



**EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER: MRS. J BURGESS**

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**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. C. HORSLEY**

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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Families

Thank you, for your patience regarding our unexpected school closure today. We have had an extremely busy few days in school, dealing with the aftermath of yesterday's torrential rain.

I would like to share my sincere gratitude to all staff for their response. It is thanks to their work ethic and team approach that St Joseph's is able to re-open so quickly tomorrow. It has been all hands on deck to mop, clean and, in some instances, relocate classrooms. Please see photos below, which will give some indication of what we were, and still are, dealing with. Thank you, also, to BWCET for your help liaising with contractors.



Whilst we are delighted to be back in business tomorrow, we will have to make a number of organisational changes to allow areas of the school to dry out before further cleaning/assessments of damage can take place.

The main areas affected are Y5 and Y6 classrooms, upper key stage 2 corridor (with no current access to toilets), main school admin offices and school entrance reception area.

As a result, we have put a number of measures in place.

### **Classrooms**

Year 5 classroom has been moved to the school staffroom upstairs.

Year 6 classroom has been moved to the school hall.

### **School office**

We are working to ensure this is operational as soon as possible. In the meantime, we ask that you email with any queries you may have rather than coming in to school. School email is: [stjs@stjs.bwcet.com](mailto:stjs@stjs.bwcet.com).

If you need to contact us via telephone, calls are being rerouted, but we only have one line available, at the moment, so there may be a slightly longer wait time. If you need to leave a message, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

### **Playtime arrangements**

We are making some temporary changes to the timing of playtime across school as access to different yards is restricted.

### **Lunchtime arrangements**

Due to Y6 pupils using the hall as their classroom, as well as restricted access to the playgrounds, there will be some slight changes to lunchtimes: however, all meal provision remains the same.

### **Collection during the school day**

We always ask that appointments are made outside the school day, however, if this is not possible, and you need to collect your child within the school day, please phone the school number on arrival 01207 232624 and your child will be brought to the front street yard.

These temporary arrangements are in place to enable our pupils to return to learning, as soon as possible. I am sure you appreciate we may have to make further adjustments once we establish how things are working.

### Drop-off and collection information

Staff will be on hand at drop off and collection points to assist and direct pupils. We ask that parents/carers do not go into the yard from Front Street to avoid congestion.

<b>Class/Club</b>	<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Exit</b>
Breakfast club	Front street yard – please ring keypad on far door	N/A follow information for individual classes
Nursery	Usual arrangements and times apply	Usual arrangements and times apply
Reception	Gate opposite the Job Centre 8.45 am	Gate opposite the Job Centre 3.05pm
Year 1	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.10pm
Year 2	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.10pm
Year 3	Main path through churchyard into EYFS area and through new Reception classroom door 8.45am	Parents wait in main school yard (down from churchyard path) - children will be brought through EYFS outdoor area 3.15pm
Year 4	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.15am
Year 5	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.20am
Year 6	Front Street Yard 8.45am	Front Street Yard 3.20am
Wraparound Care	N/A	Front Street Yard – please ring school mobile 07823815101

We do not have a confirmed timescale when school will be fully operational again, but we will keep you informed of all developments. We hope business as usual will be resumed soon.

This is certainly not the start to the new academic year we would have wanted. That said, on the evidence I have seen so far (particularly thinking back to the building issues we encountered last year), St Joseph's school community is resilient, practical and positive and I am sure we will all work together to ensure our pupils face the least disruption possible. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Burgess  
Executive Headteacher