



Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas' Catholic Primary School

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Love Learn and Live Like Jesus

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Corona Virus Update No 45

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Dear Parents, Carers

Today is a significant day in relation to Step 3 on the easing of restrictions, however, we have had significant concerns on a regional level with rising cases the week before last in Sefton. Indeed, our own school had to close a bubble last Friday with a positive case. You may be aware that other local schools have also had bubble closures over the last few weeks and thus it is little surprise that government, SAGE and others are advising great caution with the relaxing of measures.

As per the latest local and government guidance, the staff will continue to wear masks when receiving and dismissing children and we expect all adults coming onto the school site (albeit briefly) to do so.

We are continuing our methods of operation with staggered starts and restricted arrangements as well as the current lunch arrangements as this has served well for everybody's protection from infection. Our recent experiences in Sefton underline the importance of still exercising caution and maintaining our management of risk in spite of the national **Step 3** opening up opportunities.

The concern around the Indian Variant is that there are suggestions that it is more transmissible and this is why we hear that groups such as the British Medical Association and some members of SAGE express reservations about a continuation of easing of measures. The success of the vaccination programme is being expanded and accelerated in light of recent episodes of infections in the North.

We were aware that a few of our families had been asking questions about the 'return to school dinners' and other summer activities so, whilst the whole community finds restriction wearing over fourteen months, there still remains a duty on a school to prioritise its response to Covid. Once measures are undone, it becomes increasingly more challenging to have to revert to a previous risk management plan. To this end, we are very grateful for your support and understanding in seeing the 'bigger picture'.

We are looking forward to the new school year and coupled with the ongoing efforts to the vaccination programme and safe easing of measures, we have planned a number of significant changes to school for September. We will be writing to you again before the half term holiday to share these with you.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran A Loftus Headteacher

Alison Pritchard Deputy Headteacher

