

St. Edmund's School Newsletter

16th September 2011

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I do hope that you have thoroughly enjoyed the Summer break.... For me it has been a time of great excitement, fun and enjoyment.... My wife and I celebrated our 34th Wedding Anniversary on 13th August in Scottsdale, Arizona!. We had a MAGNIFICENT first trip to the USA... Visiting a number of FANTASTIC towns and cities and we were also lucky enough to experience a spectacular helicopter flight into the Grand Canyon! I was thoroughly impressed by the American people. They have a great sense of pride in their country and the respect that they show - particularly to their servicemen and women is hugely impressive.



Other colleagues have enjoyed a richly deserved rest in various parts of the UK and Europe which means we have all returned to school in great spirits, eager to continue to help, guide and support our children and families as much as we can. Let's have a GREAT year together.

Staffing Matters



You will be pleased to know that Mrs. Flavell and Mrs. Kienstra are making steady - if unspectacular - progress following their surgery and are extremely frustrated at not being able to be with us. We do of course wish them well on the continuing journey to a full recovery but we must all accept that it might be some time before we see them back at work in our community.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to Mrs. Wilson who will teach for the time being in our Foundation Stage in Mrs. Flavell's absence. I hope that Mrs. Wilson is very happy with us.

Mrs. McNeillie and Mrs. Chadwick have already formed a strong and professional partnership in their shared responsibilities for teaching our Year 3 children and Mr. Hennigan and Mr. Richardson are enjoying teaching different year groups. Mrs. Williams is now working full time in KS 1.

I take this opportunity to publicly thank all staff who gave up a considerable percentage of their summer break to come into school to move furniture and make the start of the school year go so smoothly.

I would also like to offer hearty congratulations to our talented and hardworking colleague Miss Etherington - who became Mrs. Regan during the holiday! We all hope that Mrs. Regan's marriage (to husband John) will be blessed with great happiness in the years ahead.

School Uniform

Thank you all so much for returning your children to school looking so smart in their attractive school uniforms. They do you, themselves and their school great credit. Please remember to put your child's name in all garments! (Staff have already been in fits of laughter with Mr. Richardson's account of his first visit to the Nye



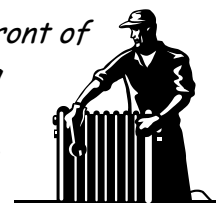
Bevan Pool with older juniors... When most of the boys managed to dress themselves in their friends' clothes!)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL UNIFORM WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON MONDAY MORNINGS FROM NOW ON.



Summer Improvement Projects

- You will have seen the new (green) fence we have erected at the front of the school... This has greatly reduced the likelihood of a child being injured by any vehicle arriving in the car park.
 - We have also completed Phase 2 of the Refenestration Programme (New Windows and Doors)
 - We have completed improvement work on the school's water supply network.
 - We have improved access to Library area and to Lower Junior Classroom by installing ramps..
 - Attractive new school signage is due to be put in place today (Friday).
- All of this improvement work added **ENORMOUSLY** to Mr. Barker's workload during what is always a very busy period for him. I am extremely grateful to him for ensuring that pupils and staff could return to a beautiful, clean and attractive building.



Some of our extra-curricular clubs have already begun....



... Mr. Richardson has held football trials and the boys' team has already had one win and one draw in the league.

Mrs. Maguire and Mrs. Burns are running a Craft Club each Monday until 4pm

... BOXERCISE CLUB will resume next Thursday.

... Chess/Draughts and Dominoes (Strategic Games) Club will start tonight - Friday.

Mrs. Williams is in the process of planning the introduction of an extra-curricular Science Club

Tonight, Mrs. Ellis will undertake a Cupcake Masterclass with 8 pupils from Year 5



....So you can see that as always, staff here really do try to extend the horizons of our pupils. I will though take this opportunity to confirm that our extra-curricular clubs and socials are available only to pupils who behave well and work hard throughout the school day.



