



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

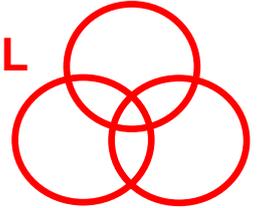
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



4th November 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful half term.

As you are no doubt aware, the Prime Minister announced on Saturday that there will be a national lockdown from tomorrow, 5th November until 2nd December. Whilst this will undoubtedly affect many people and their working arrangements, I am pleased that, as long as it is safe to do so, schools will remain open for all children. As long as we are able to staff the bubbles, the teachers and staff in school will continue to provide the education your children need academically but also to support their mental health and wellbeing.

Government guidance can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#going-to-work>

However, please be aware that I have been discussing with the Local Authority and our Chair of Governors the impact any announcement regarding school staff needing to shield may have and alerting them to the fact that we may need to close a bubble, with the teacher providing remote learning, if they are no longer able to come into school during the lockdown period. Frustratingly, the Department of Education are still to announce the new guidance to schools for this lockdown, which would include any provision for extremely vulnerable children or members of staff. As soon as this guidance comes through I will contact relevant parents of children who may be effected if I need to.

Please remember, to support the school in remaining open and reduce any potential 'bubble' closure, 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. If the results are negative they may come back to school, if they are positive please contact us immediately to inform us and the whole family must continue to self-isolate as per the government guidance.

Drop Off and Pick Up at the School Gates

Thank you for your continued support and understanding regarding this term's drop off and pick up arrangements. 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.

Remote Learning

Remote learning via the class teachers using Purple Mash or Tapestry is available for children in the event of a Bubble closure or if pupils are advised by a medical professional to continue





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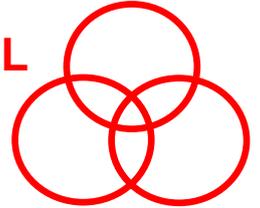
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socially isolating. Teachers also use Purple Mash to set homework activities along with Times Table Rockstars. Can I please ask that you support your child's home learning and, if you encounter difficulties with using Purple Mash or Tapestry, please speak to your child's teacher who will be able to assist you.

Staffing Update

I am delighted to announce that, following a strong selection of applicants, we have successfully appointed two new permanent teachers from January: Mr Aiden Linge will be our new Year 5 teacher and Mrs Jennifer Callaway the new Year 6 teacher. Mr Linge is currently working in a school in Norfolk but we hope he may be able to visit the children before Christmas. Mrs Callaway will be visiting Year 6 next Thursday 12th November.

Parents Evening Appointments

Please look out for an email from your child's class teacher later this week asking you to choose a time slot when you will be available for a remote Parents Evening Meeting via Microsoft Teams. All appointments will be arranged for the week Monday 16th- Friday 20th November. The class teachers will shortly create the invites to the meetings and will liaise with fellow colleagues to avoid clashes for parents of siblings in the school. Please note the interviews will be arranged via the class teachers this year so please contact them directly, rather than the office, if you have any questions

Governors' Fund 100+ Club– October Draw

The latest draw of the Governors' Fund 100+ Club was made on the 9th October.

The winning numbers for October were:

1st Prize (£30) – Number 13 **Adrian Clarke**

2nd Prize (£20) – Number 2 **Tammy Lavers**

3rd Prize (£10) – Number 32 **Laura Williams**

Congratulations to the winners. There are numbers available this year at £3.75 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 – by email at ssmith@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk or phone on 07900936743 if you would like to join or have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Headteacher

