



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

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6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 32 Critical Worker (Key Worker) Places and Remote Learning

Dear Parents

Places were offered yesterday afternoon to vulnerable children and children of critical (Key workers). We were unable to safely meet a demand and we have set up a waiting list should individuals' circumstances change and we can make further offers. When national announcements on school closure and **eligibility** for critical worker places are made, the detail on limiting safety factors is frequently overlooked and, regrettably, it is left to the school to manage the disappointment of those who believed they would be guaranteed a place as they met eligibility criteria. We will, of course, maintain a waiting list in a priority order relating to the government lists coupled with the admission limits to each phase group.

We prioritised vulnerable children, children with an Educational Health Care Plan and children of critical workers. Year groups numbers are capped as we address the risk assessed admission limits from externally completed from the first wave last year, guarding against a potential for increased mixing. We remember that schools were asked to close with concerns about safety when large numbers gather. We have to consider the number of staff who will be in school teaching with those who will be out of school leading on remote learning. We are revising responsibilities in this area so that we can improve remote learning for the vast majority of pupils who have been deprived of full-time school-based education. No teacher will be expected to adopt the two tasks simultaneously but it is our intention that children, whether at home or in school will receive the same level of learning as each other.

We recognised that there were issues with accessing materials from the website during the last periods of remote learning and also wish to enhance the quality of learning so we will be informing you of new approaches from next Monday. For the remainder of this week, we will use the School Spider website and then next week we will launch new materials. There will be daily live teaching interactions and guiding timetables for parents from next Monday.

There will be a minimal number of staff on site as my duty of care extends to the whole staff, all of whom are part of a family themselves and are entitled to protection through limiting social contact. We are all urged to do everything we can to prevent the transmission of this Covid variant, thus fewer pupils, fewer parents and fewer staff **mixing** is only going to serve the school community well in this current wave of **accelerated** infection.

Do please send the Autumn progress report slips back to school if you have a moment. I sincerely wish you and your families well as we look forward to the roll out of vaccination in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Kieran A Loftus Headteacher