



ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC FIRST SCHOOL

Parsonage Lane, Windsor, SL4 5EN

'We See Jesus in Everything We Do'

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27th February 2026

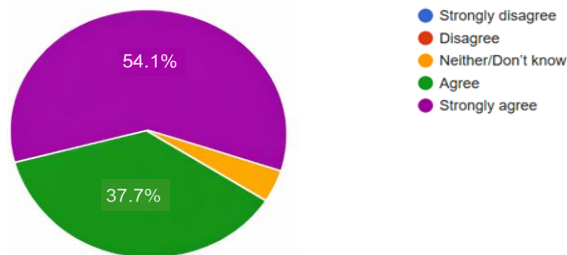
Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week! The half term holiday seems like it was much longer than a week ago! I do hope that you were all able to enjoy the holiday. It has been lovely to see all the children back in school and raring to go this week.

There are a few families in our community who are struggling with very difficult circumstances at the moment. Please do say a prayer - and encourage your children to do the same – for the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community during Lent.

Parent Questionnaire

CL2.3: This school is a supportive and joyful community



Thank you to all parents and carers who completed our recent questionnaire about the Catholic Life and Mission of the school. We are grateful for your thoughtful and encouraging feedback, and we are pleased that many of you have recognised the positive developments taking place. Where responses raised questions, we have reflected carefully and responded as a school.

With Parents' Evening approaching, please speak to your child's teacher if you would like an update on their progress in Religious Education and advice on how to support learning at home.

Information about what is taught in Religious Education can be found on our website:

<https://www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk/page/?title=Religious+Education&pid=53>

With regard to the changes in parental attendance at School Masses, these have been made following a recent Health & Safety review and updates to legislation. It has been determined that the recommended capacity of the Assembly Hall has been reduced. As a result, we have made a conscious decision to hold more Masses at St Edward's Church, Alma Road. Please refer to the school calendar for details of upcoming Masses taking place at the church. We hope to welcome you to share Mass with us.



Lent



We are now in the season of Lent, a special time in the Church year when we reflect, pray and prepare for the celebration of Easter. Lent began on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days.

During this time, we seek to grow closer to God through prayer, small sacrifices and acts of kindness, following Jesus' example in the desert.

You may have noticed that crosses and crucifixes around the school are covered with purple cloths. This tradition marks Lent as a quieter, more reflective season and helps us focus on preparing for the joy of Easter, when the crosses will be unveiled.

As a school community, each child and member of staff has made a personal Lenten promise. These have been written down, placed inside small eggs and displayed on our courtyard tree, with each year group choosing its own colour. At the end of Lent, we will revisit these promises and reflect together.

Sparrows and Goldfinches are holding their Lenten Enterprise after school today, selling handmade bookmarks. Dates for each class sale can be found in the calendar section of this newsletter. Items are available for donations rather than set prices. Cash donations are welcome, and QR codes will also be available for electronic payments.

There will also be a 7:30am Mass each Thursday during Lent at St Edward's Catholic Church, Alma Road. Families are warmly invited to attend.

Gardening Club

We are delighted to share that our Gardening Club has restarted for the season! With the children already hard at work, you will soon begin to see our shared areas starting to bloom and brighten up the school grounds. Mrs Lansley and Mrs Reston would be very grateful for any donations of top soil or compost to support our planting projects – half-used bags or spare supplies would be warmly welcomed.



World Book Day



We look forward to celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6th March with a range of book-themed activities to promote a lifelong love of reading. Children are invited to come dressed as a favourite book character and bring the book that inspired their costume.

The day will include storytelling, role-play, a themed lunch and shared reading time. Each class will receive a Book Bag, prepared by our Reading Ambassadors, containing a book and scrapbook for families to enjoy at home. Every child will also receive a £1 book token to spend on a title of their choice.

Fledglings PE activities on Friday will be adapted to work with costumes! No PE kit needed.

Class Reps Feedback – Reading Information

Thank you to our Class Representatives for sharing parents' feedback and questions about reading. In response, Mrs Hayman has kindly put together some clear information outlining the reading process we follow in school. We hope this helps to explain how books are selected, why your child may have received a particular book, and how reading levels are determined. This guidance is now available on our school website for you to access at any time:

<https://www.stedwardscatholicfirstschool.co.uk/page/?title=Phonics&pid=68>

School Debts

As we approach the end of the financial year, there are a number of families who owe money on the school dinner, trips, breakfast or after school club accounts. This causes us many problems making the school budget balance. Please do log into your ScoPay account to see if you are amongst this number. If you are experiencing any financial difficulty in this regard, please do contact us and we will do our best to see if we are able to help in any way.