More Important Dates for Your Diary



4pm 19th September...Mr. Hennigan and Mr. Richardson attending Numeracy Training Event at Brookfield Park Primary School

4pm 20th September...Mrs. Chadwick and Mrs. Williams attending Literacy Training Event at Bishop

Martin CE Primary School. 4pm Mr. Ashley attending SENCo Training Event at Woodland Community Primary School.
6pm 20 th September at St. Edmund's - 2 nd Meeting of Parents who wish their children to be welcomed into the Catholic Faith.
3.30pm 21 st September Social/Fundraising Events - Planning Meeting
6pm 27 th September Final Meeting of Parents who wish their children to be welcomed into the Catholic Faith. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS TO BE HELD AT ST. RICHARD'S CHURCH.
5pm - 7pm 28 th September - Children's Disco (ONLY PUPILS WHO CURRENTLY ATTEND OUR SCHOOL MAY ATTEND)
7pm on 6 th October at Wellington Hotel, Leyland myself and our Foundation Stage Staff will receive the "Step Into Quality" Award.
12 th to 14 th October - Mrs. Stringman will attend SAFE Training Event at SHARES Centre
17th October - Parents' Open Evening - More information to follow.
19 th October at 9.15am Year 6 to lead Assembly - <i>Signs and Symbols</i> ALL ARE WELCOME!
21 st October SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR HALF TERM AT 1.30PM

Encouraging a Strong Ethos of Responsibility, Service and Pride.....

We use many strategies to encourage our pupils to develop a real pride in themselves and in our school. As children move through the school we ask that they take increasing responsibility for their learning and for their behaviour and we encourage them to accept some duties as service to the school community.

In addition to our House Teams (with House Captains and Vice Captains) we have our School Council (with two Representatives for each class - which feeds into the West Lancashire Pupil Parliament)

we have a Hospitality Team Structure which enables children to earn extra points for their House if and when they undertake tasks which help us all.....For KS2 pupils only, Mrs. Stringman creates a rota of duties which means that children in Year 3 do very little but as children move through the school they are encouraged to



accept more involvement in roles such as:

Playground Friends - who are trained and sensitively help children to find friends and join in games on the playground

Peer Mediators - who are specially trained and help resolve difficulties on the playground without adult intervention

Environmental Rangers - who have responsibility for checking lights are switched off in empty classrooms and that taps are not left turned on or dripping. These pupils also pick litter 3 times per week;

Library Assistants - record children entering and exiting the building and occasionally check that our library book stock is kept tidy and correctly stored;



Receptionists - who alert staff of the arrival of visitors to the school during lunch breaks, issue registers:

Chair Monitors - who with staff supervision (and assistance where necessary), sweep the hall and help stack chairs after lunch.



I must emphasise that there are always staff on hand to help with these tasks or offer guidance or advice. There is always full and proper explanation given to children before they begin, about what is

expected...For example, litter pickers are always told that even though they are provided with industry quality litter picking equipment, they must never pick up anything which is sharp - broken glass, jagged metal etc. These items are reported to staff who will collect and safely dispose of them.

I believe that the system we operate adds hugely to the sense of pride our pupils exhibit and the responsible attitudes they develop at our school. The vast majority of our pupils enjoy serving in this way....indeed the system was started 5 or 6 years ago only because I was for ever being asked by children could they volunteer for such jobs!

OFSTED Inspectors spoke to the children and School Council about their roles in the school and said this in their report published in February 2009:

"The School Council members and Hospitality Leaders say they feel proud to have been given these roles."

Inspectors judged the way we manage the Personal Development of our pupils, their well-being and their contribution to the community all to be **Outstanding**.

I do know that very occasionally children have asked to be allowed outside to play with friends rather than undertake their rota duties in school and frequently Mrs. Stringman or I will agree to these requests.

PLEASE DISCUSS THE SYSTEM WITH YOUR CHILD AND IF AFTER DISCUSSION YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR CHILD TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ROTA TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE TASKS/DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES, PLEASE RING MRS. STRINGMAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WE WILL OF COURSE REMOVE YOUR CHILD FROM THE SCHEME.

