



Parish Mission

The Sisters from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham came to visit St Edmunds Parish for a Parish Mission, a request by the Bishop to spend time in our Catholic communities. As part of their 10 day visit, they spent 2 days in school visiting all the classes and sharing lunch and talking with our KS2 RE Ambassadors.



They spoke to the children about life in a Catholic Order and how they experienced a unique calling to follow a religious life. They explained the story of how Walsingham became a place of pilgrimage and why it is dedicated to Mary. They were very open about their way of life and what their daily lives involve. The children asked interesting and thoughtful questions and were incredibly respectful as they learnt about their unique way of life.



If you would like to find out more, please visit <https://walsinghamcommunity.org/>

Lent Fundraising project 2026

Thank you for your support with our Lent fundraising project for ShelterBox. The Year 6 RE ambassadors and School councillors helped us to do a first count up of the money raised so far and they are delighted to announce we have already raised an impressive £338 towards our £500 whole school target. We're grateful for the ongoing efforts that the children are making to carry out acts of kindness or to make sacrifices in order to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves.

OPAL final audit outcome

You will be aware from some of my communication back in January, that we were due to be having our final OPAL audit at the end of a 2 year journey working with Sam, our OPAL mentor to enhance and improve the play opportunities we offer our children. We welcomed two OPAL mentors on site the week before last to come and carry out a full audit of our play provision at St Edmunds. This audit consisted of discussions with staff and children, observations of the children at play and the staff's roaming supervision, reflections on what types of play opportunities we offer our children, a review of policies and risk assessments that we have in place to ensure that our play provision adheres to HSE guidelines and a various other aspects.



When we first began our OPAL journey back in January 2024, little did we know just how incredible the transformation would be. The OPAL mentors conducting the audit fed back so many positive comments about the opportunities that we now provide about the progress seen over time and one of my favourite comments was that our play space had such a happy 'festival vibe' to it.

We received the outcome of the audit on the day, and are absolutely thrilled to be able to inform you that we received a **Platinum OPAL play award**, the highest level of recognition for play provision that they award, with us having scored an incredible 94% in the audit. This puts us in the top 1% of schools in the country for providing outstanding play opportunities for children.



Our journey has been far from a 'badge chasing' mission, it's been a cultural change and the staff and children's responses when talking to the OPAL mentors demonstrated to them just how embedded many of these changes are in how we are now thinking when we are planning for and engaging in play. This accreditation is validation of all the effort that has been invested by the whole school community over the past two years and that remains ongoing as we continue to commit to offering our children the best play experiences whilst in school.



A HUGE thank you for your parental support too, we couldn't have achieved this recognition without your ongoing support

and understanding, and your willingness to trust us as our play provision changed. It really has been a whole St Edmunds team effort.

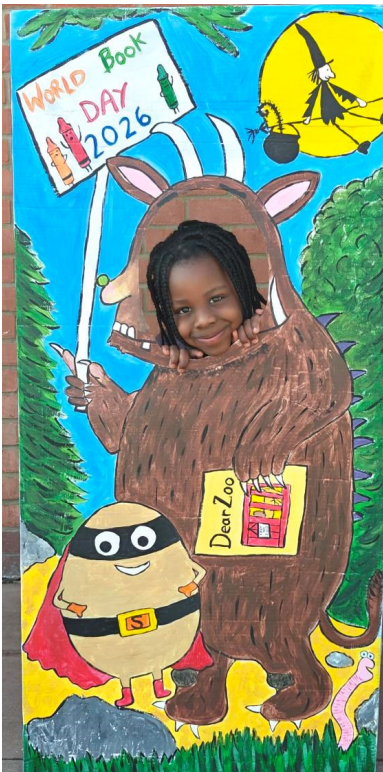




World Book Day 2026

As we continue to journey through the National Year of Reading, last week's World Book Day celebrations provided us with a great opportunity to continue shining a spotlight on the importance of reading and the pleasure that can be had when cuddling up with a good book. We were delighted that so many parents or family members were able to come in and join us for one of the reading sessions with their child. Many classrooms were bursting at the seams with all the extra people who had come in to spend time sharing a book together. Most of the children chose to come in dressed in something they would like to snuggle up and read a bedtime story in, some with their favourite book in hand too and we were impressed that some parents fully embraced the opportunity to come in in pjs or comfy clothes too! In 5N, the children bought in some extra cushions and blankets and they turned their classroom into a room full of reading dens. Thank you to the parents who crawled inside and enjoyed the cosiness of the reading dens too!

Throughout the day, the children spent time focused on activities relating to reading. The book character photo cut outs on the playground were a great hit too! Thank you for the creation of these Mrs Bolton.



