



St Edward's Catholic Academy

Headteacher: Mrs J E McQuillan BA (hons)
Telephone: 01283 216721

16th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school! It has been wonderful to see the children back in school at long last after so much disruption last year. We are also delighted to welcome our new Reception children into St Edward's for the start of their school journey together with some new faces in Year 3 and Year 5 too. We very much hope your next years with us will be happy and informative.

Organisation

Thank you all so much for your patience and understanding with the new arrangements we have had to establish for dropping off and collecting from school. Unfortunately, this has meant that not everyone can arrive or leave school at the same time. Thank you for your promptness, it really does help to get the children in and out of school and maintain the 'Bubble' arrangements as much as possible.

We will try to get older siblings out to you as soon as possible but could I please ask that whilst waiting you supervise younger children closely. The path along the front of the school is very narrow and there is no barrier between the top of the front ramp and the road. If children are running around it makes it more difficult to keep them safe and know where they are. The area around Church is also a car park so children should not be running in this area. Could we also please ask that you always wear a mask when coming on to the school site. Please also stand away from each other in order to maintain social distancing at all times. Thank you.

Uniform and PE Kits

Thank you for sending your children in their PE kits on the correct days. They look so smart and it is saving so much time with not having to get changed before and after PE. Polite reminder to please write your child's name on all their clothing. If jumpers, cardigans and ties are taken off it is so difficult to get them back to their rightful owner.

Please remember skirts must be knee length. Only small plain studs are allowed to be worn as earrings (no hoops) and these MUST always be removed for PE.

Staffing

We are very pleased to welcome Miss Cox who is covering Mrs Jones maternity leave as teacher in Reception Class. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Jones on the birth of their daughter, Ada Tracy, born on 27th August.

It is with regret that I need to inform you of the early retirement of Mrs Julia Finney due to ongoing health issues. Mrs Finney has had a long association with St Edward's firstly as a parent then as a Teaching Assistant. She left in 2013 to further her career at Granville but returned once more to us at St Edward's in 2017 as our Pupil and Leadership Support Manager. Mrs Finney made up a huge part of our St Edward's family and she will be sorely missed by staff, pupils and parents alike. I would like to wish Mrs Finney a very long and happy retirement and look forward to her visiting us again in school very soon when circumstances allow.



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

St Edward's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Newhall Road, Swadlincote, DE110BD
office@stedwardscatholicacademy.co.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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Wrap Around Care

Unfortunately, we have not been able to offer our usual Breakfast Club or the One and All after school club at the moment. School-led extra-curricular clubs are also on hold until further notice. We are not yet in a position to restart before and after school club provision but in order to establish how much need there is, a short survey will be sent out for you to complete and return. When we do reopen, places will only be available by advance booking and numbers will be restricted. We therefore need to know if this is viable and how it will work logistically depending on numbers wishing to attend.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed due to recent events you may be eligible for support with Free School Meals. We can apply on your behalf and with your permission with just your date of birth and National Insurance number. Alternatively, you can find more information about eligibility and apply online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Attendance

From September the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure their child attends regularly where the child is a registered pupil at the school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with LA procedures

Holiday requests will not be considered. Any leave of absence that is not exceptional and has not been approved WILL be sent to Derbyshire LA for them to impose a Fixed Penalty Notice should they decide to do so. Illness absence must be reported promptly prior to 9am on the first day of absence. If you are worried that your child or someone in the house is showing signs of COVID-19, more information can be found [here](#) and a flowchart has also been attached.

Illness

If your child shows symptoms of coronavirus, **DO NOT** send them into school. They should remain at home for 10 days from when the symptoms started in line with the stay at home guidance and should try to book a test by ringing 119. For more information click [here](#). If a child, pupil, visitor or staff member develops symptoms of coronavirus whilst at school, they will be sent home to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started and informed to book a test.

If your child or a family member receives a positive test result please inform school immediately. Out of school hours please call our mobile number 07561 691690 at any time leaving a message and we will return your call. It is imperative that we know immediately so any preventative action can be taken and we can liaise promptly with Public Health England. I would please ask that you do not share results on social media as this can create panic and anxiety for the school community. Thank you.



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COVID Risk Assessment

A full Risk Assessment has been undertaken prior to reopening the school to all pupils in September. This can be found on our website together with Our Recovery Curriculum. As you can appreciate we are dealing with a daily changing picture and following guidance from the Government and St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust as and when it is updated. Enhanced cleaning of any mixed areas is undertaken together with classroom areas and equipment and we are fortunate to be able to restrict flow around the school in order to minimise contact between 'Bubbles'. If there is a confirmed case of COVID in our school community current advice would be for the 'Bubble' to close however we would always consult with Public Health England, Derbyshire Track and Trace and our own Trust and all decisions would be made for the health and safety of our school community.

Home School Diaries

Your child should have brought home their 2020/2021 Home School Diary. This contains a lot of useful information. We are asking that these be kept at home at the current time. However, we still want to know that the children are reading on a regular basis and at least three times a week in line with our policy on homework. This can be recorded in the reading section of the diary and a photo uploaded to Class Dojo once a week. Please contact your class teacher for any further information.

Diary Dates

With the current restrictions on visitors and only allowing all but essential visitors in to school we will not be planning any whole school or class events. We will send out information next month regarding arrangements for Parents' Evenings.

Kind regards

J E McQuillan

True Mind, True Heart, True Spirit



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