



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

17th January 2020

Dear Parents

The children and staff have made a bright and inspiring start to the term with some exciting topic work already on show in the classrooms.

We were very excited to have our first 2 customers for breakfast club this week. They enjoyed some cereals, toast, croissants and fruit. If you would like your child to have breakfast at school we are open from 7.30-8.00am. Just email me to let me know the days you would like.

Please can I remind you to look at the dates of all the Pre-Prep events and activities that appear at the end of the newsletter in your diary so you don't miss anything important. We do have an extra event to add which is a charity event to raise money for people in Australia affected by the devastating fires. Some of the older children have been talking about this topic and wanted to do something to help. As cake sales seem to be the best way to raise money we will be holding one on Friday 31st January from 3.00pm and would be grateful for any donations of cakes. In the morning the Dragonfly class will present an assembly about Australia.

Looking ahead to Easter we will be organising our holiday club from 30th March - 3rd April, 6th April - 9th April and 20th April 2020. The school will be closed Monday 13th - Friday 17th April with no holiday club. If you are interested in sending your child, a letter with more details will be sent out soon for you to complete.

Best wishes

Head of Pre-Prep



Dragonflies

The **Dragonflies** have been working hard learning how to tell the time. We made our own analogue clocks using split pins and paper plates and are using them to tell the o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to times. Some of us are telling the time to 5 minutes - wow! We can also match the corresponding digital times.

The children wrote lovely stories about the little penguins that we made last week, our clay penguins sat on our tables and watched us write our stories, they were very inspiring! Our science work focused on how penguins and polar bears have adapted to live in these cold habitats. Our topic has now moved from the "Arctic and Antarctica" to "UK and Europe". The children worked with a friend to create a collage Union Jack, and are looking forward to Maria's German Granny coming to see us on Friday to tell us about Germany. Next week we travel to "China" in time for Chinese New Year.

Mrs Sherwin



Crickets

The week has been eggs-stremely busy. The **Crickets** have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali and really enjoyed watching a film about the story of Rama and Sita and looking at some artefacts. They have used Modroc to create egg shapes, which when they have dried out, the children will paint and decorate. We also had a great time looking at how eggs change when cooked and tasting different egg recipes. We observed that the egg white/albumen becomes white and harder when it is cooked and the yolk changes too.

In Maths, the class have revisited number bonds and are getting quicker at using Numicon and bead strings to solve problems. In English, the class heard the story 'Handa's Hen'. This story is set in Kenya and the children used time connectives to sequence events in the story and recall events. They are working hard to remember capital letters and full stops in their writing. The author focus this half term is on the writer and illustrator Anthony Browne. We have been fascinated by his drawings and are also, enjoying the humour too.

Mrs Purnell



Honey Bees

The **Honey Bees** have had great fun this week delving into the past and investigating dinosaurs. We began the week with fact finding activities, and the children have very much enjoyed exploring non-fiction books to look at the different features of dinosaurs. We have enjoyed many art based activities to further explore dinosaurs and the children have had much fun modelling their own wonderful clay dinosaurs, designing a painted Jurassic background and adding their own cut out silhouette dinosaur.

In Maths the children have revised pattern making and have extended their work by creating their own 3 and 4 stage repeating patterns.

In Literacy the children have learnt the graphemes 'w' and 'x' along with the tricky words 'she' and 'he'. Mrs George is very impressed with their ability to write independently in a beautiful cursive style.

Forest School was a real lesson in how to stay safe this week, following the storm force wind. We talked about why there could be dangers on site due to falling branches and decided to go for a walk to see if there had been any damage. Luckily none was found, but the children were delighted with the enormous quantity of fallen branches and quickly decided that they looked like dinosaur claws! Super creative thinking! Some wonderful discussions about the display of hazel catkins on our trees on site and the children are eager to see if the part-opened leaf buds will survive the rest of the winter. The children decided to tell the leaf buds to go back to bed! I am sure the children found wading through the most enormous puddle on the way back to school the most fun!

Mrs George

Ladybirds

The **Ladybirds** have had great fun getting stuck into their new Julia Donaldson book – 'Stick Man.' We watched a short film of the book and then reflected on all the different ways stick man was used throughout the story. We have then tried using the sticks in the same way. The children created their own stick man flags using a variety of materials and built some sand castles to put our flags on top of. We have even been having 'pooh' stick races in the water tray and we have been mark making with different sized sticks. We have also been practising our counting with sticks and making different shapes and patterns.

If your child has any Julia Donaldson book toys and games at home, then we would love them to bring them in to share with their class.

Miss Ashenden





Looking Ahead

Friday 24th January	Old Edmundian Quiz Night (see notices for further details)
Friday 31st January	3.00 pm Cake Sale
w/b 10th February	Pre-Prep Science Week
Wednesday 12th February	Kic Theatre
Friday 14th February	Half term begins
Monday 24th February	Back to school
Thursday 27th February	8.30 am Coffee and Chat (for parents)
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day—Pre-Prep dressing up for the day
Friday 6th March	3.30 pm 'Drop in' for all Pre-Prep parents
w/b 9th March	Parent Consultation (all week)
Friday 20th March	2.45 pm Mother's Day Tea (for Pre-Prep mothers)
Thursday 26th March	9.00 am Pre-Prep End of Term Service in the Chapel
Friday 27th March	2.30 pm End of term



Notices

Friday 24th January—Old Edmundian Quiz Night

Parents and friends are warmly invited to attend the Old Edmundian Quiz on Friday 24th January at 7.30pm. A delicious meal will be served and you are welcome to bring your own drinks.

Tickets £10 per person or £100 per table of 10. Book your tickets here www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury All money from the event will go towards boarding refurbishments.

If you would like further information then please foundation@stedmunds.org.uk

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](#)

[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

