



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

6th September 2019

Dear Parents

The start of the new academic year has gone smoothly with the teachers and children settling back in very well. We have a number of new children in the Pre-Prep. In Ladybirds, we have Daisy, Ridaa, Isaac and Eva with Lucas, Ross and Finn joining us next week. In Honey Bees, we have Margot, Joanna and Isabella. I hope you will join the staff in welcoming them and their families to St Edmund's.

It was lovely to see all those who attended the Drinks Reception on Thursday evening. We also have a welcome tea on Friday 13th at 3:00pm. This will give you the chance to have some refreshments, catch up with other parents, visit the classroom and chat to the class teacher.

A number of people didn't think they had received the email about the gate code change which was sent on 3.9.19. It was the second message on the email so it may have been missed. Please let me know if you do not have the new code.

On Thursday 12th September, the children will have individual school photos taken. Please can you let me know by Wednesday 11th September if you would like a photo of your child taken with any siblings who attend St Edmund's, so we can make the arrangements.

If you would like to be a parent representative for your class this year please let me know. The duties entail arranging an email/telephone list for the class, helping with children's activities at various events and supporting me with serving refreshments at parent functions.

Best wishes

Head of Pre-Prep



Dragonflies

The Dragonflies have embraced the new school year with gusto! We have started our topic "Turrets and Tiaras" by creating our own Coat of Arms. The children worked carefully, showing their favourite hobbies, animals and family, selecting the colours thoughtfully with reference to the traditional heraldic colours. We read "The Sword in the Stone" and discussed whether it was fiction or non-fiction; the story inspired us to make our own cardboard swords - and the children performed a very well behaved, slow-motion sword fight!

Our Mathematics focused on ordering 2 digit numbers and the class used their skills to create an enormous 100 square - the children cleverly spotting patterns made by the tens and units. In English, we shared our scrapbooks and then wrote about our holidays; we made sure we impressed Mrs Sherwin by remembering our capital letters and full stops. Well done clever Dragonflies!

Mrs Sherwin



Crickets

It has been wonderful to welcome the Crickets back after the summer holidays and hear about their adventures. The children have happily come up the stairs and are beginning to show how organised and independent they can be by hanging up their bags and putting snack bags and reading books away. They began by agreeing class rules and talked about reasons why they needed these rules in the classroom and playground.

In maths, they have been ordering numbers and finding missing numbers. They have explored Numicon and matched it with number cards. By collaborating together, the class sorted out and sequenced cards and had to ask one another questions using the words 'more' and 'less'.

The class have enjoyed hearing and joining in with Nick Sharratt books. They have been predicting words and listening out for rhyming language. Their favourite books seem to be the "Pants" ones and they created a washing line of patterned pants! By using atlases, maps and Google, the class have looked at different countries or places they have visited and begun to hear names of different continents and oceans. A great start to the Michaelmas term!

Mrs Purnell



Honey Bees

The Honey Bees have had a wonderfully busy first week back, settling into their new classroom and busily making new friends. We began our academic year by painting superb self-portraits and then had fun designing and making our own tube bees ready for displaying.

We then took time together to think about how we should behave at school and set our own class 'code of conduct'. As the children had been making so many new friends we then thought about 'what makes a good friend?' We put on our chefs hats to think up the recipe ingredients we would need to make a fabulous friend, and it was lovely to hear all their contributions. The children then had great fun making cutting, sticking and painting their own chef paper plate portraits ready for the display.

The children have had daily 'snappy fingers' activities, numerous maths challenges (the favourite being the 'counting cake shop') and literacy input. We enjoyed our first Forest School of the year, had super fun exploring our extensive grounds in search of trees bearing their seeds ready to drop, and collected a basket full of conkers and acorns. At the end of the week, we harvested our crop of potatoes, which we planted last year which provided some super maths investigative work.

Mrs George



Ladybirds

It has been lovely to see the Ladybirds class settling in so well after the summer holidays. I would also like to give a very warm welcome to all of our new children who have started this week. I have had a great first week at St Edmunds and thank you for being so welcoming! I have spent the week getting to know all of the Ladybirds and assessing their abilities so that I can plan some exciting activities going forward.

The children have started making some wonderful ladybird pictures, as well as portraits of themselves for their drawing book. On Friday, we took a walk around the school grounds and talked about the animals we could see on the way, which the children really enjoyed.

Please could I remind you to provide a named water bottle and some wellington boots for your child, as we are planning to carry out lots of outdoor learning on the school grounds throughout the term.





Looking Ahead

Thursday 12th September	Individual photos
Friday 13th September	3:00pm Welcome tea
Saturday 28th September	Open Day (Dragonfly class to be in school if possible)
Thursday 3rd October	9:00am PP Harvest Festival service in Chapel
11th—28th October	Half Term
Monday 28th October	Trip for Honey Bee, Cricket and Dragonfly classes to see 'Peter and the Timber Wolf' and Quex Park.
w/b 28th October	Parent consultations for LB, HB, C and DF



Notices

Mrs Rebecca Maisey has taken over running Semi-Quavers from Mrs Millard. This is a music group for pre-school children held on a Thursday 10.00-10.45am in the Pre-Prep Hall. If you are interested in coming along or have any friends that might want to come please email semiquavers01@gmail.com for more information.

The Chelsea FC Foundation are providing a pre-football development program on Saturday mornings from 9.00-10.00am at St Edmund's for children aged 3-8. If you are interested, please look at the leaflet that will be sent home today.

Please can I ask you to have a good look for a missing school coat. Can you check the nametags in those you have at home and check you don't have an extra by mistake. Thank you.

In the list of calendar dates please be aware that Harvest Festival starts at **9.00am** in the Chapel on Thursday 3rd October.

We are running very low on second hand uniform. If you have any items that your child has out grown please could you bring them in? I can sell them for you or you can donate the proceeds to be used for extra activities for the Pre-Prep children. If you would like me to sell them for you please can you let me know or put a note in with the uniform. All contributions will be gratefully received.

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

Keep up to date with life at St Edmund's by looking online at:

[Website news for Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior Schools](#)

[Junior School weekly newsletter from Dr Margrett](#)

[The Head's Blog from Mr O'Connor](#)

[The Boarding Blog](#)

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