



Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas'
Catholic Primary School
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17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 3

Headteachers from many Sefton schools met with officials from Sefton Public Health and the interim Head of Education, Tricia Davies, yesterday afternoon in an attempt to seek some guidance for schools as it had been stated that we are to remain open.

We have the very difficult task of continually assessing risk against a background of great uncertainty and a continually changing picture of advice as the scientists are learning every day about the activity of Covid 19. Even within half an hour of our meeting the advice had changed about self- isolation for entire households fourteen days!

I must tell you that Sefton Public Health advise that we all follow national guidance and the symptoms of a new continuous cough and high temperature are the symptoms that should be a cause for concern and would result in household isolation. Equally, the minimal 20 second handwashing with **soap and water** on a frequent basis is very important.

Some questions were raised on your behalf about children with underlying health problems and whether they should attend school or remain at home. The response was that this is a matter for the parent and a discussion with their GP should they have any concerns about the school environment and a possible compromise to the child's health.

School Closure / Partial School Closure

This situation is continually evolving and it is possible that the government will follow its European neighbours and close schools at some point in the future. I must however, highlight the issue that should our staff have to self-isolate and we were unable to recruit cover teachers, then we may be forced into partial or full closure before any national initiative comes into place. This would be the case for all schools

In the event of a possible school closure we are currently preparing contingency plans for some remote learning for pupils via the website.

Impacts on Pupils' SATs and Assessment

Headteacher Mr Kieran A Loftus

Chair of Governors Ms Carmel Howard

I am aware of the impact this situation is likely to have on tests and exams. Whilst my immediate concern is with the health and safety of our pupils and their families, clearly the longer term impact is a concern too. I have been in communication with the National Association of Headteachers and I am confident that these matters are being raised with the government. I will keep you updated with any further information as and when I receive it

Thank you for your understanding again in a continuously challenging time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kieran A Loftus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kieran Loftus Headteacher