



6th December 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the Junior School this week! First, our trees arrived on Monday and the boarders spent time decorating the chapel on Monday night with the help of a group of Junior School staff. We had great fun I think that everyone will agree that the end result is pretty special! Additionally, the tree went up by the staircase next to Mrs King's office. This year, at the request of Miss Barnes, our tree represents a digital Christmas. Every child in the school has been busily working to code their own individual BBC Microbit to show what this time of year means to them in their ICT lessons. The microbits are already starting to be placed onto the tree, each one complete with a short message of explanation. I can't wait to see the full effect when all of the coding is finished and all of the microbits have been added!



The other thing that makes the Junior School hum with festive cheer is that the season of the Nativity is upon us. Yesterday, the Upper School were treated to a performance of the Lower School Nativity before they performed to the Senior School in Chapel this morning. Finally, this afternoon, the Lower School parents, families and friends were treated to their own special performance. I am not sure that there was a dry eye in the house! My sincere thanks must go to so many people for ensuring the success of the Nativity: Thanks to all the Lower School staff for supporting the children, to Mr Luke Sutton for the ICT support, to Mrs Chapman for the supply of fabrics,

to Mr Hawkins for the palm tree, to Mr Southey (Jr) for sorting out the cassocks and surplices, to Mrs King for all of her emails to parents, to the Chaplain, Rev'd Bennett, for his unique performance of 'Big G' and Mrs Stanley for her wonderful backdrop and for help with all the costumes and props. Finally, an extra special 'thank you' must go to Mrs Thyssen for all of her hard work writing and directing the Nativity. I simply do not know what we will do without her next year when she returns to Germany.

Next week, the festive atmosphere will continue with the Inter-House 'Get Your Bake On' baking competition for the House Charities. Please take a moment to read our extended list of categories later in the newsletter due to the amount of children who are indicating that they are likely to enter. Additionally, next Friday will be the St Edmund's Association Christmas Fair which will take place from 2.30pm in the Sports Hall.



Lower School Nativity



Lower School Nativity



Marlowe vote for a new House Charity



Today Marlowe House held an election to choose their house charity for the year 2019-20. All members of the house had suggested a range of charities which were then considered at a recent meeting of House, Sports and Deputy Captains. The Captains narrowed the charities down to 5 charities; Dementia UK, Team Malawi, Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Kent Wildlife Trust and the RNLI. At break time, (tempted by the prospect of a jam doughnut), members of Marlowe arrived to place their votes in the ballot box. We would like to announce that the Guide Dogs for the Blind won the election and will be our charity for the year. A portion of the money raised at next Monday's Junior School 'Get your Bake On' will go towards this charity and we are looking forward to some exciting fundraising opportunities over the year.

St Edmund's Association Christmas Present Stall

On Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime this week, we had a great deal of parental help as the St Edmund's Association launched their annual family and friends present stall. The children across Junior School are given the opportunity to purchase up to two presents each for special members of their families or their friends for a cost of £5. They had great fun personalising their presents with bows and tags. Thank you to all of the parents who helped with the stall on both days, and to Mrs Elford for allowing us to use the library and for helping with the stall. They sold 190 presents overall! The children had a wonderful time and I hope that you all enjoy opening your secret presents at Christmas.



Form 8 Trip to Arras

On Monday 2nd December 37 year 8 pupils left the school at the crack of dawn to spend the day in Arras. First, they visited their pen friends at 'Le College Paul Verlaine'. Although many of them were shy at the start to converse in 'fran-anglais'; the ice melted very quickly and they enjoyed going round Arras Christmas Market together in the afternoon. They worked in little groups to complete a Quiz prepared by the French teacher, Monsieur Bertrand Pichonnier. All children had a wonderful day in Arras and they loved the ferry wheel and the ice rink. Hopefully, some of them came back with some Christmas presents for siblings, parents, or friends. One thing for sure is that they enjoyed the food stalls and Madame Villeneuve saw many burgers, churros, crêpes, waffles, chips, hot dogs being woofed down at regular intervals! It was a very successful day not only for the children but for the staff as well. 'Merci à Madame Micheloud, Madame Dieppedalle, Monsieur Pellet, Monsieur Southey' et Madame Villeneuve Newies.



Camilla's Cake Sale

A huge thank you for your support, to those who baked, bought and donated baked goods, and who also went on to purchase the delights! Unfortunately, items sold so fast we barely had time to take a photo. Your efforts helped Camilla Boarman Powell (F7), and her helpers, Daisy Baker (F7) and Jessica Margrett (F7) sell all goods and raise a whopping £85.55. Mrs Tysson has also contributed fair trade sales to make that up to £100. A wonderful effort, demonstrating great team work. Every £28.87 raised, will pay for a homeless person to spend Christmas Day in a warm "Crisis at Christmas" Centre.



