



Learning and Caring Together,
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)



End of Autumn 2 letter to parents

19th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Christmas / Winter holiday is here already! As usual, the children (and staff) have worked tirelessly this half term and they are all ready for some quality time with family and friends.

We have had a lovely couple of weeks in school; including many events and activities led by our AMAZING PTFA. The children enjoyed shopping at ‘**Elfridges**’ and I’m sure many of you will have a surprise waiting for you to open on Christmas Day. Our weekend **wreath making workshop** was a huge success. Mrs Powell supported the PTFA by modelling her skills (thank you Mrs Powell) and I think we would win a ‘best dressed village’ with ease! The atmosphere at our **Christmas Fayre** was fantastic and enhanced by our academy choir showcasing their talents for all and the excitement and enjoyment of the children during the **pantomime** was a joy to see! Another highlight has been our **Nativity Performance**; the Butterflies and Bees wowed their audience with their confidence, singing and acting and I thank the EYFS Team for their commitment and dedication to our children.

Thursday was action packed too. The children took part in a **whole school orienteering event** where they used their knowledge, skills and teamwork to find Christmas games and activities, hot chocolate and stories by the campfire in the forest, and Santa Claus himself in our outdoor ‘big top’. Thank you Mr Carter for organising this special event for us.

Our **Christmas dinner** was delicious and enjoyed by the children (and staff) and I thank Naomi and her kitchen team and our lunchtime staff who made our lunchtime so special. The children wore their hand made hats with pride and used their personalised place mats for the occasion.

Our school break began after our **Early Years’ Nativity Service** in church yesterday. Thanks to those who attended with their children. As always, the children ‘did us proud’ as they reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas through actions, music and prayer. Thank you also to Mrs Best, Mrs Huckfield and, of course, Revered Diane, who led the service and to all other staff and parents who attended to help and/or share the occasion with their families.

Thursday ended with a **special performance** for the children who thoroughly enjoyed seeing the staff having sensible fun! The staff team sang a special version of ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’. I apologise in advance if we are short staffed after Christmas as, if Hollywood gets to hear about our acting skills, we may be head hunted for a new career path, with Miss Gratton as our Director (thank you Miss Gratton).

In other news this half term, I could not have been prouder of our **'Songbirds'** (after school choir club) who performed at The Victoria Hall. Their behaviour was exemplary and their singing second to none. Thank you Mrs Huckfield for leading Songbird's at St Edward's and to Mr Warrington for giving up his evening to support the children too!

Though we continually teach about appropriate/inappropriate behaviours through our Academy Values, we focussed on this as part of **Anti-Bullying Week**, with a focus on speaking up and 'calling out' and speaking to trusted adults. The children deepened their understanding by learning different ways in which people may be bullied, e.g. in relation to disability, gender, ethnicity or age.' Thank you Mrs Clifford, for raising awareness and this contribution to our children's personal development.

The books the children made at home and sent in for our **Community Library** (Book Nest to Take Away) are now displayed proudly and the photographs of children reading to animals are displayed throughout school. Thank you to those who contributed and for valuing reading as a pleasurable hobby and an essential life skill as much as we do! Thanks to Mrs Hordern, Miss Fowler-Hill and Miss Upton for flying the reading flag for St Edward's! The next exciting development is our **willow reading areas** in each classrooms (thank you PTFA for buying these for us). Watch this space!

Once again, the **swimming pool** on site has been enjoyed by all of the children. It was so rewarding to see confident swimmers (who clearly swim as part of home activities) and less confident children grow and learn to enjoy being in water. Again, thanks to our PTFA who supported us with financing the costs of the pool; we couldn't afford this experience for our children without them.

I can't thank you all enough for your support with all of our **fundraising** efforts, particularly when everyone has their own challenges with the rises in the cost of living, in addition to our appreciation for your support of our PTFA events and Children in Need. The British Legion were also very appreciative of your donations for Poppies and 'Scope' were overwhelmed with your generosity too.

As always, thank you for your appreciative comments and feedback regarding our provision and care at St Edward's. As part of SUAT (our trust) quality assurance monitoring, all schools have a termly **Education Improvement Partner Visit** and I am really pleased to share some feedback with you. Our robust school evaluations and development plans/priorities, cycle of whole school curriculum refinements, learning environments, Early Years provision, inclusive practice, approach to mental health and wellbeing, personal development and behaviour were all reviewed and identified as strong elements of provision and care at St Edward's.

Before I get carried away and write another three pages, remember to keep up to date with what your child/ren are learning through Class Dojo and our **website** where you will also be able to see photos in our gallery. With very best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas for you all!

Mrs Machin
Principal

