



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



20th September 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It really has been a busy first few weeks back at school. We have had the House Captain and Sports' Captain interviews for Form 8 pupils this week. Although we intended to announce the positions of responsibility today, we were unable to do so because several pupils who have applied have been absent, and consequently we have been unable to conduct their interviews. We will therefore write to all of the candidates next week to inform them of the outcome once all of the interviews have been completed. The House and Sports' Captains will then be announced to the school during a special Head's Line on Monday 30th September, once Form 7 return from Kingswood. After the House Captains and Sports' Captains have been informed, we will then announce the Seniorship roles for the Form 8 pupils who have applied to be part of the Seniorship Programme. Mr McKean has received 36 applications for the programme, so we are very much looking forward to seeing our Form 8 pupils step up and take on additional positions of responsibility.

Whilst talking about positions of responsibility, another important opportunity which will be discussed with the children in the near future is the possibility of them standing for the role of School Councillor to represent their Form. Mrs Thyssen and Mrs Patmore run the School Council. Through this important body, the children bring suggestions to me about changes they would like to be made in the running of the school, or issues that they would like to be addressed. Recent changes include a change to the day when burger and chips is offered as a choice at lunchtime. This used to happen on certain Wednesday lunchtimes, but, having learned about nutrition for sport, some of the older children were concerned that it was not the best lunch to eat before an afternoon of fixtures, so we changed the day of the week when burgers are served to ensure that the children would all be 'match ready'. Other changes have included tightening the nets on the basketball court in the playground and redecorating the Lower School boys' toilets.

This week I have enjoyed getting out into some of the Lower School classrooms to see what they have been up to. I was very impressed by some extremely expressive writing from Form 3 about their Trolls. This writing was the culmination of several lessons of input and not only was there some super vocabulary used, I was delighted to see the confident use of speech marks and other punctuation by some of the children and I was treated to Josie and Lucy reading me their stories in the book corner! I was also very pleased to welcome Ben Holcroft (F4) to my office this week to show me how much his handwriting has improved. It is always a pleasure to celebrate successes with individual children.

This week also saw the first joint Cathedral and School Parent Focus group for chorister parents. I am excited by this new venture and look forward to us being able to hear the thoughts and opinions of Chorister parents more easily in the future,



Science Club think about Renewable Energy

Science club has got off to a flying start this term. Last week, pupils were considering different ways of generating electricity using renewable energy sources. Their challenge was to design and build a simple wind turbine which would be capable of lifting a cup off the floor up to bench height. The pupils were innovative and creative with their designs, especially due to the limited amount of equipment they were provided with. A few teams managed to successfully complete the challenge by carefully considering the shape, size and thickness of their blades, proving themselves to be budding and aspiring future engineers! Science Club is open to pupils in Forms 7 & 8 and runs from 4.40-5.30pm on Thursdays.



George Plays in Head's Line

I have introduced the opportunity this week for pupils to play their instruments at the start of Head's Line. George Gannon (F7) was my first player, and he played a lovely piece by Mozart on his clarinet. I am looking forward to seeing the children sharing their talents with their friends every week.

Our First Ever Junior School Vlogging Club

Junior School's first ever Vlogging club has got off to a flying start this week with pupils looking at considering what a blog is, why people use them and how might they approach creating our very own Junior School vlog. Pupils will be exploring the sorts of people who constitute different blog audiences, learning to use equipment from both in-front and behind the camera, and starting to use video editing techniques, such as adding sound to create a blog that is both inspiring and fit for purpose. Vlogging Club's initial thoughts are to depict a day in the life of a St. Ed's pupil, and with so many wonderful things planned in the diary, it looks like it will be a feast for the eyes! We hope to share more with everyone in the St Ed's community in the near future. Vlogging Club is open to pupils in Forms 6,7 & 8 and runs on a Wednesday morning from 8am until 8.25am.

Climate Change Protesters

Some parents might be aware of the Climate Protests which have been happening across the world today. Several of our older pupils went to the protests in Canterbury and the surrounding area with their parents. However, a number of others decided that although they were in school, they still wanted to ensure that their voices were heard. Consequently, a number of our Junior School pupils staged their own Climate Change Protest at lunchtime. I am sure that this is a topic which our children will continue to feel passionately about, and we look forward to talking more with them about such an important issue over the coming weeks and months. I am very proud of our children for taking the initiative and not being frightened to speak up about issues that are significant to them.





