



ST EDWARD'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

October 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Thank you for all your support this half term. We have had a great start to the term - the pupil's attitude to learning is extremely positive - when we tell you they help us to lead this school - we mean exactly that! The School Council is also helping me with my school development plan and all year groups support many charities with their own initiatives to raise funds. Wonderful! All credit to the pupils.

You will receive a monthly newsletter to inform you of any extra dates in order for you to plan ahead, and also, to keep you updated with how school is operating week by week. We also love to share with you, the fantastic achievements of our pupils, the exciting events taking place around school and the teaching and learning.

COVID 19: Please be reassured that rigorous control measures operate across the school. Please see September's newsletter regarding previous advice for further guidance and advice. This letter is also on our school website for you to access. If you need a hard copy of this, please contact the office.

As always, please keep all of our members of the school and parish community in your thoughts and prayers during this Autumn Term. Any queries or concerns, please never hesitate to contact school.

Best wishes,  
Mrs M Brown (Executive Headteacher)

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006

Amendments to the 2006 Regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that Head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Please do not book your holiday during term time or until you have requested authorisation. NPCAT attendance team is monitoring all attendance and punctuality issues alongside school.

### Faith Space

For the first time in 18 months, our key stages have been coming together each week to worship. This community aspect is an integral part of our faith and we thank God that we have been able to reunite in prayer. The children in Year 6A and Year 5S have led us so reverently in our worship so far this term and we look forward to continuing praying as one faith family this year.

We are supporting the local charity The Genesis Project throughout this year. They provide essential items and a safe place for people in our community who are in need. At the moment, they have requested that we collect tinned meat, tinned vegetables and laundry powder/tabs. This will be collected on the first Monday of the month, meaning that our first collection will be on Monday November 1st. A letter was emailed home this week containing further information. We send you our thanks in anticipation of your support.

During this Year of St. Joseph, NPCAT have been providing us with prayer resources for each month. October is the month of the Rosary and, this month, we are focussing on Joseph's role as husband to Mary. The prayer resource can be found online at <https://stedwards.npcat.org.uk/year-of-st-joseph/>

### Attendance

Our whole school attendance for September was 96%.

In early October, this increased to 97%, keep it up!  
Let's see if we can continue to improve this fantastic attendance, month by month!



*Live, Love, Serve*

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**Dates for Diaries – please also see the website for further events**



Date	Event
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception & Year 1 Parental Consultations
Wednesday 23 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3/4 Parental Consultations
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Parental Consultations
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 5/6 Parental Consultations
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Two-week theme week – Voices that refuse to be silenced – PSHE & SMSC
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Workshop (school hall)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery & Reception “Wow!” said the Owl workshop at the Dorman Museum
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	2-3pm EYFS Curriculum Meeting for Parents (school hall)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	EYFS Stay, Play & Pray Sessions (school hall / outside) 8.50am-9.45am & Nursery 12.20pm-1.15pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF TRAINING DAY</b>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Half term holidays</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>Pupils return to school</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Start of Anti bullying week
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Y1 Dinosaur Planet Visit at the Dorman Museum
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6A Heugh Gunn Battery Trip – all day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6J Heugh Gunn Battery Trip – all day
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – PLATINUM JUBILEE</b>

**World Mental Health Day  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

This October, there have been a variety of activities taking place across our school to mark World Mental Health Day. This day is a vital reminder for us all that 'it is okay not to be okay'. There have been some wonderful examples of art work, mindfulness and games linked to our emotions enjoyed by all of our children.

We promote our children's mental health and wellbeing across the whole school year, through our wellbeing areas, activities, curriculum and support.



**Parental Consultations**

It has been wonderful to begin welcoming back all of our parents into the school building for our Parental Consultations this week. These are ongoing during next week too - please see the dates for diaries or the appointment slips sent out by your child's class teacher for your appointment day and time. We have already received some excellent feedback from parents on our feedback forms (which you will receive during your consultation). Please return your form as soon as you can. Dotted around the newsletter are quotations from some of our parents which we have already received.



