



December 2024



Merry Christmas!

We made it. It's finally here after creeping up on us for months...

It has been a jam packed half term but thoroughly enjoyable. Our sleepover and shared Advent Mass seem like such a long time ago. Since then we've enjoyed our KS1 Nativity, a visit to Gulliver's world, Christmas crafts, library visits, Christmas dinner and still more to come - a family Christmas bingo and reflection upon the true meaning of Christmas through our KS2 readings and carols service.

So as we move towards the end of the year, all the staff and I wish you a peaceful and holy Christmas which leaves you feeling full of love and grateful for all that we have and whom we hold dear.

Enjoy a wonderful holiday - Mrs Snell.

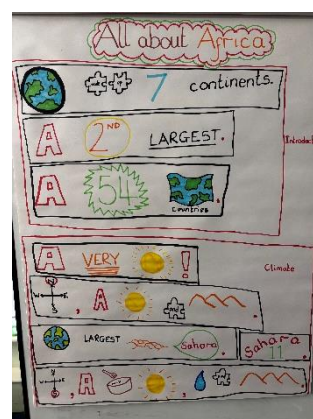


**"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6**

**Class 2** have had the best half term, we have been super busy. In English we have been learning about Africa, we can tell you so many new facts. In Maths we have been learning about addition and subtraction. During our Geography lessons we have been learning about hot and cold places. Year 2 have been so lucky to have a sleepover in school, it was fun filled and very exciting. We had the

best time in Gulliver's world with our friends.

Also, Thank you to all our parents and carers who came to watch our Nativity.



## Class 4

The busy-ness has continued into this second half term for Year 5 and 6. We had a very early visit from Digital Arts Box, who created some digital art with us as part of Halton's 50 Cultural Project...which has now been printed and is sitting in Halton Lea and Widnes libraries as we speak. We will be receiving one of these displays to keep at school also, as soon as the display is taken down. We were first up to present a Class Assembly on Monday 18th

November, sharing with our learning so far with the rest of school and visitors - with a 'greatest showman' leading the way. More recently, we've been on a class visit to the local library, enjoyed taking part in the Classroom Christmas Decoration competition, and visited St Edwards Church to be a part of history, as it was the first time ever that St Clements, Holy Spirit and St Edwards were all in the church at the same time! A clear favourite time of our week is working with Gary from UK Military School every Thursday which continues into the new year!





"Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." **Mark 13:33**

Excellent attitude towards school, demonstrating our values. Congratulations to this term's winning dojo team - Keep up! (Yellow' if you've not figured it out!)

This half-term has flown by with all the exciting activities and learning we have been doing in **Class 3!** We have carried out fieldwork around the Old town during our settlements topic in Geography - speaking to members of the public, making observations and tracking our route on a map. We have visited the library, church and had an amazing day at Gulliver's World. We have built our own cars in design technology, learned all about light and shadows in science, and perfected our forward rolls and balances in gymnastics. We have decorated our classroom beautifully for Christmas and Advent and learned a lot about this special time of year in our RE lessons and class collective worship.

This half term we have been very busy. We have learnt all about different festivals and celebrations. We celebrated Remembrance Day with lots of poppy themed activities including painting poppies onto our toast at snack time. On Bonfire Night we learnt all about Guy Fawkes, created some lovely bonfire pictures and made edible sparklers! To celebrate the festival of Diwali, we tasted some Indian foods, made Diva lamps and created rangoli patterns.

This half term, **Class 1** also won the best dressed Christmas classroom. We enjoyed hot chocolate, milkshake and candy canes as a treat!



## Junior Safety Officers (JSO's)

During our first term of taking on the role of JSO's we have been very busy doing lots of jobs. Our first job was labelling school jumpers and cardigans. We stood on the playground and wrote names into uniform as we wanted to ensure that no more uniform gets put into lost and found. Our

second job was to hold a firework safety competition. We asked everyone to design fireworks and sparklers to remind them to keep safe on Bonfire night and wear gloves when handling sparklers. The winner for November's competition was Olivia from year 6. Amazing, well done!

