



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



16th November 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been a particularly special week in school this week, and I suspect that quite a few members of the Junior School may have needed a lie in this morning! Last Saturday, lots of our children competed in the Kent Music Festival piano classes with great success whilst I was helping with Voice Trials for next year's potential new probationer choristers. On Monday we marked Armistice Day with a special chapel service of Remembrance followed by a whole Junior School silence at 11am. Every pupil in the Junior School made a poppy in order to decorate the altar in chapel, bringing them up to place on the altar as their personal act of Remembrance during the service itself. On Tuesday, 14 of our Form 8 took part in an East Kent Schools Together event at the Pine Calyx centre in St Margaret's, Dover, and on Thursday we held our St Edmund's Day celebrations at the Colyer-Fergusson Hall at the University of Kent before having an afternoon of off-timetable workshops. Last night we were back at the Colyer-Fergusson again for the Music Department's Michaelmas Concert. Whilst I will need to wait until next week's newsletter to include some photos of the occasion, I was yet again hugely impressed by the incredible talents of the children from across both Junior School and Senior School.

The Junior School were very well represented during the evening with performances from EKCO (The East Kent Children's Orchestra) featuring over 40 of our pupils playing Beethoven's "Egmont Overture". This was followed by Junior Strings who performed "Munching Monsters" by Nelson. Other Junior School group performances were provided by Lower School Junior Choir who performed "Whatever I do" by Marsh, Upper School Junior Choir who sang "Another Day of Sun" from the film 'La La Land', ably accompanied by the St Edmund's Jazz Trio, and Musical Theatre Club who performed "When I grow up" from the musical 'Matilda'. In addition to the group performances, there were also some wonderful solos from Junior School pupils with Frederick Butler (F8) giving an accomplished performance of Mendelssohn's "O for the wings of a dove", hardly a surprise from someone who has reached the final of the Young Chorister of the Year competition not once but twice! Ami Watters (F6) performed Mozart's "Sonata in F Major (K.332)" at the piano. Again, this was an extremely confident rendition of a technically difficult piece, delivered with panache by a former Kent Junior Pianist of the Year. Finally, Thomas Young (F8) gave an outstanding performance of "Terminal" by Williams on the clarinet. This was Thomas' first performance at a whole school event, having only previously performed at a Junior School Lunchtime Concert, and it is fair to say that it won't be forgotten in a hurry! He thrilled us with his incredible dexterity and musicality. I am sure we will be seeing much more of him in the future!

Of course, the concert was also filled with some wonderful performances from a number of Senior School groups, some also featuring talented Junior School pupils too, and I have no doubt that Mr O'Connor will speak about those in more detail in his newsletter. I am always in awe of the exceptional talent that so many of our young people demonstrate, and it is so exciting for our Junior School pupils



to watch the performances of the older children and see what they can aspire to achieve if they continue to work hard. My sincere thanks go to Mr Payne, Mr Swatman, Dr Rowcroft, Mrs Fitcher, Mrs Martin-Smith, Mrs Butler, Mr Underwood, Mrs Walker, all of the children's individual music teachers who have worked so hard to prepare them for such a fantastic concert, the staff who were 'on duty' during the evening to ensure that the children were looked after whilst they were waiting to perform and the staff at the Colyer-Fergusson who are always so accommodating to us when we have events there.

The Remembrance Service

On Monday 11th November at 8.40am we held our Junior School Remembrance Service in the chapel. It was a very moving occasion to sit as a school community and hear the names of past pupils who died in the First and Second World Wars read aloud in commemoration by some of the Junior School Captains.

Oliver Bradley (F5) and Bethany Stringer (F8) laid wreaths at the two memorials, and Yalamber Rai (F8) read the words of the Kohima Memorial "When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'For your tomorrow, we gave our today'." All three children are children of servicemen, so this was particularly poignant. A number of other children from across the school were also involved with reading "In Flanders' Fields" by John McCrae, and Jonty Harris-Harding gave a beautiful rendition of the Last Post on his trumpet.



