

Dear Parents,

Last Monday we celebrated the Feast Day of our Patron Saint - St Edmund. We were joined in school by the Ignite Youth Mission Team for our Diocese. Hamish and his team got us involved singing about how we are all part of God's family. The fun was interrupted by some strange interference on the screen and a familiar blue police box appeared to land at the steps of St Edmunds Church. Minutes later, in walked King Edmund who was very surprised to see us but very keen to share news of his upcoming battle with the Vikings. The children had great fun interviewing him and asking about what it was like in Anglo-Saxon times, how he felt about the Vikings, then they 'gently' explained to him he was about to die a gruesome death tied to a tree! There was a real buzz of excitement around the school throughout the day. We ended our week celebrating Mass together with Fr Sean and it was lovely to welcome some of you, along with parishioners and even some past pupils as St Benedict's had a PD day. Thank you to Emma and her team in the kitchen for baking lots of celebration cake for us to all enjoy too.



Today we enter the season of Advent, preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth and the school is beginning to get a festive feel. The Christmas tree, adorned with decorations made by the children in Early Years, is standing tall, providing Christmas cheer in the school hall.

There are a number of families who have signed up on Scopay to enable their child to bring home the travelling crib (Posada) for a night during Advent. We look forward to seeing the photos and drawings produced by the children capturing their reflections of the Christmas story and showing how the children have been interacting with the crib and sharing it with their family at home. Don't forget, if your child would like to bring home the Posada, please click on the consent tick box on Scopay under trips & events - Posada. To allow as many families to take part as possible, please only click to consent for one child in a family to bring home a Posada as this can be shared by the whole family.



Salt dough tree decorations heading to the oven

### Thrive Ambassador School

Many of you will already be aware that at St Edmunds we use the 'Thrive' approach in our daily work with our children. Thrive offers a trauma-informed whole school approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and focuses on supporting them to engage in life and learning. Thrive is an approach founded on significant research in fields such as attachment theory, brain development and play therapy. It shapes the way we support and interact with all of the children in our community, supports the development of positive relationships and places a significant emphasis on supporting children's social and emotional development. We are delighted to be able to share with you that we have been accredited as a Thrive Ambassador School with Excellence in the reparative work that we carry out with our children. We are really proud to have our ongoing work recognised for its strength as it is such a significant aspect of what we do in school to help our children to be successful.



Why not follow us on @StEds\_ip33

**thrive**

Thrive Ambassador School  
with Excellence in Reparative

### Year 6 Textiles

The children in year 6 have just completed a DT textiles unit in which they designed, and planned what materials they would need in order to create a 3D, filled decoration of their choice. They created a template, used blanket and running stitch and then added embellishments to create their Christmas decoration.

Take a look at some of the decorations that will be heading home to hang on their Christmas trees.



Please can we ask for your help in the mornings when your child comes into school. There are many of you who like to or agree to wave to your child once they arrive at a window en route to their classroom. For some children this is becoming a situation which is causing upset, e.g. if a parent doesn't remember to wave to them or they miss you go past. This is a second point of separation from you, having already had one in person outside which is hard for some children to cope with. They are also now waiting and waving at multiple windows causing congestion in spaces near the top of stairwells. Children are therefore taking a long time to arrive at their classroom and missing their early morning work.

We would appreciate if you could try to say your, "Goodbye" in person and then allow your child to head straight to class as this is what they are used to when they start school in Early Years. Thank you for your support with this.



### Arrival time

We have noticed that we're having an increasing number of children arriving in the carpark or standing out on Westgate Street from as early as 8am. The carpark sees a lot of movement around that time with a significant number of staff arriving between 8am and 8:30am. The children are not supervised in that space and we are concerned that being left unattended poses a significant risk to their safety. We have also had to speak to some children who have been dropped by a parent in the main carpark, but who have then left the carpark and walked along Westgate Street to then enter the site when the gates open via the Friar's Lane pedestrian access. The gates to the playground open at 8:30am and we would ask that children are not left unattended prior to this time.



