



# St Edward's Catholic Academy

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

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to half term with your children? It has felt like a long half term as we get back in to our usual school routines. What has been wonderful has been seeing the children back in school once more and seeing so many of you at the gates dropping off and collecting. I would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation over the last few weeks as we have adapted to a different way of working, it is very much appreciated.

## Absences

If your child is absent from school could you please notify school of the reason, either on the absence line or by emailing the school office ([office@stedwardscatholicacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@stedwardscatholicacademy.co.uk)) no later than 9.15am; for Breakfast Club this must be no later than 8.20am. Please notify school each day your child is absent.

## Polite Reminders

Thank you for your support regarding dropping off and collecting children, particularly with the change to timings. However, there are a few further ways in which you could help us to keep everyone safe:

- Please park considerately and do not double park or stop on the yellow zig-zags. We have had a few close calls as vehicles have mounted pavements in order to get by.
- Please do not congregate or block the paths around school. Parents with pushchairs and younger children are having difficulty making their way to the gates.
- We would ask that you wear a mask at all times when entering the school premises and please observe social distancing rules at all times. Many people are standing too closely to each other.
- Supervise children at all times whilst waiting at the beginning and the end of the day. Children are running around cars or climbing on the grass banks. With the onset of the winter weather, the school drive can become very slippery, so could you please remind children not to run up and down whilst waiting. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Winter Uniform

After half term the children will need to wear their winter uniform, full details of which are on our website: <http://www.stedwardscatholicacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=36>

School shoes should be sensible black footwear. Black canvas shoes e.g. Converse, are **not** suitable school shoes. PE kits should still be worn on days that your child has PE. Thank you. Please ensure your child brings a suitable waterproof coat to school every day for break time and lunch time play.

## Wrap Around Care

We are delighted to be able to offer our Breakfast Club provision again. A lot of thought has gone into how we could safely offer this and the trial this week has been very successful. Places **MUST** be booked in advance, no later than 4pm Wednesday of the week prior to your requirements. This is to enable us to ensure adequate staffing. **As places are limited, if your child has a place booked but does not arrive you may still be charged, unless this is due to illness.**



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NOTTINGHAM

St Edward's Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Newhall Road, Swadlincote, DE110BD  
[office@stedwardscatholicacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@stedwardscatholicacademy.co.uk)  
Company Number 7937154



St Ralph  
Sherwin  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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## **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](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

We have been informed that Derbyshire County Council have made available some discretionary grants for families in need. If you are facing hardship, please contact the school office for information. Other grants are also available for individual circumstances, so please do not be afraid to ask. All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

## **Secondary School Places**

If your child is in Year 6 we remind you that the secondary school online application facility closes at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. **Please apply to the local authority where you are resident.**

## **COVID-19 Illness**

**If your child or a family member receives a positive test result over the half term holiday, 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 of any COVID illness, so any necessary 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.**

## **British Legion Poppy Appeal**

We will be offering children the opportunity to purchase poppies and other merchandise after the half term. The poppies will be put into classes over the half term break to quarantine and your child's teacher will upload a photo of the merchandise on to Class Dojo. This will be available on a first come, first served basis. On this occasion, money can be sent in with your child. This will then be quarantined within school, before being put into the collection boxes.

## **Online Safety**

Online Safety is taken very seriously at St. Edward's and children are taught about this in lessons. We would like to offer the following advice to minimise issues outside of school. When at home:

- Ensure children access age-appropriate material. Check games out before allowing your child to play them.
- Ensure you read and understand Terms and Conditions and age limits on social media sites, such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp (SEE OTHER EMAIL ATTACHMENT)
- Ensure your child is supervised when playing online.
- Ensure parental and private settings are used on devices, especially when using YouTube.

Further information can be found on the ChildLine website or NSPCC website.



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## School Dinners

A reminder that the new Autumn/Winter hot dinner menu will come into effect after half term. We are offering your child the opportunity to sample this menu on an ad-hoc basis over the first two weeks back to decide if they would like to have a school dinner on a regular basis. They can choose to have dinners every day, or on set days each week. If your child currently has sandwiches every day and wishes to switch to dinners please email the school office by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November to notify us of the change. Thereafter, we will require two weeks' notice to change their lunchtime choice.

## Uniform Donation

If you have any spare or old trousers/skirts/pants/tights (especially ages 4-5 or 5-6) that you could donate to school, we would be very grateful. If your child has brought home spare uniform from school for any reason, we would greatly appreciate if you could wash and return it to school after the half term break, as our supplies of spare uniform are running very low.

Kind regards

J E McQuillan

*True Mind, True Heart, True Spirit*



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