At 11am, the Junior School also observed the traditional silence. Although we were in the middle of playtime, Oliver Bradley borrowed his father's whistle from his No 1 dress uniform to blow to mark the start and end of the silence and at the sound of the whistle everyone stayed still and silent. Officers wear the whistle today on their uniforms as it is the same one as they used to signal when to go over the top in WW1 so the sound was very evocative. Form 4 also completed some beautiful watercolour poppy artwork to mark Remembrance Day which has been placed outside the chapel.

The children who played a special part in the service were: Form 8 - Abigail Beale, Fabian Crooks, Thomas de Berry, Charlie Emson, Henry Goodwin, Jonty Harris-Harding, Jack Hodgson, Gabriela Nacif-Higson, Milly-Jay Reeve, Bethany Stringer, Maisie Wright.

Form 7 - Camilla Boarman Powell, Yalamber Rai, Stella Rogers, Edward Underwood

Form 5 - Oliver Bradley

Boarders' Weekend Cinema Trip

Last weekend the Junior School boarders went to see Maleficent at Cineworld and then had something to eat at McDonalds. They happen to be posing in front of a Frozen 2 advertisement board, hinting at the next trip I think! Thanks to Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Vafidis who took this trip and to all of the Junior School staff who have stepped in to spend time with the Junior School boarders whilst our Matron has been unwell.





The Big Explore

On Tuesday, 14 Form 8 Pupils were taken to the Pine Calyx Centre in St Margaret's Bay to an event called "The Big Explore". The objective of the event was to offer a day of collaborative, fun team-building activities to raise students' expectations of their own capability, give them new confidence, introduce them to new activities and develop their sense of well-being. During the day, pupils were involved in a series of activities including shelter building, fire lighting and a command task. Activities challenged them both physically and mentally as individuals and as a team to overcome a combination of obstacles using communication and deep thinking skills.

The event was organised by The East Kent School Together group which St Edmund's is a member of. Junior School pupils will be attending more EKST opportunities during the rest of the year. My thanks go to Mr McKean, Head of Co-curricular Activities who oversaw the organisation of the trip and to Mrs Crocombe who accompanied the trip on the day.



St Edmund's Success in the Kent Festival of Music Piano Classes

St Edmund's Junior School pupils demonstrated that we are a force to be reckoned with last Saturday, 9th November, at the Kent Festival of Music piano classes.

Mael Staehler (F3) won first place in the 8 Years and Under Competition.

Yasar Zhao (F4) won first place in two 9 Years and Under Competitions and in the Recital 10 Years and Under Competition. He was also the recipient of the Ramsey Cup for the most promising performer from classes 1-14.

George Gannon (F7) came second in the Beginner to Grade 5 Class, 12 years and under.

Leo Watters (F8) achieved two second place awards in the Competitions for pianists 12 Year of age, and first place in the Piece Composed after 1900 class.

Ami Watters (F6), who won the Kent Junior Pianist of the Year back in 2016, achieved second place in the whole Junior Competition (she was not eligible for 1st place because she had won it already). She also won first place in both the Bach Class and the Mozart Class.



The overall winner of the title Kent Junior Pianist of the Year was Ian Kung from Folkestone. It was very successful day for St Edmund's pianists and we offer them all our huge congratulations!



