



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

### End of Spring Term letter to parents

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,



Day light hours may be getting longer but how the time still flies! I can't believe we are at the end of the Spring Term once more, and bet that you can't either!

As usual, the Spring Term has provided our children with a high quality education and care. Validation received through our SUAT Education Improvement Partner termly visits, our LAC Link school visit reports and your feedback is appreciated and has been well received by the dedicated staff team at St Edward's. I am proud of them all and the impact they have on children's outcomes, day in and day out.

The feedback we received regarding our communication between home and school has been extremely positive. It is pleasing to know that you keep up to date with what your child/ren are learning and the expertise, information and news we share through **Dojo**, our **website**, **Social Media** and our **newsletters**.

Re-reading Mrs Huckfield's Community Newsletters (copied below) reiterates just how much 'extra' goes on at St Edward's in one term! The children have extended their knowledge and understanding and used their values as they have engaged in **National Storytelling Week**, **Children's Mental Health Week**, **Fairtrade Fortnight**, **Safer Internet Day**, performed at our Academy Trust (SUAT) **Annual Conference** and enjoyed a **dance and drama workshop**, as part of our **Alice in Wonderland World Book Day** celebration. We have also shared the fabulous experiences the children have had on their **educational visits to Manchester Airport (EYFS)**, **The World Museum in Liverpool (KS2)** and how proud we are of the Year 1 children who led a **Sunday Church Service** about love this term.

And the Spring Term experiences didn't stop there! The children watched and interacted in a **live music performance**, learned about the importance of sleep on **World Sleep Day**, applied and improved their knowledge during **Science Week** and had a fantastic day during our recent **whole school maths problem solving event**. Key Stage One have also visited Newcastle College for a **Lego Workshop** in recent weeks, where I had the privilege of seeing and hearing the children using and applying their design and coding skills first hand!

After such lovely things to share, I don't want to end my letter on a negative note so will say this here. I have been extremely disappointed to hear that, since reintroducing our educational visits post Covid, coach drivers have experienced verbal abuse from parents/carers of St Edward's on two occasions. I am sure that the vast majority will agree that this is unacceptable. I have advised that coach companies provide registration numbers of vehicles and descriptions of pedestrians if this should happen again. As you will appreciate, it is extremely difficult for coaches to access our school and it would be a real shame if they refuse to provide their services due to a couple of disrespectful people. If you have any concerns about the way in which coaches are being driven, please follow appropriate means and report this to our school office and/or the coach company.

Now back to positives... Our **PTFA** are very much valued as part of our team at St Edward's and are 'part of the furniture' in school. Their fundraising efforts are well publicised (thank you for supporting them and us through these) and they do far more besides too. They are always willing to lend a helping hand and volunteer within school. The parent members work enthusiastically and tirelessly and I can never thank them enough for all they do.

As I near the end of my letter, I am delighted to let you know that we will be having two new members of support staff join our staff team next term; Mrs Talks and Ms Shimmen. They have already demonstrated that their ethos and values align with ours and I am sure you will see how their recruitment is an asset to the children's provision and care. My final news is also positive, though sad too. Mr Cooke, our Site Technician, will be leaving us today for a position in another school and Mrs Clifford will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term. She has been a much valued teacher at St Edward's for many years; joining as a Newly Qualified Teacher and progressing to Senior Leadership. Mrs Clifford has accepted a promotional opportunity and will be taking on the role of Deputy Head Teacher at a large primary school in Stoke-on-Trent. Mrs Clifford has taught and/or been involved in the education and care of so many children, past and present, and I know that you will join us in wishing her all the best for her final term with us and her future career.

Our final week of the Spring Term has focussed on The Easter Story and the reasons we reflect and celebrate as Christians at this time of year. Our Christian Council led our **Easter Service** in church yesterday and I was so impressed with their leadership and maturity; what an excellent service! The children have had Easter fun too. The **EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade** was a display to be seen (thank you to those who contributed and attended) and there have been Easter egg hunts taking place in school today; a HUGE thank you to our Parish Council and PTFA for providing the children's Easter eggs; what a treat for them!

