



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

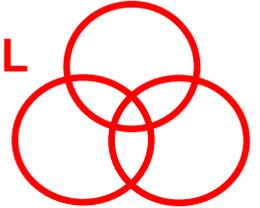
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



13th July 2022

Dear Parents and carers,

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

Winne the Pooh

Sports Day

Time is rushing forward now with all the end of term events marking the last few weeks of another successful year. It was lovely to have so many parents, grandparents and family members joining us for our Sports Day last week. We were blessed with perfect weather for the races and family picnic. I know many of you enjoyed the happy atmosphere of the day as much as I, the staff and children did.

Football

On Monday 12th July, our football team played their final game of the year against Rush Common School. The team played extremely well and passed the ball around, creating a number of chances. Unfortunately, they lost 0 - 1, but we are really proud of them for playing so well on such a hot day. Unfortunately our final two games against Thameside and St Nicholas were cancelled by their schools. We look forward to receiving the final league results.

Miss Kucz, PE leader

Meet the New Teacher

On Friday 15th July all of the classes will spend the afternoon with their new teacher in preparation for September. The children will return to their current teacher at the end of the day so please collect your child via the usual gate and from the usual place. Parents may want to say 'hello' to the new teacher on the playground at pick up on Friday.

Staffing Update

We are pleased to be welcoming Mrs Jessica Prior who will join our school as a new teaching assistant in September. We are still finalising the recruitment process for another teaching assistant ready for a September start also.

Goodbye Year 6

Sadly, it's the time of year when we have to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children. What a hardworking and energetic group they have been! New parents often ask where our children go when they leave St Edmund's and are slightly confused when I reply 'everywhere'. To clarify this point let me explain that this year's leavers are going to:

Didcot Girls School (1)

Larkmead (1)

Fitzharry's (8)





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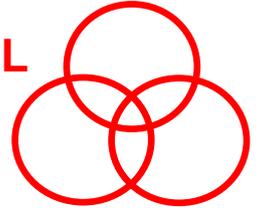
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John Mason (9)
Our Lady's Senior School (2)
St Michael's (1)
Faringdon Community School (1)
Moved abroad (1)

I wish them all continued success in their new school, and I am sure they will maintain the high standards of commitment in all that they do. They will face many new challenges in the years ahead but they are more than ready to do so with confidence in the knowledge that they will succeed if they are prepared to put the effort in- as they have done over the years here at St Edmund's. They should be as proud as I am of all that they have achieved so far in their learning journey.

Reports

This week you will receive your child's annual report. Please take the time to discuss this with your child and to praise them for all of their achievements. I ask you to particularly focus on the 'effort' box for each subject as it is only by effort and perseverance that truly great achievements can be accomplished. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading all the class teacher and pupil comments over the last few weeks. The enthusiasm for school life shines out across the school, as normal school life returns. I have analysed the attainment and progress of the children carefully and class teachers are currently having detailed transition meetings to make sure that the new teachers are fully prepared for each child to enable them to continue on their learning journey in September, whilst focusing on the impact in any key areas or pockets of knowledge the past couple of years may have had. We will continue to focus on rebuilding the children's stamina and perseverance in writing across the school next academic year as this is one area which has been noticeably effected. The report will also include details of your child's end of key stage results (for children in Reception, Year 2 & Year 6.) If you want to discuss this report with the class teacher do arrange a time to do so directly via the class email address before term finishes.

Prize Giving

Next Monday, 18th July, we will have our end of year Prize Giving assembly. Last year we changed the format slightly and took the opportunity to reward more children for more subjects or qualities, given the lack of attendance awards that used to take a lot of the assembly time. This new format was so successful we have decided to keep the same awards this year. Therefore, please don't be disappointed if you haven't been invited to Prize Giving. This does not mean your child is definitely not getting a prize. On the contrary, we will be recognising so many children across the school it would be impossible to fit you all in the hall!

