



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

January/February 2023

The St Edmund's Way award

Congratulations to Esther in Year 2, Isabella in Year 4 and Bianka in Year 6 who all won St Edmund's Way awards this half term for displaying acts of kindness and being good peacemakers.

School News:

Some of the girls in Year 6 were asked to be judges of the Young People's Book Prize 2022 - an award for the best science book of the year. They all read the books and marked them out of 5 for Ease of reading, Interest, Look and feel and Inspiration. The favourite (and most inspiring) book was *Fantastically Great Women Scientists and Their Stories* by Kate Pankhurst and most inspiring book. They submitted their scores to the Royal Society and wait to see if the other judging panels agreed with them.

Outdoor PE at St Edmund's is now being led by Non-Stop Action, a specialist sports company. Non-Stop keeps children at the centre of everything they do, nurturing young people's competitive spirit to succeed and building confidence and friendships.

In Year 5 this term we have been extremely lucky to have Bread'n'Butter kitchen with us, teaching us some vital life skills. The instructor has been showing us the importance of healthy living via making the right food choices, the importance of mental health and mindfulness sessions. The children have particularly enjoyed the hands on approach to learning about healthy food habits. They were given the opportunity to cook a vegetable stir fry - in the classroom- and will be gifted a set of ingredients to make this at home - future master chefs for sure. We are very grateful to Bread'n'Butter kitchen for these wonderful and vital learning experiences.

We have celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit starting with an assembly led by Ms Sar. The children all looked at different aspects of Chinese culture: Reception made (and tasted!) some Chinese food; Year 1 made decorations; Year 2 learnt a ribbon dance; Year 3 learnt a song, *Jasmine Flower*, in both Mandarin and English; Year 4 learnt the story of the animals that represent the twelve years in the Chinese calendar; Year 5 learnt to speak some words from some of the Chinese languages; and Year 6 made a sound story with percussion instruments.

Last week, we supported Place2Be mental health week which had the theme, "Let's Connect". When we have healthy connections - to family, friends and others - this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely - which can have a negative impact on our mental health. In our lessons, we were encouraging children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

The whole school had a Numbers afternoon last week including Dress-up with Digits - our clothes either had numbers or patterns on, and we played the board games we had made.

Sports News:

In the Premier League Primary Stars football tournament the mixed Year 5/6 team drew 2 games and lost 2 but played well as a team.

This week, some of the children will be taking part in multi-skills competitions at Lee Valley and KS2 children will either be competing in or supporting their house teams in inter-house hockey.

Online Safety:

Children in KS1 and KS2 are celebrating Safer Internet Day this week. The theme this year is, 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Children from Code Club led an assembly which covered important topics such as:

- Talking about your life online
- Talking about how being online makes you feel
- Talking about the importance of kindness and respect online
- Talking about what you learn online
- Talking about your online friendships
- Talking about how and where to get help

The ICT classes on Google Classroom have details about an exciting competition for all children to take part in over half term - make sure you have a look!

National Online Safety has produced this useful guide for parents giving tips about having those conversations with your children about their online lives which can be found on this link to our website: [Encouraging Discussions about Digital Lives](#)

Assemblies:

The whole school came together in the hall to celebrate the Epiphany. The liturgy was led by Mr Kelly and the Liturgical team, accompanied by some lovely singing by the choir.

It was a special, prayerful time together when we remembered the journey of the magi to visit baby Jesus.

Class 5.2 led an assembly about their New Year's resolutions linked to the attributes associated with the Chinese Year of the Rabbit (gentle, quiet, elegant, and alert as well as quick, skillful, kind, patient, and very responsible). And Class 1.2's assembly was about self-love and celebrating our uniqueness. They used the story of Giraffes Can't Dance, a much-loved classic picture book about being yourself and finding your own tune.

RE:

The RE unit this half term is 'People of Prayer', focussing on the Feast of the Epiphany, the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer. Children are

answering the Big Question: "What does praying mean to you?"

Some of our classes have been visited the church this month: Year 1 visited listened to the priest Father Walter talk to them about different types of prayer.

Academic Year/Events Dates to Easter 2023

13th-17th Feb	Half Term
7th March (1.30-5.30pm)	Parent Consultation Evening (School Day finishes at 1.00pm)
9th March (4.00-7.00pm)	Parent Consultation Evening
Fri 24th March	Home Clothes Day for Catholic Children Society
Fri 31st March Mon 17th April	End of Term (1pm finish) Summer Term begins

A list of dates for the school year has been sent to each family. Extra copies can be obtained in the office or found on our website

*"A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger."
Proverbs 15:1*



A prayer for Safer Internet Day:

*Dear God,
We thank you for the amazing advances
in technology in recent years.
Thank you for the wonderful resource of
the Internet.
We ask that you help us to use it wisely
- to broaden our minds, not to harm
others.
Amen*

