



# Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

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

Dear Parents

We have certainly been aware of the change in the weather this week – Mr. McKell and I have got our winter coats, hats and gloves out for our morning gate duties and even the children have been keeping their coats on in the mornings!

This is a really busy time of year for us here at school and this is therefore quite a long newsletter – please persevere right to the end – it is all important!!

### Adoration

Canon David brought the Blessed Sacrament into school yesterday afternoon and each year group had the opportunity to join in with a short period of adoration. I was privileged to be present for them all and the children were remarkable; quiet, attentive, prayerful and respectful. It was a joy to witness and I was immensely proud of them all and told Canon David so at the end. He replied that I was justified in my pride. What a lovely comment on our Catholic mission and ethos. I have thanked all the children during our merit assembly this morning.

### Celebrating Advent

We will be celebrating the start of Advent and the build up to Christmas in many ways this year at school. One way we are going to do this is to reintroduce the “wear a hint of purple/pink” Mondays. The children are therefore invited to wear their school uniform but to replace one item – cardigan, t-shirt, socks or ribbons for example – with a purple/pink alternative.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Purple

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Purple

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Pink

### Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Each year, on Panto day, the children are invited to come to school in their school uniform but to replace their school jumper with a Christmas one. It makes us quite a spectacle when we arrive at the theatre! In order to be ecofriendly, we are intending on setting up a Christmas Jumper swap shop. If you have a jumper that your child has grown out of or tired of, please bring it to school and we will then try, for a small donation, to recycle it to another child. Hopefully this will help us all save some money this Christmas!

On Christmas Jumper Day we ask for a small cash donation at the gate in support of a charity. This year, we have decided to support the Lowe family (Charlotte in Starlings) in their participation in the Alexander Devine Santa Dash. Details of the reason for their run, or online donations, can be found at <https://alexanderdevine.enthuse.com/pf/emma-low>

We will also be collecting cash donations at the school gates on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### Scholastic Book Fayre

A message from Mr Keohane

Thank you all for supporting our recent Scholastic Book Fair. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting and having a good look at all of the new books. Scholastic have contacted us this week to say how much of a success it was - raising over £1000. Therefore, we are fortunate enough to be able to order many new books for our school. I know there may be some of you still waiting to collect some of the books you've ordered. As soon as they are delivered to us, we will send an email to you to collect. Many thanks again and happy reading!

### **HCPT Fayre – 8<sup>th</sup> December 12.00 – 14.00pm**

Pat Burke from the Parish is organizing a Christmas Fayre to support the fundraising for the next HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes. She is looking for donations for the Christmas stall, the Tombola and Raffle.

Items can be left at the back of St Edward's church or at the Parish office. We are also happy to accept any donations here at school and we can pass them on.

You are all warmly invited to attend the event to support our local HCPT group and the children they work with.

### **Night Shelter**

Member of the Parish community are organising a Night Shelter to cover the 10-week post- Christmas period and are looking for volunteers to help cover shifts. I have attached an information leaflet to this newsletter but the link to register your interest is here.

<https://bit.ly/WHPNightShelter>

Even If you could do just ONE shift over the 10 weeks of the shelter, it would be lovely if we were able to provide a strong team of St Edward's First support for this initiative.

### **The Friends**

Following a successful EGM meeting and the election of a new committee, I am delighted to say that the group is now up and running again and keen to get going! Hurrah! They are looking for volunteers to help them serve mulled wine and mince pies at our numerous upcoming Carol concerts. We are hoping that parents will volunteer to help at a concert that their children are not performing in to allow everyone to enjoy the full experience of their child's performance. For example, if your child is in Y2 you might volunteer to help at the Y1 performance.

To volunteer\*\*, please click on the appropriate web link below to go to the signup sheet:

### **Year 2 Nativity 3rd & 5<sup>th</sup> December @ 5.30 for 6pm**

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=90944>

### **Year 1 Carols- 10th December @ 4.30 for 5pm**

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=90945>

### **Year 3 Carols - 12th December @4.30 for 5pm**

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=90946>

### **Year 4 Carols - 18th December @ 6pm at St Edward's Church**

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=90948>

Please do volunteer to help if you can – it would be lovely to support the Friends as they continue to strive to provide the extras for your children.

***\*\*Please do remember that no St Edward's First children or their younger siblings, other than those performing, are permitted to attend any after school performance – even if you are helping out!***

### **Christmas Trees – Last Chance!**

There are just three days left to order your Christmas Tree in support of the school. Follow the link below, pick your tree and pay for it online. It will then be delivered to school for you to collect or you can ask for it to be delivered to your home. Every tree ordered puts funds in the school account!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=89634>

### **Friends Swimathon Sunday 27th October**

Well done to our swimmers on the success of the Swimathon! It was an absolute joy watching the kids having such a blast in the pool! They showed amazing teamwork, making it nearly an hour of nonstop fun!

So proud of our little stars—teamwork at its finest! 103 laps each team, Splash-tastic effort!”

If anyone can, please consider supporting the school with a donation to honour the children’s achievements and encourage them in future events. Every bit helps, and it means so much to our school community.

<https://windsorlions.enthuse.com/pf/the-friends-of-st-edwards-catholic-first-school-5fb64>

Thank you for your support! The Friends

### **Admissions – September 2025**

Please be advised that if you are looking for a school place for your child to start in Fledglings (Reception) class in September 2025, your online admission application must be submitted to the Borough by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and a completed supplementary information form sent into us. Details can be located in the Admissions Section on our school website.

### **A Message from Thames Valley Police - Parking Restrictions**

As parents and guardians, we all know how hectic school drop-offs and pick-ups can be, but it’s essential to follow parking rules to keep our kids safe and avoid unnecessary fines. One common mistake is parking on single yellow lines.

Single yellow lines indicate that parking is restricted during certain hours, typically to ensure that traffic flows smoothly and safely, especially around busy school zones. These restrictions are in place to reduce congestion, keep emergency access clear and ensure clear visibility for other road users.

Top tips for safe parking – Check the signs that show parking restrictions and the times that they apply, use designated parking areas that are surrounding the school without causing obstruction to the residences and consider walking or carpooling to reduce the number of cars at drop-offs and pick-ups.

Let’s work together to ensure our children’s safety and keep the roads clear for everyone. Stay Mindful of parking rules.

Do have a lovely weekend!

Sarah Matthews

Headteacher