



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

21st December 2023

AUTUMN TERM LETTER

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we finish the Autumn term for the Christmas holidays, I am writing to reflect on and share some of what we have been up to in school.

Although this has been a longer term, time still seems to fly when it comes to school! Our **‘new to school’ arrivals** are now fully fledged members of our academy and really are a credit to their/your families. We will be welcoming our January intake children after the Christmas break and I know our wonderful children will be friendly, kind and excellent role models for them as they settle into ‘learning and caring together’ at St Edward’s.

Reflecting on our term always makes me so very proud! Our Autumn **Education Improvement Partner** visit was really positive and quality assured our good and outstanding evaluations of the provision and care we provide at St Edward’s. My staff team really do go above and beyond to ensure that St Edward’s provides the best education and experiences and I thank them publically, within my letter to you, for all they do. **National Teaching Assistants’ Day** and **National Teachers’ Day** this term also gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation, with our TA’s enjoying tea and cake at the Tea Rooms and our Teachers enjoying a special breakfast. Your feedback shows how much you appreciate them too and this really does mean a lot.

It was a privilege to welcome our EYFS parents to our **‘Watch me Learn in Provision’** and all other year groups to our **‘Watch me Learn Forestry’** this term. As always, the feedback from these sessions tells us how informative they are and how much you value the opportunity to see and work with your children in school.

Our democratic **School, Eco and Christian Council elections** took place this term with meetings and actions now in full swing. They are continuing their leadership work in supporting the [United Nations Goals for Sustainable Development](#) this year; keep your eyes posted for their newsletters to keep up with their incredible leadership.



We have reflected on and celebrated **World Democracy Day, National Respect Day, Social Media Kindness Day, National Children's Day, International Tolerance Day** and **Dyslexia Awareness Week**, all within one term and 'above and beyond' the requirements of the National Curriculum!

Our **Year 2 Sunday Harvest Service, Year 3 Remembrance Service and Early Years' Crib Service** have been other highlights this term; it was so lovely to be as one with the community as we gave thanks and praise for God's gifts at harvest and the gift of Jesus at Christmas time too.

We have introduced our **Star Writer Pencils and Pen Licences** this term and, my goodness, have they made a difference to the children's motivation, perseverance and pride in their work. Please continue to encourage and practise with your children at home as they are thrilled to be presented with them as part of our weekly Celebration Assembly! The more frequent **Sibling Sessions** have been very well received and our very own **Rocksteady Band** has filled the school with music, singing and laughter; how lovely!

In terms of our Christmas activities, our **Songbirds** set the tone with their amazing performance at The Victoria Hall and the fun and festivities have continued since then. What would we do without **our fantastic PTFA** and the support you show at their events? **The Christmas Fair** was a fantastic, community occasion and raised all important funds for the 'extras' our children receive. An example of the use of funding was the subsidised whole school trip to The New Vic to see **The Nutcracker**. What a magical morning we had making memories to last a lifetime and providing the opportunity to develop a passion for theatre and the arts!

Our '**Christmas Eve in school**' was another lovely day with stories, hot chocolate and a gathering to sing **carols around the tree** together, hear our **Songbirds** sing and our **bell ringers** play. Thank you to all who joined us. If all the above wasn't enough, Wednesday was **Christmas dinner** (Thank you kitchen team!), a visit to see **Santa** (who had made time for us because he is soooo impressed with how we demonstrate our school values through our words and actions) and **parties** in our classrooms. The children *should* sleep well at the weekend and are well and truly ready for the main events with families and friends!

Finally, I wish Mrs Best all the very best for her retirement. The messages she received were a reflection of just how much she was thought of and will be missed by all.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and start to 2024 and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 9th January.



Mrs S. Machin
Principal