Form 4 Trip to Butser

Form 4 visited Butser Ancient Farm on Wednesday 6th November. They had a super day and here is an account of their trip in their own words: We arrived at school eagerly waiting for the coach to go to Butser Ancient Farm. (Angus)

We went on the coach. I was so excited for the trip, I played a fun game of Top Trumps with Robert. (Morgan)

Soon we stopped. We went to a service station called Clacket Lane to have a snack. (Yasar) When we arrived at Butser Ancient Farm as soon as I saw it I knew I was going to have fun. (Ben)

Eleanor was our guide. She brought us to the see the goats first. It was mind blowing one of the goats had three horns but used to have four horns, it lost its horn in a battle! (Joran) She led us to the Celtic houses and took us inside a yellow one and called it 'our home for the day', so we went in, it smelt so smoky. (Eliaana)

It was beautifully decorated on the inside with swirly, dotty patterns with a fire in the middle. (Lexie) To keep food fresh it was hung up in the ceiling because it got smoked. (Alice)

She talked about the structure and what was the same about our house and I learned about planks in the walls of our house. (Alex M)

Next we went up a slope to the wattling station. So we could weave we used hazel tree which is the second most bendy tree, the first most bendy tree is a willow tree. Me and Alex M did a demonstration for the others then we all had a try. (Penny)

Then Mr Bodle said that Mrs Bradley's group's was good for houses and Eleanor's group's was good for keeping in the goats. (Emma)

Then we went to the archaeological bit. We used scraping tools. We got very dirty and I found some mosaic that was made with little tiles. (Daisy)

After that we had a fantastic lunch, I sat next to Alice and Penny which was the best! I had a cheese sandwich. I took out the tomatoes because I don't like them. They seem so innocent but when you eat them they are not nice at all and every time I have one they never change. (Michaela)

After lunch we did some jewellery making. The silver wire was insanely easy to move and I made a nose ring that fitted perfectly. (Jeremy)

The Roman villa was so different to the round house. They had beds and loads of rooms. (Cesar)

In the Roman villa there was a massive mosaic face that was made the same way the Romans did 1600 years ago. (Robert)

After we went out to where the Roman toilets were. Angus made a big deal of using the sponge on a stick! (Rupert)

Then we visited the shop. I got a mood ring and then I fed the goats. (Josh)

When everybody else had chosen I was still choosing, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Norton said I had to get a wriggle on. (Alex S-B)

Eventually we got on the bus and watched two movies. It was a quick journey home. (Theo)





The St Edmund's Day Service



We started off the St Edmund's Day Celebrations with a service at the Colyer-Fergusson Concert Hall where it was such a delight to see the entire school community under one roof. The Combined Choirs treated us to a rendition of Parry's anthem "Hear my words, ye people" and the entire school joined in for the final verse of "O Praise Ye the Lord". It was also a delight to see the Pre-Prep and Chamber Choir perform "This Day is a Special Day" together from their respective sides of the hall. We were also delighted to welcome our Governor, Rev'd Dr Tim Naish, Canon Librarian of Canterbury Cathedral to give the address.



St Edmund's Day Afternoon Activities



We had a wonderful time in Junior School during the afternoon of St Edmund's Day. The children participated in a wide range of 'off timetable' workshops on everything from stop motion animation to multisports and from a woodland walk to a soup kitchen where they made food for local Canterbury charity Catching Lives. Here are a few of the photos from some of the workshops.



Junior School Sport

Once again it has been another successful week on the sports field for the Junior School teams with our full weekly fixture card giving another opportunity for our players to build on the taught lessons and gifted and talented sessions throughout the year.

Mrs Relf's Under 13A hockey team once again showed true grit to come from behind and draw 4-4 against a strong King's Rochester side to remain unbeaten so far this season, the talented Under 11 A and B girls' hockey teams won easily at St Lawrence, with the Under 11A team winning 6-0. Mrs Wanstall tells me that a special mention should go to Lola Saunders who scored a hat trick. In football, Mr Penn and Mr Adam Southey's Under 13A Boys' football team brushed aside Wellesley House 4-1 to also remain unbeaten, and Mr Ed Southey's Under 11A also beat Wellesley House easily to complete an unbeaten week once again for our top teams.

In other news, Adam Whitlock (F8) gave a sterling performance in the Knole Run cross country event in Sevenoaks on Friday. It was 4 degrees Celsius, with the wind chill taking it to about freezing. In places the mud was close to a foot deep and there were plenty of shoes lost! Adam made it round with all limbs and shoes intact, finishing in 6th place out of 244 runners, a phenomenal achievement.

