



Diocese of Portsmouth

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

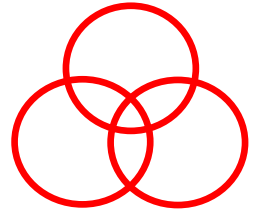
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www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Delany-White



29th March 2017

Dear Parents,

Lent

The Season of Lent is a time when we are invited to look at our lives and reflect on the many gifts we receive from God and to perhaps think of what we can do to help others less fortunate than ourselves. As you know we are keen to support Omar, an ex-St Edmund's pupil, in his project to make a difference to the children at Dar Mariam Primary School in Khartoum, Sudan. Omar came into school and spoke to the whole school in assembly on Monday 27th February. He showed our pupils the photos from his recent visit to the primary school in Khartoum and explained what a difference any money we may raise can make to fellow primary school children in a different, less affluent, country than ours. The children have discussed possible fund raising activities which will begin with this week's cake sale on Friday and which also include the monthly coffee mornings after 10:15 Mass on Sunday mornings at St Edmund's church.

Early Years

As you know we are expanding our Nursery provision from September when we will be offering parents the flexibility of full time, part time or a combination of both to suit the family's needs. With this in mind Mrs Semple has been welcoming two and three year olds into our Nursery for monthly Stay & Play sessions since January. These are going really well and have resulted in many children signing up for places in September. If you know of anyone who may want their child to benefit from the fun and stimulating Early Years learning environment we offer here at St Edmund's do tell them to come along to the next Stay & Play sessions:

- **Tuesday 25th April** (Spring)
- **Tuesday 23rd May** (Down on the Farm)
- **Friday 23rd June** (At the Seaside)

All sessions are free, run from 9.30 to 11am and are for two and three year olds, with their parents/carers. In preparation for our Early Years expansion I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Miss Anna Hunter as a part time Early Years teacher to join our Early Years team in September. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Miss Hunter to St Edmund's.

Also, Mrs Semple is offering a free music class for pre-school children and their families from our school and parish each week starting after Easter. The sessions will include familiar and new songs and rhymes, action songs and percussion instruments. They will happen every Wednesday morning in term-time, from 9-9:30 a.m. Just contact the school office if you and your child would like to come along. Classes begin on **Wednesday 26th April 2017.**

Science Events

Science Day Friday 17th March

This was an exciting occasion for the children to show-case their work, discuss it with peers and share their love of learning across the age ranges: Key Stage 1 shared their science investigations and knowledge with Key Stage 2 in the morning, Key Stage 2 shared with Key Stage 1 and parents in the afternoon. They were





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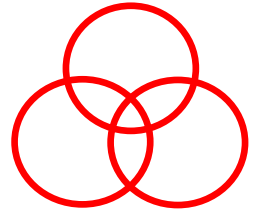
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all incredibly enthusiastic about their scientific learning and understanding. Many adults reported hearing some wonderful questioning and explanations between the children and those visiting their stands.

ATOM Science Festival Friday 24th March

Two teams from our school entered the ATOM Science Festival, which was held at the Amey Theatre at Abingdon School. The teams presented their projects on the theme of energy and atoms. The project was launched in January at a session led by a scientist from the JET Laboratory. Here at St. Edmund's, our teams have since been supported by a STEM ambassador and sixth former science ambassadors from Fitzharrys School, as well as teaching staff, in designing and creating their projects. All of the Key Stage 2 classes visited the festival during the morning.

New Mini Vinnies

Yesterday we witnessed the commissioning of our third group of Mini Vinnies during our whole school assembly led by Fr Phil and Melanie. The new group of Year 5 Mini Vinnies are now junior members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who pledge to work together to do some good in our St Edmund's community and the wider world.

