**St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School**

16th April 2020

Dear parents,

I hope you are all as well as you can be. These are, as many people have said, unprecedented times. The purpose of this letter is to keep you up to date with what is going on in school.

**Free School Meals**

Free School Meal vouchers will be made available to the parents of children who are eligible for free school meals. We have contacted parents and collated email addresses. The vouchers are for £15 per child. The vouchers can be redeemed at a number of supermarkets. They are e-vouchers and you will not need a printer to print them off. Unfortunately I do not know exactly when these vouchers will land in your inbox (please also check the junk) – I have been on the site to check daily and the backlog is enormous.

If you find that you are in real difficulty in purchasing food for your family please do get in touch:

head@st-edmunds.lancs.sch.uk

Alternatively Mrs. Stringman or Mrs. Johansen will be in touch to see if there is anything else we can do to help?

**Vulnerable Families**

Childcare continues to be available for children who are classed as vulnerable. The Department for Education has classified this as children for whom there is a social worker involved or those children who have an Educational Health Care Plan – if you are eligible for child care in this way we will have let you know.

We do however want to continue to support all of our families. We need to strike the balance between social distancing and not leaving families struggling to cope. If you are feeling under pressure, you need someone to talk to or a little respite please do not hesitate to get in touch. Contact me on

head@st-edmunds.lancs.sch.uk

Please leave your phone number and either myself, Mrs Johanson or Mrs Strngman will be in touch.

**Key Workers**

If you are a key worker and you need child care as a last resort please contact me on

head@st-edmunds.lancs.sch.uk leaving your phone number. I will give you a call back and we can begin to set up a time table to look after children in school. The demand for places has been low and as parents have realised that their child may well be the only child in school they have sought alternative arrangements. I will let you if this is likely – the offer of childcare however remains.

**Home-schooling**

I have been in this business of teaching for 18 years now. Teaching your own children at home is not the same as teaching someone else’s children in a school. If your children have conscientiously got on with everything you have set for them, continued to read, write and get along beautifully with their siblings then I salute you. For the rest of us mere mortals it has been hard. My own children have questioned everything that my wife and I have asked them to do (children always know better don’t they!) and hand on heart I know that we can never replace that same dynamic as would normally happen in school every single day. If this is you, and like me you are finding it hard, please be kind to yourself.

You are your children’s parents – their first and most important teachers in the world. If your children answer you back it isn’t because they don’t value you, it is because they know that you love them unconditionally. A little work each day followed by a little exercise and then something different is what I would recommend. My greatest achievement has been teaching my eldest son how to clean the kitchen – a life lesson that should stand him in good stead. Use this time wisely – be creative and teach your children things that we never could. Most of all be kind to yourselves and don’t worry about their education. Every child in the country is in the same boat and trust me they will catch up.

**Parents Evening**

School seems so long ago. I am well aware that parents have not had an update on your child’s progress since Autumn term. In order to address this I has asked that teachers will contact families by telephone. First they will speak to your child to see how they are getting on. Then they will give you an update upon your child’s progress in school.

Teachers will begin the calls at 9.30am and work through the class list alphabetically. They will use the first point of contact. This means that you should expect a call between 9.30am and 11.00 am. If you could please make sure that your phone is charged and your child is available to talk.

**Monday 20th April: Class 4 (Year 5 and year 6)**

**Tuesday 21st April: Class 3 (Year 3 and Year 4)**

**Wednesday 22nd April: Class 2 (Year 1 and Year 2)**

**Thursday 23rd April: Class 1 (Nursery and Reception)**

**How long will this last?**

We now know that the lockdown has been extended for another three weeks. After that who knows. It is pointless speculating as to when schools will reopen. I am sure that you will have heard that school swill reopen in May, or it could be June. Some say September. The truth is, no one knows – they will open when it is safe to do so. I the event that school is closed then your child and you will continue to be supported by ourselves and when school reopens we will welcome the children back.

Take care. Stay safe.

God Bless

Mr. Lawman

**Headteacher St Edmund’s**