



THE ST. EDMUND'S NEWSLETTER

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PREPARE IN HOPE

This week we began our Advent journey and reflected on the hopeful message this season brings. The children thought about what it means to prepare not just for Christmas but also for the presence of Jesus in our daily lives. Advent invites us to wait with joy, trust and a sense of wonder at the promise of God's closeness.

Our prayers were guided by the example of St Nicholas whose quiet generosity continues to inspire. Through his story the children were encouraged to use this early part of Advent to spread hope through thoughtful words and kind actions, helping us all take our first steps towards Christmas with open hearts.

FOR THIS REASON, YOU
ALSO MUST BE READY,
BECAUSE THE SON OF MAN
WILL COME AT AN HOUR
YOU DO NOT EXPECT.

– MATTHEW 24:44

NEW FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Before I arrived in my role as Executive Head teacher and during the first few months I have been in post, we have seen an influx of newly appointed Foundation Governors. These Governors are appointed by the Diocese after being recommended by our Parish Priest, Fr. Simon Blakesley. I wanted to recognise their role in school and extend a warm welcome to them all. They are (in alphabetical order): Sue Allen, Angela Marshall, Lorna Pearce and Howard Trust.

NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

We received one nomination for the vacant post of Parent Governor. I am pleased to announce that Kathryn Pearson has therefore been appointed to this position. Kathryn will officially take up her role as of Monday 8th December and I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating her on her new position.

As you can see from above, we have recently seen an increase in the number of Foundation Governors at our school. As a result, we are in a position to increase the number of parent governors on our Governing Board. Please let Mr Kennedy know if you are interested in joining our Board.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES – REMINDER! (AND CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION)

As we move into this joyful season, we have a number of Christmas events planned for our children and families to enjoy. We hope the coming weeks will be filled with celebration, community and festive spirit across the school.

- **Friday 12th December** – The whole school will be heading to the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft for our annual visit to the pantomime, always a much-loved Christmas tradition. **CONSENT FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER!!!**
- **Wednesday 17th December** – Children are invited to come into school wearing their Christmas Jumper. They will have their Christmas Dinner in the school hall and then in the afternoon we will be holding our Christmas Carol Service and Nativity which will start at 2pm and be followed by tea, coffee and mince pies provided by our PTFA.
- **Friday 19th December** – School closes for the Christmas holidays.

We look forward to celebrating these events together as we journey through Advent towards Christmas.

WAVENEY VALLEY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This Sunday, 7th December, the Catholic Parish of the Waveney Valley Christmas Fayre will take place from 10:00 to 16:00 in St Edmund's Church Hall on St Mary's Street in Bungay. The fayre will feature a lovely selection of gifts, sweet treats and special keepsakes created by local makers and businesses.

It's a great chance to warm up and perhaps find that last special something as we move closer to the festive season. All are welcome.

BREAKFAST CLUB/AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PLANNING

We are in the process of planning to launch a breakfast club and after school club facility in January 2026. We are currently in the recruitment phase of this and more details for this can be found here: <https://mynewterm.com/school/St-Edmund's-Catholic-Primary-School/142770>

As part of the provision, we are planning the following timetable of activities. If you have any thoughts, ideas and suggestions around this, please speak to Mr Kennedy or Mrs Reeve-Smith.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club operating daily from 7:45am – 8:45am with a range of activities!				
After School Club running daily from 3:15pm – 5:45pm with the follow activities scheduled				
				
Forest School	Cooking Club	Sports Club	Art Club	Board Games

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO SUPPORT SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS

The Diocese of East Anglia Schools' Service is seeking volunteers to serve as school admission appeals panel members, helping ensure parents' rights are upheld when a child is not offered a place at their preferred Catholic school.

Panel members play a vital role in considering cases where parents wish to challenge a refusal of admission. Each hearing typically lasts between 20 and 30 minutes, although some may take longer depending on their complexity. During the busy summer term, multiple appeals may be scheduled on the same day, and volunteers may occasionally be asked to sit for two or even three consecutive days. Importantly, panel members are always able to decide their own availability, making this a flexible opportunity suited to those available during school hours.

Appeals may be heard in person or via video conferencing, and volunteers can express a preference for the type of hearings they are comfortable with. All panel members will receive training from the Diocese.

To ensure a balanced and fair process, each panel is made up of both lay members, people without professional involvement in education, and education members, people with experience working in or understanding schools. Individuals cannot sit on panels for schools with which they have a personal connection, for example being a parent, governor or staff member.

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more is invited to contact Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service), at the Diocese of East Anglia, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH, by email at ssc@rcdea.org.uk or by telephone on 01508 495509.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Thursday 11th – 9:15am – Oak Class Mass

Friday 12th – Pantomime Trip – Marina Theatre, Lowestoft

Wednesday 17th – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
– Christmas Carol Service and Nativity

Friday 19th – School Closes for the Christmas Holidays