



# St Edmund's Catholic Primary School Fortnightly Newsletter

Friday 1 March 2024



StEdmunds@TW2



St Edmund's Primary School & Nursery Whitton



Stedmundsschooltw2

*'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'*

## Diary – Forthcoming Events

Tues 5 Mar – Year 4 trip to Science Museum  
Year 6 to Orleans House Gallery  
Choir to St Marks

Thurs 7 Mar – Year 1 trip to The Look Out  
Discovery Centre

Fri 8 Mar – World Book Day at St Edmund's

Thurs 14 Mar – Class 1P Assembly at 9am in  
school hall

**Fri 15 Mar – Year 6 Parents SATs Meeting  
9am in school hall**

Sat 16 Mar – St Patrick's Themed Family Quiz &  
Bingo 4-7pm in school hall

**Wed 27 Mar – Easter Passion led by Year 4  
11am in church**

**Thurs 28 Mar – Last day of Spring Term –  
Early Finish at 1.30pm**

**Mon 15 Apr – Children Return to School**

## Attendance

Congratulations to **Year 1** for achieving the best  
attendance in the school for the past fortnight with  
99.42%. Amazing!

<b>96%-100% attendance</b>	Your child has the best chance of success!
<b>90-95% attendance</b>	Your child has missed at least 2 weeks of learning, that could be 10 literacy lessons and 10 maths lessons.
<b>85%-89% attendance</b>	Your child has missed at least 4 weeks of learning, that could be 20 literacy lessons and 20 maths lessons.

At St Edmund's we aim for each of our children to  
have an attendance percentage of 95%+.

Children with attendance falling below 90% will  
receive a phone call from school within the next  
fortnight. We need to look at support we can  
provide in order to improve this percentage rate.  
If any families feel they need help getting into  
school, please let us know so we can support you  
appropriately.

## Donations for the Whitton Foodbank

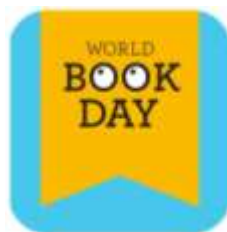
The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Buddies and  
Young Carers have all come together for a shared  
project. They have asked that we make donations  
towards the Whitton FOODBANK as part of their  
drive to support our local community.

Donations can include:

Custard	Rice Pudding
Long Life Juice	Tinned Meat
Tinned Veg	Tinned Fish
Tinned Tomatoes	Pasta Sauce
Long Life Milk	Non-Dairy Milk
Tinned Fruit	Jams & Marmalade,
Cereal	Marmite & Peanut Butter
Tinned Pulses	Crisps
Rice	Squash
Coffee	Washing Up Liquid
Shampoo	Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Washing Powder	Deodorant
Razors	Shaving Foam
Toilet Rolls	Shower Gel

Donations can be made on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** at  
morning drop off. A group of representatives from  
the above children's groups will be on the school  
gates to meet families to collect the donations.  
Further representatives will then walk to the  
foodbank to deliver the donations. Thank you in  
advance for your help.

## World Book Day



World Book Day is being  
celebrated in St Edmund's  
next **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March**.  
We are looking forward to  
seeing everyone's book  
character costumes - low  
pressure, can be bought  
costumes, home-made  
costumes, PJ's. We would

also like the children to bring in a book they enjoy  
reading – marked clearly with their name.

We are aware that some children find non-uniform  
days challenging so, if this is the case, please  
encourage your child to wear whatever they are  
comfortable in.

## Blue Peter Book Badge



This special book badge was designed by the illustrator Quentin Blake and is open to 5-15 year olds to apply for either online or by post. You need to download the book badge form and the child applying needs to write three sections: a review of the book, an illustration, and say what other books and authors they have enjoyed and why.

We would love for children to apply and share in assembly when they receive their badges.

Extra exciting: You can get into certain places for free with a Blue Peter Badge.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

## Young Carers Action Day



Our Young Carers have been making posters to raise awareness of Young Carers Action Day which is on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. They are displaying them around the school.

Young Carers are children who take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities within their family units. This can include anything from cooking or shopping to housework.

They can assist family members with personal care such as washing, dressing or physical support. Being a Young Carer can include providing emotional support or looking after younger siblings.

If you recognise your child as a Young Carer and you would like them to join our pupil group do please let us know – our Young Carers are an amazing group of children who meet together once or twice a term for shared experiences and activities.

## Reception – Balanceability



A huge thank you to Mrs Newman and Mrs Nash for training all the Reception children over the past fortnight showing them how to use their balance bikes with care and precision. The children have been working on their core strength, balance skills, co-ordination as well as their listening skills.

Mrs Newman and Mrs Nash said the children have worked exceptionally hard and have all been amazing. Well done children!

## Founder's Day



Founder's Day is celebrated every year, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, to commemorate Lord Baden-Powell, the visionary founder of the Scouting Movement, and his wife, Olave, who was the first Chief Girl Guide.

It is a day for Scouts and Guides to renew their promises together and reflect on how the century old values of scouting still resonate in the fast-changing modern world. At school, the children who belong to the scouts, brownies and guides movement were invited to celebrate by wearing their uniforms to school.



