



## Diocese of Portsmouth

# ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

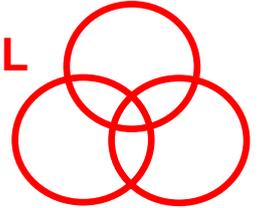
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[www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

*God constantly surprises us, he bursts our categories, he wreaks havoc with our plans. And he tells us: "Trust me, do not be afraid, let yourself be surprised, leave yourself behind and follow me!"* Pope Francis.

Little did we know what this year would bring! Assuming God is not planning on surprising us all again next year....

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the **Years 1 – 6** children back into school on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020** (NB the Reception and Nursery classes will start term on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020.) I am therefore writing with details of how we would like this to happen to ensure the safety and happiness of your child.

### How will schools keep children safe?

Following the latest government guidelines, children will remain in separate groups as far as is possible. You may want to read the [Government's what parents need to know about returning to school in the autumn information here](#). We will be minimising the number of other children and adults each child comes into contact with, therefore, bubbles will be class sized groups of up to 30 children (though the Early Years group will be a larger bubble as it will include all of the Reception and Nursery class so that all of the Early Years children have full access to the whole of the inside and outside areas in order to fulfil the requirements of the Early Years curriculum.)

Other protective measures include:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning
- Removing soft toys, cushions, etc which cannot easily be cleaned
- Minimising contact and mixing

### The beginning and end of the school day:

Start and finish times will be staggered, and children will need to be dropped off during their **allocated fifteen-minute arrival/pick up time only** at the Early Years Gate (Nursery and Reception children) or Key Stage 2 or field gate (Year 1-6 children). We ask children to arrive with one parent or carer (please avoid using public transport if you can) and to be closely supervised so that they do not mix with other children on the way to school or on arrival. If you need to bring another of your children with you in the morning when you drop off your child this is perfectly in order, but could all your children stand with you in the social





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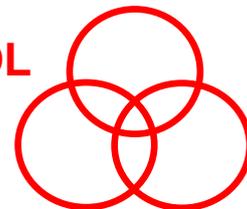
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distancing queue, please. No parent will be allowed on site until the current restrictions are lifted. A member of staff will be at the gate to greet you each day and to ensure everyone knows where to wait (though waiting time will be at a minimum if every parent can keep to the drop off and pick up time only for their child):

	Drop off	Pick up
<b>Nursery (from 9/9/20)</b> EY Radley Road gate	8:50-9:00am	2:40-2:50pm
<b>Reception (from 9/9/20)</b> EY Radley Road gate	8:40-8:50am	2:50-3:00pm
<b>Year 1</b> Field gate	8:30-8:45am	2:45-3:00pm
<b>Year 2</b> Field gate	8:45-9:00am	3:00-3:15pm
<b>Year 3</b> Field gate	8:45-9:00am	3:00-3:15pm
<b>Year 4</b> Field gate	8:30-8:45am	2:45-3:00pm
<b>Year 5</b> KS2 Side gate	8:45-9:00am	3:00-3:15pm
<b>Year 6</b> KS2 Side gate	8:30-8:45am	2:45-3:00pm

**PLEASE help us by keeping to these times only each day to prevent children mixing too much with children from other classes.**

### The School Day

As we return to school in September the emphasis to begin with will be on settling the children back into school routines and learning behaviours. The children will be very keen to see their friends again and most will probably be relieved to get back to the familiar routines of the school day. However, we are aware that every child and family's experience of lockdown will have been different and it is important that we make time to acknowledge that and to support those children who need it to return to normal. Therefore, we are setting aside the first two days of term (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September) for the current Reception – Year 5 pupils to spend time with their existing teacher in their existing classroom. However, to get everyone used to the new drop off and pick up times I think it best if we start with the timings listed above.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September the children will move up to their new Year 1-6 classroom and will then be taught by their new teacher. We are planning a recovery curriculum initially, until we have time to settle the children in, gauge where they are up to with their learning and identify any significant gaps in knowledge which may have been caused by such an extended period away from school. Don't worry if you feel your child may have fallen behind, we will do our best to help get them back on track as soon as possible. Equally, if your child has remained focused on their school work throughout the whole of lockdown the new teacher will be told that during the transition meetings the teachers are currently having so she will be ready to meet your child's academic needs as well. We don't know yet





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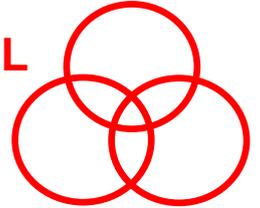
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how long it will take for school life to get completely back to normal but we would like to thank you all again for supporting your children so well during this extended period away from school and for keeping the teachers so well informed throughout. That support and close communication is a great help whilst we plan for September.

### School office

The school office will be closed for parents/carers (except for emergencies), as we are visitors into the school building to a minimum until the current restrictions are lifted. Please telephone or email if you need to speak to a member of staff.

### Important Coronavirus Information

Please do not send your child to school if you or your family have coronavirus symptoms:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Government guidance states that:

*For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you must stay at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to [testing to arrange](#). (following the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#), updated 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020)*

### Absence information

All children are expected to be in school every day from September. Therefore, please make sure you inform the office by 9am if your child cannot come into school for any reason (using the usual 24-hour answer phone.) Please also refrain from booking any holidays or trips during term time. If your child becomes unwell at home, please telephone the school office as soon as possible to explain the symptoms your child is displaying, as we may then need to follow the government guidance to ensure the safety of all the children and staff.

I am attaching our latest Covid-19 risk assessment with this letter. Please take the time to read it and do contact me via the school office if you have any questions.

As head teachers at schools we are bound by government guidance, I have therefore followed all of the [government guidance](#) (updated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020) in preparing our school's risk assessment and preparing the school to be as safe as possible for your child when they return.

### What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

*When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending*





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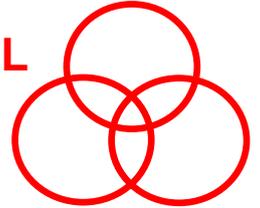
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*an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.*

*Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.*

*Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.*

*As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.*

### Uniform

Please make sure your child is wearing full school uniform in September and that you provide the school PE kit for PE days. Mrs Pratt will be sending out details of how to buy new uniform during the holiday so do look out for that Parent Mail. The children will be allowed to bring school bags and book bags into school in September, as well as their named water bottle and lunch box (if needed). Also, to minimise the risk of infection by sharing pens and pencils etc., can all Key Stage 2 children bring a named pencil case with basic classroom resources in please. We will provide these resources for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. If this is a problem, please let the class teachers know before we break up and we will help with this.

Thank you so much for all your support and kind messages throughout this challenging time, they really have been greatly appreciated by me and all the rest of the staff. We miss you all very much and look forward to September when hopefully we are all able to be together again as a school community. Have a lovely summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Delany-White  
Headteacher

