



St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools

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*"We learn together in God's love by
encouraging and supporting one another."*

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

It was a joy to be able to celebrate Mass with the children this morning. They sang beautifully and prayed for our friends and family. It was so uplifting to have this time together as we look forward to the unknown of the next few weeks.

At the end of Mass, I told the children that although many of them will not be in the building on Monday they are still part of St Edmund's. The staff and I will still be thinking about them and keeping in touch through email, on our website and twitter. I reminded them that their learning was still important to their teachers and we would be looking forward to seeing pictures, receiving letters or emails about what they are doing whilst they are at home.

It was particularly sad for our year 6s as we may not see them all before the end of the academic year. I have promised they will still get their hoodies, which met with a cheer! Whilst we could not celebrate as usual, the whole school applauded them as they left Mass. I am so proud of the contribution they have given St Edmund's throughout their time with us.

We have sent home some resources and books with the children tonight. It would be beneficial to the children to have some structure and routine to their day. As a family it would be a good idea to identify the times which will be dedicated to learning activities, time for some exercise in the garden, time for being online and time for playing games or being with family. Each week we will email suggested activities for the children on Friday just as we currently do with the Learning Intentions. You will receive information about an email address where they can send examples of the work they have done and staff will reply. You will also receive information about other resources you can access online and the links to various websites that are offering support to parents whilst their children are at home. Information will be placed on the website so please keep checking it for new resources.

None of us know what the ongoing situation will look like. We will be open on Monday to those children whose parents are classified as critical workers. I know some of you fall into this category but have decided that you can make other arrangements for your children. If this changes please contact the office via email and we will contact you to discuss how we can support you. If you are in need of support or advice even though your child is not in school, please contact us and we will see what we can do to help. We intend that for those children who are in school, there will be appropriate learning activities each day. We will make use of the school grounds to spend lots of time outdoors gardening in Forest school or playing games.

Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to provide care and security for the children over the last few weeks. They will be continuing to provide a safe place for some of our children on Monday. However, we are planning to operate on a reduced staffing structure so please communicate with school via email where possible as this will be easier for the office to manage and leaves the phone available for urgent communication.

Please do all you can to keep yourselves and your families safe over the coming weeks. I will be keeping you all in my prayers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria kemble". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Yours sincerely," text.

Maria Kemble
Executive Headteacher