



**Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas'**  
**Catholic Primary School**  
Oxford Road, Waterloo L22 8QF  
Tel 0151 928 5586 Fax 0151 928 4352



30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

**CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 10**

**Remote Learning**

I am pleased that our web provider managed to overcome the problems which lead to a break in transmission of remote learning activities a few weeks ago. Given the huge increased demands on School Spider websites across the North West, servers had to be updated and associated security passwords had to be reset. This proved a frustration for families as well as staff but the situation has been resolved. I have been given some feedback regarding the bonuses and challenges of remote learning and understand many of the additional pressures during lockdown so I wish to reassure parents that you must not feel under any pressure to attempt everything with your child. This is an exceptional time for the country and for schools. We hope that your child has not engaged in a ' No we don't do it like that in school.... ' conversation when you are working and helping them. We are very grateful for whatever you can do with them to promote their response to remote learning. I would always encourage daily reading whenever possible. Do not worry about your perceptions of them falling behind as it will be our responsibility to address these issues with government guidance whenever we return. I suggested to the staff that they may plan some revision activities next week which may be of help to the children and give you further insights into areas they have covered over the year.

**Free School Meals**

You will know that the government voucher for children entitled to free school meals scheme has been very controversial due to logistical and communication issues with the nominated company. We have determined to maintain our meal parcel provision which have been kindly delivered to homes by staff.

**Video and Photo Messages**

Many thanks for your feedback to the staff and children's messages. Miss Sharrock put the presentations together and your emotional responses were testament to the strength of our family school community.

**Admissions and Year Six Transition**

Life goes on in this respect and two of our secondary schools have made contact with our staff to commence transition pupil information gathering. The primary admissions team notified parents of places and details will follow with respect to admissions appeals.

Headteacher Mr Kieran A Loftus

Chair of Governors Ms Carmel Howard

### **Next Steps**

Next Thursday we will hear more about the government's plans for changes to 'lockdown', the reopening of schools and businesses and the *when* and *how* this will be achieved will be at the fore of our thinking. There have been thoughts locally and nationally about phased year group admissions, priority years returning earlier than others, staggered school times, part-time/ full time rotas, legacy of social distancing in school etc. etc. All these issues are merely notions in a context of uncertainty. We are so used to constants in school when we plan the academic year, when the calendar dictates curriculum planning, admission, assessment, celebration, new terms, induction, timetables and so forth. I wish to reassure you that we will ensure that our plans for return, when the time comes, absolutely proceed from the needs of your children and we will be singularly focussed on what is right for Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas' children, irrespective of month, tradition or convention.

### **Fabulous Fund-raising**

Over £500 has been raised from The Grand National Virtual Race arranged by the PTA and fundraising in association with Sacred Heart is going well. You will have seen the 2.6 Challenge on the Facebook page. The schools have set a target of £3000 for Jospice and the Aintree trust Hospital. Thanks to all who have contributed so far.

### **Administration**

As you know, we operate a skeletal staff and the office is not manned every day so if you have any questions or queries with regard to any of the above matters, you can email either: [admin.stedmundsandstthomas@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.stedmundsandstthomas@schools.sefton.gov.uk) or

[hobana.sest@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:hobana.sest@schools.sefton.gov.uk)

In the meantime, stay well, stay safe and I hope that the extensive time in the close company of your children and family continues to be very rewarding and positive and we think about you all on a daily basis.

Yours sincerely,



Kieran A Loftus Headteacher