

# St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I can't believe there are fewer than 40 days to Christmas - doesn't time fly when you're having fun! As you will know, Christmas is always a busy time at our school so I thought I'd drop you a line to keep you 'up to speed' with what's happening at St. Edmund's this half term.

### Important Diary Dates:



Non-uniform Day (50p and a bottle)- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Rag Bag Collection - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Fashion Show - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm

Christmas Fair - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 5pm - 8pm

Bishop Tom Williams to visit our school - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Carols with our friends at Trinity School - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December

FSU Christmas Celebration - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Year 6 visit to Ormskirk Magistrates Court - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December



Infant Nativity Dress Rehearsal - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm

Infant Nativity - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

Winter Wonderland Dance Show at Our Lady's - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Carols with the Community - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Talent Show - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am

Class Parties - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1.15pm

Gold Card Club - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm

School Closes for Christmas - **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm**

We reopen for pupils on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

## Parents Open Evening

Thank you to all the parents that took the time to come into school last week to speak to their child's teacher. We had the chance to see about 60% of our families throughout the evening. There will be another opportunity to come speak to the teachers in February next year and it would be great to see closer to 100% attendance. May I also thank the teachers and teaching assistants who are always so generous with their time.

## Parental Survey

During the Parents Evening, many of you were asked to fill in a short questionnaire about our school. Thank you for taking the time to do this and thank you for your thoughtful and positive comments. After analyzing the responses we have been able to plan a few improvements. Here are some of the comments:

### Strengths of the School

- ✓ *The school is a great help to my child and his learning process*
- ✓ *Kind, caring friendly members of staff*
- ✓ *Pupils are polite*
- ✓ *Excellent family nights e.g. barbeque, chippy night, film night*
- ✓ *Good standards of behaviour*
- ✓ *Zero tolerance of bullying*
- ✓ *Religious studies is very strong*
- ✓ *Children made to feel secure*
- ✓ *My child loves school*
- ✓ *Various after school activities*
- ✓ *Developing children as a whole*
- ✓ *My children are loving learning and it is now fun again*

### Areas needing improvement

- ✓ *New football kits*
- ✓ *More homework for older children*
- ✓ *Improve the area outside Y2 classroom.*

Thank you for these comments and suggestions. We will investigate the possibility of purchasing a new football kit and have already begun to draw up plans to landscape the front of the school but, as I'm sure you will appreciate, funds are very tight at the moment and we may need to wait for a while.

## The Feast of St Edmund



Yesterday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, was the feast of St Edmund of Abingdon, the patron saint of our school. Edmund studied at Oxford, and his hard work and consideration as a student was an example to all.

He eventually taught Mathematics at Oxford, but later he gave himself up to the study of Theology and was ordained a priest in either Paris or Oxford. He lectured in Theology at Oxford for eight years.

On prayer Edmund said:

*"It is better to say five words devoutly than  
five thousand words without feeling.*

*Sing to the Lord with understanding.*

*What a man repeats by his mouth, let him feel in this soul."*



In April 1234 Edmund was elected Bishop of Canterbury, much against his own will.

In the summer of 1240 he became ill, and went to the Priory of Anons Regular at Svissy.

He died there on Friday, November 16th.

He was buried at Pontigny, where his body is still enshrined and venerated.

He was canonised in 1246.

We celebrated our feast day today with a Mass in the school hall. Thank you to year 6 who led our readings and prayers, thank you to Father John for coming into school to celebrate Mass with us and thank you to the parents, grandparents and friends who joined with us today.



## Netball and Boxercise

The Skelmersdale Sports Association have decided to slightly change the way the children compete in Netball this year. We are going to play 'High Fives' netball which is designed to give more children the chance to play in more positions than traditional netball.

To give the children as much experience of this as possible Mrs Stringman will work with our netball squad on a Thursday but will move indoors into the hall in order to be able to practice even in unpleasant weather.

This will mean that, unfortunately, Mr Richardson's 'Boxercise' class will be cancelled until after Christmas.

## Viking Assembly

Year 3/4 have been working hard this term learning about **Vikings**. They have already held a 'Viking Day' during which they made shields, swords, helmets and jewellery and had a lot of fun at the same time. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November Mrs Dawson and her class are presenting their learning at a special Viking Assembly. I know Mrs Dawson has already written to the parents of children in her class inviting them to attend and we hope to see as many of them there as possible.

We hope to hold more of these **Celebrations of Learning** so look out for invitations coming home from your children in other classes.

## Is it too early for Christmas jokes?

What's white and goes up?  
*A confused snowflake!*

What do you call an old snowman?  
*Water!*

Knock knock!  
*Who's there*  
Snow.  
*Snow who?*  
Snow use – I've forgotten my name again!



What's impossible to overtake at Christmas?  
*The three wise men!*

What carol is heard in the desert?  
*Camel ye faithful!*

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?  
*Can you smell carrot?*

That's all for now,

Dermot Hennigan

*I have received, read, & noted all the dates in  
the November '10 newsletter.  
Signed (parent):  
Child's name:*