



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

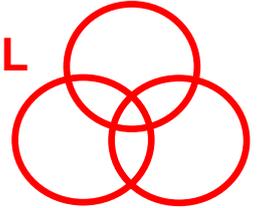
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



14th September 2021

We cannot all do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a joy to see all the children happily return to school, eager to learn and embrace the challenges ahead. I would like to give a special welcome to our new parents and all the children who have joined our school since September. I am so pleased that you have chosen St Edmund's for your children. I am equally delighted to see that all our new members of staff have settled so quickly and are already making valuable contributions to our team.

Following on from my previous letter about returning to school, it has been good to see the arrangements for the start and end of the school days working so well. Thank you for embracing our new routines so efficiently. We have retained and continue to enforce our hand washing, ventilation and good hygiene routines. I trust you understand we are still trying to mitigate risks while also cautiously returning to as normal as possible. It is lovely to watch more children playing together now. I am so proud of all our children for their behaviour and positive attitude to their learning, and of our staff for their enthusiasm and hard work in preparing for a new year when we are still facing so many unknowns.

May I remind you to continue to exercise some caution however, as we are conscious of many positive cases within Abingdon. Although schools no longer have any responsibility for track and trace practices, if you or anyone in your household should contract COVID-19, we would appreciate being told so that we can make any decisions we need to and so that we have an overview of what may be happening across the school community. As I am sure you are aware, NHS Track and Trace are now taking an active role in notifying individuals identified as a close contact of a positive case of Covid-19. Should your child have a positive PCR test result Track and Trace will primarily ask you who they have been in close contact with socially, that is, outside of school. Track and Trace are only contacting schools where an outbreak or several cases within the school community have been identified. All under 18s and fully vaccinated adults are no longer required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. They will be advised to take a PCR test and follow relevant public health advice but there are no requirements to self-isolate whilst awaiting test results, unless they are symptomatic. You may wish to read our [updated Covid-19 risk assessment](#) which outlines all the measures we still have in place to try and minimise the risks as far as possible, whilst still providing high quality education for all of the children.

We are slowly planning a return to activities and events. For example, we are preparing to resume after school clubs later this term, our sports coach Mr Morrice is now teaching PE alongside Miss Kucz each week, swimming will resume for Year 4 next week, and Year 5 and 6 will be taking part in many musical activities next week as part of the Abingdon Music Flood Week. However, we also need to remain flexible and cautious so some





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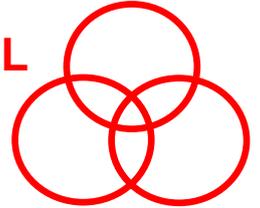
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events may take place differently or be delayed. Thank you for all you are doing to help us remain safe.

Year 7 applications

It is strange to think about this, as the Year 6s have just begun their final year with us, but parents and carers of Year 6 children can now apply for transfer to Year 7 at secondary school. Applications can be submitted online at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 31 October 2021.

Modern Foreign Languages

Key Stage 2 parents may have noticed a change to our language provision when reading the class topic plan: <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/learning/classes/class-topic-plans/> and class newsletter recently: <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/learning/classes/class-newsletters/>

We are so fortunate that many of our teachers speak several languages and we are now utilising this skill to the advantage of the children. Therefore, the children will now experience a range of languages over their time in Key Stage 2, all taught by a native speaker, as follows:

Year 3 Greek with Miss Foukaridou

Year 4 Russian with Mrs Wadrzyk

Year 5 Spanish with Mrs Perez (whilst Mrs Boodell will be teaching Year 2 Science)

Year 6 Polish with Ms Kucz

To compliment this provision Mrs Backley will now extend her French Club beyond the usual club for Year 1 & 2 and will also run two new French Clubs, one for Year 3 & 4 and one for Year 5 & 6. Mrs Backley will send out more information to parents over the coming weeks and is aiming to start all three French Clubs after half term.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We will shortly be advertising for a lunchtime supervisor for an hour a day in the Early Years. If you, or someone you know, would like an hour's work each day during term time please do get in touch with the office for more details and an application form. Details will shortly be available on the school website.

I hope this academic year is going to be a happy and healthy one for us all!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Headteacher

