



# ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

20th September 2019

Dear Parents

Thank you to those kind parents who have volunteered to be parent representatives.

Dragonflies - Mrs Fogg, Imogen's Mum and Mrs Regan-Mears, Aine's Mum

Crickets - Mrs Pettman, Chloe's Mum

Honey Bees – Mrs Harrison-Hall, Rose's Mum

Ladybirds – Mrs Hamilton-Woodthorpe, Edward's Mum

The children are enjoying their clubs this term and I was very impressed with the accuracy of their arrows in archery this week! The Lego models are very intricate and imaginative and in Nature Art they were whittling elder wood to make beads. I am delighted so many children take part in these co-curricular activities.

This week we celebrated the achievements of Poppy, from Dragonfly class, who has been very busy with her pony Buster over the summer at various shows. They came 1st in the following classes, First ridden, Best Junior rider, Best Veteran Pony and Junior Handler. She received some beautiful rosettes, trophies and money for all her efforts. Well done Poppy.

We also celebrated with Luca, who brought in his 'best player' award from football plus some medals that he received at the end of the football season. Well done Luca.

Next week all the classes are going on trips around the county. Dragonflies are going to Dover castle, Crickets are going to the Cathedral, Honey Bees are visiting Tyland Barn near Maidstone and Ladybirds are going to the Ploughing Match at Shepherdswell. I look forward to hearing about their adventures. Please ensure you have returned the consent forms.

Best Wishes

*Julia Exley*

Head of Pre-Prep





## Dragonflies

The Dragonflies are learning about castles this week in preparation for our trip to Dover Castle on Tuesday. We have learnt about the features of castles - learning lots of new words like "ramparts", "portcullis", "arrow loops" and "keep" - as well as finding out about thrilling things like "dungeons", "drawbridges" and "murder holes"! We designed our own castles on the computers in our ICT lesson and have already started constructing the model castles in the classroom. We will be adding the finishing touches next week. Our castle work continued with a study of Paul Klee's "Castle and the Sun" - we were able to use our mathematical language to name the shapes and their properties, and then we created our own Castle and the Sun pictures. In Maths we were learning about Carroll diagrams and sorting shapes in a new and clever way.

We visited the Senior School Geography Department on Friday to find out the ideal site for a castle. Mrs Burton (Head of Geography) had "discovered" a box of toys - all the toys had a special requirement for their castle home - the My Little Pony wanted somewhere high up to feel the wind in her hair, the whale wanted to be near water and the Action Man wanted to be able to defend the castle from baddies. The class worked together to find the best location for the toy castle. It was tremendous fun and a wonderful way to learn geographical vocabulary.

**Mrs Sherwin**



## Cricket

The Crickets class pulled on their wellies and carried their clipboards, heading off to explore the school site at the beginning of the week. They looked at different types of trees and looked at the shapes, sizes and colours of different leaves. On their way, they spotted conkers and looked at the nature around the grounds. In the classroom, the children also used their mixing skills to make biscuits, which they all enjoyed eating together. Back in the classroom, they painted pictures of their walk using watercolours. Later in the week, as part of their topic work, they compared old and new parts of the school. Using History detective skills, they looked at features such as bricks, flooring and lighting. They also looked for signs with dates that may provide clues. In maths, the children have written number sentences using + and = and have used different words for those symbols. They have created pictures using 2D shapes. In literacy, the children have continued to sequence, write and recognise upper and lower case letters and made a class dictionary. In computing, the children are using more keys on the keyboard as well as improving their mouse skills. They have looked at famous people from the past and now and used a timeline to sequence how old they are.

**Mrs Purnell**





## Honey Bees

Finding out about bees has been the focus for the Honey Bee Class this week! We began the week by learning about the life cycle of a bee and I was amazed that Joanna knew that they have hexagon shaped cells within the hive to live in. We therefore made our own hexagon shaped books about the life cycle of a bee for our topic work. The children had fun painting their own hexagon cells before making their own paper plate bee to live in it. On Wednesday the children were treated to a wonderful talk from the school's resident bee keeper Mr Jones, Head of Maths in the Senior school. He gave a magnificent presentation to the children all about how he looks after the bees in their hives and even brought a wooden cell from the hive complete with sticky wax cells for the children to see and touch. The children were enthralled to hear about his bees and asked very thoughtful questions when he put on his bee keeping gear. The children were treated to a sample of his own honey which was a very tasty treat. Thank you Mr Jones.

The children have found out how bees pollinate and carried out their own fun 'pollination' experiment using cheesy puff covered fingers and paper flowers. Great fun! We decided to make something with honey in it and the children decided on honey biscuits - they were very yummy!

Forest School was wonderful with the children using tools to hollow elder beads and thread them, along with imaginary play using the wooden logs as a boat.



***Mrs George***

## Ladybirds

The Ladybirds have really enjoyed the start of their Harvest and Farming topic this week! They have especially enjoyed playing with the sensory farmyard tuft tray; talking about the farm environment and what the animals like to eat! They have been busy selling fruit and vegetables in the 'Ladybirds Farm shop' and have been coming up with some very imaginative stories! The ladybirds have also created their own pictures of their favourite farm animals and have been singing along to 'Old Macdonald has a farm' using the farm animal puppets! A couple of the Ladybirds even stood up in front of all their friends to show them photographs and tell them about their own experience of visiting a farm.

During our outdoor learning session on Friday, the children had great fun making their own bird feeders, threading cheerios onto string and hanging them in the trees. We will be returning to where we left them next week to see if any birds have been to eat them!

We are very much looking forward to our trip to the Ploughing Match on Wednesday. Please could I remind you to return the consent form, if you have not already done so. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

***Miss Ashenden***





## Looking Ahead

<b>Saturday 28th September</b>	<b>Open Day (Dragonfly class to be in school if possible)</b>
<b>Thursday 3rd October</b>	<b>9:00am PP Harvest Festival service in Chapel</b>
<b>11th—28th October</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 28th October</b>	<b>“Drop In” 3pm in PP Classrooms</b>
<b>w/b 28th October</b>	<b>Parent consultations for LB, HB, C and DF</b>

## Notices

Please can those who have recently bought second hand uniform or PE bags from the Pre-Prep make payment to Mrs Exley if they have not done so already. If you are unsure of the amount, please see Mrs Exley.

Please can Dragonfly parents let Mrs Sherwin know if their child can attend Open Day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 9am-12noon.

### **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, Shephersdwell, 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). Only Dragonflies need to be in school on this day. Thanks in advance for your support.

In the list of calendar dates please be aware that Harvest Festival starts at **9.00am** in the Chapel on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**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).

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[Website news for Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior Schools](#)

[Junior School weekly newsletter from Dr Margrett](#)

[The Head's Blog from Mr O'Connor](#)

[The Boarding Blog](#)

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