



## Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back for the New Year and decade. When will I remember to put 2020!!

I am delighted to welcome 6 new children to the Pre-Prep this term. They all seem to have settled very quickly and I wish them a happy and successful journey through St Edmund's School.

We have started the New Year with our extended provision. The Pre-Prep is now open from 7.30am for breakfast through to 6.00pm every day, including holidays. (Please note we are **closed** for a week at Easter, Mon 13<sup>th</sup>- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April and a week at Christmas) We are waiting for our first breakfast customer but several children have taken advantage of the later closing. We are already planning the February half term holiday club with lots of exciting activities. More details will follow. If you would like your child to take advantage of the extended provision, class teachers have copies of the booking forms. It is essential to book breakfast and holiday club places in advance.

Thank you to those that have returned their clubs forms, as usual the places have been snapped up very quickly. The list so far will be on the Pre-Prep whiteboard and noticeboard for parents to remind themselves which clubs have been chosen. Yoga, weaving and archery will be split into 2 groups, one each half term, so please make sure you check which group your child is in.

We are running low on second hand uniform so if anyone has had a clear out of good quality uniform that is too small for their child I would be happy to receive it. If you would like me to sell your uniform I can do that or you can donate items and we will use the proceeds to provide exciting activities and resources for the children. Recently we have purchased new equipment and resources for the late stay room and will use some of the money during our Science week later in the term.

I have attached a list of the term's dates below please look out for World Book Day on 5<sup>th</sup> March which will require your child dressing up as a book character and for mothers, your special tea on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Obviously all the other dates are important too!

Best wishes,

Head of Pre-prep



## This Week

The **Dragonflies** are embracing the new topic "Around the world... in Half a Term" with gusto! The children have been arriving at school every morning armed with books and artefacts from around the world to share with the class. We have started our "world trip" with Antarctica and the Arctic - learning about penguins and polar bears. The children have created 2D penguins and 3D penguins and made some very fluffy polar bears for our classroom displays. They used atlases and globes to identify the continents and oceans of the world and then painted the flag of their favourite country - using their atlas to find the continent and capital.

Our maths focus is "Time" and we are revising the days of the week, months and seasons before we start using analogue and digital clocks next week.

Mrs Sherwin

It has been wonderful to welcome the **Cricketts** back and hear all about their holiday adventures and wonderful gifts they received from Father Christmas. The class have been excited to have two new members and are learning to count up to 10 quickly in Spanish when we line up. Welcome Poppy and Robert! In RE, the children have found out about Epiphany in class and later in the week, learnt more from Chaplain about the Three Kings. In maths, they have been looking at 3D shapes and their properties. We have looked at their features such as faces and corners and tried to remember all the different names. Some are tricky to say, such as sphere. We began our topic 'Out of an Egg', by creating mind maps about eggs. These included many features such as the Easter bunny, cakes, snakes and nests. The class are using lots of new vocabulary such as predator and albumen. They carefully labelled parts of an egg and compared different types of eggs. They realised that eggs differ in colour, shape and size. This is going to be an egg-citing topic!

Mrs Purnell







## This Week

The **Honey Bees** have had a busy week getting stuck into their latest topic; Long, Long, Ago. We have spent the week using children's literature to go on our own time travel adventure exploring different time periods from prehistoric times to the present day. The children have loved finding out about cave life and Saxon adventures with the help of the fabulous books, *Cave Baby* by Julia Donaldson and *Stone Age boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. We have looked at old photographs and images of cave paintings and even dug up our own flint at Forest School which looked like an old axe head, which we had to experiment with to see what it would cut! Power Point presentations have further added to the children's learning and the Jurassic dinosaur Tuff Tray has been very well used! We took inspiration from the wonderful old photographs looked at and decided to make our own creative portraits using materials collected rather than paint or pen, and the children's individual work is quite fantastic.

Forest School was as delightful as always with a walk to investigate wildlife at the pond resulting in an entire afternoon spent at that site. We were fascinated to discover large holes in the bank and spent some time guessing which animals would have dug them. We watched moorhens swimming around and then had a wonderful snack sitting on enormous logs listening to the birds calling.

Mrs George





## This Week

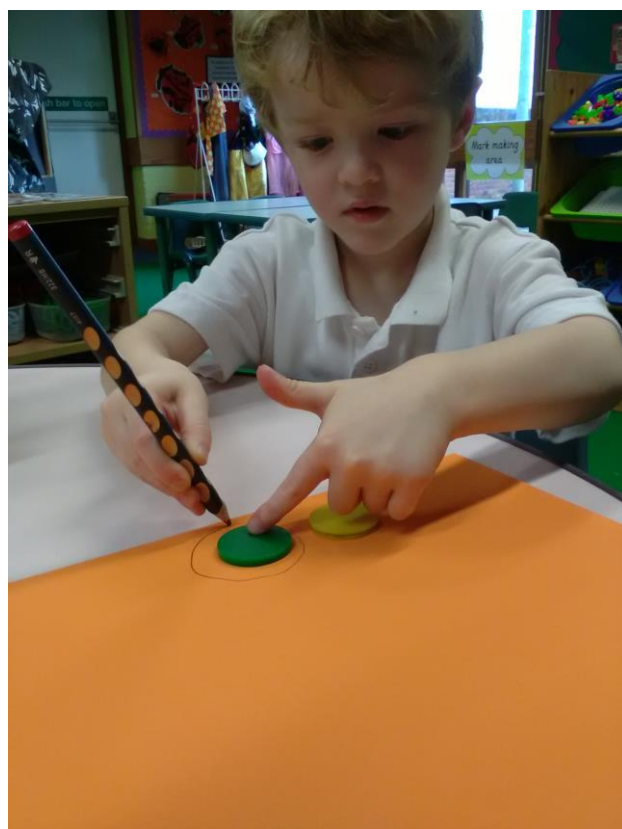
Welcome to our new **Ladybirds**, Amaiya and Violet, who have settled in so well this week. All of the children have been so kind and helpful looking after them and showing them where everything is.

The Ladybirds have got stuck into their new topic of 'Julia Donaldson Books', looking at the story of the Gruffalo. We have been reading the story as a group, using puppets and learning a Gruffalo song in our music and dance session. The Ladybirds created their own Gruffalo faces and made some Gruffalo crumble. For both activities, they had to think carefully about the different features of the Gruffalo that are described in the book, such as the "terrible teeth", the "terrible tusks" and the "orange eyes".

The Ladybirds have loved exploring the Gruffalo cave in the role play area and in the tuft tray. They have been using the puppets and the soft toys to recreate the story; it has been wonderful hearing their own interpretations of it!

Please can I remind parents to send back your child's library book each week, as the children are always very excited to choose a new book during our library visit.

Miss Ashenden





## Looking Ahead

<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>08:30</b> Coffee and Chat for parents in PP Hall
<b>W/C 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	PP Science Week
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Kic Theatre
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Half Term Begins
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Back to School
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>08:30</b> Coffee and Chat for parents in PP Hall
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day: PP dressing up day
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>15:30</b> 'Drop In' for all PP parents
<b>W/C 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parent Consultations (all week)
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>14:45</b> Mother's Day Tea (for Pre-Prep mothers)
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>09:00 PP</b> End of term service in Chapel
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>14:30</b> End of term

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

- [Website news for Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior Schools](#)
- [Head's Blog from Mr O'Connor](#)
- [The Boarding Blog](#)

**[www.stedmunds.org.uk](http://www.stedmunds.org.uk)**

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