



# ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



## Pre-Prep Newsletter

24th January 2020

Dear Parents

I would like to start my newsletter by welcoming Erik to St Edmund's. Erik has joined the Ladybird class this week. I hope you will join me in making him and his family feel very welcome.

We are looking forward to having the first Pre-Prep holiday club at half term with lots of exciting activities such as outdoor learning, cooking, dressing up days and sports to name a few. We are also planning our Easter holiday club provision and a letter with details will be given out on Monday. If you would like your child to attend the holiday clubs please email me on [jepe@stedmunds.org.uk](mailto:jepe@stedmunds.org.uk) or complete the forms that are also available on My School Portal.

As part of our science week which starts on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, Mrs Millard will be taking all of the Pre-Prep children to the Senior School Sports Hall for a charity "sporty circuits" fitness session. During this session the children will discuss healthy living, the benefits of exercise and the effects of exercise on our bodies. We are also hoping to hear from some of St Edmund's sporting stars of the future. As Mrs Millard and many of the staff have family connections with Australia, we would also like this event to raise money for those caught up in the devastating fires.

We have updated the Administering Medicines Policy due to the extended provision in the Pre-Prep. If your child needs to have medicine at school it will now be stored and administered from the Pre-Prep. Please can you read the attached policy as there are some changes you need to know. Class teachers will hold a supply of parental authorisation forms for parents to complete. Please can I remind you that these have to be completed by someone with parental responsibility for that child. Therefore if someone else brings your child to school please complete this form at home and send it in with them. Copies of the authorisation form will also be available on MY School Portal to print out from next week.

Best wishes

Head of Pre-Prep



## Dragonflies

The **Dragonflies** have been learning about China this week - just in time for Chinese New Year on Saturday. First, we read the story of the Great Race and then the children were given characters from the story and performed in a wonderful play. Later, they rewrote the story in their writing books and then worked in teams of six to make their own Chinese Dragons. The Dragonflies enjoyed performing the Dragon Dance for the Chinese students in the Senior School. The Chinese students also helped the children make Chinese lanterns, and also showed them how to write the Chinese language using paint and brushes. Mr Li (Xiaocan's daddy) came to talk to the class about China - and the children took the opportunity to ask him lots of questions.

Our Maths focus this week is Money. The children have used coins and notes to make different amounts and made super "money spiders". We are hoping to see some money in our Chinese Lucky Red Envelopes on Friday!

*Mrs Sherwin*



## Cricket

What an eggs-tra busy week the **Cricket**s have had. They started the week bird spotting around the school site. Venturing along to the wooded areas, to see if they could see any birds on their bird spotting sheets. Already they are becoming familiar with the birds and their different features. They have seen starlings, magpies, blackbirds and robins. Good luck with your 'great bird watch' this weekend. The children will collate their findings at school and send them off to the RSPB. In maths, the class have been reading and learning days of the week and talking about what they do and when each day. They have used number lines and games to 'count on' when adding and remembering to put the larger number first.



The children are becoming familiar with different names of continents and learnt how swallows migrate from the UK across Europe and end up in South Africa for winter. The class have printed and painted to recreate the swallow's journey and wrote stories about a swallow called Sparky. On Thursday, Mr Barnes invited us to the Food Tech room to explore an unusual 3D shape that looked like an avocado! It turned out to be an emu egg. Mr Anderson came to help us discover what was inside by using an electrical drill to make holes at either end, as the shell was so hard to crack. Mrs Purnell then blew out the yolk and albumen from inside. It was the equivalent of 12 eggs and filled a bowl! At the end of the week, we made bird food to tempt the birds into our gardens this weekend.

*Mrs Purnell*





## Honey Bees

After the wonderful week we had exploring dinosaurs last week, the **Honey Bees** continued with their dinosaur investigations this week and have spent the week pretending to be palaeontologists! The children have had great fun carefully digging for fossils and dinosaur bones in our excavation tray and have been inspired by seeing and handling real fossils. The huge ammonite fossil encouraged much exploration and it was lovely to see the children undertaking their own research from the non-fiction book table. We then decided to make our own fossils and had fun pressing dinosaur toys into the salt dough we had made before cooking them to harden them off. The idea of discovering dinosaur bones inspired some wonderful artwork and the children made fantastic cotton bud skeleton pictures. The children also designed their own dinosaurs using 2D shapes, carefully thinking about the features the dinosaur would need, and some wonderful factual discussions took place. To finish our work on dinosaurs we thought about the reasons that they became extinct and researched for information, before undertaking our own volcano science experiment to see how many of our toy dinosaurs we could 'wipe out' with the lava flow! We then tried to replicate an asteroid strike in the sand pit with a large ball to see how much damage this might cause! Great fun was had, but we all decided we would not want to have been there if it really happened!

In maths we have spent the week investigating line symmetry with some wonderful 'hands on' activities.

In Forest School we had fun making some clay leaf fossil prints.

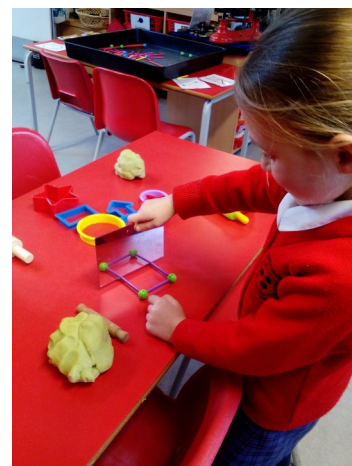
**Mrs George**

## Ladybirds

This week the **Ladybirds** have started looking at the story of the 'The Snail and the Whale'. The Ladybirds have been creating their own stories about life under the sea and they have especially loved finding out more about snails. We have been looking at pictures of their shells and creating our own spiral patterns onto snail shells. We spent our outdoor learning session hunting for snails in the school grounds. The ladybirds each took a leaflet about different snail shells to look for during our snail hunt, which was very exciting! They have also made some fabulous snails out of clay, which we will paint next week.

The children have been very fascinated about the different weather we have had over recent weeks, particularly the cold and fog. On Tuesday, they were super excited when I showed them the tray of water I had left out overnight which had frozen. We talked about how the water freezes during the night because it gets so cold, but it soon melts when the sun comes up in the morning.

**Miss Ashenden**





## Looking Ahead

<b>Friday 31st January</b>	<b>3.00 pm Cake Sale to raise money for those affected by the Australian fires</b>
<b>w/b 10th February</b>	<b>Pre-Prep Science Week</b>
<b>Tuesday 11th February</b>	<b>'Sport Circuits' charity event for PP children</b>
<b>Wednesday 12th February</b>	<b>Kic Theatre</b>
<b>Friday 14th February</b>	<b>Half term begins</b>
<b>Monday 24th February</b>	<b>Back to school</b>
<b>Thursday 27th February</b>	<b>8.30 am Coffee and Chat (for parents)</b>
<b>Thursday 5th March</b>	<b>World Book Day—Pre-Prep dressing up for the day</b>
<b>Friday 6th March</b>	<b>3.30 pm 'Drop in' for all Pre-Prep parents</b>
<b>w/b 9th March</b>	<b>Parent Consultation (all week)</b>
<b>Friday 20th March</b>	<b>2.45 pm Mother's Day Tea (for Pre-Prep mothers)</b>
<b>Thursday 26th March</b>	<b>9.00 am Pre-Prep End of Term Service in the Chapel</b>
<b>Friday 27th March</b>	<b>2.30 pm End of term</b>

**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](mailto: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](#)

[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

