



St Edmund's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools



Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds,
IP33 1QG. 01284 755141
office@st-edmunds.suffolk.sch.uk
www.st-edmunds.suffolk.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Maria Kemble
Chair of Governors: Mr I Cameron

Beaconsfield Road, Sudbury,
CO10 1JP. 01787 373365
admin@st-josephs.suffolk.sch.uk
www.st-josephs.suffolk.sch.uk

Thursday 16th July 2026

Dear Parents,

As the end of term rapidly approaches, I wanted to take the opportunity to say farewell to you all. As you will be aware from Mrs Kemble's communication earlier this term, this week marks the end of my time at St Edmunds.

Having been fortunate enough to serve the St Edmunds community for the past 21 years, these final weeks have provided an opportunity to reflect on my time here with great fondness and to create a few more treasured memories to add to the memory bank.

When I first joined St Edmunds in 2005, we were a first school. Over the past two decades, I have had the privilege of being part of an incredible journey as the school evolved into a full primary school, welcomed a preschool under the leadership of our Governing Body, and most recently saw the addition of The Nest SEND Unit, helping to make our school community truly complete.

For many of you, I have had the pleasure of seeing several of your children grow, thrive and progress through St Edmunds before moving on to secondary school. It has always been wonderful to hear about the achievements of former pupils and discover the paths they have gone on to follow. Only recently did we welcome back several past pupils who visited the summer fayre; a lovely opportunity to reconnect and hear how they are getting on. With my very first cohort of pupils now firmly established in the world of work, I still find it hard to believe that they were once eight and nine-year-olds in my classroom. Where does the time go? For others of you, I have only more recently had the opportunity to support your child at the beginning of their educational journey. Either way, it has been a privilege to play a part in their development.

An important part of my day in school is beginning each morning by greeting members of our school community on the playground. Making a friendly connection with your child, checking in when someone appears to be having a difficult start to the day, and offering a cheerful smile to families each morning are things I will miss enormously in my daily routine.

My time at St Edmunds has given me countless memories to cherish: school productions; residential trips; fun in the 'splash zone', taking children to perform at the O2, The Apex and Snape Maltings; and supporting children as they stepped beyond their comfort zones to achieve something for the very first time. Nothing compares to seeing the smile on a child's face when they realise they have achieved something they once thought impossible.

Other special memories include accompanying children to visit our neighbours next door, sharing songs, games and laughter with residents, and witnessing the joy that children bring to older

"We learn together in God's love by encouraging and supporting one another."



generations. I have also felt immense pride standing alongside pupils as they have showed prospective parents around our school and represented our school in sporting events and community projects, including the creation of a themed garden at the Suffolk Show.

Naturally, there have also been challenging times. The Covid pandemic was undoubtedly one of the most significant. Home learning presented challenges for us all, but through a complete reimagining of what school could look and feel like, we found ways to maintain those vital connections with families through video calls, telephone conversations and socially distanced home visits. While those times were difficult, they also brought out the very best in our school community.

Everything we achieve as educators is made possible through strong partnerships with parents and carers. It has been a privilege to work in partnership with both families and staff to support the growth and development of our children. For me, the recent CSI inspection outcome, which recognised our pastoral care and commitment to supporting families as outstanding, is a testament to the dedication, compassion and professionalism of the staff team I have been fortunate to work alongside.

Our success in achieving the Platinum OPAL accreditation last term has been another highlight of my time at St Edmunds. Your support as parents throughout this transformative project has been incredible, and on behalf of the wider staff team, I thank you sincerely for it. Little did I know when we began our OPAL journey that I would find myself leading play assemblies by jumping out of a cardboard-box rocket, wearing a magician's cape, or sporting a mad professor's wig while prospective parents and visitors were welcomed into school! If you cannot lead by example in a playful way as the Head of School of an OPAL school, then something must be seriously wrong!

Thank you for your kind words of appreciation, your smiles, and the many moments of humour we have shared over the years. I believe teaching is a vocation, and none of us enter the profession expecting thanks or recognition. However, those small words and acts of kindness often mean more than you may realise.

I leave St Edmunds with immense heartfelt gratitude and many treasured memories. As I say goodbye, my hope is that St Edmunds continues to be a place where every child and every family feel valued, supported and loved. These words from St Paul perfectly capture the spirit of our school community and the way I have always hoped to serve it: *"Let all that you do be done in love."* 1 Corinthians 16:14.

I wish every member of our school community the very best for the future and sincerely hope I receive an invitation to return and enjoy a school production or two from the audience!

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Katie Copeman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Copeman