with this and of course to Sara our cook and our kitchen staff for working so hard. It is imperative that all meals are booked via your ParentPay account by Thursday each week, this is to aid kitchen staff to make food orders. You will be notified by text when the menu is live and will receive reminders throughout the week to use the booking system. If you have not booked a lunch via your ParentPay account by Thursday we will presume going forward that your child will be bringing in a packed lunch from home.

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting everyone together weekly to allow us to come together as a school community, celebrate our achievements and spend some quality time together. This will continue each Friday.

We will **not be** having an in-service day on 20th October. We are aware that St Joseph's Catholic Academy and St Aloysius are not in school on 20th October but St James will be in school as normal. On 20th October our Year 5 and 6 children will be taught at St Joseph's Academy all day by their usual St James teaching and support staff. Please make sure all children are dropped off at St James Church car park and collected as they normally would be on a Friday at St James Church car park

Year 1 – Year 4 will continue to be taught at St Joseph's Catholic Academy by members of St James staff in our own small group of classrooms. Corridors are not used at the same time as St Joseph's students. We have full access to St Joseph's timetable, which means we know when the

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transition times are to avoid. When transitions take place for St Joseph's students the corridors and main areas are monitored at all times by St Joseph's staff.

We have ensured that every classroom has a class teacher and several teaching assistants available to both support in class and chaperone children to the toilets. We have successfully taken possession of four portaloos, which are placed on the yard that is exclusively ours. These are cleaned every day, padlocked every night and at the weekend. At the moment it makes playtimes and lunchtimes a lot more efficient (and allows the children more playtime) to use the portaloos.

We have also taken delivery of four exclusive portable handwashing facilities which are just inside of our St James entrance/exit at St Joseph's with running water and soap, the children wash their hands several times throughout the day.

St Joseph's have been able to accommodate us inside too which means the children have access to indoor and outdoor toilets throughout the day. Children will be asked to go at break times as usual but also if they need to go mid-lesson this will of course be allowed, as it always is. We have more than enough staff to make sure that children can go to the toilet whenever they need to and they will of course be chaperoned by St James staff at all times.

For the moment children should bring a full fresh water bottle to school every day, there will be an opportunity for their bottles to be refilled during the day.

Although we had hoped very much to have a plan with you today, a meeting has been arranged later on today by the Department for Education. This means that unfortunately I will be unable to deliver communications regarding this meeting as I'd hoped to. I know this is disappointing and frustrating. This is the case for myself and staff as well, please know we are very much all in this together. As soon as I have anything to tell you I **absolutely** will.

Please stand by us and know we are doing everything we can to get the right plan in place. We need to be sure we are making a decision based on all of the information. I will make sure the best decision is made for our children.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself"

Kindest regards

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