



“Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts.”

Pope Francis

Dear parents/ carers

I look forward to meeting many of you tonight and tomorrow at parents evening. It is wonderful that we can get back to face to face meetings and invite parents back into school.

COVID: As you may well know, free COVID tests come to an end for the general public (and school staff) on Friday 1st April. As yet, we have no clear guidance from the government on how this will impact on school – and I have been told not to expect any in advance of Friday, however, the information I have seen from a neighbouring local authority seems to suggest:

- PCR tests will also not be available to the public/ school staff (unless very vulnerable)
- No testing is expected by either children or school staff
- If someone does test and is positive, they should stay away from school for at least 5 days
- Children should stay off school if they appear to be ill

The last point may appear to be obvious – but in recent times, schools in general have had children sent in when they are unwell – but COVID-free – as ‘they don’t have COVID’!

COVID rates are currently high and appear to be rising – I would ask all parents to use their common sense around illness. Recent symptoms of COVID have been tiredness/ lethargy, tummy ache and diarrhoea – as well as sore throats and cold-like symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support on this and I am sorry that I can’t give better clarity. If we are given further information that contradicts this, I will update you all further.

COVID vaccinations for 5-11 year olds: Carrying on from the above section..... these are bookable by parents from the beginning of April on the link - [here](#). We are told there are no plans to carry out these vaccinations in school so they must be accessed in the community. I know choosing a vaccine will be a very personal choice for many parents.

Attendance: Non-COVID related absences in school are very high and our attendance here at St Joseph’s is below what we would hope it would be (even when COVID absences are taken into account). We will be sending out letters to families where attendance does need



St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Chesterfield Road, Matlock, DE43FT
info@joe.srscmat.co.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



to improve. If you have any questions about this or need our support in improving attendance – please do get in touch – we are here to help.

Children who regularly miss learning in school do end up with gaps in their knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.

New staff: We have 2 new members of staff starting with us over the next few weeks. Miss Johnson will join us working in EYFS and Miss Lemon will join us working in Year 3/4. I know you will all make them feel very welcome.

Uniform: Remember – if you have any school logo'd uniform at home that is no longer needed and that has enough life to be passed on to another family, please donate this to school and we will soon set up a uniform exchange.

Nursery: If you know of any 3 year olds in the community who need a fantastic nursery to attend – look [here](#) at the details for our nursery....

School Leadership: You will have received the letter last week about the fact I am leaving St Joseph's – and the trust – at the end of this school year. I will miss St Joseph's very much – I have really enjoyed being part of the school over the last 12 months. My moving on does not actually change anything for St Joseph's. Plans are already well underway to ensure the school has a permanent headteacher from September – and I hope the trust will be able to write to you after the holidays to confirm this – once the process is complete.

Don't forget!

Wednesday 6th April - Film Night (after school until 5:30pm)

Friday 8th April - INSET Day (school closed to children)

God bless

Mr Lobb



St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Chesterfield Road, Matlock, DE43FT
info@joe.srscmat.co.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust