



**ST EDMUND'S  
SCHOOL**  
CANTERBURY



**13th September 2019**

# Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to take a moment to thank so many of you for coming to our Parent Information Evening on Monday night. I would like to thank those of you who have shared feedback on the evening with us, I am pleased that you found it useful. It was also lovely to see so many of you at the Parents' Association Playground Tea this afternoon. For those of you whose children have joined our community this term, I hope it has given you a flavour of how warm and welcoming our community is. I am also extremely grateful to all of our parents who helped out this afternoon serving the teas and coffees! If you have not already done so, please do consider joining our Parents' Association. They are fantastic and support the school in so many ways. The next big event will be the Christmas Fair, and I know that they will be pleased to welcome any volunteers.

Some of you may be aware that today is Roald Dahl Day today. Roald Dahl is one of my favourite authors and I shared a few quotes of his that I particularly enjoy with the children today during Head's Line. Whilst Mr Bodle, our new Head of Junior School History may not appreciate Dahl's advice about history teachers, "If I were a headmaster I would get rid of the history teacher and get a chocolate teacher instead", I do think that we can all learn something from his advice in "The Twits"

"A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

One other quote which I didn't share this morning, is one which I have in a frame in my office, given to me by a previous colleague. It is one which I often look at if I need to have some courage or self-belief. It comes from "Matilda"

"Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world"

I shared that quote with the Lower School children who chose to come and listen to me reading some extracts from George's Marvellous Medicine during the Lower School "Drop Everything and Read" session this afternoon which we held to celebrate Roald Dahl Day. I really enjoyed myself – it is such a joy to share such a fantastic story with the children.

This afternoon was also an Open House at School House for people who might be interested in our new flexi boarding options. I have attached the information leaflet to this week's email again in case you missed it last week. If you missed the tour tonight and would like to visit, I know that Colour Sgt. and Mrs French would be more than happy to show you around our super facilities another time.



## Eco Tokens for our House Point Collector

For those of you whose children were at the Junior School last year, you may remember that I wrote about how Amelie Steegman, one of our A Level Design & Technology students had been commissioned to design and manufacture a House Point collection container and came to deliver her efforts to Junior School in the last week of term.

Over the summer, I have looked to source the best tokens for the collector whilst being mindful of the impact that unnecessary use of plastic has on our environment. I have managed to find Eco House Point tokens for us which are made out of potato starch extracts found from scrap potato peels used in food manufacturing. This makes them 100% Biodegradable when exposed to Oxygen, Water, UV Rays and Bacteria. Our Junior School pupils will be given a House Point Token every time they receive a certificate in Head's Line for collecting 25 House Points to put into the collector, which has been placed outside Mrs King's office. We hope that the visual reminder of how the collection of House Points is going will motivate our children to collect more House Points for their House each term. It also means that should a token be lost somewhere by mistake in our beautiful grounds, it will not have a lasting negative impact on our environment.



## Form 7 are Famous!

Many of you might remember that last year's Form 6, many of our current Form 7, were invited to the Canterbury Tales Exhibition last year, to visit and also to take part in their new promotional film which explains to teachers exactly what they can expect when they visit the Canterbury Tales. The film is now live, and you can watch it at <https://www.canterburytales.org.uk/education/> I am very proud of how attentive and enthusiastic they all look!



## Riley's Ballet Success

We were delighted to hear at the weekend that Riley Childwick F5 has successfully auditioned for the London Junior Ballet School. He will be going up there at weekends to take extra classes, and we are very excited to see how he gets on.







## Bookbag Blessing

Parents are invited to take their children to the Cathedral on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 11.30am for a Bookbag Blessing Service. It is a 30 minute service for families to celebrate the new school year. There will be prayers and songs, and bookbags, backpacks and briefcases will be blessed! Every bag that is blessed gets a limited-edition Gregory Gargoyle bag-tag to keep

## St Edmund's to be remembered at Evensong

St Edmund's will be remembered in Prayers at Evensong at 5.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019. It would be lovely for our school community to be represented by as many people as possible at the service, so please do go along and support if you are able to do so.



## Frederick's Second Young Chorister Achievement

We were delighted to hear yesterday that Frederick Butler has been chosen as the Reserve Finalist for the BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year Competition 2019. He will attend the final in Manchester on 19th October and will perform in the case that one of the others is prevented from doing so. This is the seventh year in succession that a Canterbury Cathedral Chorister from St Edmund's has been included in the Final. Frederick was a finalist last year, so we are particularly proud that he has been recognised for the second time.



