



ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL
CANTERBURY



24th November 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As promised, further to my write up of the Michaelmas Concert last week, I have included some of the lovely photos of the Junior School children's performances in this week's newsletter. They capture the essence of a fabulous evening well, and give me the opportunity to give my congratulations once more to everyone who performed and to all of our wonderful music staff.

This week, we held a special assembly on Thursday where many of the children shared the work they had done the week before as part of Anti-Bullying Week. The children shared poems and posters and Mme Dieppedalle explained why we had chosen to mark Anti-Bullying Week this year and Rev'd Bennett read a though provoking prayer. We finished the assembly with the whole school community



joining together to sing a rousing rendition of "This is Me!" from the movie "The Greatest Showman".

I was very impressed by the maturity and thoughtfulness with which all of the children approached their work, and there were some wonderful poems and even a song submitted to Mme Dieppedalle as part of her competition to mark Anti-Bullying Week.



This week, my Head's Line saw not one, but two musical performances. Firstly Ava Giffin (F7) started with a lyrical performance of Edelweiss on her flute, before Alexander Strzeminski-Bowden (F4) played his violin, performing his Grade 1 piece confidently even though he was feeling unwell. My congratulations go to them both.



Form 3 Make a Recipe for a Good Friend

In Form 3, as part of Anti-Bullying Week, we talked about friendly and unfriendly behaviour. We then thought what makes someone a good friend. To link with our Literacy work on recipes we turned all of these characteristics into a list of ingredients and combined our ideas to make a class poem.

A book of sharing	(Emma)
A giggle of joyfulness	(Lucy)
A houseful of loyalty	(Josie)
A cauldron of listening	(Ana)
A tray of kindness	(Louis)
A pinch of generosity	(Niamh)
A box of cuddles	(Mya)
A handful of funniness	(Jamie)
A km of friendliness	(Olivia)
A ton of laughter	(Mael)
A handful of thumbs up	(George)
A pinch of patience	(Alice)
A jugful of happiness	(Dino)
A swimming pool of care	(Charlotte)
A teaspoon of entertainment	(Oscar)
A scoop of love	(Sancy)
A bucketful of smiles	(Thomas)
A spoonful of jokes	(Mya)
A hatful of tricks	(Josie)
A galaxy of playfulness	(Lucy)

AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES A GOOD FRIEND

Form 5's Collective Anti-Bullying Poem

Form 5 spent time on PSHEE discussing behaviours which do and do not constitute bullying. They then wrote an acrostic poem to sum up their ideas.

A bully should not copy from their own past experiences of trauma.
 Name calling is nasty – it makes people feel extremely sad.
 Tormenting others is the worst way to make them fill up with misery and mournfulness.
 Identifying hurtful thinking is preventing bullying.

Bunt words cut like a knife – they sting, they hurt so think before you say nasty words.
 Unhappy children slouching around not making a sound. Anti-bullying week is the best so don't rest.
 Laugh out loud if you can't take it no longer. You should think for their feelings first.
 Listen and learn before it is too late! Language is a big problem so link up to be friendly!
 Year in year out it doesn't end. I try to stop but it depends I'm too scared I don't know what to do! Could you help me, could you?
 Identifying hurtful thinking for preventing bullying.
 Negative name calling is not tolerated ever.
 Goodwill will come across you if you don't bully.



School House Celebrate Setayesh's Birthday



School House held a celebration for Setayesh (F7) this week to celebrate her 12th birthday. It was lovely to see how she was made to feel special by her boarding family!

St Edmund's embark on research into gender balance in computer science

We cannot go far without reading or hearing about gender disparity or imbalance in industry, and why this may be the case. Having recently read an article on the World Economic Forum shared by Miss Barnes that discusses why a gender gap exists in Computer Science (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/heres-why-theres-a-gender-gap-in-computer-science>), it provides thought provoking material. It is already noticeable at St Ed's how the children in Junior School challenge gender stereotyping, wishing to blur the lines that were once drawn within this area.

We are really pleased to announce that we are going to be part of a nationwide project on tackling the imbalance in computer science. The project will involve adopting a particular teaching method when teaching pupils how to program. Instead of working alone, pupils will be paired, using one computer. Pupils will frequently swap from playing the driver and navigator, ensuring equal time is spent in both roles.

