



# Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

[www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk](http://www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk)

Dear Parents

At our Collective Worship yesterday morning, I spoke to the children about the importance of a welcome and how a warm welcome could make us all feel good about ourselves and the future. So it is that I extend this same warm welcome to you all and look forward to working with you all during the course of the upcoming academic year.

The teachers were all in school on Monday, preparing for the arrival of the children yesterday morning. It was nice to see them all looking refreshed, ready and enthusiastic about the new school year. We were delighted to offer a very special St Edward's welcome to Miss Fright, our new Goldfinches teacher.

I am also pleased to report that Miss McGuckian will be undertaking her teacher training with us this year whilst remaining, for the most part, based in Fledglings. Her training requires her to attend university on a Friday so Mrs Juric has kindly agreed to cover her each week.

Mrs Loveless has joined our staff team and will be working full time in Fledglings as a TA.

The children were obviously very happy to return to school yesterday morning and already they have settled into their new classes and are working in a focused and determined manner. Long may it last!

### **Mrs Mary McCord**

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs McCord, mother of Ken our caretaker, at the start of the holiday. Mary has always been a huge part of school life here at St Edward's, having lived and worked on site for many, many years. She attended most of our school Masses and was always in the front

row for plays and productions. We will miss her greatly. We send our love and prayers to Ken and his sister Sheelagh at this sad time.

### **Fledglings**

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the following Year R children and their families:

Alice, Ambalawatte, Amelia, Antonio, Arthur, Caleb, Cassius, Charles, Charlotte, Chia, Chico, Clara, Daniel, Daniel, David, Elena, Erica, Eunes, Harry, Hector, Hector, Ikenna, Jace, Jack, Jacob, Jacob, Joshua, Julia, Krzysztof, Larysa, Layla, Lia, Lily, Luca, Marcelyno, Max, Maxwell, Megan, Noah, Oliver, Oliver, Oscar, Pedro, Peter, Poppy-May, Rebecca, Reese, Reuben, Rosina, Rowan, Scarlett-Rose, Sophia, Soraya, Taurai, Thomas, Trishelle and Vivienne.

The Fledglings all started school yesterday morning and came in and settled down quickly. They are all already obviously enjoying the experience of exploring their new environment. We intend to let them spend time with their Year 4 buddies this week and they will have the opportunity to share lunch together over the next week. We will officially welcome all the new EYFS children to St Edward's First School at their Buddy Assembly on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Parents of both the Year 4 and Fledglings children are invited to join us for this special event at 1.45pm. The children will have been introduced to the rest of the school that morning.

We are also delighted to say hello to several older children who have joined us at St Edward's First this

term. Please join with me in welcoming them and their families to our school community:

Axel, Bruno, Bruno, Caden, Eloise, Ines and Kiara

### **Meet the Teacher**

The staff would like to informally invite you to your child's new classroom at 2.45pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, so that you can see where your child is working and find out a little about the work they will be covering this term. If you have more than one child at school, please feel free to simply "pop-in" to each class. The details of the learning for the term will be given to each child as they leave and will also be available on the school website.

### **Please note:**

**Meet the Teacher is NOT for the Fledglings.**

### **Kiss and Drop**

Please remember that our Kiss and Drop facility is available to all parents at St Edward's First School. Simply drop your child with our staff members by the disabled parking space in the Dedworth Park car park. Staff will be in attendance from 8.25am every school morning and will leave promptly at 8.45am to ensure that they arrive in school in time for the start of the school day. There is no need to book – simply drop off your child/ren and we will do the rest!

### **Leave of Absence from School – A Reminder**

There are strict Government rules and regulations that head teachers must follow regarding children's absence from school. Permission for a child to be absent for any reason other than illness must be applied for in writing and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Further information and details can be found at

[www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview](http://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview)

**The total number of pupil absences during the last academic year dropped us below our Government**

**target of 97%, and we want to improve on this figure during this academic year.**

### **Uniform**

Our school uniform unites us as a school community and should foster a feeling of pride and a sense of belonging. This in turn helps to develop a greater awareness of personal appearance, self-esteem and self-respect. Please help us to uphold these values by ensuring that your child's uniform adheres to the school policy, which can be found on the school website, but please, in particular, note the following:

- Earrings should be a pair of small, plain studs which must be removed or taped for PE lessons. Please provide your child with a roll of micropore tape to put in their PE bag if you would prefer them not to remove their studs.
- If you would like your child to wear a track suit for outdoor PE lessons these must be plain black.
- Nail varnish is not permitted and hair clips/slides should be functional, not decorative. Please do not adorn your child's hair with large bows, hairbands, slides or ribbons.
- If the children have hair which reaches their shoulders, it must be tied/clipped back.
- Coats should be plain and dark coloured.

We appreciate your help and co-operation in helping us maintain our high expectations where uniform is concerned.

### **Cuckoo Club**

Mrs Berry and her team are looking forward to welcoming the children back to Cuckoo Club, which opened yesterday afternoon. You can book a place at the club online by visiting

<http://www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk/parents/online-payments>

### **After School Clubs**

After School Clubs and Activities will begin the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September.

However, please note that the teacher led activities will NOT be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, because of a Staff and Governors event; or on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October because of Parents' Evenings. The Cuckoo Club will remain open on all of these dates.

### **School Dates**

We have compiled a list of school events and dates, which includes all class assemblies, plays, sharing afternoons, Carol Concerts and Sports Day. Please take a moment to look at these and to write them down in your diaries. It is really important for your children that someone attends these events. For convenience and consistency, all class assemblies will be held at 9.10am on Friday mornings and any school events in the evenings will begin at 6.00pm.

The events list also includes the dates of Parents' Evenings for this term and also for the Spring Term. We have slightly changed the format for this year and will hold the late appointment session (5pm – 7.30pm) on the Thursday *prior* to the early Tuesday appointments (3.30pm – 6pm).

I will also advise you of the dates of our school Masses when Canon David returns from his holiday next week but am able to let you know that the school will be celebrating Mass on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September to begin our school year. The Fledglings will not be attending this Mass on this occasion but all parents are more than welcome to join us.

### **First Holy Communion**

A reminder that if your child is entering Year 3 as they return to school, **now is the time to register him/her for First Communion Preparation**, which will begin in September. Please contact the Presbytery office on **01753 865163** as soon as possible to arrange an appointment to see Fr David. You will be able to complete the appropriate paperwork at that appointment.

**Please note that the closing date for applications is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September.**

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

Best Wishes  
Sarah Matthews  
Headteacher