I end by thanking you all for your continued support and partnership working with us at St Edward's. Your floral contributions for our Easter Cross have resulted in an amazing display for our community to share and enjoy over the Easter break.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter and I will see you all soon!

Mrs Machin  
Principal



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools  
2019-2022





## St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton Community Newsletter March 2023

During the afternoon of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February, the children from our school choir performed at the SUAT Conference held at Staffordshire University. They performed three songs alongside children from two other schools in our MAT; St Luke's, Endon and Horton St Michael's, Rudyard. We were very proud of how well the children performed, not least in their confidence to sing on stage in front of a large audience. We are looking forward to future performances, both in and out of school, to make up for the time lost during lockdown of this valuable experience.

During the first week back after half term, our EYFS children (Nursery and Reception) visited the Manchester Airport Runway Experience. What a wonderful experience this was! Throughout the day, they were able to watch aeroplanes taking off and landing, including the 'double decker' plane. They also saw 'Concorde' and learnt that it could fly at a top speed of 1350MPH! They visited a decommissioned plane called the DC10 aircraft and all enjoyed visiting the cockpit and pretending to be a pilot! They also learnt about other important airport jobs, such as the cabin crew, air traffic control and firefighters.

Our KS2 children have also engaged in an educational visit this half term having visited the World Museum in Liverpool. They experienced a 'Mummification Process' theatre workshop where they were able to make links with their current history learning and had the opportunity to further their knowledge and understanding through discovering more facts about how the Egyptians used this process. They also explored the rest of the Museum, including the Aquarium, Ancient Egypt, Endangered Planet, and the Space and Time rooms. Another wonderful opportunity enabling our children to experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we celebrated World Book Day. This year, we focused on the theme of 'Alice in Wonderland'. We began our celebrations on the Wednesday when we took part in a dance and drama workshop to help us bring the story and characters to life. On the Thursday, the children and staff were invited to dress as a character or make a prop linked to this story. We were so impressed by the amazing effort that had gone into the costumes and props which really helped to enhance the day. We had a fun-filled day of parades, baking jam tarts, art, drama, using our inference skills and script writing. We also invited the children to bring in any copies of the story from home so that we could look at how the front covers and illustrations have changed over time, and to appreciate that there can be different versions of the same story.



At the beginning of March, we also recognised Fairtrade Fortnight. In our worship, we discussed what Fairtrade is and how it supports farmers and workers across the world to get a fair price for their produce. We also looked at ways in which we can help to make a difference in looking after and caring for our planet. We invited our children and their families to look out for the fairtrade logo when shopping and to consider purchasing fairtrade items.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March, our Year 1 children led a service at St Edward's church on the theme of 'love'. Our 'Superheroes' helped to spread the important message that love is the greatest superpower. Many thanks to Rev'd Carol for presiding at this service and to the church community for, once again, providing such a warm welcome. In the words of one of the children's favourite songs, 'Magic Penny, "Love is something if you give it away, you'll end up having more."





## St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton Community Newsletter February 2023

On return to school in January, we welcomed a new intake of Nursery children who have settled in so well. We are very proud of the existing Nursery children who have used our school values of COMPASSION to be welcoming and make new friends, and RESPONSIBILITY in being super role models.

January also brought us some snow which resulted in school having to be closed for a day. Each Key Stage sent out some activities to help the children learn by having fun in the snow. For example, our Early Years children were encouraged to write their name in the snow, make and count snowballs, create a snowy picture and investigate ways to melt the snow. In KS1, the children were invited to think about their current class text, 'The Queen's Hat', and where the hat may have ended up in snowy Cheddleton. They were also encouraged to develop their throwing skills by aiming snowballs at a target. KS2 were tasked with applying their learning of money to play 'shop' at home and to use a given price list to complete orders for their family. They were also encouraged to think about the forces that would be at work to enable their sledges to glide across the snow. We also saw lots of photos of wonderful snowmen made by the children and their families on ClassDojo (our online home/school communication platform).



