



Newsletter

We see Jesus in everything we do

6th October 2023

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

www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk

Dear Parents

It's been another very busy week here at school and the children have all been working hard in their classrooms - I have had the joy of several children coming to see me this week with their beautiful work and I am so impressed with the content, quality and quantity of the work they are doing. You are all in for a treat at Parents Evenings next week!

Parents Evening

There are quite a few parents who have not yet booked an appointment to see your children's teachers next week. If you have not already done so, please log into:

www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.schoolcloud.co.uk

and book a slot – it is really very important to the children that you come to see their teacher. The booking system will remain open until 8.30pm on Sunday evening.

Please note there will be no Teacher Led After School Activities any day next week due to Parents Evening and associated preparation.

Author Visit – Fiona Barker

We are delighted to be welcoming Fiona back to St Edward's next Thursday to celebrate the publication of her new picture book "Fox's Favourite Autumn". If you wish to purchase a signed copy of the book, signed on site by Fiona, please follow the link below ensuring that you add the school name in the notes section on the checkout page.

<https://www.fourbearsbooks.co.uk/product-page/fox-s-favourite-autumn-pb>

Full details can be found in the letter sent home by Miss Albrighton earlier this week.

Harvest Festival

Fr David will be coming in to celebrate Mass with us next Friday afternoon, 13th October, at 2pm. I do hope that some of you will be able to join us.

We are once again collecting produce for the local Windsor Foodshare and they are looking in particular for the items listed below.

Tinned Meat Tinned Fish Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Tomatoes Soup Rice Cooking Sauces

Tea Bags/Instant Coffee Sugar Breakfast Cereals

UHT Milk Tinned desserts Biscuits

Fruit Juice/Squash

We will begin the display on Monday next week so please give any items to the children to bring in to add to our collection. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

Sleeping Beauty Panto at South Hill Park

We have booked tickets for our annual and much anticipated visit to the Panto at South Hill Park on Friday 15th December.

Once again, the Friends have very kindly agreed that they will pay for the coaches that we need to transport the children. We will therefore be asking just for a £12 voluntary ticket contribution, via Scopay,

for each child to attend. We will inform you when this charge has been added to your child's account.

Please note that we do ask all parents to pay for these tickets – even those who are taking their children out of school early before the end of term. We have to book these tickets over a year in advance (I have already booked for December 2024) and there is no way for us to account for children who are being taken out on holiday earlier than the end of term.

School Council

Each class has elected their school councilors for this year and the children were given their badges at our Gospel assembly on Monday morning.

Congratulations to;

Goldfinches: Monae and Liam

Sparrows: Ellie and Noah

Kingfishers: Eva and Leo

Starlings: Joseph and Sara

Doves: Kiera-Belle and Rocco

Woodpeckers: Chloe and Salvador

Owls: Oliver and Anna

Nightingales: Marta and Leo

The Fledglings will elect representatives to join the school council in January once they have properly settled in.

Swimathon

One of the fundraising events that contributes towards the Panto coaches is the Swimathon. Every year The Lions of Windsor run a Swimathon event in Windsor, this time the location has changed and the event will be held at St Georges School in Ascot. Many local schools and clubs take part to raise money for their charities. The Swimathon takes place all day. On the hour, different teams from various schools and

clubs will compete for 55 minutes, taking it in turns to swim as many laps as they can in 55 minutes.

Two lanes are reserved for St Edwards Catholic First School on Sunday 29th October at 1pm (arrive 12.30pm) Therefore, we are looking for 16 swimmers (two teams) to take part in this year's Swimathon.

If your child is interested, please follow this link by 20th October. If you would like your child to take part complete the form found in the link below. Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. If you have more than one child you wish to enter please complete a form for each child. We will send further details to those taking part once we have the teams.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=66682>

This event raises money for our school by asking friends and family to sponsor the children who are swimming. 100% of the sponsor money goes back to school and the Lions of Windsor receive the gift aid which then goes to many local charities. A Just Giving page has been set up for you to share.

Team 1

<https://windsorlions.enthuse.com/pf/the-friends-of-st-edward-s-catholic-school-team-1>

Team 2

<https://windsorlions.enthuse.com/pf/adela-winfield>

It is always a great atmosphere on the day and the children really get involved in cheering their teams on to swim as many laps as possible whilst supporting their school. All the children involved will receive a certificate in the New Year from the Lions.

Colour Run - Sunday 15th October 2-5pm

The Friends are getting ready for the first ever Colour Run at the school! Please come along, cheer the runners, walkers, and enjoy the BBQ and Sweet Tuck

Shop. We would love to see as many faces as we can enjoying this special event.

There are still participation tickets available on our website:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstedwardsfirst/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=66777>

As always, help is needed to run this event, please support The Friend's if you can by volunteering:

<https://volunteersignup.org/T48L7>

Remember that all the money raised will be divided equally between the two schools.

Candles

Following the judgement in a recent national court case, the Health and Safety executive are advising all schools to stop using candles during events and to use battery operated ones instead. This is not an instruction but guidance.

During my years here at the school (almost too many to count now!) we have had a long tradition of using real candles, in particular during the Y4 Carol Concert which we begin with a candlelight procession and the very popular end of year Candle Assembly where the Y4 children pass a lighted candle to the Y3 children, passing on the responsibility of being the oldest children in the school. We have also used candles during our courtyard carol services and at our school masses and worships.

We have always used these opportunities to speak to and teach the children about risks and responsibilities and the importance of fire safety and how they can ensure that they – and everyone else - stays safe. All these events are always fully risk assessed and mitigations, such as very close staff supervision and ensuring that dousing equipment is close to hand, are in place.

I am genuinely interested to receive your views and opinions on this matter. Would you, as parents, prefer us to continue to use real candles, whilst being aware of and alert to the associated risks and learning opportunities for the children, or prefer us to convert to using the risk less battery-operated candles that are now freely available but which will inevitably impact the atmosphere and reverence of each event?

Perhaps you would be kind enough to either have a word with me on the gate or to drop me an e-mail and let me know your thoughts.

It seems that we are in store for some unseasonably warm weather this weekend – I do hope you all get the opportunity to enjoy it!

God Bless

Sarah Matthews