



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

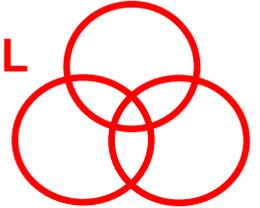
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



7th December 2020

Dear Parents,

Christmas story

Christmas celebrations are sadly very different in school this year and we are sorry you are unable to join us for our usual Nativities and Christingle service. However, the children are busy retelling the story of Christmas in their class bubbles with Bible readings and carols which will all be filmed and uploaded onto our school website before we break up, so do enjoy watching them with your families. I am afraid the videos will be the best we can do with our school iPads, but we are all, children and staff, keen to share the Christmas story with you all so we hope you enjoy them.

Advent on St Edmund's Parish Website

Throughout the Advent period, there is a page on the youth section of the parish website with activities, information and an interactive Advent calendar:

<https://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/advent-christmas-for-children> . Please do visit the website with your child/children if you haven't already. There is also an Advent page in the What's On section for adults.

Carol on your doorstep

As we head into this difficult Christmas season, the Churches in Abingdon (CiA) have teamed up with Abingdon Town Council to promote a community wide sing of the carol Silent Night. The idea has stemmed out of the Thursday night 'Clap for Carers' that occurred during the first lockdown, although Carol on Your Doorstep will just be a one-off event happening at **8pm on Thursday 17th December**. The aim of this initiative is to bring the Abingdon community together this Christmas by encouraging everyone to come out onto their doorstep at the same time to sing Silent Night.

Christmas cards this year

I hope you all understand that this year, to keep risk of infection to an absolute minimum, we are asking the children not to bring in Christmas cards for all their friends but just to bring in one card addressed to the whole class which the teacher will display. Similarly, can any gifts be brought in on the final day only please.

Abingdon foodbank

If you are able to support Abingdon foodbank at all this year items they urgently need are:

- Tinned meat (ham, corned beef, meatballs, stew, curry)
- Tinned vegetables (carrots, potatoes) or Instant potatoes
- Tinned fish (tuna, salmon, mackerel, sardines, pilchards)
- Jam, marmalade and honey
- Tins or long life cartons of custard
- Small (500g) bags of sugar

They are also asking that the 'best before dates' on all items are 26th December or later. The foodbank is located at Christ Church on Northcourt Road.





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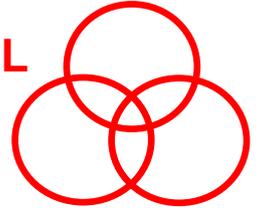
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Reception admissions September 2021

You must apply now if your child was born on or between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 for a primary school place. You must still apply for a Reception place via Oxfordshire County Council even if your child already attends our nursery. The deadline for applications is the **15th January 2021**. Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions – it is quick, easy and secure. For help and information do speak to Mrs Semple in Nursery or Mrs Dingwall in the school office or email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk, tel: 0345 241 2487

Early Years in action

If you would like to know more about Reception and our approach to teaching in the Early Years do please contact Mrs Demarchi, our Early Years leader, via the school office. You can also watch videos of the Early Years on our school website: <https://st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk/parents-info/prospective-parents-information/>

Government Contingency Framework/ Remote Learning

Thank you to all the parents who completed our recent Remote Learning questionnaire. Your feedback was useful, and it was reassuring to hear that for most of your children we got the amount of work and feedback right and that there were many positives for you and your family. I was also pleased to see that where parents have suggested improvements, they have mentioned more regular contact with teachers via Teams, as this is something we have already added to our remote learning plan which we published on our website in October. However, you will probably be as relieved as I am to read the Government's new [Contingency Framework](#) for education which states that, even if the whole country goes into complete lockdown again, primary schools will stay open for all children. This is not the case for secondary schools where remote learning will be utilised for most year groups.

DfE announcement re primary assessment:

Last week the Department for Education announced changes for primary assessment next summer as follows:

- Key Stage 1 assessment in reading, writing and maths will be by teacher assessment only. The tests used to inform teacher assessment at Key Stage 1 will be non-statutory, and no new Key Stage 1 tests will be made available in 2021.
- There will be no teacher assessment of science in 2021 at either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2.
- The Year 4 multiplication tables check will be non-statutory.
- The grammar, punctuation and spelling test at Key Stage 2 will also be non-statutory.
- Key Stage 1 phonics and the autumn term year two additional phonics check will go ahead.
- Key Stage 2 SATs in reading and maths and teacher assessment of writing will go ahead in 2021. The administration of these will be made more flexible with an extended timetable variation window.





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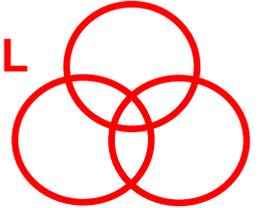
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Reading at Home

Thank you for continuing to hear your child read at home. For all ages in primary school just 5-10 minutes reading a day makes such a difference so please do keep hearing your child read as often as you can. It will also help your child's reading comprehension if you ask them questions about what they have read, e.g., what is happening in the story? why do you think she said that? what do you think might happen next? For more ideas or tips to help support your child do contact the class teacher via the class email address.

Final week of term

We will be having our **Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th December**, this will be for all children – unless you have informed the office that your child does not want one (£2.20 per child for Y3 – Y6). The children will wear their uniform and the Christmas hat they will make in class during the morning. On **Friday 18th December**, the last day of term, the children may wear their **Christmas jumper** if they would like to. Unfortunately they will not be able to bring party food to share but I am sure the teachers will be asking them to bring in an extra snack for the day.

Covid-19 Reminder

Please remember, to support the school in remaining open and reduce any potential 'bubble' closure, if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they must stay at home:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Please follow the guidance: they must not come to school, nor can their brothers or sisters and you will need to get them tested. You and your family will have to self-isolate until you have the results of the test. If we see symptoms in your child during the school day, we will need to isolate them and we will ask you to collect them immediately. If the results are negative, they may come back to school, if they are positive please contact us immediately to inform us and the whole family must continue to self-isolate as per the government guidance.

Thank You

Finally, I would also like to ask you and your children to remember to thank all the staff for their care, professionalism, and dedication through what has been a very hard year. I am humbled by their continuing enthusiasm throughout and their determination to make sure our school is the happiest and safest place it can be for your children so please do join me in thanking them for all that they do. If I do not see you before we **break up next Friday 18th December**, I would like to thank you for all your support this year and wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and holy Christmas. I will then look forward to seeing you all again on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Headteacher

