



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

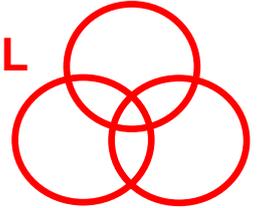
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



28th May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The Rosary

Throughout this month of May, our Key Stage 2 classes have been praying the Rosary together each week. The plan was that, weather permitting, the KS2 classes would gather in their bubbles outside and say a decade of the Rosary together. So far the weather has been against us and the children have had to stay in their classes inside. Our children also joined a national day of prayer for schools and young people from around the country to all say the Rosary together on Monday 24th May.

Mother Tongue Day

This morning we celebrated Pentecost with our first whole school worship for over a year. Thankfully the weather was good so we began our 'Mother Tongue Day' celebration by hearing the Pentecost story read in different languages by members of staff. Then children who have home languages other than English said a prayer in their own language (this year we had 45 children volunteering!) Thank you to all the parents and families who have supported the children in practising reading out their prayers so clearly. It was a moving and joyous celebration of our diverse St Edmund's community and it felt wonderful to be worshipping together once more.

Staff Update

We have successfully appointed a new senior leader for September, Mrs Vanessa Westhead, who will join our Key Stage 2 team. Yesterday we also appointed a full time and part time teacher for September. Mrs Perez, who is currently teaching Year 5 on a fixed term contract, has now been offered a permanent position in our school. As Mrs Harris has decided to retire in the summer we have also appointed a part time teacher for September as well, Mrs Rhiannon Demain. I am sure parents will join me in welcoming these new teachers to our wonderful school and thanking Mrs Harris for all her dedication and hard work at St Edmund's over the last twenty years. We wish you a long and healthy retirement Mrs Harris.



History Timeline

After many months of planning, and a long delay due to lockdowns, I am delighted that our new History timeline has now been fitted along the Key Stage 2 corridor. Each time I have walked along the



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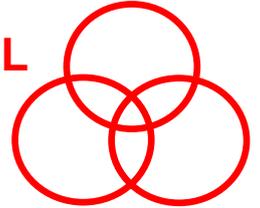
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corridor this week I have observed at least one child or adult delayed from their trip to the cloakroom, studying the timeline intently to discover historical dates around the history of our school, Abingdon, the Bible, British or World history. There is so much information for the children to read and digest, definitely a positive contribution to our school and historical knowledge. Thank you to Mrs Semple and Mrs Rooney who helped to make this possible.

Covid update

We continue to follow our Covid risk assessment and procedures, which continue to be effective as we have still not had to close a single bubble since the pandemic began in 2020. The [latest DfE guidelines published on March 10th 2021](#) have few changes for primary schools. We are hopeful for the future, but we still need to be cautious. While we may be beginning to feel frustrated, I think we need to remember that by keeping the measures in place, we are enabling schools to remain open for face-to-face teaching and also for all of us to enjoy the opening up of so many other areas of life. We ask for your continuing patience as we go forward –you and your children have been magnificent so far, thank you. Annex C of the latest guidance for schools on residential trips was useful however, to check against the PGL risk assessments and procedures. We are now fairly confident that our Year 6 residential week on June 28th can finally go ahead. The children will remain in their Year 6 bubble throughout the week and will be accompanied by Mrs Dahle (Year 6 teacher), Mrs Skeels and Mrs Selby (teaching assistants). Year 6 parents have already read the PGL risk assessment and Covid procedures, but please do ask if you have any further questions regarding the trip.

Crest Science Awards

I have been sent this link from Abingdon School who are celebrating the children and staff in Year 2 at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School for getting stuck in to CREST Star science activities every afternoon during British Science Week: <https://www.abingdon.org.uk/crest-science-stars/>

Parent Governors needed

We currently have two parent governor vacancies so if you think you may be interested in supporting our school in this way please do ask any of the current governors: Fiona Rooney, Stuart Smith, Jenni Kingham, Sam Martin-Morrissey or Jakub Pilc for more information. I am sure they will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As ever, thank you all for your continued support. I hope you and your families have a happy and healthy half term break. On the slim chance that your child tests positive within the first few days of the holiday, please do send an email to the office to let me know, as I will still need to test and trace until the beginning of next week and will notify staff and parents should any bubble need to self-isolate.





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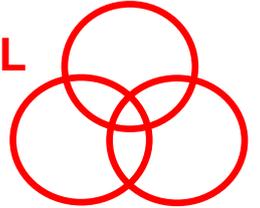
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I look forward to seeing everyone well rested again after the holiday, on **Monday 7th June.**

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Delany-White
Headteacher

