



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

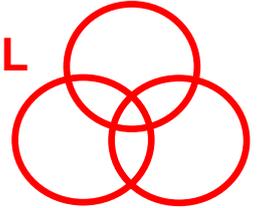
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



29th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This time last year I was writing to you with all the new lockdown information, Covid risk assessments and details of our remote learning. I am not sure that any of us could have envisaged what was going to happen over the next twelve months and how much we were to learn and change over the year. We have seen so much happen since the first lockdown; thank goodness we didn't know then that we would have further periods of lockdown, or that the social distancing, bubbles, constant handwashing, increased cleaning, mask-wearing, PCR tests, Lateral Flow Tests, online meetings and not being able to meet with our friends and families would continue for so long. We have these measures in place to keep us all as safe as possible, but I know many of you have been affected personally by Covid-19, either because you or family members have been ill, or tragically you have lost family members to the virus. Many have also been affected by the effects of lockdown, furloughing, loss of jobs and income and so much uncertainty. We all look forward to the government's easing of restrictions when it is safe to do so. However, it has been made clear to schools that our current measures will remain in place for the foreseeable future, probably for the rest of this academic year.

Personally, I am looking forward to having one arrival and home time, to welcoming you all back in school for events and activities, to worshipping together in the hall as a whole school community, to allowing our children to mix together, to being able to meet and welcome visitors on site, to attend trips and sports events and to return all our resources and equipment back to the classrooms. All these things will happen again when it is safe to do so. For now, we all need to remain patient and vigilant. Therefore, when we return after the Easter holidays our bubbles, entry and exit times and organisation will all remain as they are now. Our risk assessment and procedures are continuing to work and we remain a Covid free school with no bubbles closed since this awful pandemic began. Please continue to support us and help us to keep it that way for the sake of your children and yourselves.

Primary school pupils and rapid asymptomatic testing

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

Therefore primary-aged pupils should only be tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child. Please do not use lateral flow tests that you may have at home for adults or secondary aged children but follow the guidance and book a PCR test for your child and remember to let the office staff know the date of the test and the result as soon as you get it please. Obviously, if you think your child





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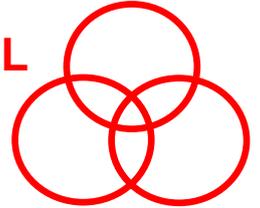
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may have Covid we ask that you keep all siblings off school as well until you have the result. We are so fortunate that all results continue to be negative for our children but we ask that no one becomes complacent because of our continued good fortune.

Easter Holidays Contact Tracing

We are asked by the Department of Education to carry out contact tracing over the Easter holidays as we did at Christmas, so please email the school office if your child has symptoms and tests positive for Covid-19 after term has ended. For the purposes of contact tracing staff, students, parents and carers need only inform the school of a positive case if the symptoms develop within 2 days of being in school. We are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in their education setting. If symptoms develop after 2 days, you do not need to inform us. We will check the office email account every day at the beginning of the holidays and will contact any families should they need to self-isolate following a positive case within the bubble.

Summer uniform

As the weather is starting to warm up a little now it will be lovely to see the children in their summer uniform after Easter. I would like to remind all parents to please buy the **navy blue**, small check dresses for the girls (generally available in Sainsbury's, Asda and M & S). Please also note, our uniform is a dress not the culottes style dresses a few shops sell locally.

Lenten Fund Raising

As you know, this Lent we are supporting CAFOD by raising money to support some of the poorest communities around the world. The CAFOD 'Walk for Water' appeal aims to raise money to provide clean, safe water for communities in some of the driest parts of Ethiopia, where people have to walk for hours to find water for drinking, cooking and washing. We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money for CAFOD this Lent, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world, inspiring our pupils to become active global citizens and living out our school mission. We have created a Just Giving page for our school fundraising which can be found here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StEdmundsCatholicPrimarySchoolAbingdon> Even a small donation can make a big difference!

Tom & Eds Fun Club

Under current restrictions our families have not been able to benefit from child care places at Tom & Eds Fun Club for the last twelve months. We have spoken to the Tom & Eds staff and they have reassured us that they will definitely be opening to our school again as soon as restrictions allow. If there is enough interest from our parents, they could possibly start a second bubble with separate staff for our children in June (after May half-term) but we would need to know how many people would want places. Please therefore contact the school office and let us know if your child(ren) need breakfast or after school places in the final half term and/or in September so that we can let Tom & Eds staff know.





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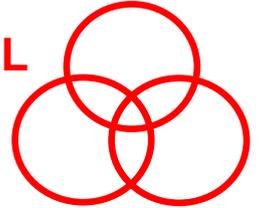
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If I do not see you before we break up this Wednesday 29th March at 3pm, I would like to thank you for all your support this term and wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and holy Easter. I will then look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 19th April 2021.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Delany-White
Headteacher