Pair programming is method that has been used in industry for approximately two decades and many companies report on seeing positives such as less bugs in the code, happier team environment and perhaps most surprisingly, it is a more efficient process. In academia, it has been found to improve the engagement and enjoyment for girls. Little evidence is found for any positive or negative effects for boys.

As the project is externally sponsored by the Department for Education, and parents/guardians will have the option to opt out so that no data is shared. As we draw closer to the project start date, we will be in touch with those that are affected, providing further information and privacy notices.

Eliana's Red Carpet Success



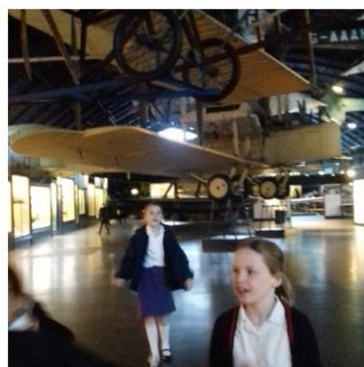
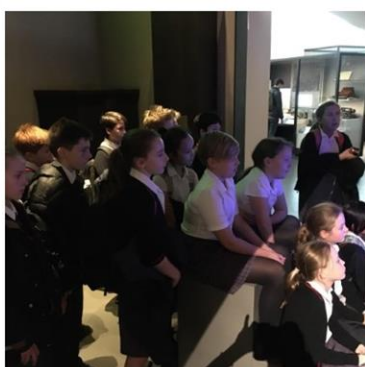
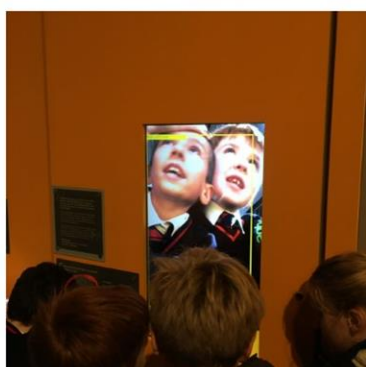
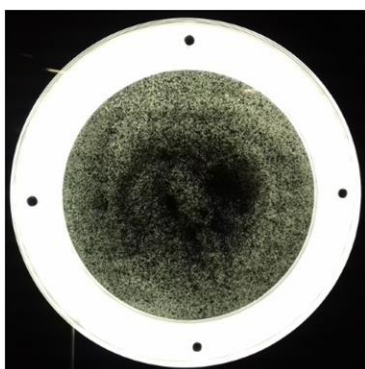
This weekend Eliana (F4) went to a red carpet film screening at Cineworld in Ashford. She goes to Pauline Quirke Academy every Saturday to do classes in film and television, musical theatre and comedy and drama.

The screening was to showcase the films made by PQA over the past two years. There were multiple stars in front of and behind the camera and her age group won a highly commended award for their short film called "The Emoji Glitch".



Form 6 Visit the Science Museum

In spite of an early start for many of our Form 6 (and their responsible adults!), they had an information packed day! They started with a trip through 'The Secret Life of the Home', discovering how many everyday household items work both today and yesteryear. The biggest attraction was perhaps Pong, which many will be aware of it being something other than a bad smell. They then discovered many fascinating facts visiting the 'Ciphers and Cyber Security' exhibition, for example how during the Cold War, Russian spies used a microdot system, hidden in everyday objects, that could only be read with a special telescope. They also saw how GCHQ dispose of computers, taking security so seriously that computers are ground to a dust. Can you guess which picture this is? There was so much to take in and do, all of the children found something to spark their interest as we visited different parts of the museum including the 'Driverless' exhibition. Two exhibits were particularly popular with them; the camera sensor technology and the moral judgment test (which group of people would you program a car to mortally wound). This particular tool brings to light the biases we humans have and how that can be passed on to machines, without consciously being aware. If you would like to take a closer look at the tool, please visit <http://moralmachine.mit.edu/> and start judging! A big thank you to parents and guardians for getting up early and being patient with the trip's return, and also to Miss Barnes who organised the trip and Mrs Crocombe who accompanied it.





