



St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Spring Term 1, Issue 1

9th February 2024

# St Edmund's News

Welcome to our Spring Term News-letter for the first half term of 2024. It's been an exciting and busy few weeks

here at St Edmund's. This week we have taken part in Children's Mental Health week. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters' During

Place2Be's  
CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

5-11  
FEB  
2024



This Tuesday was Safer Internet Day. 'Inspiring Change' was our focus this time. Keeping safe online is so important.



our assembly on Monday we talked about what makes us feel calm and happy and how using our voice can help ourselves and others. Finishing assembly with a dance workout made us smile and feel good! Follow the link to find some tips for parents:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



'Kung Hei Fat Choi!' - Our Year R children have had a great week celebrating the Chinese New

Year of the dragon. You can see them working hard in their Chinese Restaurant this week!

Whether you are at home or going away we wish you all a very happy and peaceful half term break.

## Inside this issue:

Year R	2
Year 1	2
Year 2	2
Year 3	3
Year 4	3
Year 5	3
Year 6	4

Enjoy the Half-term holiday!

- Back to school Monday 19th February

## Golden Assembly: Thank you God for our gifts and talents

The following children received special awards during our Golden Assembly this morning. I was very impressed to hear about all the children who have demonstrated increased confidence, resilience and enthusiasm in all aspects of their learning. Very well done to you all.

Headteacher's Awards go to:

**Yr R:** Aurora, Alexander, Dexter

**Yr 1:** Remy, Cameron, Luca

**Yr 2:** Oliver, Aurora, Leo

**Yr 3:** Azahra, Oli M, Christopher

**Yr 4:** Harvey, Isabelle, Merryn

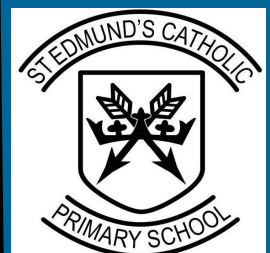
**Yr 5:** Emily, Freddie, Jude

**Yr 6:** Masaki, Harriett, Yocchan

This House Points Winner this half term is.....

**St John's House with 847 points.** Very well done everyone!

*We thank you God for our gifts and talents.*



## Year R

This term has whizzed past yet when looking back we have managed to squeeze so much in. We started the term off my looking at 'Winter' and were able to make the most of the cold spell by playing with ice as well as looking at animals that live in snowy places. We used our writing skills to write a fact about penguins when we looked at the Emperor penguins in Antarctica. We then moved onto 'Space' and used our DT skills to create space rock-

ets. We looked at space craft from the past and then designed our own. We worked as a team to construct them using many recycled boxes, silver foil and strong tape and were very proud of our work. We again used our creative juices to paint using different techniques, the planets to scale. Again our work looks magnificent, displayed in the classroom. We have then ended the term celebrating Chinese New Year. We have made dragon puppets, taken part in dragon dancing, learnt about the story of the Chinese Zodiac, run a Chinese restaurant in both the



class and the mud kitchen and then finished the week eating noodles with chop sticks. All interspersed as usual with phonics, learning lots of digraph and tricky words and maths, becoming more proficient with our numbers and 'numbers within numbers.' Haven't we done well?

## Year 1



It has been an "out of this world" half term for Year 1, as they have been

busy exploring and learning all about space.

This half term the children have learnt all about the first Moon Landing, thinking about how we retell events from history. A particular highlight was our class assembly where the children got to share their learning about space and the journey of getting to the moon.

The children have also been practising their recounting skills by making banana bread and then writing their own recipes to follow. The children enjoyed learning about command verbs

and using these in their writing but also to programme robots in computing, making them move forward, backwards, and complete simple tasks.

In RE they have been exploring Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem learning about his childhood as he grew up and some of the miracles that he performed, a class favourite was the call of the disciples where the children made a painting a school of fish.

## Year 2

Year 2 have settled into life in the new classroom effortlessly, well done everyone! We have had a busy term, finishing off addition and subtraction in maths as well as learning all about shape. We even managed to squeeze in our new topic, money which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. In English we have started our new book, The Tunnel, which has led to some fantastic portal story writing. Our RE topic this half term has been books. We discussed some of our favourite stories

and read lots of stories from the Bible. We have been learning about the history of transport and learned lots about what life was like before cars were even invented! We started



thinking about plants and seeds as part of our science and we now

have an avocado seed in our classroom for us to observe.





## Year 3

Year 3 have had an explosive half term! Our topic – Active Planet, has kept us extremely busy across the curriculum, including our Master Readers book.

In English we have written volcano acrostic poems and studied earthquakes, producing excellent leaflets packed full of useful information and used drama to show the best way to survive.

As part of our science topic we were all given pet rocks to look after, where we have been very creative and they are all at home living the life of luxury!

We have produced amazing dances inspired by volcanic music and created beautiful Mount Fuji prints and collages reflecting the art work of Hokusai.

