

# St. Edmund's School Newsletter

19<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear Parents, Carers & Friends,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are looking forward to a really happy and successful 2009!

My wife and I had a great time with eleven members of our family staying with us over the holiday period - we had enormous fun and lots of laughs. We all attended Midnight Mass together at The Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. It was particularly lovely this year, as all the other Church Leaders from across the region (Anglicans, Methodists, etc) were there to celebrate with Archbishop Kelly, and the service was broadcast live on BBC radio and the Cathedral Choir was magnificent as they always are on such occasions.

Welcome back Mrs. McNeillie!

I am delighted to report that Mrs. McNeillie is now recovered from her recent illness. ... It's lovely to have her back with us.



## Congratulations and Thanks to Mrs. Cushion!

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009, Mrs. Cushion celebrated 35 years of magnificent, unbroken service to St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School. Mrs. Cushion began work here on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1974, as a Lunch-time Welfare Assistant and although she has changed roles several times during the intervening years she has always maintained her commitment and enthusiasm! Loyalty and service of this type is not common these days and I am hugely grateful to count Mrs. Cushion amongst my colleagues and friends.

*The Skelmersdale Advertiser* and *The Champion* will both be publishing tributes to Mrs. Cushion in the near future.

## Attendance Statistics for Autumn Term

Our school's attendance statistics last term were very poor (89.75%) – but I know that there was very good reason for this with huge numbers of pupils (and staff) suffering from the unwelcome effects of various bugs and viruses. We will do all we can to recover from the setback but I believe that it will be almost impossible now for us to meet the Government's target of 95% attendance. I know that I can rely on your support to ensure that children come to school whenever they are well enough to do so.

Class or Year Group	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y34	Y54	Y6
%Attendance for Autumn Term	89.80%	88.10%	89.40%	89.40%	89.80%	92.00%

**Advance Notice.....**We will be holding an Attendance and Punctuality Improvement Drive for two weeks beginning 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### School Website

As I mentioned last term, our website has been completely updated. If it is some time since you last visited the site please log on at [www.stedmundswestlancs.co.uk](http://www.stedmundswestlancs.co.uk)



You will find all the information you might want regarding term dates; social events; current issues etc. There is also an archive of Newsletters; photos and wall displays.

You are also able to bring to the screen (and print if needed) a copy of the School Prospectus.

I am extremely grateful to *Meredale Website Design* who maintain the site so well for us. (You will see on the opening page that there is opportunity for you to comment on ways we might make St. Edmund's even more effective. I genuinely seek your views about what we might do to improve our service to pupils, families and the wider community – so please feel free to email, telephone, write or pop in with your suggestions. Remember too that there is a suggestion box in the school foyer which you can use too – anonymously if you wish!)

## Very Useful Money Envelopes

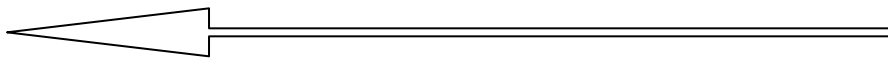


Thank you to all those of you who are sending money or payments into school in an envelope. It is very much appreciated and makes Mrs. McKnight's and Mrs. Wylie's jobs much more manageable. Don't forget envelopes are still available to buy from the office (great value at £1 per pack of 30).

## Park Children's Centre

....Don't forget that our friends from Park Children's Centre will be visiting us again on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February. They will be offering some free advice on First Aid related issues and will be issuing free child safety packs. You will be able to have a cuppa and a chat to our friends and colleagues from "Park" about any issues to do with adult education classes, returning to work, childcare and much more. Do come along to the School Library at 9am if you are able.

If you prefer you may wish to visit the centre on Barnes Road. It is an excellent facility and a great addition to facilities available in our area. The Centre can offer all kinds of support from childcare to advice on returning to work and Adult Learning. It's open from early til late and operates for 50 weeks of the year.



**Headlice .... Please be vigilant and keep a watchful eye on your child/ren's hair so that you can detect and treat any unwanted visitors at the first sign that they're about!**

## World Gifts

Thanks to the generosity of our pupils and staff each class has provided a clean, safe water supply for six communities made up of some of the world's most impoverished people. These gifts were purchased with monies which would otherwise have been spent on

Christmas cards in school. If you'd like to do something similar next year, make a note of these details... Freephone 0808 1400014 or [www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

**Class and Team Photographs**...were taken on Wednesday morning. If you would like to order copies, please return the proof with payment as soon as possible.



**Gold Card Club** Congratulations to all of our pupils who have earned membership of this elite group! At this stage of the academic year already more than half of the school population are members of the **Gold Card Club**. Those children who have still to receive their Gold Cards should remember that some pupils have already earned TWO cards for Excellent Work and/or Behaviour and were able to attend our recent Disco FREE OF CHARGE!



Remember:

Earn ONE Gold Card and you are entitled to attend our monthly DVD Screening.

Earn TWO Gold Cards and you also get into School Discos FREE.

Earn THREE Gold Cards and you also receive a FREE *Disco Welcome Pack* (made up of a Drink, Crisps, and Bag of Sweets).....So keep earning Gold Cards!!!

Everybody's Health and Safety is important to us!

*You will be reassured to know that our termly SCHOOL FIRE DRILLS continue to be very successful. At our most recent drill the whole school was evacuated in under two minutes! It is important that we undertake these drills regularly so that everybody is properly prepared should the need ever arise to evacuate because of a REAL emergency. Please note also that most of the teachers, teaching assistants and Welfare staff are qualified to administer basic First Aid to injured children or adults and undertake training regularly to ensure that we remain able to respond effectively if and when the need arises.*



**Advance Notice....**

Firstly, you should know that we will shortly be introducing some major changes to the content of our Religious Education programme. We will be introducing significantly more content on Marriage, Sex and Relationships. Parents will be invited to school to hear about these changes in due course.

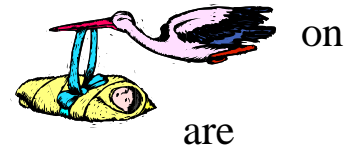
Secondly, we will be holding a Health Promotion Week in May and we are encouraging as many parents and Carers as are able to come to school and get involved in a specific activity with their children. (Smoothie Making).

Thirdly, we are planning to hold a Mathematics Activity Day when we are inviting parents and Carers to come to school and experience a little of what the children do in this important curriculum area each day.

Finally, we will be studying and celebrating Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Culture in the coming months and working towards a series of activities to take place in school during the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June. I have many ideas already, but would welcome and really value any suggestions you might have to help us plan useful activities for this project.

### **New Babies!**

Congratulations to the families of Eleanor, Bryne, Stevie-Rae and Erin Jennings on the very recent arrival of their new sister Kayleigh Rose and to the family of Olivia Woods on the arrival of new brother, Dillon. We have all prayed at assemblies that these new youngsters are blessed with long lives filled with love and happiness.



**R.I.P.** We have prayed too for Alex and Hannah's Grandad Bernie (McCoy) who passed away during the Christmas holiday.

(Please let me know if you would like us to pray for any special intentions you might have and make regular use of our School Prayer Board situated on the wall in the school foyer).

Have a GREAT term!  
Best wishes,

*I have received the first 2009 Newsletter.  
Thank you!*

Signed(Parent):  
Date: