



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

7th October 2019

Dear Parents

This week has been all about our Harvest preparations. Harvest always seems very early in the academic year and trying to create a service including some children who are only just 3 can be daunting. However the children and staff came up trumps. All the Pre-Prep children took part singing songs, showing their pictures, reciting poems and acting in a play. This for some was their first visit to the Chapel and I hope all of you who attended will agree that everyone did really well. Thank you so much for the donations of food and money, which will be given to Catching Lives Homeless Charity. I would also like to thank all those in the Junior School who decorated the Chapel so beautifully.

Maria in Dragonflies wrote a wonderful account of her morning,

"Today we had our Harvest Festival and each class had to show what they had done throughout this term and we did a play called The Lonely Scarecrow and I was the scarecrow. I felt nervous at first but then it swam away and I was happy and Mrs Sherwin was so proud. Mrs Sherwin was very kind and bought fifteen boxes of cornflakes and gave it to the poor and then Chaplain said a prayer and we joined in a little bit. Then I saw my parents and I gave them a big hug. Also we took a photo. I was very tired after all that."

I'm delighted to announce that Lilly has joined the Crickets class this week and Luca will be joining Dragonflies in January. I hope they and their families will settle in well at St Edmund's.

On Monday 7th October parent consultation sign up sheets will be put up in classrooms. Please choose a convenient time to have a chat with your class teacher about your child's progress. The meetings will take place the w/b 28th October.

On 28th October between 3.00-3.30pm we have a "Drop in "session for children to show their parents their books and artwork. If you are unable to attend please can you let us know in advance so that we can provide alternative activities for your child.

This week I was pleased to present Bella with her brown belt which she achieved at a recent Martial Arts grading. An amazing achievement Bella well done.

Best Wishes

Julia Exley

Head of Pre-Prep



Dragonflies

The Dragonflies enjoyed rehearsing and performing their play "The Lonely Scarecrow" for the Pre-Prep Harvest Festival. The children worked really hard on their lines, they made sure they were ready with their cues - and they loved adding actions and facial expressions into their performances. I was so proud of them; well done Dragonflies!

We have been learning about doubling and halving in our maths lessons this week. We are getting very good at doubling 2 digit numbers - by first doubling the tens and then doubling the units and finally adding them together. This 3-step mental arithmetic is very impressive in Year 2 children so early in the school year - clever Dragonflies. We used our maths skills to create our own Doubling and Halving Board Games - the children worked in pairs or groups of three to design a game, adding interesting features such as "booby-traps" and "lift the flap" answers. We used lots of clever calculations to work out both the questions and answers and the children enjoyed the challenge of playing each other's games. What a fun way to learn maths!

Mrs Sherwin



Cricket

The Crickets have been finding out about Harvest and learnt a poem about vegetables and where they are grown and they recited this confidently in the Harvest Festival. They observed and talked about a variety of vegetables, which they chopped carefully to make a very tasty soup. Some decided they liked the French bread more than the soup! But Mrs Exley and Miss Culver were impressed with the result. During our Outdoor Learning session all the children were delighted to see the beautiful chickens, fluffy rabbits and hold the very well behaved guinea pigs in the Junior school garden. In writing, the class recounted their trip to Canterbury. Using photos, a map and time connectives, they sequenced their sentences aloud and wrote them. They are beginning to recognise upper case letters to begin their sentences. In maths, the children have sequenced and read the days of the week and the events they do on those days. They have also been exploring 'more than' and 'less than' numbers. In their topic work, the children have investigated a wide variety of toys. They sorted them according to the materials they were made from and how they are work. By playing with the toys, the children were able to recognise different forces used to make them move. They are also designing and making toys using a range of materials and joining techniques.

Mrs Purnell





Honey Bees

The Honey Bees had so enjoyed their topic work finding out about snails last week therefore we decided to continue investigating these minibeasts for a further week.

The children have been busy learning about the different parts of the snail, have made fabulous rolled paper snails for a class display and then took on the role of the snail from Julia Donaldson's *The Snail and the Whale* and wrote about where they would like the whale to take them. Some very exciting adventures were written! From visiting dinosaurs, going to meet the mermaids and then to venturing to France to taste the wonderful food! The children were set the task to paint spirals and their own detailed snail pictures and their work has been wonderful. The Honey Bees have worked so hard to learn their poem about pollinating bees for the Harvest festival and I think you will agree that they did a magnificent job. As a finale we ended the week by cooking cheesy spiral snacks - very yummy!

In Maths we have continued our work on identifying different parts of the day and have also been learning how to recognise o'clock times.

Forest School was another wonderful session. We decided to transfer our knowledge about minibeasts into producing some land art using natural materials. The children had great fun working in pairs to produce some wonderful Forest School minibeasts; including an enormous spider! Well done Honey Bees.

Mrs George



Ladybirds

The Ladybirds started the week with some farmyard mark making, which included painting with tractors and farm animals. We had some great conversations about the different patterns the wheels made, comparing them to the markings that the animals made. We have also been washing the farmyard animals with soapy water, sponges and tooth brushes and talking about how we keep ourselves clean!

We have been talking about our feelings a lot this week and we have been playing a game called the 'feelings farmyard'. We took turns to roll the dice, then move our counter along the animals who were presenting different emotions. When it was our turn, we had to determine how the animal felt and what makes us feel the same way.

We had great fun during our outdoor learning session this week; collecting leaves and exploring our shadows. We talked about leaves changing colour in autumn and we then collected as many 'autumn' leaves we could find, brought them back to the classroom and created a collage with them! Our Edmund Bear Hunt took us to the Chapel on Wednesday, where we had the opportunity to look at the food that was being collected for the harvest festival. On Thursday, we then had our Harvest Festival and the Ladybirds sung their 'Big Red Combine Harvester' song so beautifully. Well done Ladybirds!

Miss Ashenden





Looking Ahead

11th—28th October	Half Term
Monday 28th October	“Drop In“ 3pm in PP Classrooms
w/b 28th October	Parent consultations for LB, HB, C and DF
Wednesday 6th November	8:30am Coffee and Chat in PP hall (For Parents)
Thursday 15th November	9:30 St Edmund's day service (For children)
Tuesday 26th November	Kic Theatre (For children)
Tuesday 10th December	9am Ladybird and Honey Bee Christmas play. Refreshments from 8:30am
Thursday 12th December	9am Cricket and Dragonfly Christmas play. Refreshments from 8:30am
Friday 13th December	Reports to parents
Tuesday 17th December	10:30 Gulbenkian Theatre—Snow Dragon All PP
Tuesday 17th December	7:30pm Carol Service in the Cathedral
Wednesday 18th December	1:30pm End of Term



Notices

Tickets for the Senior School production of Chicago are now available to buy from Ticketsource. Here is a link to the booking site <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury>

Please return any orders for individual school photos by 9th October.

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](#)

And don't forget you can also follow us in Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

