



Dear Parents/Guardians,

October 2025

Thank you for all your support this half term. We have had a very good start to the term - the pupil's attitude to learning is positive, visitors to the school have commented on the pupil's excellent attitude and behaviour, stating they are so well mannered. It is true! 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 and we have a new Head Boy and Head Girl.

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

### 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 attendance team in monitoring absence in school. Thank you in your continued support with this.

### 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 headteachers 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 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  
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Today you will be notified of term dates for the academic year 2026-2027. This will be sent via email. Please look out for this. You will also find a copy of this uploaded on to St Edward's school website.

### Parents Consultations

The majority of parent consultations ended this week and I do hope you found the meeting informative. We will be sending a questionnaire to complete through a google form after half term. We will then collate the information to add into our school improvement planning. With the school improvement plan, I can inform you Priority 1 will be mental health, well-being and safeguarding and to ensure no matter what life throws at them, we want to equip our pupils with the skills to build resilience, strength and positivism.

A reminder to Y6 parents that parent consultations will take place after we return. We will give you plenty of notice so you can plan ahead.

### Mental Health, Well-Being and Safeguarding

As outlined above, this is our number 1 priority. So that you are informed, over the last few years we have invested in the following:

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 sessions for pupils and Rainbows and Sunbeams a well-respected national charity for children who have experienced a significant loss in their lives. This support nurtures and develops the emotional health and mental health of the pupils whilst they come to terms with their loss.

The school has a resident therapy 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. '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.

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'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 emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental health and physical health again. 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.

### EYFS

Nursery and Reception pupils have finished their first half term in St Edward's and what a delightful set of EYFS children. They are inquisitive, independent and polite. They are not shy in introducing themselves or discussing the work they have completed. What a cocktail of personalities! I can't wait to see how their journey progresses through the years.

Stay, Pray and Play for EYFS was lovely this morning; I hope you enjoyed your time playing with the pupils after the liturgy. Thank you for coming into school.

Mrs Jones has also completed her first half term as Nursery teacher...lovely to have you in school.

### Gentle Reminders for next half term

Please check the website and the parent calendar (sent to you on 26<sup>th</sup> September) which outline events and activities planned for this academic year. More events will be added when they have been organised and we will give you plenty of notice for these.

If any details held in school about your child have changed such as address, emergency numbers, medical information, please inform and update the staff in the admin office.

Pupils in many year groups are wearing earrings for school...jewellery **should not** be worn due to health and safety reasons. This is NPCAT and school policy.

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A reminder that parking is not allowed in the curial car park. This is a private car park for the diocese. We have previously been informed that parking in the small roads- Sycamore, Poplars, Limes is disruptive to the residents living there with cars parking on grass verges, pavements and blocking driveways. We have also been informed that parents parking on Cornfield Road have been blocking driveways. For safety and respect please be mindful of parking and mindful of the residents' concerns when you bring and collect your children to and from school. Thank you!

***A reminder that the school car park is strictly for staff only. This is for safety reasons and safeguarding the pupils on Eastbourne Road.***

As you are aware we are a **healthy eating school** but it has been brought to my attention that snacks chocolate, crisps, sweets are being brought into school to eat at breaktime. We want to encourage the pupils to have a snack at break however **please provide fruit**. This is a seamless transition from KS1- pupils eat fruit each day as a snack- and it also keeps your child healthy.

The discos recently were such good fun and finished the half term so nicely. The pupils enjoyed themselves. For those that dressed up, their costumes looked fabulous and for those in own clothes- the party vibe was there! Thanks to the staff who helped out; to you as parents in your support for the event too.

A reminder that Reception disco takes place when we return after the half term break- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**OPAL:** It is with great pleasure to announce we are now an **Opal trained school!** Silver award was achieved in October. It has been wonderful to see the transformation of play during break and lunchtimes over the last two years under the Opal training. Your children have loved every second of it and now have 'free flow' every day. I would like to congratulate the team (Mrs George, Miss Dunnakey, Mrs Harrison, Mrs McGuinness and Mrs Rovardi) leading this journey- they have been determined and committed to improve the playful opportunities for your children and have been instrumental in setting up and leading training with staff. Below is a quote from the director of Opal:

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*I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on your recent achievement in gaining an OPAL award at St. Edward's Primary. Changing the culture of an organisation is not easy but you have done it, to become one of the best schools in the country for the quality of your playtime provision. Opal Director, October 2025*

Please keep in your prayers the many families and friends in our school and parish community who are experiencing grief, illness, loss or simply hardship in their lives. Please keep them in your thoughts during the half term holiday.

Finally, I would like to thank the pupils who applied for the position of Head Boy and Head Girl this half term. The process was rigorous and it was challenging for the SLT to narrow down candidates. All the pupils interviewed were fantastic so it was very hard to choose. However, two pupils were appointed.

Congratulations go to George Whaley and Iris Conwell who were successful in their interview for Head Boy and Head Girl for St Edward's. Pupils were asked to apply if they wanted to go for the position, shortlisting was next and then interviews were held! They did extremely well. Iris and George have shared their vision for the school; have carried out a few tasks already and their first meeting with SLT to discuss school improvement takes place w/c November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wish them the very best of luck please in their new roles!

Reminder that school breaks up for half term holiday at 3.10pm today Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October and returns Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Have a safe and relaxing half term break and I look forward to seeing you all when we return.

Best Wishes,  
Mrs MD Brown  
**Executive Headteacher**

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