



St Edmund's School January 2010 News

Happy New Year, and welcome back to school for the Spring Term. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and it was very gratifying to see the level of support from families for our range of Christmas services. We're sure that the blanket coverings of snow have been great fun for the children, but we're all agreed that we will think twice before 'dreaming of a white Christmas' again too soon! Hopefully, we have seen an end to the disruption and we are grateful to all of you for your forbearance and understanding. We hope you found that the messages put on the School phone line and website kept you informed about what was happening.

'St Edmund's Has Got Talent!'

This exciting event for children in Key Stage 2 (Yrs 3-6) is taking place again and many of them have now dealt with the challenge of doing auditions. Obviously, not all acts can be included in the final show and, if your child was disappointed, please explain to them that such disappointments are just part of everybody's lives from time to time. To *all* of you who auditioned – well done and thank you from all the staff! Finalists will be announced in School on Tuesday 26th January and the final show will take place in the Church Hall on Friday 12th February in the afternoon (exact time to be advised). Parents and families of those who will be appearing will be invited and, as last year, a panel of impartial judges will score each act.

Governors' surgeries

An opportunity for any parent or carer who wishes to have an opportunity to discuss a School matter with a member of the Governing Body can visit the School to do so on Wednesday 3rd February any time from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Please come to the School Office and simply tell the staff why you are here. You will be signed in and shown to the appropriate room reserved on the day for this purpose.

Parents' consultations

Shortly, you will receive an invitation to attend the School for your annual appointment with a class teacher to discuss your child's progress. Two dates are reserved for this opportunity: Wednesday 24th February and Wednesday 3rd March. The letter giving you choice of days/ appointments will be sent home soon – please complete this as soon as you can in order not to be disappointed. Of course, you are under no obligation to visit on either of these dates: you might prefer to make a separate appointment for an alternative time with the class teacher instead.

ArtStart project

Year 6 is involved in an exciting project at the moment. They are working with local artists from ArtStart to produce a mosaic which will be permanently on show at Edmonton Green. The mosaic commemorates the famous old music hall singer Marie Lloyd (1870-1922). Her last ever performance was at the Edmonton Empire, a theatre long since demolished to make way for the new tower blocks in the 1960s. The mosaic will be put near Mendip House which is by the entrance to Edmonton Green near the bus station. The project, called 'Enfield's Lost Treasures', is being run by an Edmonton-based art charity and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. When the mosaic is finished, ours will join a total of 8 large panels depicting Enfield's past theatres, music halls and cinemas. Our children are

very lucky to have been invited to participate and, we hope, will learn how to contribute to making Edmonton an attractive urban landscape, with a sense of pride, while learning new skills to create the series of visual memorials.

Parking

When parking to drop off your children, or when picking them up, please be considerate to our neighbours and do not obstruct their access to property. You may even like to consider parking at some distance so that you all have an opportunity for some exercise.

Dinner money

Dinner money debts continue to mount, despite regular reminders to the guilty parties! Reminder letters are sent to those in arrears every Friday and still we have rising debts of £30 or more. Please keep your child's lunch account up-to-date. For any advice, contact the School Office. Thanks.

Diary Dates

Monday 15th to Friday 19th February: Half term
Wednesday 24th February: Parents' consultation afternoon 1
Wednesday 3rd March: Parents' consultation afternoon 2
Thursday 1st April: Last day of Term
Monday 19th April: Summer Term begins
Monday 3rd May Day Holiday
Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June: Half term
Monday 7th June: Staff training day (**School closed to pupils**)
Friday 23rd July: Last day of Term

And finally... Reflections by a new parent governor

It's been 3 months since I was elected as a parent governor at St. Edmund's RC school. One of my highlights during that period was my visit to the school to observe and see for myself what life was like on a typical day. It brought back memories of being at school so many, many years ago. Fortunately my visit coincided as the school started its Advent preparations. I had a great opportunity to participate in the spiritual, creative, intellectual and academic life of the school and its pupils.

After a warm welcome... I joined a parents' information session for reception pupils... Parents were being advised about how they could help and support their children at home with their reading, phonics and writing...

It got better – I joined pupils painting flags from different countries around the world, watched others have fun taking pictures of each other and downloading on computers in the new ICT suite and observed year 6 pupils do one of their first practise Maths test! Interestingly a few weeks earlier governors had been presented the current Maths strategy... so it was great to see elements of it in action.

My visit gave me an opportunity to meet many more staff members and to begin to put 'faces' to names... Throughout the day, I observed well-mannered children who kept doors open for others when walking in corridors, for example, and generally they spoke and behaved well towards each other... Thanks to the dedication of the staff team: a lot of good work is being done but much more can be done with the support of more parents...

On behalf of the governing body I would like to wish you and your families a blessed and successful 2010. Let us all help to tap into the resources currently at our disposal, embrace change positively and leave a lasting legacy for future generations as our pupils benefit from the efforts of present (and past) ones.

- Hermira Nelson-Okrafor, 3/1/10, Elected Parent Governor. This is an abridged version of the original. For the full text, please ask in the School Office.