I would certainly encourage you to allow your child to continue to serve.

Advance Notice of Important Improvements to methods of Communication With You

At our Parents' Open Evening you will be asked to update all the data we hold about you. Some of the data was passed to us 5 or 6 years ago and despite our best efforts is in some cases inaccurate. We will also be asking if you have a functioning email address so that we can communicate with you electronically when possible. We will be sending increasing numbers of text messages and emails in future and so it is vitally important that you keep us informed of any changes to your mobile telephone number or email address.



You have to laugh....

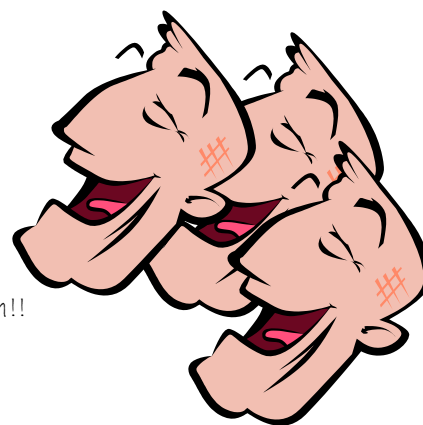
Wife: I think my husband must have a sixth sense.

Friend: Why?

Wife: Because there's no sign of the other five !!!

Husband: My wife has a slight impediment in her speech.
Every now and then she has to stop to take a breath!!

Wife: My husband jumped into a 482 mile-long river
in France last week. People said he was in Seine....



Wife: What's the difference between unlawful and illegal?

Husband: unlawful is against the law. Illegal is a sick bird of prey!

Husband: There's some bloke at the door with a bill.

Wife: Don't be silly dear. It must be a duck with a hat on.

Husband: Would you say I'm very vain?

Wife: No, of course not.... Why?

Husband: Well men as handsome, successful, intelligent and articulate as me usually are!



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Please pray for ...

- ❖ Mrs. Flavell and Mrs. Kienstra
- ❖ Fr. Terry McSweeney who was a loyal servant of this town for many years RIP
- ❖ All families experiencing difficulties as a result of loss of employment, relationship breakdown or problems with children. May God give them the understanding, strength and forgiveness to resolve their difficulties;
- ❖ For all those preparing for Baptism and other important Sacraments;
- ❖ Y7 pupils .. that they make a smooth transition to their secondary education, and become fine ambassadors for St. Edmund's;
- ❖ All of our past pupils now embarking on courses at Colleges and Universities across the land;
- ❖ God's blessing.. that we enjoy a happy and successful year at St. Edmund's;
- ❖ For the success and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Regan's marriage;
- ❖ In thanksgiving for the joys and graces in your lives.



Don't forget to let me have the birthdays of loved ones who have passed away so that we can include their names in our special **Book of Remembrance** which we maintain and keep in the school foyer. We then pray for deceased loved ones on their birthdays.

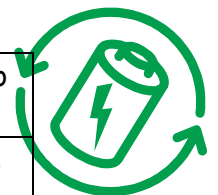
Please continue to send your empty printer ink cartridges and used batteries into school for recycling - collection boxes are located in the foyer.

PLEASE REMEMBER ALSO THAT DINNER MONEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE SENT INTO SCHOOL IN ADVANCE.

Please remember also that all cash/payments/etc. sent to school must be in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PUPILS AND STAFF AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND ENGINEERING COLLEGE ON THIS SUMMER'S MAGNIFICENT AND RECORD BREAKING GCSE RESULTS.

There will be a meeting in school next Wednesday, 21st September at 3.15 pm for those of you who wish to assist me in drawing up and organising a programme of Fundraising/Social Events for the coming year. Please come along if you are able, you will be most welcome and your views will be helpful in putting together a successful and varied programme of events.



That's all for now folks!

David Ashley.

I acknowledge receipt of the first
newsletter of the Autumn Term!
Parent/Carer