



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want you to know that we are praying for you and all your families during this time of pandemic.

Firstly, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to those families who are looking after their children at home and supporting them in their Home Learning. You are truly inspirational, so many of you are working, while your children are learning alongside you.

Secondly, I am aware of the fantastic work that the parents of our children who are attending school are doing – especially those of you working in the NHS and as carers. I unfortunately contracted COVID at the start of the Christmas holidays and I really appreciate all the care I received – via telephone and video calls with the NHS. I know that I was lucky not to have needed to go to hospital and that many of you have experienced great loss during this terrible year.

We are all going through a very difficult time and school is no exception. We have a number of staff absent, recovering from COVID and 4 more awaiting test results.

I do not want to unduly worry those of you who are sending your children to school because we are stringent in keeping our Bubbles safe but I must forewarn you that in the coming weeks Bubbles may close because this virus is spreading from outside into school.

The message from the Department for Education is that you should only send your child to school at this time if it absolutely necessary.

The wording in their guidance is:

‘Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.’

Please remember that if there is an adult at home your child(ren) should remain at home with them, irrespective of whether the adult is working.’

The whole point of school closures is to arrest the transmission of the virus in the community, so it is clear that the effectiveness of this is to ensure that numbers attending are as few as possible.



Even if your child is attending school, I ask you to reconsider the place in light of this advice and if you work part time only send them into school on the days that you are working.

At present we are at full capacity and cannot accept any more children.

With some of the highest infection rates in the country in Enfield, it is my sincerest wish that our school community gets through the next month or so without contributing to the national loss we are all feeling.

I am sorry that this is a bleak letter.

On a positive note, we have the surety of the vaccination programme that is being rolled out and we have our brilliant teachers providing learning through Google Classroom. Whether your children attend or are at home, the education they are receiving is identical – the same work, the same lessons.

I can assure you that I fully appreciate the challenges that you are currently facing and hope that we will all return together as soon as it is safe to do so.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs. Johnstone
Acting Headteacher**



*Father in Heaven,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.
We come to you today with our fears and concerns - You know what's in our hearts.
We love You, trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Stay with us.
Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.
We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all.
And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to all those who are sick
and suffering.
Please comfort them.
Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.
Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.
Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk
while they work to bring healing to others.
Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Please heal us.
Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.
Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.
Amen.*

