



Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

21st December 2023

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Dear Parents

Advent is a really important part of our school year and sees us all preparing for Christmas and the birth of Jesus. It has been lovely to see the children embracing the season through their living out of our Mission statement, their work, their art and their talented displays of acting, singing, reading, dancing and signing over the past few weeks.

The staff and I are so proud of every single one of them for their hard work and efforts in the recent productions of Boogie Woogie Nativity; Bethlehem B & B and the traditional Y4 Carol Concert. The Y1 and Y3 less formal Carols in the Courtyard were lovely too. All the children have shone brightly and their confidence and obvious enjoyment was a delight to see. Well done to them all!

Retiring Collections

Many thanks to all of you who donated to our retiring collections at the productions. These were in support of the Alexander Devine Hospice. The amounts raised were as follows:

Fledglings Nativity - £110.77

Year 2 Nativity - £235.26

Year 4 Carols - £75.53

Christmas Jumpers on Panto Day - £163.65

Making a grand total of £585.21.

Thank you all for your generosity.

End of Term Mass

Canon David celebrated a lovely end of term mass with us this morning. It was lovely to see so many parents there and also some past pupils who have broken up already!

Please take note of the Mass times for Christmas below – I am sure Fr David would love to see you at church sometime over the holiday!

Christmas Services in Our Parish

Sunday 24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

St Mark's - 09:30

St Edward's 11:00

Christmas Eve Masses

St Edward's 18:00 (carols from 17:30)

St Edward's 22:00 (carols from 21:30)

Christmas Day

St Mark's 09:30

St Edward's 11:00

Sleeping Beauty

The children all looked magnificent in their Christmas Jumpers last Friday and they really enjoyed the opportunity to shout (very loudly!) and boo the cast of the Panto. They were really well behaved and, once again, the staff at South Hill Park commented on their lovely manners and good behaviour. What a credit they are – to the school and also to you, their parents. One of the volunteer front of house guides told me that she checks the date of our visit every year and ensures that she is on duty. How lovely!

Christmas Lunches

The children all really enjoyed their Christmas Lunches and the visit from Santa during their activities afterwards. Many thanks to The Friends for organising this.

The kitchen is not able to cope with cooking Christmas dinner for the whole school on the same day – I'm not sure any of us would relish the thought of cooking Christmas lunch for 300 people all at once! For this reason, we separate KS1 and KS2 and make the offering over 2 days, necessitating that the other half of the school bring a packed lunch to school. I am fully aware of the universal free school meal offer but, if we were to have to provide all EYFS & KS1 with a lunch on the KS2 Christmas Lunch day, it would be impossible for us to make this offering and we would therefore have to cancel the provision of Christmas lunch to all children which would be a great shame. Many thanks to you all for supporting us in this regard and for sending in your child with a packed lunch on the appropriate day.

Goodbye

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Weston today. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the school over the past years. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Fledglings PE Kit

A reminder for Fledgling parents that the children will need to wear PE kit on a Thursday from January. This is available to order online. The children will need a pair of black PE shorts, a white T shirt, plimsolls/trainers and a plain black tracksuit - without a hood or logo - for colder outdoor lessons.

Please ensure that every item is named.

...and Finally

As we come to the end of the calendar year, we can look back and see that 2023 has been another truly successful year for St Edward's First School. Aside from all the recent performances, our children have worked really hard and have achieved so much and it is well deserved that all their achievements are so highly praised.

My thanks, and those of all the children, must go to all the fantastic, hardworking (and currently very tired) members of staff; teaching, support, administration, lunch time cover and kitchen, all of whom show such dedication and commitment to the children. We are very lucky to have them.

Thanks also to Canon David for his time and commitment to our school, to the Friend's Association for their dogged and tireless work to enhance the education and provision for the children, to the Governors and to you, the parents, for your continued support and for continuing to trust us with your precious children. It is not a responsibility we take lightly.

Without everybody pulling together St Edward's would not be such a caring and loving school. Here's to 2024!

At the heart of our Advent preparations has been living out our Mission statement to see Jesus in everything we do and to act as God's children and through our words, actions, faith and prayers and touch the lives of

others. Let's all work hard to continue this throughout 2024.

A reminder that ***school closes at 2pm today*** and that the Spring Term begins for the children on Tuesday 9th January, gates open 8.30am, registration 8.45am.

All that remains is for me to thank you, on behalf of the entire staff, for your kind and generous words, gifts and cards and to wish you all a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

God Bless

Sarah Matthews

Headteacher