### Date for your diary...

We are running a parent information session on Thursday 18th January at 2:15pm to find out more about the Kinetic letters handwriting programme that we commenced in September. This session is suitable to parents of children in all year groups. Come along and join us to find out more.

### Family wellbeing - information to support your child or young person's wellbeing

The below link will provide you with information about a range of parent and carer workshops and resources provided by Suffolk County Council to help you support your young person's wellbeing  
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/wellbeing-in-education/family-wellbeing>

### Farewell for now!

At the end of next week, we will be saying farewell to Miss Lawlor who will be going on maternity leave. We wish her well over the coming weeks and look forward to hearing about her new arrival later in the month.



### Diary Dates

Thur 7th Dec	Christmas Jumper Fundraising Day (wear something festive)
Wed 6th Dec	Choir and guitar assembly 9am
Thur 7th Dec	Rocksteady Concert 9am
Mon 11th Dec	EY/KS1 Dress Rehearsal for Christmas performances 2pm
Tue 12th Dec	KS2 Carol Service 2:30pm
Wed 13th/Thur 14th Dec	EY/KS1 Christmas performances 2pm
Fri 15th Dec	Whole school Mass 9am (parents and parishioners welcome)
Wed 20th Dec	Christmas lunch
	Last day of term

### Christmas Holidays

Wed 3rd Jan	PD Day (children not in school)
Thur 4th Jan	Children return to school
Mon 15th Jan	Deadline for applying for Reception school places for September 2024

### Bury Schools Girls Football Festival

The Bury St Edmunds & District Primary School Football League is hosting a Girls Football Festival on 20th January 2024 at Hardwick Primary School. Girls from all primary schools in the Bury St Edmunds & District area, currently in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, are very welcome to attend. To register your child's interest, please copy this link to complete the relevant registration form.  
<https://forms.gle/99utTdXtmYMmg84h7>

### \*Reminder\*

#### Festive Fundraising Day

Next Thursday (7th December) the children will be able to replace an item of their school uniform with something festive in exchange for a £1 donation for charity.

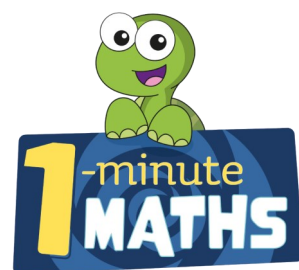


### Apps to support your child's maths learning.

There is a fantastic app to help your child develop their fluency and understanding of number and calculation. It is called One Minute Maths and has been developed by the White Rose Maths team, which are the organisation we use for our maths planning. Games including counting objects, from familiar dice patterns to random arrangements of counters, to various addition, subtraction, multiplication and division activities. Each activity lasts for one minute and the children acquire a score at the end.

You can download the free version using either the Google Play or Apple store by searching for White Rose One Minute Maths. Alternatively you can use the web version, but this requires a three-word passphrase, which expires on a weekly basis. We will send this code out with learning intentions each week. Each code is unique to each school so please do not share it with others outside of the school. The address for the web version is <https://whiteroseeducation.com/digital-tools> More details can be found <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

Please encourage your children to continue to use Numbots, Times Table Rock Stars and Mathletics to develop their maths fluency. These are great programmes the school subscribes to and have a proven history of increasing children's maths skills and confidence.



### St Edmunds' Reverse Advent Calendar

For the past few years, the staff team at St Edmunds have created a Reverse Advent calendar during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Last year we extended this for our wider school community to engage with and would like to do the same again this year too. For those of you unfamiliar with the idea, instead of opening an Advent calendar and indulging in the contents yourself you simply add an item each day throughout Advent to a collection which is then given to a food bank. Thanks to staff and parent generosity, we've collected and donated over 700 items to date. These items will be donated to a food bank in Bury St Edmunds at the end of term. This year has continued to be a year in which food banks have played a hugely important role for many more families, including a number of our school families, so we will be doing the same again this year. For anyone who feels able to add a few extra items to their shopping trolley over these last 3 weeks of term and who feels they would like to make a donation, please drop these into the office and we will then deliver these to a local food bank at the end of term to help make the Christmas of others a little brighter. Together, our small contributions can help make a big difference to help other families in need.