## Trolls! Trolls! Trolls!



This week Form 3 have started their Trolls topic. The week began with finding out about where they lived, what they liked to do and what they may have looked like. Imaginations were fired and Form 3 then designed and painted their own trolls. Each one is so different and they are already on display outside F3's classroom. The next activity was to create fact files and in an extremely creative maths lesson the children worked together to measure all different parts of their trolls. On Wednesday afternoon F3 were lucky enough to have Miss Horn working in our class and everyone made a fabulous Troll face out of clay. The results are outstanding. The children worked so patiently to create the expressions and features that they had imagined for their Troll. Dino explained that his Troll had stolen his very shiny teeth from the dentist. "Look Mrs Swatman! Can you see that his beady eyes are looking down at the floor looking for insects and bugs to eat?". Please go and have a look in the F3 classroom....if you dare!



## Lower School Sewing Club

Sewing club started this week with Mrs Head, a parent of twins Josie and Katie who are in Senior School. Mrs Head has shared her high levels of creative expertise running sugarcraft and sewing clubs in Lower School for many years. This half term the children will create their very own woodland autumnal scene. Mrs Head was mightily impressed with the focus and excellent cutting skills that the children demonstrated. We can't wait to see the finished pieces! Sewing Club is open to pupils in Forms 3-5 and it takes place on a Wednesday lunchtime at 12.40pm.



## Accelerated Reader Scheme in Upper School

Following the success of last year's Accelerated Reader Scheme trial in Form 6, this year all Upper School children, as well as all Lower School children, will now have a lesson each week in the library. This will be their Accelerated Reading session. Every Upper School child will be expected to read and then take a quiz about their book. Accelerated Reader will also provide a level for each child, helping them to choose an appropriate book. Mrs Elford has worked hard to organise the scheme in Junior School and reconfigure the library to fit in with the programme; allowing children to access a range of age and level appropriate texts. This scheme will dovetail with the work done in Lower School and their current reading scheme and expectations.

## Gardening Club's Harvest

It is Harvest Time again this week in Lower School. The children successfully dug up some potatoes, onions, tomatoes and carrots and were extremely proud of themselves!



## Form 4 Explore Chronology

Form 4 started their History topic this week by looking at timelines and sorting time line cards of key events in British History. The children were interested to find out how far we would have to travel across the playground, cricket pitches, astro turf and towards the university if we were to place dinosaurs on the time line! Some children thought they came just before the Stone age!





## Form 8 Seniorship Programme

Don't forget that Monday 16<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Form 8 pupils to return their Seniorship applications to their Form Tutors if they would like to be considered for this year's exciting, updated Seniorship programme. We are looking forward to reading their applications!

## Form 8 House Captain & Sports' Captain Application Deadline

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September is also the deadline for any interested Form 8 pupils to submit their House Captain and Sports' Captain applications to their Heads of House. Please see the information letter attached to the email with this Newsletter which has already been given to interested pupils for more information.

## School Council Elections

Next week, we will be informing the children about what they would like to do if they would like to stand as the School Council representative for their class. Every class elects one representative to the School Council each year, and we are very much looking forward to hearing their ideas about what we can do to improve the Junior School and to address their requests and concerns.

## LAMDA Lessons at St Edmund's

Our visiting LAMDA teacher Mrs Taylor will be offering lessons on Mondays again this year. Every single one of her candidates who took LAMDA examinations in the Summer examination series this year gained a distinction – a phenomenal achievement! If you would be interested in your child taking LAMDA lessons this year, please let Mrs King know and she will pass on your details to Mrs Taylor so that she can get into contact with you.

## My School Portal

Hopefully you are now getting to grips with My School Portal, our new information platform for parents, staff and pupils. Don't forget that you can log into MSP using the link:

<https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk>

To gain access to your My School Portal account, please use the email address that received this email and your SchoolPost password or you can request a new password here:

<https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk/request-password>.





## Junior School Sport Report

Mrs Relf and Mr Penn report that the termly fun fitness tests are now complete from Form 3 to 8. These fun but challenging tests help to underpin the philosophy that sport is a way of life and support the children to better understand their own individual fitness levels.

This week we started playing in our first competitive fixtures of the year. The girls have settled into hockey quickly and the teams are beginning to take shape. The PE Department are passionate about participation and want to see as many children as possible taking part, with excellence in sport evolving from this. Lessons are founded on the principle of discipline first, but fun a very large second!

