



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



Newsletter 1: 4th September 2020

Welcome!

It is customary for the first newsletter of an academic year to say welcome back, but of course, this is an extra special welcome. For those returning to school after a number of months, welcome home. Over the past few months we have navigated a very interesting time in this country's recent history. Whilst of course we are still in the midst of new words in the public lexicon such as 'flatten the curve' and social distancing, we as a staff are trying to make our children feel as comfortable as possible with a slightly different St Edmund's Junior School. To those of you who are new to the school, you are warmly welcome and thank you for choosing St Edmund's as the setting for your child's continuing educational journey.

As you may know, I have also just joined the school, having relocated from Hampshire in the summer. Whilst I haven't had an opportunity to meet you all properly yet, it has been wonderful to hear your welcomes and to feel your positive attitudes about the school as we collect and drop off children to you on the overflow car park. Whilst this may not be a conventional start to an academic year, it is showing me the great sense of collegiality in the school; but, in fairness, it is more than that. In just a few short days, you and your child have shown me that this school is one big family. As you know, families disagree, argue, cry and get upset, but their bond is something unique. I look forward to working with you, so that we can continue to learn from each other over the coming years.

Earlier this week, I had the wonderful opportunity to talk to staff about the future, not only concerning the immediate future highlighting the importance of the safe return to school, but also where I would like our school to travel to. Staff were brilliant, and it was a joy to be able to learn from their opinions of the school and to see that they are focused on providing the very best for your child. I look forward to having an opportunity to share my thoughts with you and your child in the not too distant future.

From now on, newsletters will be sent out fortnightly, instead of weekly. Sports fixtures etc. will be communicated weekly when they are up and running. Each fortnight I will record a Video newsletter on our newly created Twitter Account. Please search [@JSHeadStEds](https://twitter.com/JSHeadStEds)

Thank you all for your kind words and support regarding the reopening arrangements. I will be sending out a SurveyMonkey questionnaire to you all next week to get a better idea of who requires late stay. Please do not worry about this being entirely accurate, I just want to gather enough data to make an informed decision to support you and my staff team.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. I look forward to seeing you and your child on Monday morning.

Mr De Silva

Mr De Silva

Head of Junior School

Message from Mr Comfort

Dear parents,

We hope that the start of term has run smoothly thus far and that your children have enjoyed getting back to school.

So you are all aware, timetables should all now be accurate for the students and available to view on My School Portal. If there are any issues with timetables, please contact your child's Tutor with the details.

On a similar note, the timetables may well change after we have finalised our setting. The sets thus far have been informed by previous years' data and any data we have received for new students. With the absence of any summative assessment data from the summer term, the sets are likely to change for some. This will be informed by both our baseline testing that will be taking place next week and the teachers' assessments that they will be carrying out (as normal) next week also.

By the week beginning Monday 14th September, all students will be placed in the groups that are best for them and their learning ready for success over the course of the year.

If you have any questions regarding timetables or setting please do get in touch.

Mr Comfort

Messages from Mrs King in the office

Please see below messages from across the school. Form 3 parents, Mr De Silva will be writing to you all early in the week, following the zoom meeting earlier this week. Mrs King

Message from Mrs Bradley for Form 4

Dear Parents,

Next week we will be doing some collage art activities. We would be really grateful of any donated magazines that your child will be able to use for the lesson. These should arrive in on Monday and will be disinfected and left for 2 days before we use them in our project.

Many thanks for your help.

With best wishes

Mrs L S Bradley

lsb@stedmunds.org.uk

Mrs I J Norton

ijn@stedmunds.org.uk

Message from Mr Underwood

UK Safer Internet Centre are offering a free online safety webinar on Tuesday 29th September 2pm - 4pm. This online event is aimed primarily at parents & professionals working with children in the UK. This two-hour session will include segments from David Wright (Director of UK Safer Internet Centre) and representatives from Childnet, Internet Matters & Facebook. [Click here for further details and to book.](#)



Junior School children getting firmly back into the swing of learning