On arrival to school the following day, our Nursery and Reception children spotted some footprints in the snow on their playground and quickly set about trying to work out who the footprints could belong to. This provoked lots of ideas based on previous learning. Children in the Nursery said the prints were too big to be a cat or a dog. One of the children in Reception said it couldn't be a polar bear because they live in the Arctic. It was finally decided that it was a fox who sheltered under the wooden climbing frame.



The week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> January was National Storytelling Week. We used the story of 'The Truly Magic Porridge Pot' across the whole school as our story for this week. At the start of the week, the children followed a magical trail of glitter and porridge oats which led them to the school hall where the magical porridge pot had cascaded everywhere! The children spent the week picking out interesting vocabulary, creating story plans and writing their own versions of the story, several of which were chosen to be shared with the whole school at the end of the week.

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February. This year's theme was 'Let's Connect' which highlighted how healthy connections to family, friends and others can support our mental health and wellbeing. The children engaged in mindful stretching, created a 'staying connected' paper chain and reflected on how we can support our own mental health and that of others too.



This was a busy week as on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, we also marked Safer Internet Day. 'Safer internet day is a chance to think about any worries we might have about using technology and the internet, but it's also about celebrating all the fantastic things technology can help us with.' This year's theme was 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations online'. The children completed a variety of activities which supported their understanding of how to keep safe online, including the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they faced any troubles online.





## St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton Community Newsletter January 2023

Happy New Year to you all from everyone at St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton! As we look forward to our hopes of what 2023 will bring, we thought we would take the opportunity to reflect on our achievements and celebrations from our last half term.

The beginning of November saw the return of the swimming pool on our school site which was, once again, thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children. It was so rewarding to witness the children's enjoyment, achievements and, for many, their growth in both their confidence and swimming ability. We are extremely grateful to our PTFA for their financial support of such a worthwhile experience.

The week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> November was Anti-Bullying Week where we focused on what to do if we are bullied or witness bullying, and learnt a song about 'calling out'. We had an 'odd socks day' to help us celebrate everyone's differences. We also elected wellbeing ambassadors to represent each class in school. This week was also Inter-faith Week where we looked at how different religious festivals use light to show how the light always shines through the darkness and reflected on the words from the story 'God's Dream' - "God dreams that every one of us will see that we are all brothers and sisters...Even if we speak different languages or have different ways of talking to God."

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, our school choir took part in the City Songbirds Christmas Concert at The Victoria Hall, Hanley. They joined with other schools from Stoke-on-Trent to form a massed choir, performing to a large audience. We were extremely proud of them, not just for their fantastic singing, but also for the exemplary behaviour they displayed throughout. Our choir also showcased their talents at our school Christmas Fayre.

At the beginning of December, our Christian Council launched an appeal on behalf of the 'Scope' charity where they asked our school community for donations of good quality toys and books which were in high demand at the local Leek store at this time. The volunteers at the Leek Scope store were overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community and were extremely grateful for the kind donations received. In our school worship we reflected upon how small acts of kindness can make a huge difference.



Throughout December, we shared many wonderful experiences and activities to help us celebrate Christmas. In addition to supporting the funding of the swimming pool, our PTFA also funded a visiting theatre group to perform the pantomime, 'Cinderella', which provided much joy and excitement! We held a whole school orienteering event where the children used their knowledge, skills and teamwork to find Christmas games and activities, hot chocolate and stories by the firepit in our forest area, and discovered Santa in our outdoor 'big top'! This was followed by our Christmas dinner where the children wore their handmade Christmas hats and used their handmade personalised place mats.

Our Early Years children performed the nativity to their parents/carers and families, wowing their audiences with their confidence, singing and acting. It was a particularly busy time for our Early Years children as they also led the Christmas Crib Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December alongside Rev'd Diane, once again doing us proud with their speaking, actions and singing.



We couldn't end without thanking our church communities for their continued support. The Methodist Team provided a fantastic Christmas Hope Journey Event for our Year 2 children and KS2 had a wonderful festive bread baking session with Chaplain Pam.

We are looking forward to sharing more exciting news with you all throughout 2023!