Form 4 Talk About Teeth

Over the last week Form 4, as part of their Science work about teeth and eating, have been conducting an investigation into the effects of different liquids (water, milk, no added sugar squash, Coke and vinegar) on enamel. To do this they used hard boiled eggs with the shell mimicking the enamel on teeth. They discussed fair testing and the ways in which they could ensure their investigation was fair. The eggs were placed in jam jars and covered with enough liquid to reach the top of the egg and were left in the jars for five days. Each day, at the same time, the eggs were checked and any changes to the shell logged into a table.

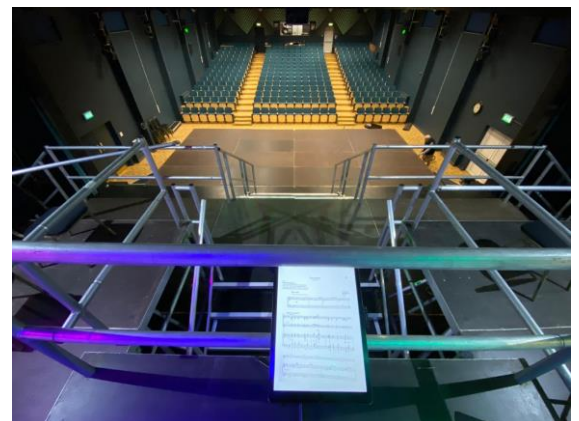
The children made predictions as to which they thought would cause the most decay and were very surprised to discover which liquid caused the most decay of the enamel!

On Friday morning Dr Rogers, one of our Form 4 parents who is a dentist, came in to talk to Form 4 about how to care for their teeth and prevent decay. The children were fascinated to learn about the bacteria that cause decay and how very tiny they are; $\frac{1}{500}$ of the width of a human hair! They learnt about brushing technique and how long to brush for to make certain a full job has been done. Dr Rogers had also prepared an amazing display that showed the children just how much sugar is in some of the things they might eat and drink. For each item there was a bag into which had been put the weight of sugar in the food or drink. The children (and adults) were shocked by some of the amounts; a share bag of Haribo 89g, Tropicana orange juice 26g and Wotsits 24g! The children hugely enjoyed Dr Rogers' visit and learnt a lot. We are very grateful to Dr Rogers for the time and effort she put into coming in to speak to us.



A Bird's Eye View!

The Junior School children have been very excited to see the thrust stage and the set go up ahead of the Senior School production of "Chicago" this coming week. We wish the Senior School performers all the very best of luck. Mr Swatman shared this view of the theatre from where the band will be seated. We've told him to make sure he doesn't fall off his platform!



School House Boarders' Trip to Clip and Climb

Last weekend, our Saturday Boarders' Trip went to Clip and Climb in Dover. My thanks go to Mrs Bradley and Mrs Ward who took the trip – I think that the children had a great deal of fun! Mrs Bradley tells me that Bethany Stringer (F8) was so agile and determined to climb the wall in under 26 sections, which she did. The staff from Clip and Climb commented on how well behaved and polite the children were. I am proud of them for being such super ambassadors for St Ed's.



Parent Focus Groups

This week I started my Parent Focus groups for this academic year with a Form 3 parent Focus group. Next week I will be meeting with parents from Form 4. I ask Mrs King to invite a mixture of parents including parents of boys, parents of girls, parents of new children and long standing families of the school and it is a super opportunity to hear how parents are feeling about what is happening within their year group. My aim is that all parents will be invited to at least one Parent Focus group during their child's time in the Junior School. The Canon Missioner from the Cathedral, Emma Pennington and I also held our first Chorister Parent Committee meeting on Friday afternoon. This is a new venture between the Cathedral and St Edmund's to ensure that Chorister Parents have a chance to discuss all aspects of their boys' lives from both a school and a Cathedral perspective. I am very grateful to all parents who have attended these sessions.



Junior School Sport

Our Junior School PE Department are always passionate about getting as many children as possible to participate in team sports' fixtures and demonstrate excellent sportsmanship. However, although participation is undoubtedly extremely important, we have been able to celebrate some notable successes again this week.

