

ST. EDMUND'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY – WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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Friday 18th September 2026



GENEROUS AND JUST

This week at St Edmund's, we have been reflecting on Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard and thinking about what it means to be fair and generous. Sometimes, what we think is fair and what God asks of us can seem very different. Jesus reminds us that God's ways are greater than our own and that we can trust in His goodness, generosity and love. This message is particularly important in our school community. We want our children to recognise that being fair does not always mean everyone receiving exactly the same thing. It means understanding the needs of others, showing compassion and being generous in the way we treat those around us.



This week's Heart of Gold Award was awarded for Justice, linking beautifully with our Gospel theme. We celebrated children who have shown a strong sense of fairness, stood up for what is right and treated others with respect and compassion. Our values of Faith, Compassion and Resilience also help us to live this out each day. Through our faith, we learn to trust in God; through compassion, we look beyond ourselves and consider others; and through resilience, we learn to respond positively when things do not always go the way we expect. God's love for us is generous and unconditional. As we learn more about that love, let us challenge ourselves to share it with others through our words, our actions and the way we treat one another.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As we are a few weeks into our new school year, I want to highlight the importance of establishing positive routines to help every child get the very best from their time at school. Our whole-school attendance target is 97% and we would really appreciate your support in helping us achieve this. Being in school every day means children can learn, spend time with their friends and take part in the activities and experiences that make school such an important part of their lives. For our younger children especially, they are developing vital learning, social and independence skills every day.

The first few days and weeks are particularly important as children settle into new routines, build relationships and begin their learning straight away. Missing even a small number of days can mean missing important learning and experiences. Improving attendance was something we started to work on last year and something which continues this year. Even though we've only been back a couple of weeks, I've held meetings with parents to stress the importance of school attendance and the options open to us as a school should attendance drop below our target.

Every day counts. Let's work together to give every child the best possible start to the year and aim for 97% attendance across our schools.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – YEAR 6 MOVING TO YEAR 7

If your child is currently in Year 6, it is now time to start thinking about which secondary school you would like them to attend from September 2027. Suffolk County Council will publish all the information you need to help you make your decision, including details of the application process and available schools, from 12 September 2026.

The deadline for submitting your application is Saturday 31 October 2026. It is important to apply by this date, as late applications may reduce your chances of being offered a place at your preferred school. Please make sure you familiarise yourself with the application process and key deadlines and submit your application on time.

You can find all the information you need and apply online at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

CLASS NEWSLETTERS

These are being finalised this week and will be shared via ClassDojo! on Monday.



The Catholic Schools of
the Waveney Valley



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL – OCTOBER OPEN DAY

Notre Dame High School will be opening its doors to families considering a place for their children in October 2026. The Open Days are a great opportunity for prospective pupils and their parents or carers to visit the school, meet staff and get a feel for what day-to-day life is really like at Notre Dame. Our school has been allocated the following visit time:

Monday 5 October – 1:45pm (all tours start from the Main Reception)

Any parents of children in Year 6 wanting to take their child to this event should inform the school office so that we can make sure your child is ready to be collected at lunchtime to get there in time for the tour. If you have any questions about the Open Days, please contact the Pastoral Team on 01603 611431 and for enquiries about Lower School admissions, please contact admissions@ndhs.org.uk.

BUNGAY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

Bungay High School's annual Open Evening is fast approaching and will take place on **Thursday 24 September 2026**. All members of Year 6 are welcome to attend this event. Detailed information was emailed out by the school office earlier this week.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

There have been some important changes to **Free School Meals (FSM)** and **Pupil Premium** from September 2026. Those families who have been affected should have been contacted by school but we want to make sure that all families are aware of the support that may be available to them.

The government has expanded Free School Meal eligibility so that children in households receiving Universal Credit can now be entitled to a free school meal, regardless of household earnings. There are now two categories of Free School Meals:

- **Targeted Free School Meals** - for families receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. In addition to free school meals, children in this category attract Pupil Premium funding for their school.
- **Expanded Free School Meals** - for families receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings above £7,400. Children in this category are entitled to a free school meal but do not attract Pupil Premium funding.

