



# Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

[office@secfs.org.uk](mailto:office@secfs.org.uk)

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

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

Dear Parents

At the end of our first week back at school, it has been nice to see so many of you at the gate but, for those of you we have missed, a very happy new year to you all!

Canon David joined us this morning to celebrate our first school mass of 2024. At Mass, we talked about the importance of being a good friend and how lucky we all are to have such good friends. The children were reminded that Jesus is our friend too and we should talk to him every day. We all made a good start this morning!

### **Thank you!**

On behalf of all members of staff, please accept a heartfelt thank you for your cards, gifts and kind words at the end of last term. They are all very much appreciated.

### **Admissions – September 2024**

Please be advised that if you are looking for a school place for your child to start in Fledglings (Reception) class in September 2024, your online admission application must be submitted to the Borough by Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and a completed supplementary information form sent into us. Details can be located in the Admissions Section on our school website.

### **Panto & Christmas Jumpers**

A huge thank you to all to those of you who paid for your child's Panto ticket even though they were not here on the day. We were left having to cover the cost of just six tickets in the end – a huge relief for our school budget and the experiences we are able to offer your children. We have already, as a result, been able to book for next year. I know it is a cliché but every little really does help in these austere times for schools and your kindness really does make a difference!

### **Tech Upgrades!**

We are aware that some children may have received new devices over the Christmas period. Whether it's a laptop, phone, tablet, games console or other device that connects to the Internet, there's lots you can do to make sure it's set up safely for your child. There is some really useful advice on the NSPCC website;

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

on how to set up parental controls. Parental controls can help you to plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for, create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content and more. Another useful website is Net Aware;

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/resource/o2-nspcc-net-aware>

which has information about all apps, games, websites and social networks. Most importantly, it tells you the official age rating for such platforms.

## KS2 (Year 3&4) PE – Boots & Trainers

This term, KS2 will be doing Tag Rugby in PE. Please ensure that your child has boots for this activity or a spare pair of trainers to wear after their lesson. The cleaners will not thank us if we allow 60 children to leave mud on the carpets!

Boots are available at the local charity  
<https://www.thebootbank.com/>

or from Sports Direct from £13. If children are wearing laced boots please teach them how to tie them – or buy slip on / Velcro versions. If your child only has one pair of trainers then please pack their school shoes for them to change into after rugby.

## Census Day Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan – Menu Changes

Every year the free school meal funding (the amount of money given to the school by the Government to cover the universal free school meals for YR, 1 & 2) is based upon the number of school meals served on a particular date. The more meals – the more money! Census day this year is next **Thursday 18th January** and the menu will be as follows;

Crispy Fish Fingers & Chips

Vegetable Fingers & Chips

Garden Peas and Baked Beans

Funfetti Iced Sponge

### **Friday 19th's Menu**

Beef Spaghetti Bolognese

Green Pesto Pasta (Optional Cheese Topping)

Garlic Bread, Sweetcorn & Broccoli

Pineapple Cake & Custard

Please do encourage your child to have a school dinner on Thursday – it really does make a difference!

## Parking

Already, so early in the term, I have been contacted by two angry neighbours and residents concerning the apparent disregard of highways laws when parents are dropping off or picking up their children. Please remember that there should be no parking on the yellow or zigzag lines outside the school at any time and nor should any car mount the pavement to park or drop off. Please be considerate of our neighbours and ensure that their driveways are not blocked.

Also, please remember that the staff car park should not be used for parking when picking up from clubs. As at 3.15pm, you must park on Parsonage Lane and walk into school to collect your child. On any given day, we can have up in excess of 200 children leaving the premises at 4.30pm – far too many to have cars manoeuvring in the car park – especially when it is raining!

## Lateness

We have more and more children arriving late for the school day – some as late at 9.15am! This is very disruptive not only for all the children in each class and their education but also to the administration of the school. With Breakfast Club opening from 7.15am and the school gates opening at 8.30am there is really no excuse for being late. If everyone could aim to be here by 8.30 then, if you are stuck in traffic you will have some spare time!

## Thank You from The Gardening Club

Our green fingered friends, expertly led by Mrs Reston & Mrs Lansley, raised an amazing £223.05 from their plant sale at the end of last term. These funds will be put towards purchasing a greenhouse in the near future.

**Friends of St Edward's**

Wishing you all a restful weekend, God bless

**Please see the below message from The Friends;**

*Happy New Year to you! And all the best for 2024!*

Sarah Matthews

*In January we are running the following events:*

Headteacher

***Happy Bags collection: 16th January*** - on the last collection we raised £289! Let's get organised and try to beat this figure.

*Christmas Jumpers donations: if you would like to donate Christmas jumpers please bring them to school during this month in a separate bag so we can make sure they're saved for next Christmas.*

*Cake sale: We would like to work as a team raising funds for our children and the cake sales are by far the most popular event! For this reason, from January our lovely Cake Sales will be organised by class year groups. (Donations remain the same).*

**Cake Sale Save the Dates:**

*Year 4 - 16th January*

*Year 3 - 9th February*

*Year 2 - 19th April*

*Year 1 - 17th May and*

*Fledglings - 5th July.*

**No Parents Room**

*Please bring any unwanted/pre-loved gifts you would be able to donate to the school office, so we can reschedule the event for the "Loved Ones" in Feb. The children absolutely love this opportunity but it will be only possible if we have enough gifts for them to choose from!*