Curriculum Newsletters

Our first copies of our Termly Curriculum Newsletters for all Junior School Forms were sent out earlier this week. They include an overview of what the children will be studying in each subject across the term, and we hope that they will provide useful additional information for parents.



Form 4 Trip to Bigbury Fort

This Term, Form 4 is learning all about life in Ancient Britain. We have a marvellous resource lying right on our doorstep at Bigbury Hill near Chartham – the site of an ancient hillfort inhabited by the Cantiacii tribe in the late Iron Age. On Wednesday the children visited this site which is managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust to learn about what life would have been like living in a Celtic settlement and to listen to the story of the Roman General Julius Caesar's invasion in 55 and 54BC.

Everyone had lots of fun re-building and fixing the Form 4 palisade which has stood sturdy on the same spot for 6 years! The children looked at and thought about the reasons why the Celts might have settled in that area and then took part in a mock battle on the steep hillside.

During lunch Form 4 contemplated the subjects that they had covered in the morning and realised they had done a little bit of Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, Design Technology and Drama! What a busy morning's work!



Creepy Claws Club

On Tuesday we were delighted to see Michael from Creepy Claws return to the school to host another session of his exciting biology club. This week the children learnt about invertebrates which included looking at and handling two female tarantulas, a giant Madagascan cockroach, scorpion, rhino beetle and a millipede. There are two places available should anyone like to join. The cost for the rest of the sessions is £20 and the club runs from 3.30-4.30pm on Tuesdays and sessions are open to all pupils in Lower School.





School House Celebrate Matron's Birthday

Yesterday the children and staff in School House took the opportunity to celebrate our Matron, Nieves' birthday. Not only did Nieves bring some chocolate cakes in, School House surprised her with a big chocolate cake and everyone sang Happy Birthday. We would like to wish Nieves a Happy Birthday from everyone, but particularly all the School House staff and Children.



Exciting Music News!

We were extremely excited to hear this week that Mike Lovatt, lead trumpet in the BBC Big Band is going to work with us as a brass consultant. Mike will be coming into school once a term to coach and mentor our brass players as well as taking a rehearsal with Big Band. I am so excited by the opportunities that this will offer to our children.

Developments in Form 7 & 8 History

In History, Form 7 have been looking at the renaissance and answering weird and wonderful questions such as 'Why would anybody dig up a grave?'. This is in preparation for our Renaissance Party next week. Pupils have learned to identify Renaissance Men through their art, sculpting and architecture. Form 8 have been continuing to think conceptually about the reason why Charles I lost control. In particular thematically defining reasons behind his loss of control and whether any one point can be identified as the trigger for Civil War. We look forward to seeing how Mr Bodle and Mr Stones develop these topics!

My School Portal

A couple of parents have asked me to remind them about how to access My School Portal in this week's newsletter. 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>. You can see all sorts of information about your child on MSP, so it really is a very useful tool and surprisingly easy to use.



Junior School Sport

Our main sports' news this week must be the number of JS fixtures played on Wednesday.

An impressive 17 JS teams' put on their school kit to represent us in competitive fixtures against Junior King's, The Duke of York's School and Spring Grove. 150 children played in total, this was every child from Form 5 to Form 8, apart from those who were injured or not in school. It was a testing exercise logistically for the PE staff, but such an exciting opportunity for the children.

The Under 13A football team continued their winning run with a 2-0 win at Junior King's to go top of the Molten league, with Samson Buck scoring twice. The Under 11A football team swept aside Junior King's 6-1 to go top of their league, winning for the 3rd time in a week. This was in addition to beating King's Rochester 3-1 last Friday in a friendly! During the same round of matches against King's Rochester, the Under 9 team had their first win of the season, by a big 10-1 margin, with Alex Morrissey scoring 6 goals in an excellent team performance.

The girls were in full Hockey action this week and the Under 13A got off to a winning start at The Duke of York's School with a 3-0 win. Matilda Mariner and Daisy Holt, both sports' scholars had fine games but all of the girls in our 4 U13 teams came away undefeated and in high spirits. The Under 11A narrowly lost an excellent match against JKS 3-4, but for the first time ever at Under 11, 3 teams were selected and the B and C teams both had good wins.