By Holly & Dottie



# St Edward's Catholic Primary School

## Mental Health Ambassadors

This is our first term of being Mental Health Ambassadors, we have enjoyed every minute. Our role is to increase mental health across the whole of school. Our first idea was to create a kindness tree using handwritten hearts from each child in school. We also stood on the gate and handed out some kindness hearts to parents, it was lovely to see so many smiles on parents faces as much as the childrens. During November we started our Christmas Classroom decorating competition which was a huge success. Congratulations to the winners of Class 1. They received their prize of a milkshake making station and because everyone had made such an amazing effort we gave everyone a chocolate lolly for taking part. There was such a buzz around school, it certainly gave all children's mental health a boost this month.

By Isobel & Alice

## School Council News (In their own words...)

"This term we have done a poppy sale, had ketchup on a Friday for the past few days we have been doing a Christmas stationary with stamps, books and much more!!!"

"First, we sold things that related to remembrance such as pins, slapbands and key chains. Next, school council decided to have tomato sauce on Fridays. Finally, we did a stationary sale to raise money. We ended up making over £100!"

"At St. Edward's school council this half term, we have done things like selling poppies, adding ketchup to school lunches, mental health care boards and gaining over £100 in a stationary sale. As school council we have been meeting to think of our next action to take."

"This year in school council we have done: mental health bracelets, poppy sale and tomato ketchup. And even raised more than £100!"

## Holidays in term time

We are starting to see improvements and you have received the attendance letter from Halton Borough Council. The number of families taking holidays in September after the summer break has decreased. The judgement of not authorising any 'holidays' and any subsequent fines is not led by school but is a Government stipulation, which school's must adhere to and administer.

## Punctuality

Thanks to all families who have been signing your children in at the office when the school gates have closed at 8.50am. Remember that you can drop off from 8.40am as teachers already have learning activities set up from this time and teaching begins at 8.50am. Phonics begins daily at 9am. If children arrive after 8.50am they are missing valuable learning time.

## Friends of St. Edward's

Many thanks to the Friends of St. Edward's for organising our Christmas toy sale. We really appreciate all parents' donations and support for this event. If you could spare some time to help planning or running these events the group would be hugely grateful. The sale raised over £300!

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days Absence 1 week & 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days Absence 3 weeks & 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days Absence 5 weeks & 3 days of learning missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days Absence 7 weeks & 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days Absence 9 weeks & 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Christmas bingo - 6pm	17 <sup>th</sup> December
KS2 Carols & Readings - 2pm	18 December
Christmas party - AM	20 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>FINISH FOR CHRISTMAS - 1.30pm</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> December
School reopens for Spring - 8.50am	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Parking:

This continues to be an issue at either end of the school day. However, the situation is made worse by regular incidents of rude and aggressive behaviour from parents and carers, usually in front of children.

**Dropping off or parking on the zigzags is illegal, as is parking across the crossing areas.**

Several cars are in the habit of pulling up outside the car park gates - this is still a no park zone and blocks the path. Please be mindful and courteous of how you park to enable as many people as possible to park safely around you.

We have had multiple complaints from residents who have taken car registration plates to report to the police. Please do not park across their driveways.

## KEEP IN TOUCH AND UP TO DATE

Check our school website for key information: [www.stedwardscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stedwardscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk)

School Twitter	@edward_primary
Miss McGimpsey	@StEdwards_C1
Miss McCulloch	@StEdwards_C2
Mrs Taylor / Mrs Bradshaw	@StEdwards_C3
Mr Bullock	@StEdwards_C4

## A Prayer for Families:



Dear Lord,

Please help my family to remember the true meaning of Christmas - the celebration of Your Son's birth. It was an event that transformed the world, and we ask that You help us to remember what Jesus' birth and life truly mean this Christmas season. Thank you, Lord, Amen

**On behalf of all the staff at St. Edward's, may I wish you a happy and a Holy Christmas.**