Leavers' Mass

At 1:30pm on Tuesday 19th July we will have our Leavers' Mass for the Year 6 children in St





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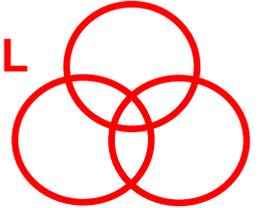
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Edmund's church. Year 6 parents are warmly invited to join us for this special event if you are free.

Talent Show

A few parents have asked me about our St Edmund's Talent Show that we traditionally hold on the final day of the academic year. We are delighted that we can do this again this year. The children are told about the Talent Show early in the summer term to give them time to think about their talents, and then to prepare and rehearse in their own time, either individually or in groups. We then have the exciting auditions where only a small selection are chosen to perform on the day. Again, the acts continue to prepare and rehearse in their own time so that on the day the audience (the rest of the school) and the judges (four members of staff wearing X Factor judge masks) are dazzled by the talents and acts on show. I know parents are sometimes keen to come and see their children perform but this is a chance for children and staff to let their hair down and have fun together at the end of a busy year. The day is always full of laughter and tears and great joy. I am afraid if we added parents to the audience the dynamic would change, lesson time would be needed to help the children prepare, staff would be concerned to oversee more polished performances and much of the joy and wonder of the event would be lost. Therefore, please be assured that your children's talents will be celebrated and acclaimed by all next Wednesday and your children will be able to tell you all about the Talent Show when you pick them up at the end of the day.

Longer School Day in September

From September the governors have approved a small extension of the school day to 3:10pm finish. The longer teaching day will benefit the children whilst complying with the government's requirement in the new White Paper for all schools to be open for pupils for a minimum of 32.5 hours a week. The new finish time of 3:10pm will also match Thomas Reade's new timing so there will be no issue for children who are in Tom & Eds after school club.

Jewellery

In the interests of safety and security no jewellery (apart from wristwatches, which must be removed for Physical Education), is allowed in school. If you would like your child to have pierced ears, please do this on the first day of the summer holiday so that the earrings can be easily removed when they return to school in September. Alternatively wait until your child leaves primary school and moves onto secondary school.

Goodbye and thank you

Finally I would like to end my final Headteacher newsletter with a huge thank you to each and every one of you- parents, grandparents, staff, governors, parishioners and all who have helped to make my eight years at St Edmund's so happy and successful. I have been truly grateful for your support and trust in me. Parents, you placed all your trust in me and the staff at St Edmund's when you chose this school for your child and I have strived every day to





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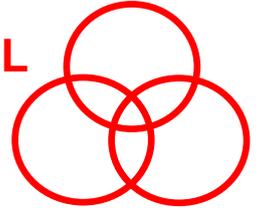
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make sure that the decisions I have made and the path I have followed has been the one I believed was in the best interests of your child. I have made mistakes along the way and learnt from experience but overall I have always strived to make sure that I and the team have provided the best education academically, spiritually and morally that we can against a back drop of ever changing government expectations and requirements, funding cuts and covid restrictions (to name just a few of the many frustrations along the way). The best and most rewarding parts of a Headteacher's job is always the children and I have been lucky to have so many wonderful children in my care. Thank you for all of your kind words and support both recently and over the years. I will now enjoy the next chapter in my life full of warm memories of my time here at St Edmund's.

I wish you and your family a lovely summer holiday when I hope the sun shines on us all wherever we may be.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Headteacher

Diary Dates

Wednesday 13th July: 1:45pm Year 6 production for parents

Wednesday 13th July: 6pm Year 6 production for parents

Friday 15th July: Meet the Teacher

Monday 18th July: Prize Giving 1:45pm

Tuesday 19th July: Leavers' Mass 1:30pm in church

Wednesday 20th July: Thanksgiving Mass 9:30am in school

Wednesday 20th July: Talent Show

School finishes for the summer holiday at **3pm on Wednesday 20th July**

