



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC FIRST SCHOOL

Parsonage Lane, Windsor, SL4 5EN

'We See Jesus in Everything We Do'

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9th January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

At the end of our first week back at school, it has been nice to see so many of you at the gate but, for those of you we have missed, a very happy new year to you all!

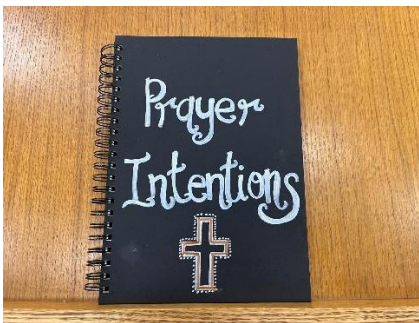
Canon David joined us earlier this week to celebrate our first school mass of 2026. At Mass, we talked about the importance of showing love, joy and showing kindness. The children were reminded that Jesus is our friend too and we should talk to him every day. We have all made a good start this year!

On behalf of all members of staff, please accept a heartfelt thank you for your cards, gifts and kind words at the end of last term. They are all very much appreciated.

Prayer Space For Our School Community



Following thoughtful discussion and guidance from Canon David, we are pleased to create a prayerful space for our school community. This space is open to all families and children, offering a quiet moment to reflect, pray, or share intentions together.



Our assembly hall will be open on Fridays at the end of each month, from 8:30am until 8:45am, when the school gates are open. You are very welcome to join us to pray, or to write a prayer intention to add to our shared space.

Spring dates for this initiative are: 30th January, 27th February, and 20th March. We hope this space will be a calm and meaningful start to the day for our school community.



School Uniform – Winter Uniform Reminder

We are very proud of our school uniform, which helps to promote a strong sense of pride, identity and belonging within our school community. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children follow our [uniform policy](#).

All children should now be attending school in winter uniform, unless we advise otherwise. This includes a collared shirt worn with a school tie (polo shirts may be worn as an alternative). Children should wear grey or black socks or tights, sensible black school shoes (trainers are for PE only), and bring a warm, practical coat for outdoor break and lunchtimes. Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled.

For health, safety and safeguarding reasons, we operate a strict no-jewellery policy. The only jewellery permitted is small, plain silver or gold stud earrings, which must be removed or covered for PE. Necklaces, bracelets, nail varnish and decorative hair accessories are not allowed; hair accessories should be simple and functional. Children should not bring 'smart' watches or devices capable of taking photographs into school. If a watch is worn, we recommend a small analogue watch.

Thank you for helping us maintain our high standards and for ensuring that children continue to look smart and ready to learn. Families who may need support with uniform are reminded that The Friends run a well-stocked [pre-loved uniform collection](#).

Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are essential in helping children feel settled and succeed at school. Recently, we have noticed an increase in children arriving late, sometimes well after the start of the school day. Late arrivals can be unsettling for children and may result in them missing important early learning, particularly Phonics, which is taught first thing each morning.

The school gate opens at 8:30am and closes at 8:40am, by which time all pupils (including Fledglings) should be in school.

Breakfast Club is available from 7:15am, and we encourage families to aim for an 8:30am arrival to support a calm and positive start to the day.

If your child arrives late, they must be brought to the school office window to be signed in by an adult.

We also remind parents and carers that any absence other than illness must be requested in writing and can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, in line with Government guidance. Open communication about absences helps reduce pressure on children and sets a positive example.



The Epiphany



This week, children across the school have been learning about the Feast of the Epiphany, reflecting on its importance in the Church calendar and its message of light, hope and revelation. As the Epiphany is a Holy Day of Obligation, we came together as a school community to celebrate this special feast during a whole-school Mass.

Learning was brought to life in creative and thoughtful ways throughout the school. In Fledglings, children created their own stars and figures of the Magi, helping them to explore the journey of the Wise Men and the meaning behind the story. Meanwhile, Doves worked collaboratively to produce a beautiful window display, designing their own 'Stars of Wonder' to represent the guiding light of the Epiphany.

It has been a joy to see the children engaging so enthusiastically and reverently with their learning, deepening both their understanding and appreciation of this important feast.

Changes of Lunch Time Menu

Funding for school meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is calculated based on the number of meals served on Census Day – Thursday 15th January. The more meals ordered on this day, the more funding the school receives.

To encourage children to choose a school dinner, the menu will be:

- Thursday 15th January: Chicken Nuggets (or Veggie Nuggets) with chips, garden peas or baked beans
- Friday 3rd October: Pork Sausages (or Vegan Sausages) with chips or mashed potatoes
- Jacket potatoes will also be available on both days

Every packed lunch on Census Day could cost the school up to £400 in funding, so we kindly ask parents and carers to encourage their child to have a school dinner on Thursday 15th January. Your support really does make a significant difference.



