



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC FIRST SCHOOL

Parsonage Lane, Windsor, SL4 5EN

'We See Jesus in Everything We Do'

Website: www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk

Telephone: 01753 860607

Email: office@secfs.org.uk

 www.instagram.com/stedwardscatholicfirst

21st November 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

The term is marching on apace, and it is hard to believe that we will soon be entering the season of Advent – where has the time gone?

As I walk around the school this week, it is clear that Christmas has truly arrived, even though it is not yet December. The children in every class are already singing and rehearsing for their Christmas performances, and I must say – they sound wonderful!

Adoration of the Holy Sacrament



Canon David brought the Blessed Sacrament into school this week, and each year group had the opportunity to spend a short period in adoration. I was privileged to be present for each session. The children were remarkable – quiet, attentive, prayerful, and respectful. It was a joy to witness, and I was immensely proud of them, which I shared with Canon David. He kindly replied that my pride was justified – a lovely affirmation of our Catholic mission and ethos. I have also thanked all the children during our merit assembly this morning.

Altar Servers

Canon David recently invited Year 4 children to consider becoming altar servers for Sunday Mass at St Edward's, St Mark's, or at school Masses. If your child is interested, please email Canon David at canondavid@catholicwindsor.org to arrange a training session.



Birdworld



Year 4 had a fantastic day at Birdworld on Tuesday. The children saw a wide range of birds, including penguins, owls, and emus. They particularly enjoyed trying to spot the birds in their enclosures and were thrilled to watch the pelicans being fed their fish dinner. They asked excellent questions about the pelicans' unusual but cleverly adapted beaks.

The children also learned about the habitats of many species and explored their conservation status using the IUCN Red List categories. They were especially surprised to see that some birds are listed as 'extinct in the wild'. This prompted thoughtful discussions about the threats these species face and the vital conservation work undertaken at Birdworld.

The class also enjoyed some time in the new treetop adventure play area – even the adults joined in on the huge slide! Year 4 represented the school brilliantly, and it was a truly memorable day for all.

Thank you for you Kindness



Since September, we have been deeply touched by the many kind messages, emails, and gestures from our wonderful parents and carers. Your positivity has inspired us to create a Special Mentions Book to celebrate and remember these moments. Thank you for helping to make our school such a welcoming and supportive community.

Attendance

To help your child make the most of their learning, please ensure they attend school every day and arrive on time, as lateness can mean missing important learning. Family holidays and trips should be arranged outside school hours, as leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. If your child is unwell or needs to miss school, please let us know as soon as possible. Your support makes a significant difference.

Always on time!	No hours missed!	No learning missed!
5 minutes late each day	15 hours missed	3 days learning missed
10 minutes late every day	32 hours missed	6.5 days learning missed
20 minutes late each day	65 hours missed	13 days learning missed
30 minutes late each day	95 hours missed	19 days learning missed



Starting School in September 2026

Children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 will start Reception in September 2026. The RBWM Admissions Portal is now open for online applications:
https://myportaladmissions.rbwm.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

We are happy to receive completed Supplementary Information Forms at any time, but they must be returned to the school office by 15th January 2026. Further information is available at:
<https://www.stedwardsatholicfirstschool.co.uk/admissions>

Please do recommend our school to any friends looking for school places.

Eton College Museum



Woodpeckers Class visited Eton College Museum on 10th November, and Doves Class visited on 20th November. The children explored the world of the Ancient Egyptians and were fascinated to learn about mummification – though they were less certain about some of the Pharaohs' burial customs! Their behaviour was exemplary, and they represented the school beautifully throughout. We were also fortunate to have a sneak peek at the Stone Age collection, linking wonderfully to their learning from last term.

A special thank you to the parents who supported both Birdworld and Eton College Trips – the children had wonderful experiences, and your support made it possible.

HCPT Pilgrimage Christmas Fayre

Pat Burke from the Parish is organising a Christmas Fayre to raise funds for the HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes next Easter. Donations for the Christmas stall, Tombola, and Raffle are warmly welcomed. Items can be left at the back of St Edward's Church, at the Parish Office, or brought to school by Wednesday 26th November, and we will ensure they are passed on.

You are warmly invited to attend and support our local HCPT group and the children they help. The Fayre will take place in the Parish Centre on Sunday 30th November, 12–2pm.



Baby Angel

A reminder that Becky Young will be visiting on 28th November. Please ensure you purchase a copy of Baby Angel in advance if you would like your child to have one signed at the event. Books can be purchased easily through your child's ScoPay account.