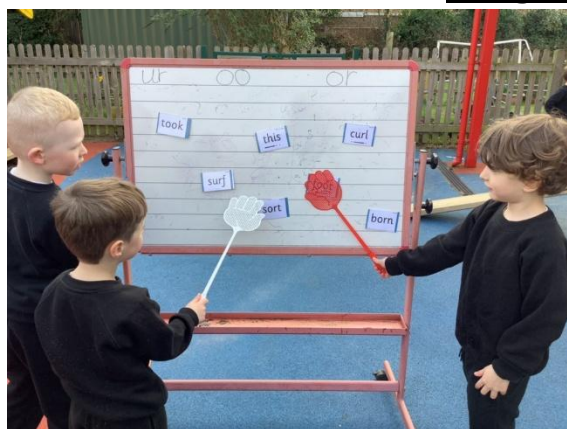


Year 1



Year 1 have been busy deepening their understanding of teen numbers. The children have been exploring different ways to represent 14, 15 and 16 using a range of practical resources, including ten frames, counters, Dienes, cubes, Numicon and bead strings. By representing the numbers in a variety of ways, they have been strengthening their understanding of place value and building confidence in seeing each teen number as ten and some more. It has been encouraging to see them explain their reasoning with growing confidence.

Fledglings Phonics Fun



Reception have been having great fun strengthening their phonics skills through a lively "Splat" game! The children have been revisiting the sounds or, oo and ur, reading words such as sort, born, took, foot, sure, surf and curl. Using their splat wands, they listened carefully to each word being called out, quickly located it, and then gave it a splat! Working in pairs added to the excitement, and as their confidence grew, so did their speed — with lots of friendly competition as they raced to splat the word first. It has been wonderful to see their teamwork, listening skills and phonics knowledge developing in such a fun and engaging way.

Lesley Owusu Visit



We were delighted to welcome Lesley Owusu, who represented Great Britain, to our school this week. She shared her inspiring journey as an athlete in an engaging and interactive assembly, speaking about resilience and determination. Pupils also enjoyed asking questions during a lively Q&A session.

All children took part in a sponsored fitness circuit led by Lesley, encouraging everyone to embrace the enjoyment and benefits of physical activity.

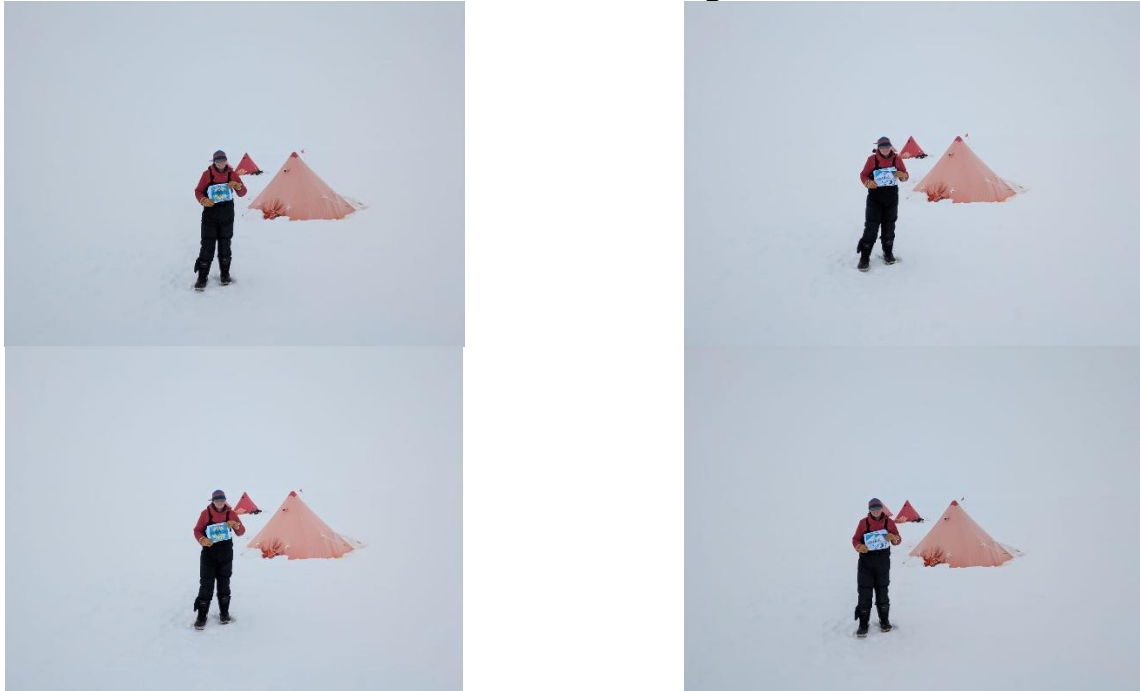
Thank you to families for your generous sponsorship; funds raised will support the development of sport in our school.

