



# Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

Dear Parents

Another busy week! It has been so lovely to see all the children so happy and engaged in their learning as I have moved around the school. They all seem very settled and are all more than happy to share their love for learning with me – long may it last!

After extensive safety checks (and a lot of clearing up!) the Fledglings have been able to return to their classroom after the flooding last week and are also very settled – we are now just pursuing the insurance claim!!

### **Open Afternoon**

A reminder that you are invited to pop into the children's classrooms this afternoon from 2.45pm to see where your children are based whilst at school and meet their teacher if you have not already done so. We will open both the KS2 and the Courtyard gates at 2.45pm.

### **Parents' Evening**

Parents' Evening appointments will be held between 3.30pm and 6pm on Tuesday 10th October and Thursday 12th October.

The booking system will open this evening at 8.30pm and remain open until 8.30pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Please do log on via the link below and make an appointment to see your child's teacher – one 10-minute appointment per child please. We will also be asking you to check and amend your personal data and contact information at these afternoon/early evening sessions.

<https://stedwardscatholicfirstschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please visit the school website for guidance on booking appointments if needed, please find the link below.

<https://www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk/parents/instructions-for-booking-parents-evenings-and-teachers-clubs>

### **School Census Day – Thursday 5th October**

Every year the Free School Meal Funding (the amount of money given to the school by the Government to cover the 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 Thursday 5th October. We have swapped Friday's menu for Thursday's; so, it'll be fish fingers and chips or mac & cheese on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and chicken noodles or cheese and broccoli noodles on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>. The jacket potato option will be available on both days.

Please do consider letting your child have lunch on the 5<sup>th</sup> – every packed lunch can cost the school budget £400!

### **Friends Events**

The Friends are hosting a Quiz Night in the school hall this evening – do come along and test your grey matter!

Please also note that the Colour Run is booked for the 15<sup>th</sup> October between 2pm & 5pm and the Friends AGM for 2pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Please do put the dates in your diary – we are always looking for new volunteers and helpers!

### **Governor Roles**

We are in need of both a new Foundation Governor and a new Parent Governor to join our school Governing Body.

If you feel that a role on the board would be of interest to you, please contact either myself, Canon David or Dave Roberts, the current parent Governor, for more information.

### **Dog Mess**

I have been alerted to an increase in the amount of dog mess left on the lawn outside the Y1 classes. Whilst we are aware that we have a number of foxes who rudely do not clear up after themselves, it would be most helpful if you all cleared up after your dogs. If you do not have a bag, please ask in the office and we will give you one of Doug's! \*\*Doug is never loose on this area and he is always supervised and cleared up after on school grounds - so he is definitely not the culprit in this instance!!

### **Lateness**

We are noticing a small but steady, and worrying, increase in the number of children who are arriving late for school – sometimes every day. This is very disruptive for the teachers who are trying to register the children and start lessons – with phonics often being the first input – and the office who are trying to organise the school lunch orders whilst juggling late arrivals at the door.

Please do ensure that you are on time for school – the children all much prefer to start their day in an orderly manner with all their peers rather than trying to play catch up!

The school gates are open from 8.30am every morning and the bell rings at 8.45am. All pupils should be in school by 8.45am.

### **Lost Property**

Already, so early in the school year, the lost property hamper is depressingly full. Please do encourage the children to take responsibility for their belongings and ensure that EVERYTHING is named. If you have bought

second hand uniform, please do not rely on your child knowing the name in their jumpers – erase the old one and replace it with their own. I have this week discovered the lost jumper of a boy who left the school six years ago! Whilst this is an opportunity for reflection and to wonder what he is up to now – it does not help me know to whom the jumper now belongs!

There are also a large amount of plastic sandwich and snack boxes left all over the grounds. We have collected them all and put them in the lost property but it would be helpful if these too were named so we can ensure they get back to their rightful owners.

### **PA to Vicar for Clergy and Administrator for Clergy Support team**

A vacancy has arisen for a PA to work for 18 hours per week for the Vicar for Clergy (Fr David Hopgood) and Clergy Support Team.

The role will be based at Windsor (2 days per week) and Sandhurst (1 day per week).

In this role you will provide a full confidential administrative and secretarial service to the Vicar for Clergy and a sympathetic and efficient focal point for enquiries and assistance to the Clergy Support Team. If you would like to join our busy team please contact: [recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for a job description and details of how to apply.

God Bless and enjoy your weekend

Sarah Matthews

Headteacher