They do this in a number of ways: –

- First of all, through prayer. Mini Vinnies meetings always start and finish with a prayer. The children talk to Jesus each day and talk to others about him.
- Also they take a 'Pledge' and are given a Certificate to say they are a Mini Vinnie, and they wear a badge on their school uniforms. During the commissioning ceremony Fr Phil blessed them and they had to make their promises in front of our whole school community so that everyone in our school knows who they are and can support them in their work and through prayer.
- Supporting their school friends, especially trying to be a friend to those in need or in trouble.
- Through fund raising activities such as supporting Dar Mariam Primary School in Khartoum as part of our Lenten Project.

We are sure these new Mini Vinnies will be just as good a role model and friend for their fellow pupils as the two previous groups have been.

Altar Servers Club

After Easter Fr Phil will be running his popular Altar Servers club on Wednesday lunchtimes from 12:30-1pm. There is availability for two groups of up to ten children to have three weeks of training by Fr Phil during the summer term. The children need to have made their First Holy Communion (so Year 4 and upwards) and need to **not** currently be an altar server. The club will happen in OLA's chapel with pupils from OLA Junior School as well and our children will be accompanied by Mrs Lavers each week. I will ask the teachers to collect a list of all those children who are interested and as there are limited places available it will be first come first served.





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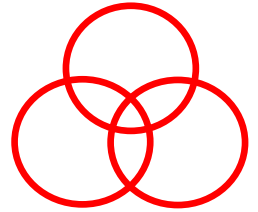
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Mrs Harris's Netball Report

Two teams of Year 5 & 6 children played in the Abingdon Schools Netball tournament at Fitzharry's School on March 7th. There were 20 teams competing. Our 'B' team were knocked out in the group stage, but our 'A' team won their group, won the quarter final, won the semi-final and then went through to the final. Although they were narrowly defeated in the final by Dunmore, they still went on to represent Abingdon in the Vale Finals which were at Larkmead School on March 14th. They played enthusiastically and determinedly and were very close to going through to the semi-final, but were just knocked out. Congratulations to both our teams for their dedication, effort and sportsmanship.

Thank you as ever for all of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delany-White

Diary Dates- **PLEASE KEEP THESE HANDY**

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School DIARY DATES 2016/17		
Date		Event
Thursday 30 th March		Year 2 trip to Warwick Castle Year 3 Easter Experience at Trinity Church
Friday 31 st March	2.20pm	Lenten Project Cake Sale Gold Book Assembly
Monday 3rd April	7pm	ASDMA Spring Concert, Amey Theatre
Tuesday 4 th April		PA Cake sale
Wednesday, 5 th April	8:50-11:50 pm	Nursery & Reception Stay & Play Stations of the Cross
Thursday 6 th April	am pm	Bring & Buy sale for Lenten Project Year 5 Mini Vinnies
Friday 7 th April	am 2.20 pm 3pm	PA Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bonnet Parade Gold Book Assembly Term ends
10th-21st April		EASTER holidays
Monday, 24th April		Children back to school
Tuesday 25 th April	9:30-11am	Nursery Stay & Play
Wednesday 26 th April	9-9:30 am 12:30-1pm 2pm	Stay & Sing Altar Servers Club Mass in School- all welcome
Friday, 28 th April	2.20 pm	Cake Sale Gold Book Assembly
Monday 1st May		BANK HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3 rd May	9-9:30am 12:30-1pm pm	Stay & Sing Altar Servers Club Mini Vinnies Year 6





