

Newsletter 1: Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school – how very wonderful it has been to welcome all our children back to school. We hope that, despite the challenges and difficulties of the last six months, you all managed to have a restful summer holiday. We extend a big warm welcome to Florence (Y1), Rafi (Y2), Freddie and Olivia (Y3) and Harriet (Y5) who joined us this week. Our new Reception Class children will be joining us from Monday 14th September. All the children are looking very smart in their school uniform. If the weather is warm, children may wear the school summer uniform until the October half-term holiday.



Also, a warm welcome to our new members of staff: Mrs Jo Holden (classteacher every Monday in Y4 and every Friday in Y3). We also welcome Miss Leal, a trainee teacher in Y1. We are sure that you will join us in welcoming them warmly to our St Edmund's School community.



Thank you! We have been pleased with how the staggered drop-off and pick-up arrangements have worked. Thank you very much for doing so well in sticking to the given times.

Thank you to the Golding family who have supplied extra pencil cases and equipment for us to use in school, should the need arise. This was very thoughtful and helpful.

Finally, a big thank-you to you all for the many gifts which were given to staff members at the end of last term. We do assure you that we never take these for granted and are always extremely touched by your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Blessing of teachers and school staff – you may have seen, in the latest parish newsletter, that Fr Jonathan will be giving a special blessing to school staff at all Masses this weekend. This will be a good opportunity for the parish to celebrate the work of schools and to ask God's blessing on our school for the year ahead.



Want to change dinner arrangements? – please ensure that, if you wish to change your child's dinner arrangements, you give the office a week's notice in writing. Thank you for your attention to this.



Individual photos – the photographer will be coming in to take photos of individuals on **Thursday 17th September**. We look forward to all children coming to school looking extra smart that day!

“Meet the Teacher” – we would normally offer to parents the opportunity to meet their child's classteacher within the first fortnight of the new term. As we are not able to have visitors in school, and with the current social distancing rules, these meetings will not be possible this year. The Classteachers are busy preparing letters giving information about the year ahead which we hope you will find helpful. If you need to contact the teachers, please make an appointment via the school office.

Gift Aid – we have been working really hard to encourage anyone who is eligible to Gift Aid to do so. Having just finalised the claim for the year ending 2019, we estimate to have lost almost £1,000 in what we might have been able to claim. Please could we urge you to ensure that, **if you are a UK tax payer and have paid into the Governors' Fund, you sign and return the attached form**. We do thank you for your attention to this.

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First Holy Communion reminder – the parish Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation Programme for baptised Catholic children in Year 4 and above starts on **Sunday 20th September at 3.00pm** online using GoToMeeting. If you have not already registered, please complete the attached form and return it as per the address on the form, along with a copy of your child's Baptism certificate by Monday 7th September in order to secure your child's place in the programme. Any queries please email communionatsteds@gmail.com

Parking – please do your best to park legally and with consideration towards our neighbours. Please could we especially ask you not to park too close to the crossroads where Busbridge Lane intersects with Park Road / The Drive as doing so makes it extremely difficult for drivers using what is a very busy crossroads. Please also do not park anywhere near the little roundabout down the Fairway or on the corner down The Paddock. We do thank you all for your cooperation.

Headteacher's Blog – every Friday Mrs Higgins writes about what has been happening in school during the week in her Headteacher's Blog in the website. Do remember to have a look every week to keep yourselves up to date by clicking on this link.

<https://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/blog/?pid=14&nid=10>

IMPORTANT DATES	
<u>THIS TERM</u>	<u>THIS YEAR'S DATES (2020-2021)</u>
Mon 14 Sep Children of Year R start	AUT: 1 Sept-18 Dec 2020 (half-term w/c 26 Oct)
Thu 17 Sep Individual photos	SPR: 4 Jan-1 Apr 2021 (half-term w/c 15 Feb)
Mon 28 Sep Little Way Week	SUM: 19 Apr-21 July 2021 (half-term w/c 31 May)
Wed 30 Sep Y3 to Butser Ancient Farm	<u>KNOWN INSET DAYS & CLOSURES</u>
Fri 2 Oct INSET day – school closed	1 st and 2 nd Sept, 2 nd Oct 2020
Tue 13 Oct Y5 to Chertsey Museum	15 th March 2021
Fri 23 Oct 3.30pm close for half-term holiday	
Mon 2 Nov Children return to school	
Wed 11 Nov Seaside workshop for Y1 TBC	
Thu 12 Nov Flu vaccinations	

The Pope Speaks: In reflecting on the pandemic, we have seen how closely connected we are, dependent on one another precisely because we were created by God and share a common home. We can only emerge stronger from the present crisis if we do so together. The Church's social doctrine thus speaks of the need for the virtue of solidarity. Authentic solidarity is not just about offering help to others; it is a matter of justice; it requires a radical change in our thinking that looks to the good of the community, defends the right to life for all, and promotes a sharing of the earth's goods. The biblical story of the Tower of Babel shows that happens when society seeks to build its own way to heaven, forsaking God, losing sight of solidarity with the most vulnerable, and valuing things over relationships. This destructive 'Babel syndrome' is countered by the event of Pentecost, where the gift of the Holy Spirit creates a harmonious unity in diversity for the true building up of society. May the Spirit grant us the wisdom and creativity to find those forms of solidarity needed in our post-Covid world, for the healing of the interpersonal and social ills, and the growth of the human family in fraternity, justice and peace.



We pray together: Father, as we embark upon a new academic year we ask you to help us to do our best to cooperate with you in all things. With you at the heart of all that we think, say and do, we can approach the future with joyful hope. We ask this through Christ the Lord. AMEN.

Money Matters: first half of the Autumn Term 2020	
Dinners (KS2 ONLY):	£86.40 (36 days at £2.40; Thu 3 rd Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct 2020)
Governors' Fund:	£20 per family per term, cheques payable to "A&B Diocesan Trust St Edmund's"
Outings:	Cheques payable to "St Edmund's School Fund" or pay online via PMX ParentMail
PSA Website:	www.stedmundsschoolpsa.co.uk
Confused by educational jargon?	Try our glossary or Frequently Asked Questions pages under "School Information"
Still confused?	Then info@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk or 01483 414497
Dates for the year ahead	http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3&pid=14&viewid=1
Copies of the newsletters	http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Newsletters&pid=93
Clubs booking forms	http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Clubs+and+Activities&pid=34

Attachments: Gift Aid form, FHC form