



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

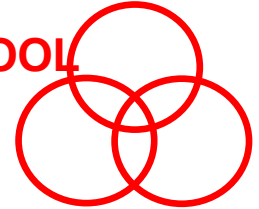
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PP

Tel: 01235 521558 Fax: 01235 532778

e-mail: office.3856@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the **Years 1 – 6** children back into school tomorrow, **Thursday 3rd September 2020** (NB the Reception and Nursery classes will start term on Wednesday 9th September 2020.) I am therefore writing to remind you all 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 gate (Year 5 & 6) or gate on the side of the school field (Year 1-4). 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 distancing queue, please. No parent will be allowed on site until the current restrictions are lifted.

NB Please use these drop off and pick up times from day 1, even though your child will be going back into their old classroom for the first few days of term. A member of staff will be at each 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 keeps to the drop off and pick up time only for their child):





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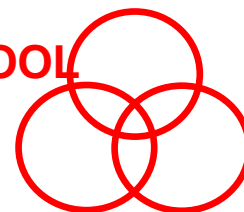
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	Drop off	Pick up
Nursery (from 9/9/20) EY Radley Road gate	8:50-9:00am	2:40-2:50pm
Reception (from 9/9/20) EY Radley Road gate	8:40-8:50am	2:50-3:00pm
Year 1 (old Reception) gate on field	8:30-8:45am	2:45-3:00pm
Year 2 (old Year 1) gate on field	8:45-9:00am	3:00-3:15pm
Year 3 (old Year 2) gate on field	8:45-9:00am	3:00-3:15pm
Year 4 (old Year 3) gate on field	8:30-8:45am	2:45-3:00pm
Year 5 (old Year 4) usual KS2 side gate	8:45-9:00am	3:00-3:15pm
Year 6 (old year 5) usual 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 with children from other classes.

The School Day

Initially our emphasis 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 over the last few months 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, as we explained in July, we are setting aside the first two days of term (Thursday & Friday this week) for the old Reception – Year 5 pupils to spend time with their old teacher in their old classroom. **However, to get everyone used to the new drop off and pick up times timings please use the timings for the new year group as above.**

Next Monday, 7th 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 have been told that during the transition meetings with the old teacher so she will be ready to meet your child's academic needs as well. We don't know yet 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 has been a great help whilst we are planning for the autumn term.





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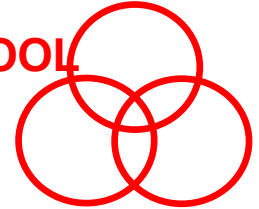
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School office

Please be aware that whilst we continue to follow the government's Covid guidelines, the school office will be closed for parents/carers (except for emergencies), as we are keeping 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 13th August 2020)

Absence information

All children are expected to be in school every day again now. 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.

You may want to reread our updated Covid-19 risk assessment again on our school website:

<https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/7483/returning-to-school-this-week/> 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 28th August 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 10 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending 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.





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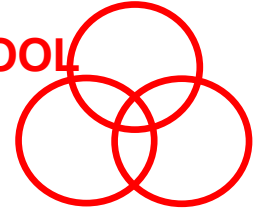
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Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

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 and that you provide the school PE kit for PE days. The children will be allowed to bring school bags and book bags into school again now, 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 and we will help with this.

Staffing update

I am delighted to say that Mrs Sylvester is now recovering from the long awaited knee surgery so we have a supply teacher, Mrs Linda Walsh, in Year 1 Monday-Wednesday until Mrs Sylvester returns to school. Mrs Walsh has already been in school preparing with Mrs Harris and is looking forward to meeting our children next week.

Mrs Lomas, our new School Business Manager, will start on 21st September. Therefore, Mrs Pratt has kindly agreed to be with us until the end of September.

We have a new caretaker, Mr Buckle, who started this week.

I am sure you will join us in giving Mrs Walsh, Mrs Lomas and Mr Buckle a warm St Edmund's welcome.

100 Club winners

The latest draw of the Governors' Fund 100+ Club was made on 9th August. The winning numbers for August were:

1st Prize (£30) – Number 24 Alexandra Contreras

2nd Prize (£20) – Number 16 Peter Delany

3rd Prize (£10) – Number 52 Jennifer Kingham





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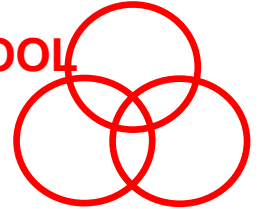
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Congratulations to the winners. There are numbers available this year at £6.25 for the remaining draws. Tickets can be purchased by anyone with a connection to the school, so please encourage grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters etc. to join in and buy a number. Please do not hesitate to contact Stuart Smith (Foundation Governor) – by email at ssmith@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk or phone on 07900936743 if you would like to join or have any questions.

We will set some key provisional dates for this academic year in our staff meeting next week and these will be added to our new school website and the end of the next Headteacher newsletter as usual. For this half term, under the current restrictions, I am afraid we are unable to arrange any events, visitors or trips out. Year 6 parents please note that the PGL residential week has been moved to 22nd-26th March 2021.

I hope this academic year is going to be a happy and uneventful one for us all! I look forward to seeing many of you during tomorrow morning's drop off and pick up times.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Delany-White
Headteacher