Our term came to a bubbly end when we erupted our fabulous volcanoes! This half term has whizzed by but we

are looking forward to our exciting trip to Winchester Science Centre the first week back.



## Year 4

Short but sweet could describe this first spring term in Year 4! We have written diaries as Ancient Romans experiencing Pompeii and become news reporters writing headlines about the Young Voices Choir. Approximately half the class went along to sing at the O2 and they all had a wonderful experience. In Science and DT, the children have had lots of fun and used their problem solving skills to create a fun family game which had to include an electrical circuit and

switch mechanism. Lots of heads were scratched in the process! It wasn't easy, but all the children persevered and worked well in their groups. In RE, the class enjoyed having a visitor, Angela, to answer their questions about



the role of the local parish in the community. Great start to 2024 Year 4!



## Year 5

This half term has been short but busy. We have enjoyed designing and making pulleys and levers in science and have seen how these mechanisms can help to lift a load more easily. We have also been able to use our growth mind-set in these sessions – learning that we can make mistakes and try and improve our designs if they do not work the first time.

In English we have been studying the use of persuasive language and features in advertising and how important it is to use the right type of

language in order to sell or promote a product. We have also been working on balanced arguments in order to decide if products should be sold or offered to the public.

Our book corner is now up and running and we have a new selection of reading books on offer. We are really trying to promote reading for pleasure and are busy

writing book recommendations so that others can see which books to pick next.



## Young Voices at O2 reports from Year 4

### St. Ed's in the Sparkling Spotlight

During the Spring Term, students in KS2 were lucky enough to be part of the Young Voices Choir in London, and it was a night to remember!

After a few months of practice, it all came together on Thursday 18th January. 58 pupils and some staff members stepped onto the coach at 10:15 to go to the O2 in London. They were going to be singing in the largest children's choir in the world! The young singers reached the O2 Arena and munched on their lunch as the other schools were coming in.

After a huge rehearsal showing everyone what was going to happen, all 8472 children were buzzing with enthusiasm. At 6pm the parents were filling up the empty seats rapidly as the show was about to start. When the lights started flashing and the music began, everyone was screaming loudly.

Some of the problems with the event were that it is very busy so the children wore bright green hats so they could be seen. No one could go off on their own so everyone stayed in a group. The teachers found it hard because it was a late night and needed lots of planning. Mrs Higgins, Headteacher, said "We had to start planning it a long time ago."

Lots of things were special about the Young Voices Choir, for example, it is an event all about the children, there are lots of famous performers, friends and family can watch it and it is the biggest choir ever!

Young Voices want lots more children to join it because it is an amazing event. Ruby, one of the students who went, said, "It was so magical and I am going again." By Florence Willgoss

### St. Edmunds sing their hearts out at Young Voices

In the Spring Term some students from St. Edmunds KS2 choir finally had their time to shine when they went to sing at the Young Voices Choir in London for a very memorable event.

On Thursday 18th January at 10:15, 58 students and several members of staff excitedly departed. Their goal was to sing with the biggest global children's choir.

After reaching the O2, the singers entered the arena and ate their packed lunch and prepared for an afternoon of rehearsals.

Although all of the students were very excited, they were also exhausted after the long rehearsals. They only got more excited when their parents came spilling in and took their seats. The adults were also very happy to see their children perform at the O2. A participant from St. Edmund's said, "It was one of the best days of my life!" "It's the most exciting event of the year!" a student in Year 4 said. "It was the time of my life" another young singer explained.

Young Voices is so special because they welcome many schools and raise money for charities. At the arena there are lots of important guest singers and musicians performing, such as MC Grammar, Miss Honey, Nandy Bushell (who was only 13 but she was an incredible drummer), and Natalie Williams, a singer. There was also a dance group called Urban Striders. It is also an event that is all about the children and it makes them feel like mini celebrities and pop stars.

In the future, Young Voices want to get bigger and let more children share the brilliant experience. A pupil at St. Edmunds said "I will definitely go again next year". By Merryn Spence



## Year 6

Charterhouse. It was a great experience to be able to learn more about Chemistry, Biology and Physics. The science experiments were brilliant.

We really enjoyed the Chemistry lesson; it was rather magical. Some of us



also had the chance to go to the O2. What a great atmosphere there and to be able to be part of such a large group of schools from all over the country. In history, we have been learning about WW1. It has been so interesting to learn about life in the past. Our MasterReader book 'Holes' and our class book 'War Horse' have been a wonderful addition to our reading lists. In RE, we have been learning more about the Seven I am Statements and we

have looked at the seven miracles of Jesus based on the Gospel of John. It has also been great to learn Italian, music and to be able to create pieces of art in the style of LS Lowry.

This half term has been amazing because as always, in Year 6 we have been able to learn so much, share our opinions and experiences and to know that each day we grow in strength.

by Olivia and Angelika