



Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

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[@StEdwardsFirst](https://twitter.com/StEdwardsFirst)

www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk

Dear Parents

It is scary how quickly the time passes! The term is already drawing to an end as we approach the half term holiday. It has been a quiet but very productive start to the academic year and I am impressed by the amount of work the children have already done and also by the air of determination to succeed that is so apparent across all classrooms. The children are a credit to you all!

Uniform

As the weather turns decidedly autumnal, could I please ask that, after the half term break, the children all wear their winter uniform. Details can be found on the school website and our uniform provider has all necessary items in stock. A reminder that the children must not wear long sleeved shirts under their polo shirts and, if they are wearing a collared shirt, they must wear a tie. Tracksuits for PE should be plain black and the plain black PE sweatshirts should not be hooded. Thank you for your co-operation.

Our Mission Statement

The board in the Reception area of the school is beginning to look lovely with the collection of artwork that demonstrates our school diversity. Thank you to those of you who have sent a statement in. If you haven't done so yet, there is still time and space!

Our Mission Statement is that

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and the children are very good ambassadors for us in this regard. We will be rewarding those children seen

to be living out the mission in our Gospel Assemblies where each class will present a Mission Model each week. Please encourage your children to support our Mission Statement wherever possible.

It is also important that, as adults, we set an example to our children. We have had several instances across the school this term where children have told us that mum or dad has told them not to play or sit with another child or that they were not allowed to invite a certain child to a party or playdate because their mum or dad thinks they are "bad" or "naughty". When children make such comments, this is difficult for us to deal with here in school. The children are very young, you are their primary provider and they care very much about what you say or think, but statements like this make it difficult for us not to conflict with you when encouraging them to live out our Mission. Please try to remember our Mission when speaking to your child and remind them to tell an adult if someone hurts them or is unkind to them. This way it will be easier for us to deal with any instances of poor behaviour in a measured and charitable way.

Happy Bags

The Friends have organised the first of three annual collections of bags of unwanted clothes, shoes or fabric for this term on Tuesday 9th October. We have no facility to store the bags so request that they are not brought into school before the day itself. There is, however, a Salvation Army bin in the courtyard which also provides us with funding depending on the weight of the contents. If you really can't wait until the day, please feel free to use this facility!



Quiz Night

The Friends' Quiz night is being held this Friday 5th October in the Hall at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and are available from the office or from your class reps.

Bikes and Scooters

It is lovely to see so many children making use of bikes and scooters to get to and from school but please remember that, for safety reasons, they should not be ridden on school grounds or in and around the staff car park. If you are coming into school from Dedworth park through the gate, please remember to enter our school via the driveway and not across the Middle School playground, as this is very distracting for the students in their classrooms.

Parents' Evenings

We will open the online booking system for Parents' Evenings on Monday 15th October. Please ensure that you take the time to log on and book an appointment to see your child's teacher, especially if you are restricted to either one day or the other. Separate appointments outside of these evenings are very disruptive for the teachers and can play havoc with the after-school clubs' timetable!

Toys

If you have any boxes of toys that your children have grown out of and you'd like to find a good loving home for them, Early Years would be more than happy to oblige you by taking them off your hands! The items we are interested in are things like Duplo, Lego, Brio (or similar), trains and track, Stickle Bricks, Mobillo, toy cars, K-Nex, marbles or marble runs, dressing up clothes, dolls' house characters or furniture, character figurines, Mega blocks and wooden blocks.

Parking

Inconsiderate parking continues to be an issue with our neighbours and local residents. If you must drive to school in the mornings and/or afternoons, please try and ensure that you park your car legally and considerately. A polite reminder that the staff car park is for staff cars only. In particular, we have received several complaints about parents parking in the staff car park when collecting children from after school clubs. The car park is too busy at this time for cars to be driving in and out, so please park outside the gates as at the end of the school day.

Nits

I have had several emails and many more conversations with parents recently regarding the critter problem. Whilst nits are very annoying and time consuming, they are not a serious enough ailment for children to be sent home from school or denied entry. There is no provision from the school nursing term to deal with the issue and we are not allowed to treat the children. Our hands are therefore somewhat tied. Please ensure that you check your child's head regularly and treat them before bringing them into school if you discover an infestation. Also please tie back your child's hair and encourage them to keep it tied up whilst at school. A rake-through with a nit comb when the hair is heavily conditioned after each wash should do the trick or, alternatively, ceramic hair straighteners are very efficient apparently!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any immediate concerns, issues or worries.

Best wishes

Sarah Matthews
Headteacher