Becket House's Fundraising Success

Leila Ilkan and Johanna Harris came in on Tuesday 12th November to receive a cheque from Becket House. The total for 2018-19 was £1718 - the best year so far. The house captains recapped for everyone how the money had been raised and Charlie Emson (F8) presented the cheque. The cycle event in the summer was a huge fundraiser - £1300 in total - and Becket hope to repeat it again next summer.



During Chapel, the House Captains also talked about the fundraisers for this term.

They are asking everyone to wear their Christmas jumpers for Christmas Lunch and pay £1.00 (or more!) for the Hospice. Becket hope that people will create their own jumpers where possible and add a "nod" to the Hospice by including them on the jumper somewhere (colour, logo etc.) There will be a competition and prizes for the best jumpers. We had some fabulous, creative entries last year and we are looking forward to seeing what the children can come up with this year! So start getting your Christmas jumpers sorted now!

The Houses are also running stalls at the Christmas Fair on 13th December: Becket is running a soft toy animal stall - "Paws for Pilgrims" They will be collecting new and "new condition" soft toy animals from Monday 18th November. Please bring any contributions into school; Becket would be really grateful and promise to find them all lovely new homes.

Becket are also hoping to provide accessories for the soft toy animals in the Pilgrim's Hospice blue - hats, scarves, jumpers etc. in a variety of sizes. If there are any good knitters/sewing wizards who would be happy to help out please let Mrs King know and we will equip you with some wool or material! These fundraisers really rely on team effort so thank you in advance for any contributions.



Choristers give a concert in Calais

On Monday 11th November, at the invitation of Calais City Council, the choristers crossed a slightly lumpy Channel to give a concert in the ancient church of Notre Dame. Singing to a full church of 700 people, the boys gave an inspirational performance, full of confidence and expression, which earned them two standing ovations. This will certainly be just the first of many such visits in the future.

The feedback from the Ville de Calais was exceptional:

“The reception the public gave you speaks for itself. They loved you!! The choir is, without a doubt, a national cultural treasure.”

Josh Coleman (F5) describes the experience in his own words below:

“On Monday this week we went to Calais for a concert at the Eglise Notre Dame de Calais. We got up at 6am, had a quick breakfast before getting on to the minibus to the ferry where we got a little 2nd breakfast. It was a rather choppy crossing and we could see the huge waves splashing off the ferry!

Once we arrived in Calais we got off the ferry and then went on to the coach to the church where we had freshly baked croissants and juice. We then had a rehearsal in the church until lunch which was at 1pm. The church was very cold because it had no heating!

After a delicious lunch we then went back to the church for more rehearsal and then the concert. There were around 700 people there and we got 2 standing ovations! The acoustic was excellent.

After the concert we had more snacks and refreshments and then played a game of bulldog in the sports hall. After this it was time to head back to the ferry where we had supper on board from the Food Court. We got back to Choir House at around about 8:30pm. Overall, it was a fun day out!”

By Joshua Coleman (Form 5)

Have a lovely weekend!
Best wishes

Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School





Looking Ahead

Monday, 25th November, 7pm My School Portal: Parent Forum My School Portal is the School's new information and communication platform for parents, staff and pupils. MSP keeps parents fully up to date with school life and can be used to access pupils' reports and attendance data. It can also be used for emails, forms and the School Calendar.

As part of an environmental drive, we intend to stop sending out School reports and School Calendars from January. These documents will still be available on request from the School Office. Now that parents and guardians have had a little time to try MSP, we are interested to hear how you find it, to offer assistance with any technical or other queries, and to discuss the school's intention to become paperless from January. A Parents' Forum will be held in the School's Music Recital Hall on Monday 25th November at 7:00pm.