Decorating the Chapel for Christmas

On Monday night, a group of boarders and Junior School Staff worked hard to decorate the Chapel ahead of our Christmas festivities this week. We had great fun and are proud of the results!



Bishop Rose's Installation

Last Saturday, 14 of our Junior School children participated in a choir made up from lots of local schools in order to sing at the new Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin's Installation. The children sang some beautiful harmonies and received a huge round of applause as they walked through the Choir at the end of the service. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Ward, Miss Barnes, Mrs Norton, and my husband Mr Margrett who helped me to staff the rehearsal and the service itself. The children were extremely well-behaved and a real credit to St Edmund's.





Junior School Sport

Now that our comprehensive weekly fixture card for this term is complete, I would like to spend some time looking back over what has been achieved. Underpinning the Junior School PE department is the overriding philosophy of "Maximum Participation" and to that end, it is heartening to see that over 150 children have played in school fixtures this term, with every girl and boy from F5 to F8 playing in a team.

Whilst we are often modest in the way that we celebrate our successes, I am sure that all of us would agree that sometimes it is important to give credit where credit is due. Our children know that when they receive praise from our teachers it is for well-earned success and they are rightly proud of their achievements. To that end, it is worth noting that wins against Junior King's, Wellesley House, Dover College, Northbourne Park, St Lawrence College, Duke of York's and King's Rochester, have been recorded at all levels and age groups this term.

In fact, this has been perhaps been our most successful term in the last 15 years under the leadership and guidance of Mrs Relf and here are the headlines to prove it:

- The Under 13A Girls' hockey team were unbeaten in 12 matches with only one loss this season.
- The Under 11A Girls' hockey team were unbeaten in 13 matches with only one loss this season.
- The Under 13A Boys' football team were unbeaten in 10 matches, as well as being crowned both Molten League and Shapira Cup Winners
- The Under 11A Boys' football team were unbeaten in 12 matches and Molten League Runners Up with only one loss this season.
- 5 of our runners qualified for County Cross Country Finals after Christmas
- Our Junior School Sports' Scholar Programme extended to Gifted and Talented, and invited pupils twice weekly.
- Every child from F3 to F8 has been given the opportunity to take part in and understand a series of simple physical fitness tests.
- Wake Up and Shake Up fitness club flourishes in its 10th year.
- 60 JS pupils have signed up for the Netherlands Easter Sports Tour and 50 prepare to ski in The Rockies.

The above does not say it all, but we are extremely proud of all of our children's physical efforts, and growing understanding of team work, success and failure. The PE Department would like to thank all parents, families and guardians for your support and appreciation of their ongoing pursuit of sporting participation and excellence.

I would like to add my sincere thanks to the Junior School PE Department for everything that they do to ensure that our young people turn into well-rounded, well-mannered sportsmen and women who take pride in all they achieve. Particular thanks go to Mrs Relf, Mr Penn and Mr Buckingham for leading the charge but also to the many other staff from Junior School and Senior School who lead teams and support their efforts.



Updated Category Information for the Bake On

Next Monday, 9th December, will see the launch of the first St Edmund's Junior School House 'Get Your Bake On' competition. We have been overwhelmed by the numbers of children who have said that they are planning to enter. Consequently, we have decided to update the information about the categories which the children can enter so as to allow as much room for creativity as possible. The categories will now be as follows:

1. Biscuit Creation
2. 6 cupcakes
3. A 1 tier cake
4. Cake of your choice

There will be a medal awarded for each category in both Upper and Lower School with a trophy for the overall winner in Lower School, the overall winner in Upper School and a shield for the person who is declared the overall winner of the competition.

Entries should be taken to Mrs Norton's room before school on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend. Hope to see lots of you at the Hullabaloo and Big Band concert on Sunday.
Best wishes,

Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School



Looking Ahead

Friday 13th December - The St Edmund's Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 13th December. We would be most grateful of donations of bottles (of any description!) for the tombola, toys (no DVDs or books please), chocolate for the chocolate bed and any Christmas decorations you have no further need of. Thank you.

Monday 16th December, Junior School Christmas Dinner

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 on Monday 16th December. 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. Jumpers must be worn over school uniform.

Congratulations to:

Amy Hopkins, Alex Morrissey, Percy Meacham, Michaela Dullabh, Emma Do Carleton-Moody, Ellis Hardy, Rhyd Lowe for gaining their Bronze star certificates.

Yasar Zhao, Filip Powell, Joran Kearney for gaining their Silver star certificates

Pick-up times:

Wed 11th Dec	Football	Kent College	U11 A & B	Home	3.30pm
Wed 11th Dec	Football	Kent College	F 3 & 4	Home	3.30pm

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