



# Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas' Catholic Primary School

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

## CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 41

Dear Parents

First of all, we want to say thank you again to all our families, whether their children are at home or in school for the support for their learning. The questionnaire responses have been very positive in relation to remote learning and for the provision of those with additional needs. The vast majority of our families have engaged well with remote learning with 95+% participation. The improvements through Zoom and Google Classroom have made a very positive impact and I wish to thank all the staff and families for their efforts in this matter.

**Parents' Evening** We are planning to hold parents evening remotely in the final week of the half term. Further details will follow in due course.

### **Wider opening on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

School opens widely to all children on March 8<sup>th</sup>, as announced by the government on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. From this date, children are legally expected to be in school and all attendance regulations come back into effect. School continues to be as safe as we can make it and our risk assessment has been reviewed and can be seen on the website. It reflects similar expectations in the autumn term. Our systems from the Autumn term will recommence so here are a number of points to act as a reminder:

**Staggered Start and Finish Times Effective from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021** The school is divided into pods which include groups of classes known as bubbles. We have different times for children arriving and leaving school so you can see the start time and dismissal time for each class

Pod 1 Nursery &Y2	Pod 2 Reception Y1	Pod 3 Y3 Y34C Y5F	Pod 4 Y5/6H Y6M Y4S
Nursery 8.45 am/3.15am	8.40/2.40 Rec/D	8.40/2.40 Y5F	8.40/2.40 Y5/6H
-	8.50/2.50 Rec/Y1 P	8.50/2.50 Y3 S	8.50/2.50 Y6M
-	9.00/3.00 Y1T	9.00/3.00 Y3/4C	9.00/3.00 Y4S
8.55/2.55 Y2C 8.55/2.55 Y2G Nursery Gate			
<b>Exit /Entry Nursery &amp;Y2</b> from Nursery Rear Gate (Carpark) <b>Y2</b> from rear green gate	Entry /Exit  Field Gate (back of St John's School)	Entry / Exit  Normal Side gate onto playground	Entry / Exit  Normal Side gate onto playground

Headteacher Mr Kieran A Loftus

Chair of Governors Ms Carmel Howard

## **Mask Wearing on School Site Remains Compulsory**

All parents and carers or secondary school siblings collecting children must wear masks on the school site. One person should come to collect a child. Barriers were installed to protect everybody and the one-way *conveyor belt* drop off and collection has been well supported by everybody. Some parents were wary of blocking the footpath at school entrances so we expect people to social distance. It is your choice if you enter a cordoned off area for drop offs to relieve any potential congestion on footpaths immediately outside the school.

## **Class Bubbles**

Our classes and year groups will continue to be organised as bubbles. This means that a positive case within a bubble will result in the bubble having to self-isolate, following the same procedures as in the Autumn term. Remote learning will start automatically in this case.

## **Uniforms**

All children to come to school in their uniform. It is still permissible for them to attend in their PE kits on their PE days which have not changed from the Autumn term

## **The *Other* Three R's Reflect Revitalise Recover**

It will be some eleven weeks since the majority of our pupils have been in school and our experience taught us about your children's resilience in September '20 (after the first lockdown). We did, naturally, allow them to **reflect** on their time away, **revitalise** their approach to school routines and response to their teachers and staff, increasing levels of motivation in school and consequently **recover** missed areas of learning. This approach will continue and our staff will quickly determine the priorities in the core subjects of English and Mathematics complemented by some Physical Education, Personal and Social Education and Religious Education during the weeks of the Spring Term. Naturally, a very strong focus on phonics, reading and mathematics will be the key features of the remainder of this term.

## **School Meals**

The meals system from last term remains in place and grab bags will be delivered to classrooms or you may decide that you wish your child to bring their own packed lunch.

## **Carparking**

There will be no access for vehicles at school entrances on Oxford Road. Please do not attempt to park outside St John's School. Traffic wardens may well be present in the first weeks back.

After a considerable length of time away, we all recognise that the best place for the children to be is in school with all the risks managed as effectively as possible. We look forward to seeing and hearing your children and look forward to Saint Edmund's and St Thomas' being revitalised by their spirit and character as we move forward into Spring with warmer days and lighter nights!

Yours sincerely



Kieran A Loftus Headteacher



Alison Pritchard Deputy Headteacher