Could your child be eligible?

If your circumstances have changed or you have not previously applied for Free School Meals, we encourage you to check your eligibility. Even if your child is already receiving a free meal, it is important that your eligibility is checked under the new arrangements as you may be eligible for more funding/support. You can find out more information and check whether your child may be eligible through the government website: [Check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals - GOV.UK](#)

If you are unsure whether you qualify, please check rather than assume you are not eligible. If you need any help with the application or would like to discuss the additional support available through school, please contact the school office.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSENT – REMINDER

If you haven't completed yet, you can access the form here: [St Edmund's Photographic Consent – Fill out form](#)
We've helped a couple of parents this week who haven't been able to complete so please let us know if you are having any issues.

CLASS DOJO

Email reminders through the ClassDojo! platform have been sent out today to those parents who haven't completed this yet. Next week, we will be moving the majority of our communication onto ClassDojo! so please make sure you are registered and linked to your child's class. Please contact school if you have any issues downloading the app and registering for your child's class.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME – FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If you have a child in Years 3–6, you may wish to consider enrolling them in the parish's Sacramental Preparation Programme for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2027. If you would like your child to take part or would like to learn more, please e-mail Fr. Simon (simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk) or complete a yellow enrolment form, available at the back of the church.

PHONICS READING CAFES

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our Phonics Reading Cafés with Miss Lyons. These sessions are a great opportunity to find out more about how we teach phonics and early reading at St Benet's and, importantly, how you can support your child at home.

Reception – Friday 2 October, 8:45–9:30am

Year 1 – Friday 9 October, 8:45–9:30am

We would love to see as many parents and carers as possible. The sessions will provide a useful insight into our approach to phonics and give you practical ideas to help your child develop their reading skills at home.

THE BIG LUNCH – FREE SCHOOL LUNCH FOR ALL CHILDREN!

We are delighted to let families know that, as part of The Big Lunch campaign, Aspens will be fully funding all children's school lunches on Thursday 1st October 2026. All you need to do is pre-order your child's chosen meal through the usual school meal ordering system or via the school office no later than Friday 25th September.

On the menu:

- Crispy breaded chicken nuggets with chips and beans
- Vegetable fingers with chips and beans
- Chocolate brownie

ROTARY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION 2026/27

Do you have a budding photographer at home? The Rotary Young Photographer Competition is inviting young people to get creative with this year's theme: 'Friendship'. Children from school can enter under the following two age categories:

- Junior: 10 years and under
- Intermediate: 11–13 years

Photographs will be judged on technical merit, content and composition, imagination and style, and how well they capture the theme. The competition runs through local, district and national stages, with winning entries progressing through the competition. All participants receive a certificate and prizes will be awarded for the two best entries in each age category at the local stage. Entry deadline: 31 December 2026

For full competition rules, entry forms and an information pack, please contact the Rotary Passport Club of East Anglia at rotaryfriends1117@gmail.com.

FREE FAMILY MATHS WORKSHOP

Next week, we will send out information about a FREE family maths workshop being run in school by Realise Futures. The session will explore fun and practical ways to support your child's maths skills through games, crafts and activities. Places will be limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Full details and booking information will be sent to families next week.

Sessions to take place on Thursday 1st October

- EYFS & KS1 (Y R–2): 9.00–11.00am
- KS2 (Y3–6): 1.00–3.00pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 24th – Bungay High School Open Evening

Friday 25th – Diocesan Schools Mass

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st – Oak Class Mass at 9:15am

Thursday 8th – Rowan Class Mass at 9:15am

Thursday 15th – Beech Class Mass at 9:15am

Thursday 15th – Whole school photographs

Thursday 22nd – Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)

– School Closes for Half-Term