



**Saint Edmund's and Saint Thomas'  
Catholic Primary School**  
Oxford Road, Waterloo L22 8QF  
Tel 0151 928 5586 Fax 0151 928 4352



11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents,

**NEWSLETTER AND CORONA VIRUS UPDATE 28**

Earlier this week the Department for Education offered schools the opportunity to close a day early and make the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 an INSET day which would have to take the place of an INSET day previously scheduled by the school for 2021. The rationale behind this was to allow all authorities to be able to carry out Track and Trace responsibilities by 24<sup>th</sup> December 20. I wish to reassure you that school **will remain open for the final day 18<sup>th</sup> December** and that there are no plans to inconvenience parents by changing other staff training days at the last minute. Planning issues were raised with the Department many weeks ago and it is disappointing that such a proposal was published so late which potentially causes significant disruption.

**Progress Reports**

To give you a clear picture with regard to reporting, reports are published on the last day and will be sent to you by **e-mail**. I would like everybody to understand that staff have carried out assessments **at the end of term** to allow the children time to *make up ground*. You will be able to make telephone contact in January with regard to any items you wish to clarify on the report. In many ways, given the impact of the last nine months, it was felt that a Zoom online meeting would not suffice in terms of presenting a picture of progress. I hope that you will find the information helpful and I thank the staff for their commitment in this respect.

**School Closing for Christmas Holiday Reminder**

School normally finishes at 1.30pm at the end of a normal Autumn term but we will stagger this departure as follows

1.00pm Reception (Devey) 5F and 5/6H

1.10pm Reception/ Y1(Plunkett) 3S and 6M 1.10pm Nursery\* (\*All day children)

1.20pm 2C and 2G

1.30pm 1T 3/4C and 4S

**Santa Dash Change of Date Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

With rather miserable weather this week the Santa Dash will take place next Tuesday 15/12/20.

Headteacher Mr Kieran A Loftus

Chair of Governors Ms Carmel Howard

## Christmas Holiday Free school Meal Vouchers

Towards the end of next week, the school is expecting to send supermarket vouchers (£30 per child) to families who are entitled to Free School Meals.

### **Christmas Masses: Ticket Application forms out now**

While there is a relaxing of the rules for Christmas and your exclusive Christmas Bubble can sit together at Mass, there still needs to be physical distancing and so, to maximise capacity and to be as fair as possible, the Christmas Masses are ticket only.

As the Christmas Vigil Masses are usually the ones young families come to and are the most crowded, before we decide what times they are, we need to decide how many are needed and what is logistically possible. Vigil Mass times will be 4:00pm at St. Edmund's, 5:30pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea and 7:00pm at St. Edmunds, we will endeavour to accommodate families with younger members at the earlier Masses where this is possible. Remembering Jesus' words "let the little children come to me". In these strange times of face masks and no-singing, other ways to be a welcoming place of worship are needed, so apart from asking for set numbers there are a couple of supplementary questions to assist us in making our Christmas Celebrations of the Eucharist as joyful as possible, while also being safe.

All Masses will be shorter than usual Christmas Masses. At the Vigil Masses we will use the rubrics for Children's Masses, to enable them to be Child friendly as possible in these strange times. If you have provided an e-mail address we will send confirmation of your ticket allocation before we deliver, also if attending a vigil celebration an invite to participate more fully in the celebration in a safe but joyful way, will be extended.

Application forms for tickets are available from Church porches and from the front door of St. Edmund's Church and front door of Our Lady Star of the Sea Presbytery. There is also an on-line version to fill in on our websites:

- [www.olssandstthomas.org.uk](http://www.olssandstthomas.org.uk)
- [www.st-edmunds.church](http://www.st-edmunds.church)

Please be aware that all government rules on physical distancing and wearing of masks will be enforced to ensure the safety of our Eucharistic Celebrations.

There is still no obligation to attend Mass, so our Christmas Masses will be ticket only. But if you are unable to physically come to the Christmas Masses on 24<sup>th</sup>/ 25<sup>th</sup> December, be assured as many as possible of our celebrations will be live streamed and you will, hopefully, be able to come at quieter times during the Christmas Season.

### **Nativity Candles**

At Christmas our Churches will be lit up by red sanctuary lamps with the names of the people we love and wish to remember on them. The lamps will be lit on Christmas Eve and stay lit for 7 days as a sign of our continued prayers. ***Please use the Envelope-***

***Form at the back of the Churches:***

- Minimum donation is £5 per candle.
- **PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY**
- This Christmas all candles will be lit at **Our Lady Star of the Sea church.**

**All requests to be in by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.** Thank you

Yours sincerely,



Kieran A Loftus Headteacher