In the Under 11 girls' first fixture, a competitive 0-0 draw against Wellesley House was a fair result for this promising group of girls from Form 5 & 6. Much is expected of them in all disciplines this school year.

The boys were straight into Molten League action this week after a couple of practice sessions and it great to report that we had a clean sweep against Wellesley House for all 5 of our teams, with the Under10/11 boys A,B, and C teams winning away from home convincingly. The Under 13A won comfortably 3-0 with our B team finishing with an impressive 6-1 win.

The long-standing "Wake Up and Shake Up" club began with a good early morning turn out at 7.45am on Thursday, although Mr Penn reports that Mrs Relf's choice of music is in danger of putting them off! He says that he will bring in a more expressive playlist next week!

Next week we begin a full fixture card of boys' and girls' matches against Junior King's. 17 fixtures are diarised which will mean over 100 Junior School pupils representing St Edmunds.

Here's to another great sporting school year!





## Choir House Celebrations at Chorister Making

Last Sunday at Evensong was a special day for the Form 7 and Form 8 Choristers. I was extremely proud to be there, with many other parents and teachers from St Edmund's to attend the Chorister Making Ceremony. During the service, the Form 7 Choristers: Patrick Poninski, Noah Le Grange, Ruairaidh Aitken, Percy Meacham and Rhyd Lowe, were formally admitted as members of the Cathedral Foundation. The 'Foundation' is the term used to describe the historic community of the Cathedral, and includes many of the Cathedral clergy, office holders and musicians who are closely involved in the formal and worshipping life of the Cathedral. Being a member of the Foundation also provides its members with certain special privileges, for example, the right to be married in the Cathedral, so it is a very special honour.

Additionally, the Form 8 Choristers: James Hodgkinson, Samson Buck, Leo Routh, Charlie Alexander and Frederick Butler, were awarded their medals during the service and were given the title of Senior Choristers. The medals denote seniority within the Choir and they are very much prized by the boys. An additional honour that the Senior Choristers receive at school is the right to wear the Senior tie a year early, so in my Head's Line today I had the delight of being able to present the boys with their ties.

Finally, during the service, Mr Adam Southey, Residential Tutor at Choir House was admitted to the Cathedral Foundation for the second time. This time as a Lay Clerk. His first time was as a chorister!

I am sure that you will join me in wishing all the boys and Mr Southey very many congratulations! My thanks also go to Paul Barton Hodges - Duet Media for the photos.

Have a lovely weekend.  
Best wishes,

Dr Emma Margrett  
Head of Junior School





## Looking Ahead

**East Kent Ploughing Match – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September** The East Kent Ploughing Match Association Show takes place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at West Court Farm, Shepherdswell, CT15 7PZ. You are very welcome to visit the St Edmund's stand and join us for drinks from 12 – 1.30 pm.

**Open Day – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** A reminder that we have our whole school Open Day coming soon on 28<sup>th</sup> September. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase much of what we offer pupils 3-18. Please do tell friends and relations who are interested in finding out more about the Pre-Prep, Junior or Senior Schools at St Edmund's. Any enquiries for the event should be directed to the Admissions Department on 01227 475601 or [admissions@stedmunds.org.uk](mailto:admissions@stedmunds.org.uk) or details can be found on the school's website [www.stedmunds.org.uk](http://www.stedmunds.org.uk). We will need all pupils to attend on this day to help with displays, demonstrations and tours. Thanks in advance for your support.

**Parent Consultations** for all year groups will be during week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> September. Details to follow.

**Junior School Harvest Service** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October: 8.40-9.40am, Chapel.

## Congratulations to:

**Camilla Boarman Powell** for gaining her Grade 5 LAMDA award and **Toral Patel** for gaining her Grade 4 LAMDA award.

## Second hand uniform

Mrs Exley and Mrs King would be most grateful if any parents have second hand Pre Prep and Junior School second hand uniform they are willing to sell please. Items can either be sold on your behalf or donated for charity. Thank you.

## Pick-up times:

<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Football	Junior King's	U11 A,B,C,D	Away	<b>4.30pm</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Football	Junior King's	U13 A & C	Home	<b>4pm</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Football	Junior King's	U13 B & D	Away	<b>4.30pm</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Hockey	Duke of York's	U13 A & B	Away	<b>4pm</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Hockey	Duke of York's	U13 C & D	Away	<b>4.30pm</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	Hockey	Spring Grove & Junior King's	U11 A & B	Home	<b>4pm</b>

**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](mailto:rpu@stedmunds.org.uk)