Diary Dates

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|---------------|---|
| Tue 10th Mar | Annie and Sue from OM Health and Wellbeing back in school |
| Thur 12th Mar | Young Carers group session in school |
| Fri 13th Mar | Whole School Mass 9am |
| Tue 24th Mar | Cake stall and Uniform sale 3:15-3:45 (on the playground) |
| Thur 26th Mar | Rocksteady gig 9am |
| Fri 27th Mar | Stations of the Cross |
| Fri 27th Mar | Last day of term |

EASTER HOLIDAYS (28th Mar - 13th April)

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mon 13th April | PD Day (Children not in school) |
| Tue 14th April | Children return to school |
| Thur 16th April | Yr3 and 4 Suffolk Farm Fair visit |
| Tue 28th April | EYs Farm trip |

Year 6 Science workshops

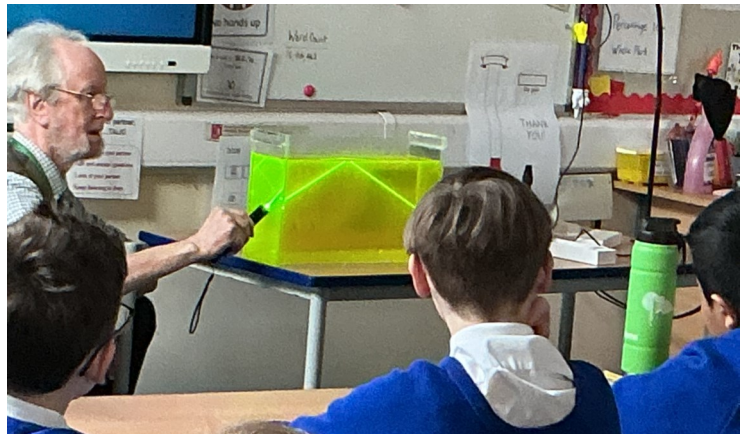


Over the past couple of weeks, Year 6 have welcomed Mr Gregory from St Benedicts to lead some science workshops to support their current learning. We learned lots of things about light and colour, including about reflection and refraction. Mr Gregory taught us about light acting differently in water and how light can bend. He used a laser in a special tank of water and a camera on a stick, connected to the whiteboard, so we could see more closely what he was doing on the table.

We learned about a series of experiments that Sir Isaac Newton carried out that changed our understanding of white light and colour. Mr Gregory gave a demonstration of this famous experiment using modern day equipment.

Mr Gregory also taught us that how many light years away something is, that is how many years in the past we are seeing it. Both year 6 classes enjoyed the workshops very much and we got to ask lots of questions too.

Written by Sarah in 6W



Safeguarding - NSPCC Children, Phones and Online Safety

We continue to have discussions with parents regarding how to help keep their child safe online and when communicating with other people via their phones or other devices. The NSPCC's guidance on children, mobile phones and online safety is a useful resource and it addresses one of the most common questions schools are asked: when is a child ready for a phone, and how can families manage the risks? The guide offers balanced, practical advice on readiness, boundary-setting, parental controls, and ongoing conversations about safe and responsible use. The link below will signpost you to this resource and may help reinforce consistent messages between home and school, reduce anxiety, and support a shared approach to online safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

NSPCC

Junior Parkrun Sunday 8th March 2026

As part of the Parkrun Primary School initiative, it was fabulous to see so many St Edmunds families attend Sunday's Junior Parkrun in Bury St Edmunds. Whether participating for the first time, or a regular Parkrun attendee, it was lovely to see so many of you having a great time and a few of you setting a new PB too. Last week in celebration assembly we congratulated Clara in Yr2 who had recently earned her next Parkrun wristband for having completed 100 Parkruns. What an achievement this is. On Sunday, Sawyer in Yr1 was awarded his Marathon wristband having completed his 21st Parkrun, another notable achievement.



Thank you to Mrs Murray for organising this and to the staff who gave up part of their Sunday morning to attend the event and cheer the children on. It was lovely to see some past pupils taking part too.





CAKE & UNIFORM SALE
TUESDAY 24TH MARCH
3:15-3:45 ON THE PLAYGROUND

To start the Easter Celebrations, and to get ready for the summer term our next event is an Easter Cake Sale & Preloved Uniform Sale!

Cake Donations (homemade or shop-bought but no nuts!) to be dropped off to the Year 5/6 block in the morning please.

Requests for volunteers to help set up or sell will be sent via your year group WhatsApp representative.

This will be **CASH ONLY**, and specifically **SMALL CHANGE PREFERRED**
Your donations & assistance are greatly appreciated!



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE...
SUMMER FETE!
SATURDAY 4TH JULY

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page!
"Friends of St Edmunds Primary School BSE"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!
TOTAL RAISED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR: £3,616.74

Helping to raise funds to support learning experiences, school trips & equipment

thefriends@st-edmunds.suffolk.sch.uk

