



Dear Parents,
 It doesn't seem possible that I'm writing the last newsletter of 2023. Where has the year gone? We've had a particularly busy fortnight in school and it's been so lovely that many of you have been able to join us for the various festivities that have been taking place. As we have journeyed through the season of Advent, the children have continued to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth with our KS2 Carol Service, the EYs Nativity and Key Stage 1's performance of Penguin Pete. For those of you who have been able to join us this week, I'm sure you'll agree, there was definitely a festive feel in the hall. Finally, it was lovely to be able to gather our school community together to end the week with our whole school Mass this morning.



Sharing festive cheer with our local community

We were really proud of our choir who went next door earlier this week to sing to the residents at the care home. They sang a collection of festive songs, some of which the residents enjoyed joining in with too. The children then spoke to and wished the residents a Merry Christmas leaving them with smiles on their faces.



The launch of the St Ed's Echo Newspaper

We hope that many of you found time to read the newspaper that landed in your inbox yesterday, the first issue of the St Ed's Echo. It was fabulous to see how the idea from a couple of our Year 6s grew into the creation of Newspaper club with such a keen group of children wanting to contribute to it's creation. They have worked incredibly hard over many weeks to produce their first issue and they were so excited to send it to print and share it with us yesterday. It was lovely for them to hear such positive feedback from staff and children when they spoke to us all and then delivered copies to each classroom too. We're now looking forward to reading their next issue.



Diary Dates

Tue 19th Dec Tuck shop—3:20pm on the playground
Wed 20th Dec Christmas lunch
Last day of term—non-uniform day (festive clothing welcome!)



Christmas Holidays

Wed 3rd Jan PD Day (children not in school)
Thur 4th Jan Children return to school
Mon 15th Jan Deadline for applying for Reception school places for September 2024
Thur 18th Jan Kinetic Letters handwriting programme parent information session - 2:15pm

Celebrating our GOLD success

We are delighted to be able to share with you our recent success in having been reaccredited as a GOLD Rights Respecting School. We were so pleased that the efforts invested to showcase to the assessor so much of what we do day in day out at St Edmunds resulted in some really complimentary feedback. The report received last week made reference to the following strengths of our school:



- Rights learning is fully embedded across the curriculum throughout the whole school using a wide range of age-appropriate creative resources.
- A strong commitment to children's rights and to RRSA from leaders at all levels tied into the vision and values of the school. Quality training and support for staff has been sustained.
- Communication with parents about rights work, including encouraging parents to contribute to home learning through the Ricky Rights mascot.
- Confident, articulate children who know that they have a voice, and who are engaged in school improvement and campaigning at a local and global level.

The assessor spoke with over 50 children and a number of staff who work in different roles in our school and some parents. Visit highlights noted in the report which we are really proud of included comments such as, "There is a caring and inclusive ethos where staff and children ensure that everyone, particularly those with learning differences or a disability, feel supported and fully involved in school life", "The school's work on health and wellbeing is notably strong" and "Pupil voice is valued highly, and the range of pupil voice groups gives many opportunities for children to put their suggestions forward, and for these to be acted upon."

St Edmunds' Reverse Advent Calendar

I mentioned in the last newsletter about the Reverse Advent Calendar food bank collection that the staff are currently gathering ready to donate at the end of next week. Thank you to the families who have already sent in some food donations to contribute to this collection. If you would like to contribute to this, there is still time and donations can be brought to the school office up until the end of term next Wednesday.



Donations of wellies

We are on the look out for any pairs of children's wellies that your child has outgrown and is no longer making use of at home. We will be talking more about wellies in the new year but in the meantime, if you have any unwanted pairs, please send them into school and we will happily put them to good use.



A message from the Friends Committee

A big thank you from The Friends to all those who supported the school discos on Friday 1st December. It was a fabulously festive night with lots of fun and amazing dancing. We could not have done it without all the volunteers who helped make it a huge success. We have raised enough money to add some extra Christmas fun to the end of term for the children and to put towards our longer term project to develop the play equipment for all the children to enjoy at break times, so thank you for your support. Look out for more Friends events in the new year and details of how you can get involved. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, from The Friends Committee



Music galore!

We've had a fortnight of music galore at St Eds and it's been lovely that so many parents have been able to come in and join us.

We enjoyed our Rocksteady gig on Thursday last week and the bands had a fabulous time performing to us all and showcasing the hard work they've put in to their band practices this term. The 'crowd' were cheering and clapping along supporting them as they performed and the hall has bursting with energy!



On Wednesday all of the children in KS2 who have been learning to play the guitar in school with Mr Watson shared a selection of pieces that they have been learning. For some of these children, they have only been playing the guitar

since September and this was their first time performing to an audience. We were really proud of them.

The choir also performed for us some of the most recent songs that they have been learning. The rest of the school sat in absolute silence as their listened to them sing and there were a few tissues needed at one point too!