Individual and Sibling Photographs taken on 12th & 13th November

You should have received an email from Tempest Photographers with your child's images and details on how to place an order. The closing date for free delivery back to school is Sunday 30th November 2025. Orders can be made through the Tempest website using the unique link provided.

If you need assistance, please contact Tempest directly on 01736 751555 (option 5).

School Lunches

Thank you for your patience this week while we carried out repairs to our kitchen equipment. We are working closely with Wilson Jones to confirm what adjustments will be made to parent accounts and will update you in due course. We are pleased to share that the equipment has now been repaired and our kitchen is fully operational once again. Hot meals are available to all, and we kindly ask that you pre-order on ScoPay where possible.

Christmas Card Competition



Children across the school recently took part in Jack Rankin MP's Christmas Card Competition, and we are delighted to share that several of our pupils have made it into the top 10 public vote: Moisés, David, Ellie, and Kaya!

It is now time to get voting! Votes can be cast on Jack's website:

<https://www.jackrankin.org.uk/christmas>

Voting closes on Wednesday 26th November at midday.

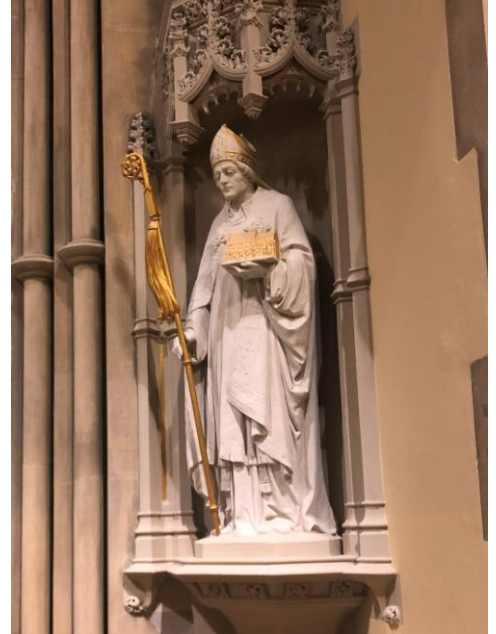


Reflection

During Mass on Sunday, Canon David referenced St Edmund of Abingdon, the co-patron of our Diocese. He explained that the statue, standing directly opposite St Edward, holds a gold-leafed model of our church.

Also known as Edmund Rich, St Edmund was an English scholar, church reformer, and Archbishop of Canterbury. Born in Abingdon to devout parents, he studied and later taught theology at Oxford and Paris, becoming known for his intellectual rigor, personal austerity, and deep piety.

O God, who raised St Edmund to be a shepherd of wisdom and a guide of integrity, grant that, inspired by his humility, courage, and love for truth, we may seek Your will above all things. Through the intercession of Your faithful servant Edmund, strengthen us in times of trial and make us instruments of peace and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



God bless, see you all on Monday,

Mr Keohane & the St Edward's First Team

Attachments

- Windsor on Ice Information
- Scholastic Book Fair Information
- The Alma Beacon Cold Weather Night Shelter
- Flu Drop-in Clinic



Dates for the Diary

November	
Friday 28th	Becky Young visiting to share her 'Baby Angel' story
Sunday 30th	Start of Advent
December	
Tuesday 2nd	Scholastic Book Fair Ends
Tuesday 2nd	Year 2 Nativity (10am) Yr 2 parents invited
Thursday 4th	Year 2 Nativity (6pm) Yr 2 parents invited
Tuesday 9th	Prospective Parents' Visit (for Reception Sept 2026)
Wednesday 10th	Fledglings Nativity (2:30pm) EYFS - Reception parents invited
Monday 15th	Year 1 Christmas Carols in the Courtyard (5pm)
Wednesday 17th	KS2 Carol Service at St Edward's Church – Y3 & Y4 Parents invited (6pm)
Thursday 18th	Pantomime into School
Thursday 18th	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch for pupils
Friday 19th	End of Term Mass
Friday 19th	End of Autumn 2 (1:30 finish time)
Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026 - Christmas Holidays	

School Dates Calendar – Spring Term

January	
Monday 5th	School Closed to pupils – Teacher Training Inset Day
Tuesday 6th	All pupils back to school

Our calendar reflects events as of 21st November. We try not to change events but sometimes we have no choice. Thank you for your understanding with this. We regularly update our school calendar on [our school website](#).

