

St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School

25th April, 2020

To all Parents and Carers,

What strange times we are living in. Our children will look back on this time and realise that they lived through history. We have never had to respond to a pandemic in such a way before, but we should all be proud of the ways in which we have supported the response.

In school, we have had to quickly adapt to new ways of helping children with their education. One of the strengths of the way in which we deliver the curriculum in St Edmund’s is how we tailor it to the needs of every individual child. It is not possible to do this by online teaching, so we have had to adapt the resources and tools that we would use. Parents, you are fulfilling such an important role by supporting your children with their learning. But we value play as much as we value formal education, so I hope you have found how much fun and humour your children bring to everything they do. We certainly miss not having that interaction with your children – they bring delight and wonder into each and every day that they are with us.

We do have children in school, and social distancing is in place. We are also following them around and sanitizing everything they touch! We found a burst water pipe in one of the walls in the Foundation Unit (when the wall started to fall down) and we are now organizing the repairs, which will be finished, hopefully, before children are back in the Unit. The everyday work of the school is proceeding as usual.

Teachers have been contacting their parents to see if they need any support, such as food or medications. Two of our families have been extremely ill with coronavirus, but they appear to be on the mend. We were able to offer support to those families. The teachers will continue to call regularly, but there is no need to reply if you miss the call, unless you need some support – the phone lines cannot always be manned.

Finally, I am remaining inside as directed by the NHS, and working with my staff from home. I am fortunate to have a garden and can sit outside in all this wonderful weather we have had. I really miss seeing you all and, more importantly, I miss all of our wonderful children. Every day they make me realise why I work in education, they amuse me, they inspire me and they cuddle me! Every single action we take is to improve the life chances of your children. They are precious and we are lucky to have them. The single thing I am missing most is being able to give my own two children a hug – give yours a big hug and remember how lucky we are – especially when they are driving us nuts!

Gail O’Flaherty