*"Communication and support have been fantastic! The school have been outstanding during the pandemic" - Parent comment - October 2021*

*"St Edward's values, the way they treat each pupil fairly and the overall way the school is ran gives me great confidence" - Parent comment - October 2021*

*"The staff are fabulous and I can tell they are working their hardest!" - Parent comment - October 2021*

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### Our Y6 Peat Rigg Adventure

Year 6 have had the most amazing residential trip last week, visiting Peat Rigg Outdoor Training Centre in Cropton, Pickering. The two groups packed so many exciting activities during their three day stay – archery, low ropes, nightline, canoeing, high zip wires, orienteering (in the dark and rain!), crate climbing, wall scrambling and the rope swing. The children have developed so many new skills, worked together as teams to support one another, developed so much confidence and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. We are so proud of the resilience and adventurous spirits they all showed throughout their stay. Not to mention, all of the delicious food they ate, including cooked breakfasts each morning and homemade, fresh meals and hot chocolates before bed! We have kept our Facebook page updated with all of the photos from our trip – so please take a look at even more photos.



### Beat the Street

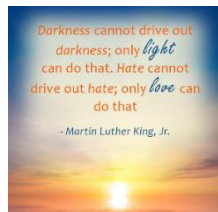
Some of our Y6 pupils were lucky enough to be invited to the launch event of Middlesbrough's new giant game, 'Beat the Street'. As many of you will already know (and play!), this game encourages you to get out and about, exploring, walking, cycling or rolling to discover boxes dotted all around Middlesbrough. Every scan earns points for our school, which can be exchanged for vouchers and prizes. Please keep scanning and help us reach the top of the leader board!



"Our community ethos is strengthened through faith" -  
Parent comment - October 2021

### Black History Month

Throughout the month of October, we are celebrating the theme of 'Voices that refuse to be silent.' This theme is to celebrate people who have overcome discrimination, segregation, adversity and inequality in order to make a difference; they have used their voices to make a positive change to our world. Our children are celebrating a range of wonderful role models; from world leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr, to premiership footballer, Marcus Rashford. To the younger voices of Malala Yousafzai and Ruby Bridges - there are so many wonderful voices to be heard and our children are only adding to that wonderful selection with their own amazing views.



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### Calling all volunteers!

At St Edward's, we are always looking for new volunteers to come into our school to help support our children, work with small groups, share their skills and extend our school family into the wider community. If you feel that you would like to volunteer in our school, please contact our school office or your child's class teacher, who will be happy to help you.



### MacMillan Fundraising Efforts

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, our school turned green in support of MacMillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. The two celebrations were marked with cake stalls and green outfits all across the school. Thank you so much for your donations of cakes, biscuits and money to support this wonderful cause. The children certainly loved their cakes at breaktime!



"My experience is that all of my children are happy, confident and feel safe while learning - praise to all the staff at St Edward's for making this happen!" - Parent comment - October 2021

### Sporting News

Our full extended school timetable is now up and running for the new school year, including lots of sporting clubs for our children to enjoy. Multi sports, Gymnastics, FUNDamental sports club, Fitness and Irish Dancing are taking place across the school. You will be aware that we have a full extended schools activity programme up and running which also includes: pottery, maths, prayer club amongst many more!

Year 5 children are also enjoying their swimming sessions which are on offer as part of our sporting curriculum. They are loving spending a week in the new swimming pool at Borocuda, Middlesbrough, and developing their swimming skills whilst having fun.



Finally, we have received an email from Open Door North East. Please read the following:

"Thank you so much for your email and your plan to support refugees and Open Door North East by being 'voices that refuse to be silent'. What a great title! We have found that so many people in England don't know very much about asylum seekers and refugees, and some people are even worried about helping people from other countries who need our help. I am so pleased to hear that St Edwards, like Open Door think that we should be a welcoming country to people who are scared to live in their own country.

All your fundraising will help people who are seeking asylum or who are new refugees to feel welcome, cared for and supported in lots of different ways."

Watch this space to see how our wonderful children take this forward through our school. An assembly is being planned during Autumn term 2.

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