With the World Cup Rugby beginning in Japan this weekend, Form 3 and 4 have begun a 4 week block of basic Rugby skills during their PE lessons. Although not played as a team sport at school, we use this fine sport to enhance handling, running and team play skills and of course, to make the children aware of sport on the world stage as Rugby is something that already has taken a high profile in the news and on TV.

Numbers continue to grow at the popular 'Wake Up and Shake Up' club which starts the day every Thursday with great exercise. Mr Penn reports that it was conducted to a superb playlist this week, although other staff may have claimed that the music may be more relevant to the children's grandparents!





Open Morning, Saturday 28th September

Don't forget that it is Open Morning next Saturday morning and we are looking forward to seeing all of the Junior School children bright and early at 8.30am in their classrooms.

A Plea for Parent Reps!

One venture which I tried to 'get off the ground' in my first year last year, but which didn't quite take off was to introduce class reps for each year group in the Junior School. Although I was unsuccessful in getting volunteers to be parent reps in all year groups last year, I remain undeterred and keen to try again this year. The idea is that I am looking for one or two parents in each class who are happy to take on the role of 'class rep'. The main remit for the class rep is to set up a contact list for each class with a communication group using either email or text so that new parents can find it easier to integrate into a year group, and hopefully the odd 'meet up' for a drink between the parents in a year group, or 'play date' for the children in a class can be arranged. Parent reps can also act as the spokespeople for the parents within their year group if there are any questions or worries so that they can be addressed as soon as possible.

If you are interested in becoming a parent rep for your child's class, please contact Mrs King and let her know and I will be in touch shortly.

Another initiative which I want to develop further this year is my parent focus groups. Parent Focus Groups are an excellent way for parents to be able to have some frank conversation with me to provide any constructive suggestions about what we can do to improve as a school, or equally to pass on any positive feedback about things that have worked well. I aim to start with a Form 3 Parent Focus group during the week commencing 30th September, and Mrs King will approach approximately five or six families to ask them if they would like to attend. I aim to invite all parents to at least one Parent Focus Group during their child's time in the Junior School.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. I am extremely excited because I am going to the ballet. Matthew Bourne is my favourite choreographer, and I cannot wait to see Romeo and Juliet at the Marlowe tomorrow night!

Have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes,

Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School



Looking Ahead

East Kent Ploughing Match – Wednesday 25th September The East Kent Ploughing Match Association Show takes place on Wednesday 25th 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 28th September A reminder that we have our whole school Open Day coming soon on 28th 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 or details can be found on the school's website 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 30th September. Details have been emailed home, please sign up for an appointment on My School Portal.

Junior School Harvest Service Tuesday 1st October: 8.40-9.40am, Chapel.

Congratulations to:

Percy Meacham for gaining his Trinity College Music certificate.

Yasar Zhao, Henry Goodwin, Emily Press, Percy Meacham, Freddie Gourdie, Peter Symon, Joshua Coleman, Ben Coleman, George Gannon, Gabriela Nacif-Higson, Harry Barker, Noah Le Grange, Olivia Standen, Dylan Shearer, Arthur Underwood, Ami Watters, Patrick Poninski, Juliette Matharu, Leo Routh, Mati Thomson for gaining their ABRSM Music certificates.

Tilli Perry, Hugo Waché, Piers Beck Evans, Charlotte Noel, Camilla Boarman Powell and Dylan Shearer for gaining their LAMDA certificates.

Thomas de Berry and Thomas Young for gaining their Certificates of Excellence.

James Hodgkinson for completing his Stage 4 Youth Sailing Scheme

Pick-up times:

Wed 25th Sept	Football	Dover College	U13 A & B	Away	4.45pm
Wed 25th Sept	Football	St Lawrence	U11 A,B,C	Home	4pm
Wed 25th Sept	Hockey	Dover College	U13 A	Away	4.15pm
Fri 25th Sept	Football	Dover College	U9	Home	4pm
Fri 25th Sept	Football	Dover College	U11 A & B	Home	4pm

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