Parking on Parsonage Lane

Sadly, we are still having to manage frustrated residents of Parsonage Lane on an almost daily basis at the moment. Calls and e-mails refer to our parents being inconsiderate – or even dangerous when parking their cars across driveways and on double yellow lines and then rude or abusive when approached. Not only is this challenging for our neighbours but it is time consuming for the office and gives us a very poor reputation in our local community. Please park considerately and be respectful or, even better, let us know if you are interested in our walking bus facility from the Pirate Park, Clewer Memorial Recreational Ground, SL4 5AZ – we currently have only had two enquiries!



Year 4 Antarctic Flags



Last September, Year 4 took part in the Antarctic Flags initiative run by the UK Polar Network while studying Antarctica. Pupils designed flags inspired by their learning about the frozen continent, and four designs were selected at random to travel south with polar researchers. We are delighted to share that our school's flags reached Antarctica with the REWIND Ice Core Drilling Team and was photographed at Union Glacier Camp. The children were thrilled to receive the photographs and certificate, celebrating their learning and helping inspire the next generation of polar explorers.

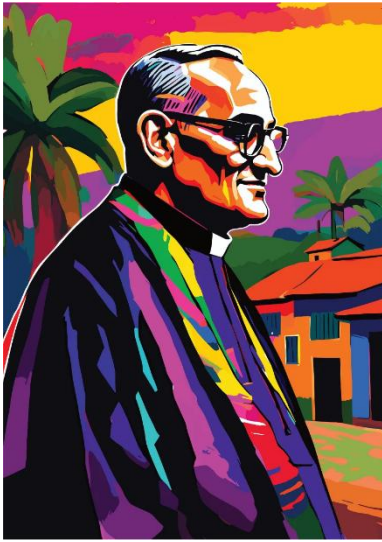
Attendance - Please Be Honest!

If you are taking your children out of school, please do make sure that you are honest with us about the reasons why. We have had several instances across the school this week of parents emailing or phoning their child in sick when the children have already told us that they are going away on holiday. In some circumstances, the children get upset or agitated because they think that they have let either you or us down. Whilst we are always vigilant about absence from school, we do not currently impose fines on parents who choose to take their children out of school to go on holiday. Being honest with us sets a good example to the children and reduces unnecessary pressure on them.



Reflection

During Mass, Monsignor David called for St. Oscar Romero be our companion during our Lenten journey this year. He shared that St. Oscar Romero links strongly to Lent because his life reflected its key themes of sacrifice, repentance, and solidarity with the poor. As Archbishop in El Salvador, he spoke out against injustice and defended the vulnerable, even though it put his life in danger, and he was ultimately killed while celebrating Mass. Like Lent, which prepares us to reflect on Jesus' suffering and self-giving love, Romero's life shows courage, conversion of heart, and hope in the face of suffering.



*Loving God,
We thank You for the life and witness of Oscar Romero,
who chose courage over comfort
and truth over silence.
Give us his brave heart,
that we may speak out when others are silenced.
Give us his compassion,
that we may stand with those who suffer.
Give us his faith,
that we may trust You even in difficult times.*

*May his example inspire us
to live the Gospel with courage,
to work for peace with justice,
and to love without counting the cost.*

Amen.

God bless, see you all on Monday,

Mr Keohane & the St Edward's First Team

Attachments

- Christ the King Parish Newsletter
- Windsor Schools' Choir – Long Walk Live
- Bike Bus Flyer
- World Book Day Menu Change



Dates for the Diary

March	
Sunday 1 st	Family Mass at St Edward's and St Mark's – all welcome
Monday 2 nd	National Offer Day Middle School Places
Tuesday 3 rd	Height and Weight – EYFS – RBWM School Nurses on site
Tuesday 3 rd	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (Year 3)
Friday 6 th	World Book Day – all book-related costumes welcome!
Friday 6 th	Lenten Enterprise – Year 3 – Plant Sale 3.15pm in courtyard
Monday 9 th	National Science Week – pupil activities in school
Thursday 12 th	Y2 visiting St Edward's Church
Thursday 12 th	Lent Penitential – KS2 (14:00)
Friday 13 th	Lenten Enterprise – Year 4 – Mother's Day Café 9.00-9.45am all are welcome
Wednesday 18 th	Adoration of the Holy Sacrament – Children Only – 13:30pm
Friday 20 th	Bike Bus Launch from 7.45am
Friday 20 th	Lenten Enterprise – Year 2 - Prayer Stone Sale 3.15pm in courtyard
Friday 20 th	World Poetry Day – House Competition deadline
Friday 20 th	Prayer Space & Time for parents – Assembly Hall 8.30-8.45am
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 – Pretzel Sale 3.15pm in courtyard
Friday 27 th	End of Term Mass at school – Children Only – 9:00
Friday 27 th	End of Spring 2 (1:30pm finish time)
Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April	
Easter Holidays	
Tuesday 14 th April	Pupils back to school 8.30am gates open

Our calendar reflects events as of 27th February. 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](#).

If you have any questions please email office@secfs.org.uk or telephone 01753 860607.