## Year 2 – Tower of London Visit



On Tuesday, Year 2 went on a wonderful trip to the Tower of London. The children saw the Crown Jewels, explored the White Tower and completed a workshop on the Great Fire of London. The children couldn't wait to tell everyone about their fabulous trip.

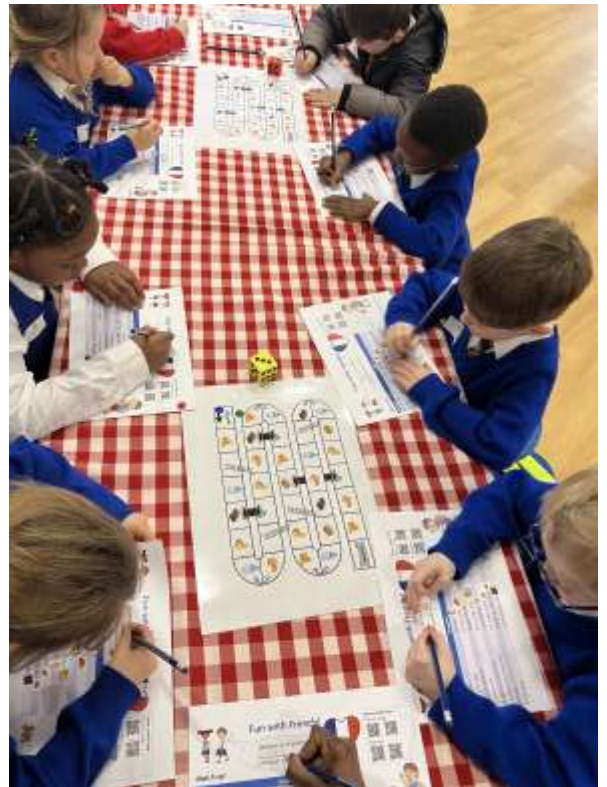


Here are some comments from the children:

*I loved my school trip because we got to see the White Tower and we got to go raven spotting.*

*I loved my school trip to the Tower of London because it felt magical seeing the Crown Jewels.*

## Year 1 - Fun with French Afternoon at Hampton Prep



Last week a small group of Year 1 children were invited to visit Hampton Prep School for a Fun with French Afternoon. The children had the opportunity to taste French food and participate in activities and workshops. They enjoyed a great afternoon of learning and fun.

## Year 5 – Eco Summit



Some of our Year 5 Eco-Committee joined the Richmond Eco Champion Summit this week at the London Wetland Centre. They learnt all about helping our environment and about pollution across the Richmond Borough. The children began to make plans to develop our school garden and got to practice creating a mini-beast habitat and thought about the benefit of using our school fruit waste for composting and getting a water butt to water the plants in summer.

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

### Mental Health Webinars for Parents

The Charlie Waller Trust have just launched their new series of free mental health webinars for parents, starting next Monday 4 March. They are presented by expert mental health trainers from CWT and guest speakers who come from a wide range of professions and expertise.

The webinars explore practical, evidence-based information and strategies.

Please follow link below for more information and to book your free place.

[Free mental health webinars from the Charlie Waller Trust](#)

### SEND OPPORTUNITIES The Victoria Foundation



The Victoria Foundation (TVF) funds mobility aids for children which help them gain independence and reach their potential. They are receiving an

ever-increasing number of requests for specialist buggies, trikes, lightweight wheelchairs and gym equipment from families, charities and schools. They are able to award grants due to the donations they receive, a grant from The Richmond Charities and the proceeds from fundraising events.

For more information, please follow the link below:  
<https://www.thevictoriafoundation.org.uk/>

### Children's Mental Health Support Team Webinars

Please find attached document about upcoming 'Helping Children with ?' webinars delivered by Achieving for Children's Mental Health Support Teams. These webinars are for parents of primary aged children and will cover a range of common difficulties experienced by children, aiming to share evidence-based strategies to help parents/carers support their children.

Please follow the links in the document for more details about signing up for upcoming webinars focussing on Worries, Resilience, Friendships, Challenging Behaviours, Screen Time and Sleep.

## PA NEWS

### St Patrick's Themed Family Quiz & Bingo Night



Follow link below to purchase tickets. This was an extremely popular event last year and, as there are limited spaces, please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

[Buy tickets for St Edmund's PA \(tickettailor.com\)](#)

### Save the Dates

Please save the dates below and more details will follow shortly.

**Saturday 20 April** – rescheduled quiz night

**Friday 26 April** - school discos

### Saturday 15 June - School Summer Fair

We're looking for sponsors for our summer fair celebrating our 85th year. If you know of any companies we can speak to, Natalie would love to hear from you - [natalieholm84@gmail.com](mailto:natalieholm84@gmail.com)

Also, we are looking for any local sporting heroes for a very special event coming up in July. If anyone has any connections we could use, please let Natalie know - [natalieholm84@gmail.com](mailto:natalieholm84@gmail.com)

### Easter Duck Race

We will be running a virtual duck race in the coming weeks. This will be similar to our previous balloon races and the children will be able to track their chosen ducks both at school, in assemblies and at home. Details on how to purchase will follow shortly.