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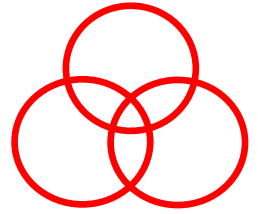
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	2:20pm	Year 3 Class assembly
Thursday 4 th May	pm	Mini Vinnies Year 5
Friday 5 th May	2:20pm	Gold Book Assembly
Monday, 8th May		Key Stage 2 SATs week
Wednesday 10 th May	9-9:30am	Stay & Sing
Friday, 12 th May	2.20 pm	Gold Book Assembly
Monday, 15th May		
Tuesday 16 th May		Year 4 trip to Sutton Courtenay
Wednesday, 17 th May	9-9:30am 12:30-1pm 2 pm	Stay & Sing Altar Servers Club Mass in School-all welcome
Thursday 18 th May	pm	Reception & Nursery trip to Farmer Gow's Mini Vinnies Year 5
Friday, 19 th May	2.20 pm	Gold Book Assembly
Sunday 21 st May		10:15 Mass Tea & Cake Sunday
Monday, 22nd May		
Tuesday 23 rd May	9:30-11am	Nursery Stay & Play
Wednesday 24 th May	9-9:30am 12:30-1pm 2:20pm	Mini Vinnies Retreat Day Year 5 & 6 Stay & Sing Altar Servers Club Year 4H Class assembly
Thursday, 25 th May	3pm	Children break up for half term
Friday, 26th May		INSET DAY
29th May – 2nd June		Half Term Break
Monday, 5th June		Children back to school
Tuesday 6 th June		Year 5 trip to Millets Farm
Wednesday 7 th June	9-9:30am 12:30-1pm 2pm	Stay & Sing Altar Servers Club Pentecost Mass in school- all welcome
Friday, 9 th June		Mother Tongue Day
Monday, 12th June	pm	New Reception children's first visit
Tuesday 13 th June	pm	New Nursery children's first visit
Wednesday 14 th June	9-9:30am pm 2:20pm	Stay & Sing Mini Vinnies Year 6 Reception Class assembly
Thursday, 15 th June	pm	Mini Vinnies Year 5 Quad Kids Athletics (Years 5 & 5) TBC
Friday, 16 th June	2.20 pm	Gold Book Assembly
Saturday 17th June		Summer Fayre
Sunday 18 th June		10:15 Mass Tea & Cake Sunday
Monday, 19th June	pm 1:30pm	Year 6 Boys Cricket Welcome new Reception parents in hall; new Reception children's second visit





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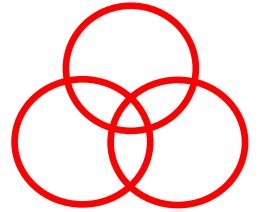
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Tuesday 20 th June	11:30am 1:30pm pm	Year 6 to Pizza Express Welcome new Nursery parents in hall; new Reception children's second visit Year 5 girls to SHSK for Maths workshops
Wednesday, 21 st June	9-9:30am pm 2:20pm	Good Shepherd Mass in Portsmouth Stay & Sing Year 5/6 Girls Cricket Year 4K Class assembly
Friday, 23 rd June	9:30-11am 2.20 pm	Nursery Stay & Play Gold Book Assembly
Monday, 26th June		Magic Maths Fair
Tuesday, 27 th June	pm	Magic Maths Fair Year 5 Boys Cricket
Wednesday 28 th June	9-9:30am 12:30-1pm 2pm	Abingdon School Mini Olympics Stay & Sing Altar Servers Club First Holy Communion Mass in school
Thursday 29 th June	pm 2pm	Year 6 Induction Day: John Mason, Fitzharrys & Larkmead Mini Vinnies Year 5 St Peter & Paul Mass in school- all welcome
Friday 30 th June	2.20 pm	Gold Book Assembly
Monday 3rd July		Didcot Girls School & St Birinus Induction Day
Tuesday 4 th July		Didcot Girls School & St Birinus Induction Day
Wednesday 5 th July	9-9:30am am 2:20pm	Stay & Sing Year 1 & 2 Quad Kids Year 2 Class assembly
Thursday 6 th July		PA school discos
Friday, 7 th July	2.20 pm	Gold Book Assembly
Monday, 10th July		
Tuesday 11 th July	9:30pm 6pm	Year 6 Production Year 6 Production
Wednesday 12 th July	am	Sports Day & family picnic
Thursday 13 th July	am pm	Reserve Sports Day Meet the Teacher
Friday, 14 th July	2.20 pm	Gold Book Assembly
Sunday 16 th July		10:15 Mass Tea & Cake Sunday
Monday, 17th July		No clubs this week
Wednesday, 19 th July	2pm	Prize Day
Thursday 20 th July	2pm	Leavers' Mass
Friday 21 st July	3pm	Term ends
SUMMER HOLIDAY		