With our U12/13 boys busy with fixtures this week, it was left mainly to the girls to lead the way at the district cross country. Once again our 18 runners gave their all with notable performances from Daisy Baker (F7) finishing 9th in a field of 60, and Joseph Gormley 8th in the boys' race. Adam Whitlock (F8), finished a great 4th and Tom Blunt 14th, running with F9 boys. These children have now qualified for county trials after Christmas.

A detailed report will follow shortly once all school fixtures are completed next week, but it gives me great pleasure to congratulate our fantastic Under 13 boys' football team who completed a league and cup double season this week, winning 4-0 away to Northbourne Park. It is our 3rd league win in 10 years, but to remain unbeaten in 10 school fixtures is the true reflection of the quality of the squad. Mrs Southey tells me that a superb effort from Samson Buck immediately before the final whistle cued wild celebrations!

The Under 11 boys' football squad also remain unbeaten and need to win their 2 remaining fixtures to clinch their league. Their convincing 6-1 win also against Northbourne Park continued their impressive development as a young group of boys across both F5/6 age groups. I was however slightly put out that when I had to go back to my office for a meeting at half time, I left the team leading with a 1-0 score. I can't believe that I missed another 4 great goals from our talented boys.

The Under 11 girls' hockey squad are probably our most improved players of the term and once again proved to be a dominant squad with some convincing wins against Lorenden on Wednesday. Perhaps going unnoticed are our U13 girls team who also remain unbeaten this term and go into their final fixtures next week determined to finish on high note with netball on the horizon.

In Mr Penn's absence this week the music for the morning 'Wake Up and Shake Up' took a downturn. (Well, that is according to Mr Penn, anyway!) For those attending, they will have to wait another 2 weeks to return to normality and wake-up to Status Quo, as next week's session is not on due to other commitments but "Wake Up and Shake Up" will certainly run in the first week in December, in time for a little calorie burning ahead of the festive season!

My sincere thanks go to the PE Department who have wholeheartedly demonstrated the team spirit which they work to instil in the children, during Mr Penn's ongoing absence due to a knee injury.





Junior School Lunchtime Concert

We were treated to another impressive Junior School Lunchtime Concert on Tuesday this week. Performers were: Ben Coleman, Josh Coleman, Cesar Ntamushobora, James Hodgkinson, Ami Watters, Luca Routh, Charlie Alexander, Oliver Tesic, Cassius Preston and Rohan Lowe



Form 4 Bake Like Celts

On Friday, the Lower School was filled with the delicious smell of cooking bread. Form 4 had the opportunity to bake like a Celt! They ground some wheat using a pestle and mortar and were amazed how many kernels were needed to fill half a teaspoon of flour so appreciated how important it was for the Celts to have a successful harvest to enable them to survive the year. The children then made a dough using only plain flour and water and selected different herbs that were added to the mixture before finally frying the rounds on the hob. They were surprised how tasty the bread was and were interested to learn that in some areas of the world, bread is still made in the same way with the same ingredients.



Deadline for Scholarship Applications

The school runs a programme of scholarships at 11+ and 13+ and pupils may apply for these when they are in Form 6 and Form 8 respectively. Application deadlines are in January and the scholarship booklet is obtainable from Mrs King. Scholars will be pupils who demonstrate an unusually impressive commitment (in academia, sport, music, drama at 11+ and 13+ and also art at 13+), who perform significantly beyond the expectation for pupils of their age and who are well ahead of their St Edmund's peers in their chosen field. They must have potential to lead in their field in the years ahead. Parents wanting advice as to whether or not their child might be a viable scholarship candidate should contact Mrs King in the first instance and she will be able to arrange for the appropriate member of staff to give advice.

Best wishes,

Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School



Looking Ahead

Monday, 25th November, 7pm My School Portal: Parent Forum My School Portal is the School's new information and communication platform for parents, staff and pupils. MSP keeps parents fully up to date with school life and can be used to access pupils' reports and attendance data. It can also be used for emails, forms and the School Calendar.

As part of an environmental drive, we intend to stop sending out School reports and School Calendars from January. These documents will still be available on request from the School Office. Now that parents and guardians have had a little time to try MSP, we are interested to hear how you find it, to offer assistance with any technical or other queries, and to discuss the school's intention to become paperless from January. A Parents' Forum will be held in the School Chapel on Monday 25th November at 7:00pm.

Please note that this is a change of venue.

