



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

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Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of this Spring Half Term and next week is the half term holiday, when the school will be closed. It has been a very difficult half term for all of us, as the pandemic seemed to close in around us and cause increased worries and anxiety for many. Whether your children have been in school, you are supporting them at home whilst working from home yourself, or perhaps you have been unwell – you have really been fantastic in helping your children.

Home Learning Survey

Thank you to all of you who took time to complete the survey we sent out last week regarding Home Learning. One hundred and eleven parents returned their responses and these will help us to move forward with our provision. We were extremely pleased with the headline question and its response:

Please rate your overall experience of St Edmund's Remote Learning Programme

89.7% Very Satisfied or Satisfied

To support Home Learning since this 'Lock Down' began in January, we have been able to loan out 44 Chrome Books that we have claimed from the Government and 10 Tablets that the Parents Net very generously bought. We have also been able to support 20 families in getting increased mobile data.

Parent Consultations

This week has seen another huge change, in that we have held our first Virtual Parent Consultation Meetings – the parents of 300 children signed up, which has been a fantastic response – thank you. We finish these meetings on Friday afternoon and will get feedback from the teachers when they are all complete.



Lent

We begin our Lenten journey next week, on Wednesday of half term. Lent lies at the very heart of our Catholic faith and is the season of reflection and preparation before Easter. The three Catholic observances we follow during Lent — prayer, fasting and giving alms — engage us in body, mind and spirit. Focusing on these traditional observances helps bring us closer to Christ ... and to one another.

We have received this message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols:

"Receiving ashes is an outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year I invite you to concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes.

My suggestion is this: celebrate Ash Wednesday at home, with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part. Gather for a while. Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead. Spend some time praying in a way that you know. But please, make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing."

(Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Pastoral Letter, 13th/14th February 2021)



"Life is often a desert, it is difficult to walk, but if we trust in God, it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Never lose hope; continue to believe, always, in spite of everything. Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable." Pope Francis



We have not heard from the Government yet as to when schools will fully reopen but as the numbers of COVID cases fall we pray that all children will soon return to school. As soon as we know more we will be in touch.

Arrangements in terms of Covid-19 cases during the school holiday:

- If a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts** and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted**. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- If you do need to contact school because your child has tested positive for Covid, please email this address office@st-edmunds.enfield.sch.uk

I hope you all have a safe Half Term and may the beginning of this Lenten season allow you and your family to grow closer to God.

Kind regards

J Johnstone

**Mrs. Johnstone
Acting Headteacher**

