



Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas' Catholic Primary School

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29th May 2020

Dear Parents,

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 14

Update Phased Reopening of Schools

Second Questionnaire for All Parents of Children in Nursery Reception Year 1 and Year 6 and Key Workers

We are sending you a second questionnaire with a **Yes** or **No** only option if you are a parent of a child in a nominated year group or if you are a key worker. It is important that everybody in those year groups and key worker group who wishes to be considered for a wider reopening place completes this very brief questionnaire coordinated through the school website. This will be open to fill in from 10.30am this morning until 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd June. Mrs Hoban will send out your parent log in information again so you have quick access to giving us your response.

We have now come to a point where we need to be more certain about numbers and your response will help to inform and determine our plans; particularly in relation to class sizes.

To inform your decision, we have looked at the questions and queries you raised in the response to the first questionnaire so I hope that you find this FAQ section useful.

Responses to Frequently Asked Parental Questions from First Survey

Q What will class sizes look like?

A Class sizes will be based on size of classroom and social distancing A class capacity limit will include the adults. Each of the year groups (normally split into one and a half forms) may now be converted into three classes per year group, each staffed with a teacher and some classes with teaching assistants. The classes would stay together as one class throughout the day. There will be no intermixing with other classes who will stay in their own bubbles.

Q What will *drop-off and pick-up* be like?

A There are four distinct pick-up and drop off points **Nursery from the rear of Nursery onto carpark slope and then onto the path which lines the school building. Reception from the field gate (used on sports day in the past). Year 1 and Key Worker children through traditional side gate entrance (by bike sheds). Year 6 onto Main Entrance (foyer) on to Oxford Road. Social distancing measures will be in place for the handover of children. Details will follow.**

Q Will you be allowing partial attendance or will classes attend on a rota basis?

A No, we propose to run a full-time four day week Mon – Thursday for nominated year groups but **Friday will only be for Key Worker Children**

Q What about the curriculum?

A The staff will provide teaching which includes social and health education - of paramount importance, revision- based tasks and learning activities which should mirror remote learning activities for those who are still at home.

Q What will the hygiene regime be like?

A Children will be frequently washing their hands. The fifth day, Friday, will be dedicated to deeper cleaning from the cleaning staff. Sani gel dispensers will be located around the school. Visual signage has been purchased . PPE equipment, as per guidance, has been purchased . **No equipment; pencil cases etc can be brought in from home.** Paper towels will replace hand dryers and school will ask all children to bring in their own named water bottle as drinking fountains will be disconnected

Q Will my child be taught by their usual teacher?

A Not necessarily. We are redeploying staff to facilitate the small classes being taught by one teacher and therefore some children may well have a different teacher (numbers pending). There is no guarantee to retain class based friendship groups.

Q Will my child be placed in a marked box to play?

A No. Play zones are redefined so children can play with children from their class only ; ie they stay with their class. We are not attempting to place children in a painted pen or marked box as you may have seen on Euro media reports!

Q Will my child's temperature be taken at school on arrival?

A No, but the school has modern thermometers and they will be used when referrals take place to dedicated sick bay room for viral symptoms. Guidance dictates that schools should have these rooms.

Q How will you manage lunchtimes?

A Lunchtimes will be managed through grab bag- packed lunches sent to the classrooms and children will eat outside or in their own classroom, weather depending. The hall will not be used for an eating area. In this early stage of reopening, there will be no provision for hot meals.

Q How will social distancing measures be put in place?

A Classes taught in bubbles of a significantly reduced size with desk places set 2m apart, one way system in school, separated staffrooms, hall out of commission for mealtimes, play zones reorganised and staggered lunchtimes.

This list of FAQ questions is not comprehensive and is drawn from a summary of your responses

The school leadership team have met with the governing body and the processes of risk assessments are well underway and continue next week. I will be writing to you again when we have a clear idea of numbers from your responses.

May I thank you for your unwavering support. I know that you have to take some very serious decisions over the next few weeks on behalf of your children and on behalf of the staff and governing body, I state that we will try our best to minimise risk in such an uncertain climate.

Stay safe and try to enjoy a good weekend of weather with your families.

Yours sincerely,



Kieran A Loftus Headteacher

Headteacher Mr Kieran A Loftus

Chair of Governors Ms Carmel Howard