To log into MSP please click onto the link: <https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk> then use the email address that received this newsletter and your SchoolPost password or you can request a new password here: <https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk/request-password> The move to My School Portal will greatly improve the efficiency of our communications systems. If you experience any problems setting up MSP, please email aeb@stedmunds.org.uk.

Thursday 28th November, Home Clothes Day, Children may come into school in their Home Clothes on Thursday 28th November in exchange for a donation of brown paper or non-foiled recyclable paper for wrapping presents on the family present stall or a donation of chocolate (Galaxy, Aero or Daily Milk) for the Chocolate Bed.

Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th December, St Edmund's Association Christmas present buying and wrapping for parents and family members in the library at lunchtime. More details to follow

Sunday 8th December, 2.30pm, School Big Band and 'Hullabaloo' St Edmund's Festival presents The St Edmund's School Big Band with special guests 'Hullabaloo' for an afternoon of Swing, Big Band, Rock 'n' Roll, Jive and a touch of Christmas! Tickets £12/£8 are available will be available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury

Friday 13th December The St Edmund's Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 13th December. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the Fair after the end of the school day, choristers will be given the chance to attend before they leave school for Evensong.

The St Edmund's Association (formerly Pre Prep and Junior School Parents' Association) are also looking for any old Christmas decorations you no longer have use for to decorate the Hall for the Fair. These can be left with Mrs King.

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. 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.

Scholarship Applications The school runs a programme of scholarships at 11+ and 13+ and pupils may apply for these when they are in Form 6 and Form 8 respectively. Application deadlines are in January and the scholarship booklet is obtainable from Mrs King. Scholars will be pupils who demonstrate an unusually impressive commitment (in academia, sport, music, drama at 11+ and 13+ and also art at 13+), who perform significantly beyond the expectation for pupils of their age and who are well ahead of their St Edmund's peers in their chosen field. They must have potential to lead in their field in the years ahead. Parents wanting advice as to whether or not their child might be a viable scholarship candidate should contact Mrs King in the first instance and she will be able to arrange for the appropriate member of staff to give advice.



Congratulations to:

Lexie Wilkinson and Georgio Erotokritou for gaining their Bronze star certificates.

Niamh Davis who competed in her 1st swim club gala this week. She won 2 out of 3 races & in her last race she waited for the other girls to catch up!

Pick-up times:

Wed 20th Nov	Football	Northbourne Park	U11 A,B	Home	4pm
Wed 20th Nov	Football	Northbourne Park	U13 A,B	Away	4.30pm
Wed 20th Nov	Hockey	JKS, Birleys Field	U13 A,B,C,D	Away	4pm
Wed 20th Nov	Hockey	Lorenden & JKS	U11 A,B	Home	3.45pm

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

A request from the Eco-Warriors

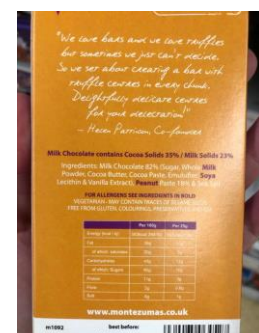
The Eco-Warriors have noticed that lots of people are leaving their engines on in their cars whilst they are waiting to collect their children. They are concerned about the additional pollution that this is potentially causing and they have requested that parents consider turning their engines off whilst they are waiting.

More information about chocolate for the Christmas Fair

On Thursday 28th November we will have a non-uniform day in return for a donation for the Christmas Fair. The Parents' Association would welcome donations of chocolate or wrapping paper. As you know, we are a nut-free school. Since last year some companies including Cadbury's have changed the labelling of their chocolate to indicate it 'May Contain Nuts'. We are still able to accept chocolate labelled in this way, but cannot accept it if it says 'Contains Nuts' or a specific nut is listed in the ingredients list. A handy visual guide is below:



Acceptable wording on left,
unacceptable wording on right.



We would ask please that if you do win a prize at the fair, you save it to eat later at home, rather than eating it in school. This will ensure all our pupils with nut allergies are protected and safe.