



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

27th September 2019

Dear Parents

What a wonderful week of trips! The enthusiasm of the children shone through the rain, wind and mud. Everyone had a great time, learnt a lot and behaved well. More details will follow in the class reports.

On Thursday 3rd October at **9.00am** the Pre-Prep will celebrate Harvest Festival in the Chapel. All parents are welcome and each class will be taking part. We would be most grateful for donations of non-perishable food, household items or money, which will be given to our local homeless charity, Catching Lives. Please look at the PP noticeboard for the list of urgently needed goods. Your packets and tins can be brought in from Monday and we will display them in the Chapel, money can be donated at the end of the service. Thank you in advance for your support.

On Friday 4th October we are having a Non-Uniform Day in aid of Catching Lives. Your child can wear home clothes in exchange for a donation to this charity.

If you would like to purchase your child's school photo please return the form to your class teacher by Wednesday 9th October.

Best Wishes

Head of Pre-Prep



Dragonflies

The Dragonflies had a wonderful trip to Dover Castle on Tuesday. The class met "Lady Eleanor de Monfort" - sister of the King of England and former owner of the castle. They were duly knighted and then explored the castle with her - learning all about life in medieval times. We then explored the castle once more, looking for all the defensive features that we had been learning about in class, and marking them off in our own I-Spy books.

We used our knowledge to add the final changes to our model castles back at school - working carefully to create moving drawbridges and portcullises; some even have spiral staircases and murder holes! Please come into the classroom to admire the finished castles.

The behaviour of the Dragonflies has been exemplary since the beginning of term - and especially on our school trip - and Mrs Exley was delighted to award every child a Prefect Badge in our special assembly on Friday. The children have promised to look after their badges carefully and wear them with pride; they spent a long time discussing and deciding upon the role of a prefect and I am sure the new prefects will be helpful, kind and wonderful role models for the younger children in the Pre-Prep.

Mrs Sherwin



Cricket

The Crickets have been busy thinking about Harvest this week. They created model tractors and combine harvesters with moving wheel, and then tasted harvest fruit milkshakes and smoothies. In maths, they have begun to recognise number bonds to 10 and used Numicon and multilink to solve number sentences. In their topic work, the children have learnt about famous people from the past such as St Augustine and Thomas Beckett. They used a video clip, drama and non-fiction texts to find out about their lives. On Thursday, the children excitedly set off down into Canterbury on a double decker bus. On the way, they identified landmarks such as the Westgate Towers, Canterbury Castle, the city walls and the Cathedral. The children walked towards the Buttermarket like the pilgrims would have done (but not on horses!). We were met by a guide, who led us to the doors and we went inside to explore the Cathedral. We saw religious artefacts such as the lectern, alter, crosses and font. We discovered where Thomas Beckett was murdered and looked around the Crypt.

We stopped off at Choir house for snack and headed off down the High Street where we popped into see Mr and Mrs Grimes who kindly welcomed us with treats. We then visited the Beaney museum where we looked at paintings by Sir Thomas Sidney Cooper. Back at Choir house, Mrs Stones kindly allowed us to eat our lunch where the choristers eat. What a busy week!

Mrs Purnell



Honey Bees

The Honey Bees have had a very busy week this week with their Magnificent Minibeasts topic focusing on snails. We began the week by finding out about snails, what habitat they like and how they move. We read Julia Donaldson's 'The Snail and the Whale' and wrote about where we would like the whale to take us. We then investigated the spiral pattern on snail shells and explored Henri Matisse's artwork The Snail before creating our own versions of it, using the same colours and copying the spiral pattern with cut paper.

On Tuesday we headed off for a wonderful day at Tyland Barn, Maidstone where we were undertaking a minibeast story day. The weather was very kind and we were able to enjoy the full day of activities in between showers! The children were thrilled with the minibeast work where they were introduced to the different habitats that various minibeasts like, before heading out for a fabulous hands on minibeast hunt. Digging in the compost bins for worms, searching under logs for woodlice, catching spiders, beetles and grasshoppers in bug pots to view were all carried out with great enthusiasm and interest from the children. We were then treated to table top pond dipping where the children were able to view close up newts, dragonfly larvae, water boatmen, pond spiders, water beetles and pond snails were found in abundance and the children were able to view them individually. The children demonstrated exemplary behaviour and it was lovely to hear the centre staff congratulate the children for their conduct during the day. Many thanks to the Kent Wildlife Trust for providing such a wonderful day.

Mrs George



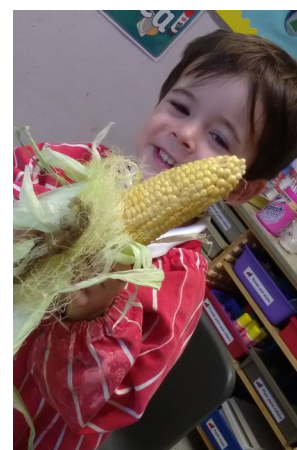
Ladybirds

The Ladybirds have had a great week exploring 'ploughing' as part of our harvest and farming topic. We started off the week by talking about where corn comes from, looked at some pictures of corn fields and then we all had a go at creating a 'corn field' picture using real corn to mark make with.

We had a very soggy, but enjoyable, time at the East Kent Ploughing match on Wednesday. We saw a huge combine harvester and so many tractors, we even had the chance to sit on one and pretend to steer it. We also had the chance to watch the tractors and horses ploughing up and down the field, which was very exciting. When we returned we drew some lovely pictures of some of our favourite things that we saw!

Last week in our outdoor learning session, we collected some acorns and conkers and this week we have been doing numerous sorting and counting activities with them. We have also been exploring the different textures of corn, straw and mud.

Miss Ashenden





Looking Ahead

Thursday 3rd October	9:00am PP Harvest Festival service in Chapel
11th—28th October	Half Term
Monday 28th October	“Drop In“ 3pm in PP Classrooms
w/b 28th October	Parent consultations for LB, HB, C and DF
Wednesday 6th November	8:30am Coffee and Chat in PP hall (For Parents)
Thursday 15th November	9:30 St Edmund's day service (For children)
Tuesday 26th November	Kic Theatre (For children)



Notices

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

Keep up to date with life at St Edmund's by looking online at:

[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](#)

And don't forget you can also follow us in Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

