



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

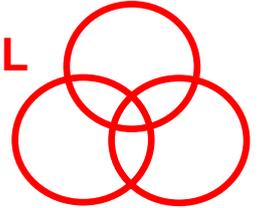
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PP

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



5th October 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you all for your support during these unprecedented times. I am delighted to report that the children are happy and settled again fully into school life. The one or two who are still adjusting to the daily routine of school and its expectations around learning and socialising are making good progress due to the support they are receiving from school and home. As always if you have any concerns about your child, or are unsure about anything, do contact the class teacher in the first instance via the class email address.

Remember, if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they must stay at home:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Please follow the guidance: they must not come to school, nor can their brothers or sisters and you will need to get them tested. You and your family will have to self-isolate until you have the results of the test. If we see symptoms in your child during the school day, we will need to isolate them and we will ask you to collect them immediately.

Bubble Closures

As we have heard of an increasing number of schools in Abingdon having to send groups of pupils and staff home to self-isolate over recent weeks, I can understand you may have concerns. We must all be prepared for this eventuality as a just in case. The decision about the closure of a bubble or year group is made by the DfE/Public Health and not by individual schools. As soon as we know of a child or member of staff testing positive for Covid-19 I must contact the DfE helpline, and they will discuss our context and procedures with us to decide who needs to be at home. This decision is affected by many factors, such as when the symptoms began, when the test was taken and who the affected person has been in close contact with 48 hours before they developed their first symptom. The latter is crucial and why we stress the social distancing of parents and families at drop off and pick up, our staggered entries and pick up times and the importance of keeping to the allocated 10-minute window per class, and to keep social distancing outside of school. Please continue to help us with this by only turning up at the school gates within the 10-minute period your child needs to be dropped off or picked up. Waiting for longer than necessary puts you and your children at greater risk of infection, as well as blocking the staff's view of the whole pathway. If you have dropped off one child and need to wait for the next drop off time, please either return to wait in the warmth of your car or you and your child step well away from the school entrance and other families.

As part of our learning from local schools having to close bubbles we have had to relook at our staffing in some instances to minimise the number of staff working in any bubble. Therefore, we have restricted the staff for each bubble to the class teacher and one teaching assistant only as far as possible. This means that regrettably Mrs Semple is now no





Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

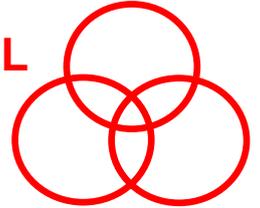
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PP

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



longer teaching French & Music across the school for the time being. As soon as the current restrictions are eased we will be able to be more flexible in staffing, supporting children in groups or individually by different adults and have different adults teaching different areas of the curriculum as needed.

Contingency and Remote Learning Plan

We are finalising our procedures for remote learning should either a class or the school need to isolate at home. These can be found as part of our contingency plan on our school website: <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/7596/contingency-and-remote-learning-plan/>

We will ask for your patience and understanding to allow time for teachers to be able to send out the work to your children should we suddenly need to send a whole class home.

Early Years Drop off at the Radley Road Gate

In order to maintain a safe environment around school, parents of Nursery and Reception children will be required to drop and collect their children at the Radley Road gate from Monday 12th October. This means that Reception parents will no longer be able to help their child to choose their school lunch inside the gate each morning. The Reception class teachers will be in touch soon to let you know how you can make your child's menu choice known each day.

Staffing updates

Mrs Sylvester is making steady progress since her recent knee operation but is now unlikely to be able to return to school until after October half term. Mrs Walsh, who is teaching Year 1 in Mrs Sylvester's absence, is thoroughly enjoying the children and working in our school so has readily agreed to stay with us for as long as we need her. Mrs Himpson is also unlikely to return until after October half term. Please keep both Mrs Sylvester and Mrs Himpson in your prayers.

Mrs Hague and Mrs Attridge have both made the difficult decision to leave teaching at Christmas and to focus on their health during these uncertain times. Therefore, we are in the process of recruiting two new Key Stage 2 teachers. We already have one strong and very experienced teacher who we are just waiting for the final employment checks to come through ready to join us from January. We have begun the recruitment process for the other position so please do spread the word if you know of any strong and committed primary school teachers who may want to join our wonderful school; further details can be found on the vacancies page of our school website and will be published in the parish newsletter next Sunday.





Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

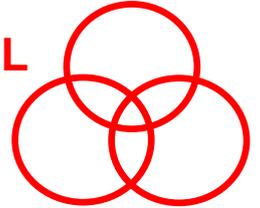
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PP

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



We finally let Mrs Pratt start her retirement last Friday after a two-week handover period with our new School Business Manager, Mrs Lomas. Mrs Lomas and Mr Buckle, our new caretaker, both seem happy and settled in their new roles. Please do say hello to them at the school gate if you haven't already done so.

Year 6 transfer to secondary Sept 2021

Parents of all year 6 children can now submit online applications for their children to transfer from primary to secondary school for Year 7 entry in September 2021. Parents should apply direct at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions. The deadline for receipt of completed applications, online or on paper, is 31st October 2020.

Entry to Reception in September 2021

Applications to apply for a Reception place must also be made via the Oxfordshire county council website between 3rd November- 15th January 2021. Prospective parents are very welcome to arrange a Microsoft Teams meeting with Mrs Demarchi, our Early Years leader, who will be able to explain all about our Early Years setting and curriculum, answer any questions you may have and arrange a virtual tour. Unfortunately, all schools have been advised by the county council not to conduct school visits onsite at the moment under the current Covid restrictions. Another good source of information about our school is our school website: <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/>

Target Cards

Year 1-6 pupils will start bringing home their Target Cards in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science every fortnight from Wednesday 14th October. These target cards are important as a way of keeping you and your child informed of the progress they are making over time. Please take the time to look at your child's targets with them. Knowing what your child is focusing on will enable you to support and encourage them. Children are assessed continuously during lessons to help them move on with their learning and this is dated on the target cards on an ongoing basis. It is worth noting that doing something once or twice correctly does not always mean that a target has been securely reached. Many aspects of each target have to be repeated several times before children retain the information, knowledge or skill. Therefore, do not expect to see lots of new targets dated every time you see the cards. Progress happens over time and by the end of the year the majority of children will have achieved all of the key learning for the academic year group. Please keep the card safe and return it on Thursday morning as your child and teacher will need it in class the next day. If you have any questions about the Target Cards or your child's learning, please do contact the class teacher directly.

Parents Evenings

The next Parents Evening will be during the week beginning 16th November. The class





Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

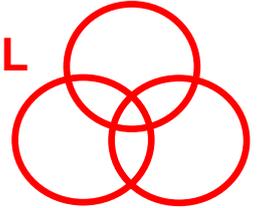
Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PP

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



teachers will contact parents directly nearer the time to arrange appointments via Microsoft Teams as we are assuming we will still not be allowed to have anyone on site then. Should the Covid situation significantly improve, and current restrictions be allowed to lift, we will hold the Parents Evenings on Monday 16th November and Tuesday 17th November and appointments will be made in the usual way via the school office.

As the weather is definitely changing now please make sure that your child remembers their **named** coat and school jumper each day. I would like to politely remind all parents that our school uniform is a navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with our school logo on, available to buy via the school office. Plain navy blue tops are not part of our school uniform and therefore should not be worn in school. As we are having to keep the classroom windows and doors open to aid ventilation, as part of our Covid risk assessment, you may want to make sure that your child is wearing a vest or extra layer under their uniform as the weather becomes colder. I know several parents have already been out to buy thermals for their child!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Headteacher

