



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

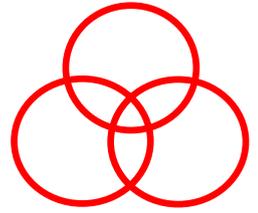
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



12th July 2016.

Dear Parents,

I can't quite believe how quickly we are rushing towards the end of the academic year. What a fantastic and hugely successful year it has been for us. Firstly, let me share with you the fantastic results which we have achieved once again this year through the hard work and commitment of pupils and teachers alike who have all been determined as always to do their very best. As Ofsted observed in May we truly have an 'ambitious culture that has been established for pupils to do well academically and personally' and it really is 'shared by all staff, governors and by the pupils themselves.'

At all ages the children have produced excellent results from the even higher numbers of children achieving Good Level of Development in Reception (we are now 12% higher than national for Early Years achievement), through 93% of Year 1 pupils passing the phonics screening test (which is 16% higher than national) to our superb SATs results in Year 2 and Year 6 again this year.

Last week the end of Key Stage 2 SATs results were published. As you know the new curriculum on which these new tests were based is significantly harder than the previous National Curriculum and the government have proclaimed many times over the last year how much harder they have made the new tests at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 in their desire to 'raise standards'. We therefore awaited with trepidation to see what results our incredibly hard working and well prepared children would actually achieve. All primary schools expected the tests to be significantly more challenging this year but we didn't really know by how much.

Across the entire country the proportion of children reaching the "expected standard" in all of Reading, Writing and Maths has dropped from 79% last year, to just 53% this year. Many schools have seen what appears to be a total collapse in standards. All over England there are schools and teachers in complete shock at what has happened. This year the end of Key Stage 2 tests have been made harder; the pass marks have been raised; and they are no longer testing the same things that they were last year. The Secretary of State for Education, Mrs Morgan, made a statement last Monday in which she said that this year's results cannot be compared with any previous results. On Tuesday she said that the drop from 79% to 53% in children achieving the "expected standard" shows that the Government is raising standards.

The government were keen to publicise the fact that this year's results cannot be compared to previous years as the standards are so much higher. We can therefore only compare our results to those achieved by the rest of the nation and we are delighted to say we are significantly higher than national in every subject:

Year 6 SATs results	Attained expected standard	National 2016
English: reading	74%	66%





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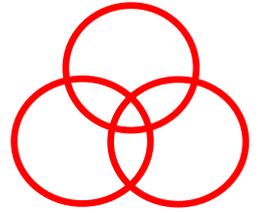
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English: grammar, punctuation and spelling	85%	72%
Writing	78%	74%
Maths	81%	70%
Reading, Writing & Maths	70%	53%

As yet there are no national figures to compare our Key Stage 1 results against but as we have attained around 80% or higher in all subjects I think we will compare favourably here too.

I cannot emphasise enough how much a testament these results across the whole of the school are to the committed and hardworking pupils and staff we have here at St Edmund's. I am as ever incredibly proud of each and every one of them and I look forward to see what next year's achievements will be.

Sadly, next week we will be saying goodbye and good luck to our talented Year 6 pupils. New parents often ask where our children go when they leave St Edmund's and are slightly confused when I reply 'everywhere'. To clarify this point let me explain that this year's leavers are going to:

Didcot Girls School (4)
Fitzharry's (5)
Magdalen College (1)
Our Lady's Abingdon (2)

Larkmead (1)
John Mason (11)
Matthew Arnold (1)

Spain (1)

I wish them all continued success in their new school and I am sure they will maintain the high standards of commitment to all that they do. They will face many new challenges in the years ahead but they are more than ready to do so with confidence in the knowledge that they will succeed if they are prepared to put the effort in- as they have done over the years here at St Edmund's. I just hope they remember to keep in touch and share their successes with us in the years to come.

Thank you for all of your support over this enjoyable and highly successful academic year. I hope you all have a fun filled holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again in September if not before.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Delany-White





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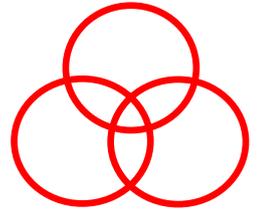
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Diary Dates- PLEASE KEEP THESE HANDY

Wednesday 13th July		Sports Day & Family Picnic Mini Vinnies
Thursday 14 th July	pm pm 2:20 pm 3pm	Sports Day & Family Picnic (if Wednesday is wet) Classes meet new teacher Class Reps Meeting with Headteacher Parents meet new teacher after pick up
Friday, 15th July	pm 2.20 pm	Year 6 trip to Wittenham Clumps Gold Book Assembly
Monday, 18th July	am 2pm	Cross Country Finals Prize Giving
Tuesday 19th July	2 pm	Leavers' Mass in the hall
Wednesday, 20th July	3pm	Term 6 ends
SUMMER HOLIDAYS		
Thursday 1 st September & Friday 2 nd September		Staff INSET- school closed
Monday 5th September		Term 1 begins: Year 1-6
Wednesday 7 th September		Term 1 begins: Reception (part-time from 7th – 9th September, full-time from 12th September)
Monday, 12th September		Term 1 begins: Nursery

