



**Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas'
Catholic Primary School**
Oxford Road, Waterloo L22 8QF
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4th January 2021

Dear Parents,

NEWSLETTER AND CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 30

Change to School's Opening Status Wednesday 6th January

I hope that you have had a restful Christmas holiday with your families and wish you a Happy New Year.

I write to inform you of the current situation in light of our school planned reopening to children on **Wednesday 6th January 2021**. You are probably very aware of the national debate around primary schools reopening this week following concerns around safety and the transmission rates of the new Covid variant which has significantly affected London and the South East. Those of you with secondary aged children will know that they are working remotely from the start of term unless they are deemed vulnerable or you are a key worker. It is currently the expectation of the Department for Education and Sefton Local Authority that primary schools in our area should reopen this week on the scheduled dates.

Teaching and support staff unions for primary schools have directed their members to contact their Headteachers to advise if they will be following union guidance. In less than the last twenty-four hours I have received some responses from staff which impacts quite significantly on our teaching provision for this Wednesday. Currently, teaching staff availability is now reduced from twelve teachers to six and this may reduce further during the course of today.

I will explore all options for cover, partial opening etc. However, there is no finite time on the length of this action as unions seek assurances from the SAGE government scientists. I want to make you aware this morning that the school is likely to face the following scenarios;

- (i) Partial closing; ie some classes closed and remote learning re-established for those children affected
- (ii) Possible whole school closures should staffing availability reduce further and based on health and safety concerns it is no longer possible to operate

It is regrettable that we find ourselves in this situation and I sincerely hope that the setback to children coupled with the significant concerns about safety presented by school unions will be resolved between all parties as quickly as possible.

In the case of any type of closure, our next priority of care is to vulnerable children and children of key workers.

I have discussed the matter yesterday with the Chair of Governors Ms Carmel Howard and I will contact you all again later today with an update.

Thank you for your continued support again in these extremely challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

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

Kieran A Loftus Headteacher