### Rugby Parking

Thank you to those who helped with rugby parking on the 10<sup>th</sup> February - Kat M, Laura B, Lisa W, Sophie F, Marie M & Yanaki G.

Thank you also to those that have already volunteered for the next game on 9<sup>th</sup> March, which is allocated to Year 1. We still need volunteers for the later slot 2.45-4.45pm.

The remaining games have been allocated as follows:

20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Year 2
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Year 3
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 4
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2024	Year 5

If you can help out, please click on the sign-up sheet link below.

<https://volunteersignup.org/YR9TH>

### SPORTING NEWS Boys Football Match



This week we played against Chase Bridge at home. In a very close game, St Edmund's were beaten by a very good Chase Bridge team 4-3. Our squad did very well and were unlucky not to draw as we hit the post in the last minute.

### Girls Football Match



The girls took to the field on Monday to play against Chase Bridge in our last league game. We won 10-1 with a great team performance.

### Girls Football Tournament



The girls team were back in action to play in the Premier League Primary Stars Champions' Tournament yesterday. The girls went on a seven game unbeaten run, straight to the final, where some goalkeeper heroics and fabulous spot kicks sealed the title in a penalty shoot-out. England finals await.

### LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES Whitton Library Story Writing Competition

**Children**  
**STORY WRITING COMPETITION**

Do you like writing stories, poems or comics and pictures?  
You can use your creativity and imagination and write your own story on one sheet of A4 paper, and bring it to Whitton library desk by the end of Tuesday 5th March 2024. This year's theme is simply number **50**. Please don't forget to add your name, age and contact details on the back. Winners in each age category will be announced on Tuesday 12th March 4.30pm (after the Owls visiting event at the library!) Categories: 4-7years, 8-11years, 12-15years

1st prize: £20 voucher  
2nd prize: £10 voucher  
3rd prize: £5 voucher

**Whitton Library 50th anniversary**  
LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES  
Supported by Friends of Whitton Library, 141 Nelson Rd, TW2 7BB, 020 8734 5343

## CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

### St David's Feast Day



Today, 1st March is the feast day of Saint David. He is known as Dewi Sant in Welsh, and is the patron saint of doves and poets as well as Wales.

Saint David went to school at a monastery in Carmarthenshire. Next, he was sent to study to become a priest under the Welsh scribe, Saint Paulinus. Legend has it that Saint Paulinus had gone blind from crying so much as he prayed. However, Saint David was able to make Paulinus see again after making the sign of the cross over him.

Another legend says that an angel told Saint Paulinus to send Saint David out as a missionary to convert the people of Britain to Christianity.

Saint David is said to have performed many miracles. For example, he was preaching to a large crowd at the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi in Wales when the ground where he stood rose up so that everyone could see and hear him. The story goes that a white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder - which is why Saint David is often depicted with a dove.

Saint David became Archbishop of Wales. He is believed to have been more than 100 years old when he died. Although the exact date of his death is uncertain, tradition says that it was on 1st March, 589.



### Year 3 Visit to Church

In RE Year 3 have been learning about the liturgical calendar and the different parts of the Mass. Yesterday they attended morning Mass with the parishioners and afterwards stayed to learn more from Father Jonathan.

We learnt about the sanctuary lamps in church, the vestments Father Jonathan wears at different

times of the year and all about the chalice and the ciborium. It was good to see these items up close.

Thank you Father Jonathan for your time - we found it really interesting and learnt a lot more about the traditions of the Church.



### Nursery Visit to Church

The Nursery children also had a visit to church. They enjoyed looking at and walking around church. They saw the beautiful stain glass windows, they looked at the different statues and holy pictures as well as the altar and most importantly the tabernacle. They had a very good visit.

### Class 1W Assembly

Thank you to Class 1W for leading a beautiful assembly on the seasons. The children reminded us all of God's creation and how wonderful it is. The assembly helped us to remember that we should care for God's world and that we are all stewards of God's creation.

### Catholic Children's Society Lenten Boxes



The Mini Vinnies have chosen to support the Westminster Catholic Children's Society for our Lenten Charity appeal this year. Each child from Reception to Year 6 should bring home a purple

collection box. Please set these up at home and donate whatever spare change you can. This wonderful charity helps vulnerable children and their families all over the Westminster Diocese. Please return these boxes after the Easter holidays. Thank you.



## Travelling Stations of the Cross



During Lent **KS2 classes** will share a travelling Stations of the Cross. At some point during Lent your child will bring home a bag containing the stations of the cross book, a cross and an LED candle. All instructions are contained in the bag. They can keep it for two evenings for you as a family to pray the stations of the cross. It must then be returned to school for the next child to have it.

This is an opportunity for families to pray together and reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us all.

## Reflection



Today, the school community celebrated the Feast of St David. We wish all the people of Wales, and the Welsh at heart, a happy feast day!

God of Love,  
today you give us the joy of recalling  
the life and holiness of St David,  
in whom the power of your love brought  
goodness to our country.  
As David followed Jesus in all that he did,  
help us to do the same.  
This we ask in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



Mrs C Moreland  
Headteacher