



# Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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

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

Dear Parents

The staff and children have just shared a short prayer service and a 2 minute silence around the cherry tree in the courtyard in remembrance of the war dead. The tree was adorned with poppies made by the children in their classes. It was lovely to see the children being so respectful.

### Christmas

It is hard to believe that we are in November already – the term is just running away! Rehearsals have begun in earnest for the children's Christmas productions. Fledglings will be performing their Wiggly Nativity for parents and grandparents in the New Hall at 2.00pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

KS1 will be performing Children of the World for parents and grandparents in the New Hall at 6.00pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

KS2 have their Carol Concert for parents and grandparents at St Edward's Church at 6.00pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

After consulting with staff, governors, Friends and a number of parents, we are trialling filming the productions and selling the DVDs to parents in order to provide a high quality memento of the children's work and to boost school funds. Therefore, all performances will be professionally filmed by George Riddell of <http://www.myworldmyeyes.co.uk/>

More details will follow nearer the time.

### Friends' Meeting

The next PTA Friends meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, at 7.30pm upstairs in the Function Room of the Horse and Groom pub (opposite Windsor Castle). It's a packed agenda so please do join us!

### Happy School Bag

We are delighted to announce that we are holding a textile collection for the Happy School Bag Fundraising Scheme. The first collection will take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. This is a great scheme to help raise funds for the school, raise eco-friendly awareness amongst the children and also to get rid of unwanted clothes and toys before Christmas!

You will have been provided with a bag for you to fill. If you need more bags, please see Mrs McAllister; otherwise they will accept black bin liners!

Please bring all your bags to the courtyard at school drop off **on the morning of the collection**, (NOT before please, as we have no storage) and help us have an amazing collection.

### Clearing Out Before Christmas?

Are you clearing out your cupboards and shelves in preparation for the arrival of the Big Man next month? If so, and you are looking to get rid of any good quality toys, games, jigsaws, puzzles or books, then we would love to relieve you of them and give them a good home! Early Years would be more than happy to oblige by taking them off your hands! The items we are most interested in are things like Duplo, Lego, Brio (or similar brands) – trains & 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.  
Please bring them in and leave them outside the office.

### **Discos**

The Friends' Discos will be taking place this Thursday afternoon. KS1 will run from 3.30pm – 4.45pm and KS2 from 5.00pm – 6.15pm.

You will note that the turnaround is very tight so please do try to be prompt!

The Cuckoo Club will run as usual and, if booked in, the children will be able to attend as normal. Staff will ensure that they are dropped off/picked up from their disco as necessary.

**There will be NO teacher-led activities on Thursday afternoon.** Martial Arts, an externally-led club, will go ahead as planned and the children will be able to attend the disco afterwards at 5pm.

If your child will be attending Cuckoo club or Martial Arts, you may send your child to school on Thursday morning with a change of clothes and we will supervise them changing and take them to the disco afterwards.

Fledglings will have their disco during the school day a little nearer to Christmas, not on Thursday afternoon as specified in the School Events Calendar.

### **Christmas Bazaar and Mufti Day**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December will be a Mufti Day for the children in return for a jar of sweets (Fledglings and KS1) or a bottle (KS2) for the tombola. The bazaar is taking place from 12 noon until 3.00pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **St Edward's Royal Free Middle School**

The Governors at the Middle School are proposing changes to their admissions policy for the academic year 2019/2020. You can find all the details on the Middle School website: <http://www.sterf.org.uk/>

### **Panto**

We have booked to take the whole school to see Beauty and the Beast at South Hill Park on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We will also support the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on this day. Full details will be sent home shortly.

### **Absence**

We have noticed a persistent trend in the number of children absent from school at the end and beginning of the school terms. As you can see from the figures below, the increase before a holiday is having a drastic effect on our overall attendance figures.

The average rate of absence on a regular Friday throughout the term is 5.

### **December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

30 children absent / 10% of our school population

### **February 10<sup>th</sup> 2017**

29 children absent / 9.6%

### **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017**

27 children absent / 9%

### **May 26<sup>th</sup> 2017**

15 children absent / 5%

### **July 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

22 children absent / 7.3%

### **16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

15 children absent / 5%

Please ensure that your children are in school right up to, and including, the last day of each term.

Best Wishes

Sarah Matthews  
Headteacher