



Dear Parents/Guardians,

October/November 2024

Thank you for all your support last half term. We had a very good start to this term – the pupil's continued attitude to learning is so positive. In various year groups, pupils have taken the opportunity to support many charities with their own initiatives to raise funds, pupil leadership groups have continued to support our vision. The list goes on....

So far this autumn term, various competitions have been successful with many top place winners with a great team effort from all involved, no matter the competition and educational visits have extended the learning in the classroom.

Our Stay and Pray sessions timetabled for individual year groups have been well attended and beautiful reflections have taken place after the parents planning session.

EYFS Stay, Pray and Play was a wonderful morning incorporating prayer and classroom activities- the children particularly liked decorating biscuits and playing in our new outdoor environment! It was lovely to see so many parents- thank you!

Attendance:

To continue the high attendance as of last academic year, please be reminded that high levels of school attendance are significant in raising standards in education and missing out on lessons leaves pupils vulnerable of falling behind. Absence sits alongside safeguarding; we want to work in partnership with you to know that your child is safe in school and learning. Please read the notice below when considering requests for absence during term time. We work closely with the NPCAT attendance team in monitoring absence in school. Thank you for your support with this.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY

The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 sets out the law in respect of leave of absence during term time.

As outlined in the Attendance Policy (available on our website), an application for leave of absence should be made to the Headteacher for the school at which the child is on roll, by a parent/carer with whom the pupil normally resides and giving at least 20 school days' notice. Please don't book your holiday during term time or until you have requested authorisation.

Live, Love, Serve

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown

St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QS
Tel: 01642 819507 | Email: enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk | Website: stedwards.npcat.org.uk

Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust



Parent Consultations

I do hope you found the meetings informative. Thank you so much for returning the questionnaires. We have received many already and the comments are superb. Much appreciated. We have started to analyse some of the responses. Keep sending in your completed questionnaires-if you need to-and we will collate all the information and let you know the analysis at the end of November and displayed on our website. You have agreed wholeheartedly that the priority 1- mental health, well-being and safeguarding- is the right priority as number 1. More of this will be detailed later in the letter so you are informed at a whole school level what is in place for your child and you as parents.

Below are just a few of the comments received by parents and families across school October 2024. Thank you so much for the feedback and any comments how we can improve further is already being actioned.

" The teachers show empathy and care towards my child."

" My children are very happy. Thankyou for all the hard work you and your staff do."

" St Edward's is a model school that we are all proud of, teaches children kindness, politeness and loving each other. I like St Edward's for the fact it emphasises religion. Love for all. We are proud to be part of St Edward's."

"A fantastic school that I would highly recommend. A caring environment where all children are nurtured and encouraged to be the best they can be."

" The staff are very welcoming and do a lot to support families.

" Friendly, approachable and knowledgeable staff. Safe and children's wellbeing at the fore. High emphasis and importance placed on faith life."

"The teachers are all professional and all the school staff are involved in instilling Christian values in children."

Many thanks for the questionnaires- please continue to send them in to school

Mental Health, Well-Being and Safeguarding

As outlined earlier, this is our number 1 priority and you agreed to this too- thank you. So that you are informed, over the last few years we have invested in the following:

'The Bungalow'- providing weekly therapeutic and emotional well-being support to children/parents and families across the Tees Valley; weekly play therapy sessions, HEADSTART-a preventative and early intervention to support children to cope better with difficult circumstances; Learning Support Services; Schools in Mind/REACH sessions for pupils.

The school has a resident therapeutic dog for the pupils. The dog works with many pupils. For Y6 girls; 'Rubies' emotional wellbeing and support and as part of their transition into Y6 and preparation for Y7.

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'Rubies' also builds on relationships and friendship and gives the girls confidence in their own ability. This year, this has been organised for the spring term. HeadStart sessions with Y5 to prepare the pupils for life in Upper Key Stage 2.

'Our PSHE/Health and Well-Being learning for all pupils providing well-structured, progressive lesson plans. This learning prepares the pupils for life in modern Britain, helping them know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in society. There is a strong emphasis on Catholic Social Teaching, emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental health and physical health. PSHE and protected characteristics are also interweaved into the planning of all areas of the curriculum. This planning incorporates protected characteristics, equality, national events and pupil voice.

Please do get in touch with school should you require any information with regards to any of the above information.

Finally... you will be aware that one of our former colleagues sadly passed away just before the October half term. Carmel Jayasuriya, our admin clerk, (Mrs J and Carmel J as we knew her), was one of the sweetest, genuine and kindest people you could ever wish to meet. I had the honour of working with Carmel as a teacher, DHT and HT over her time with us in St Edward's and my.....she knew how to run the office for 25 years!!! She knew every child and family off by heart. She was well-respected by all; her sense of humour was infectious and her glorious smile greeted everyone each day and continued throughout the day. I, and I know the staff, have such wonderful memories of Carmel and I say this to Carmel...you will never be forgotten- I mean that- you will live in our hearts forever! Prayers and thoughts go to Carmel's family and friends.

Please do remember all our families in the school and parish community that are experiencing grief, illness and sadness at present. We are here to help should you need anything at all.

Many thanks again for your support this term so far and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you.

Best Wishes,
Mrs MD Brown
Executive Headteacher

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