



St Edward's Catholic Academy

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

30th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your positive response to the COVID-19 guidance we issued last week. It is heartening to see that so many of our parents are very supportive of both the measures we already have in place and the new measures that we have proposed. By all working together, we hope to keep as many of our children and staff - and all of our families - as safe as possible

Diary Dates

Friday 4 th December	-	INSET Day (school closed to children)
Tuesday 8 th December	-	Flu Immunisations (whole school)
Friday 11 th December	-	Pyjama / Non-uniform day (details below)
Wednesday 16 th December	-	Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper day
Friday 18 th December	-	Break up for Christmas holidays
Monday 4 th January	-	Return to school

Mrs Hadley

As you may know Mrs Hadley had an accident in school and has been off for the past two weeks. She is starting to improve and is recuperating at home. Thank you for all the kind wishes and support you have given her during this time, she has greatly appreciated this. We will continue to keep her in our prayers during her recovery and hope she is back with us as soon as possible. We would also like to thank Miss Holmes for all her hard work in the class in Mrs Hadley's absence, she has been a real star and we are very grateful for her hard work and dedication. We are now in a position to be able to release Mrs Methven to work alongside Miss Holmes in class. In so doing, we will be ensuring the children continue to receive the best possible provision. Mrs Methven will be in touch with you all via Class Dojo. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact her.

Christmas Cards

Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year it will not be permissible for children to distribute Christmas cards in school. This significantly reduces not only the amount of hand-to-hand contact between children in school, but also the risk of bringing home any virus that lingers on card and envelope surfaces...in addition to cutting down the amount of paper and waste in our environment! We appreciate your continued understanding of having to cancel this old tradition.

Advent

As a school we always have a real focus on preparation for Christmas. We prepare our hearts for the Birth of Jesus at the culmination of our Advent pilgrimage. Each day in school we will be opening our Advent calendar, every class has written thoughtful prayers and we will share these daily as a school. Will, our Chaplain, will be leading Advent retreats, helping us to prepare a space in our heart for Jesus and deepen our understanding of this liturgical season. As a school, we will guide your children in Advent through prayer, reflection and preparation. Your children will share the Advent activities from school with you, look out for our regular Twitter and Facebook posts to guide your path. Jesus is not just the reason for the season, he is our friend on the journey and we will grow closer to him during Advent.



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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Saint Ralph Sherwin INSET 4th December – School Closed to Pupils.

On Friday 4th December our staff will be gathering together in school and linking virtually with all the staff from the Saint Ralph Sherwin CMAT to spend a day reflecting and learning. The focus for the day is on growing a culture of wellbeing in our trust and will be led by Angela Gillespie. We look forward to using this new knowledge to enhance our current provision for wellbeing in our school.

Reverse Advent Calendar

We would like to offer our support to our local area during these unprecedented times and support those families most in need. As we have not been able to celebrate our Harvest Festival in 2020 - during which we usually donate all left-over produce and proceeds to the Swadlincote Food Bank – we will instead be having a collection in school of perishable goods (tins and packets). We will quarantine all donations for the required number of days at school and then donate them to those less fortunate than ourselves in our local community, in order that they might be able to enjoy a meal or a treat this Christmas. All donations will be gratefully accepted from 7th until 16th December. Please donate whatever you can. Each class will be making a display of the goods received and we will keep you updated via Class Dojo.

Email addresses

Your child will soon receive a letter from school with the details of their new school email address. The letter will contain instructions for how to set up this for your child and a Code of Conduct. It is important for you to read the Code of Conduct and discuss this with your child, as it details the safe and proper use of the email account. This account will enable us to provide resources directly to your child and the ability to deliver online sessions in the event of a class bubble having to self-isolate. Year 6 have already received their login details. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries regarding this.

Pyjama / Non-Uniform Day

On Friday 11th December children may wear their cosiest pyjamas to school or, if they prefer, some comfortable non-uniform clothes. Classes will not be doing PE that day, so there is no need for any class to come dressed in their PE kit. Please make sure your child is dressed warmly enough, has a coat and is wearing sensible shoes, as they will still be going outside on that day.

In return, we would like to ask you to send in a donation with your child towards our chosen school improvement project this year, which is to redevelop our school front garden. This project will be held in conjunction with the National Forest, from which we hope to receive additional funding. We are awaiting further details from the National Forest about this project, which we will then share with you.

School Shoes / PE kits

As mentioned in a recent newsletter, children's school shoes should be sensible black footwear. Black canvas shoes e.g. Converse, are **not** suitable school shoes or PE shoes, especially as the weather is now turning colder and more slippery underfoot. Please remember to send your child into school in their PE kits on the days that your child has PE (listed below for your convenience). Please ensure your child brings a hat, gloves and suitable waterproof coat to school every day for break time and lunch time play.



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PE Days

Reception	-	Tuesday
Year 1	-	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 2	-	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 3	-	Wednesday & Thursday
Year 4	-	Tuesday & Friday
Year 5	-	Tuesday & Friday
Year 6	-	Monday & Friday

Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 16th December children will be having our famous Christmas Lunch at school. This is a highly anticipated day in the St. Edward's calendar! On this day children may also wear a Christmas jumper to school, with their normal school uniform. Further details of the activities the children will enjoy that day will be sent to you nearer the time.

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

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. At present, this funding is only available until the end of this term.

Health & Safety

For the health & safety of your children, please do not allow them to run around the cars on the school driveway while dropping off or picking up.

School Photos

Sadly, due to COVID-19 we are unable to organise the individual school photos that we have each December. We appreciate that you like to send these photos as Christmas presents, however the logistics of organising this in school would be too great and would involve the mixing of "bubbles", which is not possible at this time. We are hopeful that we can invite the photographer back into school later in the school year, when hopefully the weather will be better and we can take the photos outside.

Kind regards

J E McQuillan

True Mind, True Heart, True Spirit



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