Starting School in September 2026

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 will be eligible to start Fledglings (Reception) class in September 2026.

Parents and carers must submit an online admission application to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) by **15th January 2026** via the Admissions Portal:
https://myportaladmissions.rbwm.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

In addition, a completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF) should be returned to the school office. We are happy to receive SIFs at any time; however, they must also be received by **15th January 2026**.

Further details, including admissions criteria and supplementary forms, can be found in the Admissions section of our website:

<https://www.stedwardsatholicfirstschool.co.uk/admissions>

Please do recommend our school to any friends or family who may be looking for a school place.

Thank You!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr Kent and his team at Gordon's Property Lawyers for their very generous donation of books. Our Reading Ambassadors were delighted to explore the boxes and begin adding the new books to our school library.

We would also like to thank everyone who has donated books so far, this academic year. We are extremely grateful for your support, and our library shelves are now wonderfully well stocked for the children to enjoy.



Spring House Competition

Miss Clark and the House Captains are delighted to be running a Spring Term Poetry Competition.

Children are invited to write a poem about their house saint (St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke or St John) after completing some research. This work should be completed at home, and the competition is open to all pupils, with poems written in any format or style the children choose.

Poems should be brought into school by 20th March to mark World Poetry Day. Winners will be announced and awards presented on the last day of term.

We look forward to seeing lots of creative entries!



Reflection

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th, marks the revelation of Christ to the world. It commemorates the visit of the Magi – wise men from the East – who recognized Jesus as the King of the Jews, symbolizing that his message was meant for all people, not just the Jewish community. Beyond the Magi, some traditions also link Epiphany to Jesus' baptism and the manifestation of his divine nature. It is a reminder of God's light reaching every corner of the world, calling believers to recognize and share that light in their own lives.



*I wonder sometimes
If one of the stars that lit Abraham's night
Was the one that led the Magi to Jesus.
A dark canvas speckled by the most generous brush –
What an improbable promise to an old man.
But our God has never been daunted by the unlikely, the impossible.
What a sight for the Magi, too,
A baby resting on hay, his cries mingled with braying and bleating.
I like to think they heard in those everyday sounds a holy chorus,
Saw in that noisy tableau a Creator serenaded by His creation,
All of it embodied, enfleshed –
All of it good.
And when we've left our gifts for this implausible King,
May we, like the Magi, go home by another way –
Having encountered the holy,
May we protect it, guard it,
Trail its light behind us wherever we go.
A sacred arc transposed from heaven to earth,
May we ourselves become the star,
Leading the way to Emmanuel.
Amen.*

God bless, see you all on Monday,

Mr Keohane & the St Edward's First Team

Attachments

- Ten:Ten Resources Parent Newsletter - January 2026
- Special Day – Themed Menu – 15th January 2026
- CycleTrust's St Edward's First Bike Bus
- Well Windsor 'Parent Space' Event



Dates for the Diary

January	
Thursday 15 th	RBWM & Diocesan Census Day and Deadline for Primary Admissions
Thursday 15 th	Y4 Visiting St Edward's Church (church tour) KS2 'Mass in Slow Motion' at St Edward's Church
February	
Thursday 5 th	Y4 Trip to Theatre Royal, Windsor
Thursday 12 th	Y3 Visiting St Edward's Church (church tour)
Friday 13 th	End of Spring 1 (3:15 finish time)
Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February Half Term	
Monday 23 rd	Start of Spring 2
Wednesday 25 th	Great Athletes - Lesley Owusu – visiting
Friday 27 th	Lenten Enterprise – Y1 – Bookmark sale
March	
Monday 2 nd	National Offer Day Middle School Places
Tuesday 3 rd	Height and Weight – EYFS – RBWM School Nurses on site
Friday 6 th	World Book Day – all book-related costumes welcome!
Friday 6 th	Lenten Enterprise – Year 3 – Plant Sale
Monday 9 th	National Science Week
Thursday 12 th	Y2 visiting St Edward's Church Tour
Thursday 12 th	Lent Penitential – KS2 Children Only – 14:00
Friday 13 th	Lenten Enterprise – Year 4 – Mother Days Café
Wednesday 18 th	Adoration of the Holy Sacrament – Children Only – 13:30
Friday 20 th	Lenten Enterprise – Year 2 – Prayer stone sale
Tuesday 24 th	Parent Consultation Evening (16:00-19:00)
Thursday 26 th	Parent Consultation Evening (16:00-19:00)
Thursday 26 th	Lenten Enterprise – EYFS – Pretzels sale
Friday 27 th	End of Term Mass – Children Only – 9:00
Friday 27 th	End of Spring 2 (1:30 finish time)
Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April Easter Holidays	

Our calendar reflects events as of 9th January. 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](#).