To log into MSP please click onto the link: <https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk> then use the email address that received this newsletter and your SchoolPost password or you can request a new password here: <https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk/request-password> The move to My School Portal will greatly improve the efficiency of our communications systems. If you experience any problems setting up MSP, please email aeb@stedmunds.org.uk.

Thursday 28th November, Home Clothes Day, Children may come into school in their Home Clothes on Thursday 28th November in exchange for a donation of brown paper or non-foiled recyclable paper for wrapping presents on the family present stall or a donation of chocolate (Galaxy, Aero or Daily Milk) for the Chocolate Bed.

Thursday 28th November-Saturday 30th November, Chicago Tickets and tables are still available for the Senior School production of Chicago. Tickets are on sale at £10 each and tables at £75 including two bottles of prosecco. Please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury

Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th December, St Edmund's Association Christmas present buying and wrapping for parents and family members in the library at lunchtime. More details to follow

Sunday 8th December, 2.30pm, School Big Band and 'Hullabaloo' St Edmund's Festival presents The St Edmund's School Big Band with special guests' Hullabaloo' for an afternoon of Swing, Big Band, Rock 'n' Roll, Jive and a touch of Christmas! Tickets £12/£8 are available will be available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury

Friday 13th December The St Edmund's Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 13th December. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the Fair after the end of the school day, choristers will be given the chance to attend before they leave school for Evensong.

Advance notice! Wear a Christmas jumper and raise money for the Pilgrims Hospices!

This year we again hope to raise money for our local Pilgrim's Hospice by wearing Christmas Jumpers for our Christmas lunch. These jumpers do not have to be expensive, shop-bought jumpers; children can decorate a plain jumper with tinsel, decorations or anything Christmassy! This year we are asking for a 'nod' to the hospice by adding the hospice logo, the hospice blue colour or any other imaginative little twist which shows we are supporting the hospice. We suggest a minimum of £1.00 donation and there will be a prize for the best jumpers in Upper and Lower Schools. It is really important that everyone gets into the Christmas spirit to raise money for our wonderful local charity. Children in Year 8 will also be given the option to wear a Christmas themed accessory if they do not want to wear a jumper, or in addition to their jumper.



Congratulations to:

Riley Chidwick, Sophie King, Lola Saunders, Poppy Duddy, Richard Do Carleton Moody, Ellis Hardy, Joran Kearney, Angus Henderson, Amber Wilkinson, Riya Thapa, Daisy Hollingsbee for gaining their Bronze star certificates.

Morgan Abbott, Penny Beck Evans for gaining their Silver star certificates.

Joran Kearney and Angus Henderson for gaining their Certificates of Excellence.

Josh Robinson for gaining his Certificate of Achievement.

Pick-up times:

Wed 27th Nov	Football	Kent College	U11 A,B,C,D	Home	3.45pm
Wed 27th Nov	Hockey	Dover College	U13 B,C	Home	3.45pm
Wed 27th Nov	Hockey	Spring Grove	U11 A,B	Away	4.30pm
Mon 25th Nov	Hockey	Kent College	U13 A & B	Away	4.30pm
Mon 25th Nov	Hockey	Kent College	U13 C & D	Home	4.30pm

A request from the Eco-Warriors

The Eco-Warriors have noticed that lots of people are leaving their engines on in their cars whilst they are waiting to collect their children. They are concerned about the additional pollution that this is potentially causing and they have requested that parents consider turning their engines off whilst they are waiting.

A Plea for Christmas Decorations

The St Edmund's Association (formerly Pre Prep and Junior School Parents' Association) are also looking for any old Christmas decorations you no longer have use for to decorate the Hall for the Fair. These can be left with Mrs King.

KRAN Christmas Shoeboxes

We are aiming to collect in all donations of shoeboxes to the male refugees looked after by the Kent Refugee Action Network by Friday 29th November. If you would like to donate a filled shoebox or items which could be placed into a shoebox, please hand in your donations to Mrs King in the Junior School office.

E-Safety: If parents have any concerns about their son or daughter's online security, they should immediately contact Ross Underwood Director of Safeguarding Lead & E-Safety Co-ordinator. He can either be called via the school office on 01227 475600 or emailed at rpu@stedmunds.org.uk