



## Diocese of Portsmouth

# ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

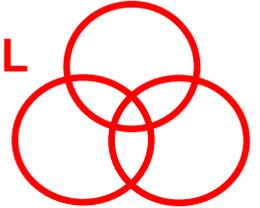
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Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday with your families. The joy of the Easter season is certainly blessing us this week with glorious weather to start our new term. Let's hope we have a happy and healthy term ahead.

### Covid Update

We are continuing to follow our Covid risk assessment and all government guidelines to continue to keep our school Covid free. As headteachers, we are already being advised that although 21<sup>st</sup> June is the earliest date when the Government hopes that all legal limits on social contact can be removed, this does not necessarily equate to any changes for education in June. I will keep you informed as soon as I have further information but at the moment Oxfordshire Public Health are advising us to expect that all the current restrictions that are in place in schools will need to remain for the rest of this academic year. We are also being advised not to arrange any events in school which mix bubbles, have large gatherings or audiences that involve parents being onsite. Therefore, it looks like our usual summer events - sports day, end of term production, Leaver's Mass etc will have to be adapted to ensure we are still following our strict Covid risk assessment and keeping everyone safe. We have also been asked to remind parents about transport to school as follows:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so.
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble.
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey.

### National survey of children, The Big Ask

You may have seen in the press that the new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has this week launched [The Big Ask](#) – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. All schools are encouraged to support their pupils to [complete this survey](#). Most of the children will complete the survey in school with their class teacher but the class teacher may ask you to help your younger children complete it at home with your support. Parents and those working with children are also invited [to complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back. The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

### Summer uniform

It is lovely to see nearly all the girls in their summer dresses this week. I would like to remind all parents to please buy the navy blue, small check dresses for the girls (generally available





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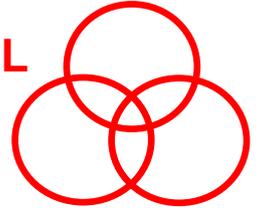
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in Sainsbury's, Asda and M & S). Please also note, our uniform is a dress not the culottes style dresses a few shops sell locally. If you are not able to get to a shop at the moment the blue check dresses can easily be bought online e.g.

<https://www.argos.co.uk/product/tuc136123122> for packs of 2 dresses, or packs of 5:

<https://www.argos.co.uk/product/tuc138561716> Some of you may have dresses at home which are now too small for your daughter and that you are happy to pass on to other parents? If so, please do give them either to me or Mrs Lomas at the school gate and we will make sure that any families who need them are given them. It is also useful for the teachers to have spares in school in case of spills or accidents. Thank you.

### Year 4 swimming from next Monday

All the Year 4 children will resume their swimming lessons next Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, for the rest of this term. Swimming lessons will take place at the Leisure Centre on Audlett Drive and as part of the Leisure centre's COVID Risk Assessment we will be the only school in the pool during the lesson. To make up for the break in lessons due to the pandemic, we have arranged for the children to have one hour tuition a week for a 10-week period. Please read the information letter and leisure centre risk assessment sent out to you yesterday carefully and do ask us if there is anything you are unsure about.

### Ten Ten Parent newsletter

We have begun teaching the new statutory Relationships Health Education this week using the approved Life to The Full programme recommended by our Bishop and the diocese. You may like to read the April newsletter for parents: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

### Parents Evenings

Just to give you advance warning, our next Parents Evenings will be held remotely again via Microsoft Teams, during the final week before half term, week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> May. As in November, the class teachers will create the invites to the meetings (nearer the time) and will liaise with fellow colleagues to avoid clashes for parents of siblings in the school. Please note as the interviews will be arranged via the class teachers, please contact them directly, rather than the office, if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Delany-White*

Headteacher

