



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

Michaelmas 2020

Dear Parents

We have had a great week in Pre-Prep as we have enjoyed the beautiful weather. The children and staff are back into their routines and school work is progressing well.

I hope you have been able to access your class Welcome Teams meeting or are about to do so in the next few days. These will give you a chance to learn more about what is happening in your child's class and ask any questions you may have. If you can't make the meetings please email your teacher for more information or to arrange a phone call.

I attended my first Junior School Senior Leadership Team meeting this week, chaired by Mr De Silva, the new Junior School Head. It was very interesting to discuss issues that affect Pre-Prep and Junior School and I look forward to greater interaction between the two schools.

As I look at my diary there are several events that we will not be able to organise as usual, as parents aren't allowed on site. We are looking into ways that the children can take part in, for instance Harvest Festival in class and let parents take part in a virtual way. More details to follow.

Best Wishes

Julia





Ladybirds

What a super week! The Ladybirds continue to surprise me in terms of how well they cope with drop off and their knowledge of numbers and sounds. I'm already very proud of my class.

They are loving our Ten Town stories which help children learn their numbers and how to write them correctly. Each number has a character name such as King one, Tommy two, Thelma three etc.

They have started work on learning some sounds and developing their pencil control.

When investigating our curiosity table and going on outdoor learning expeditions the class have been very interested in looking at and asking questions about seeds, flowers and plants. So this will be our topic for the next few weeks leading up to Harvest.

This week we have explored several different creative activities based on seeds and flowers from painting using different effects to make petals to seed clay tiles. Their favourite activity was pulling seeds out of a sunflower head with tweezers. It is very therapeutic! They also enjoyed making flower shaped biscuits with chocolate drop seeds in the middle. Did they share them with you?!





Honeybees

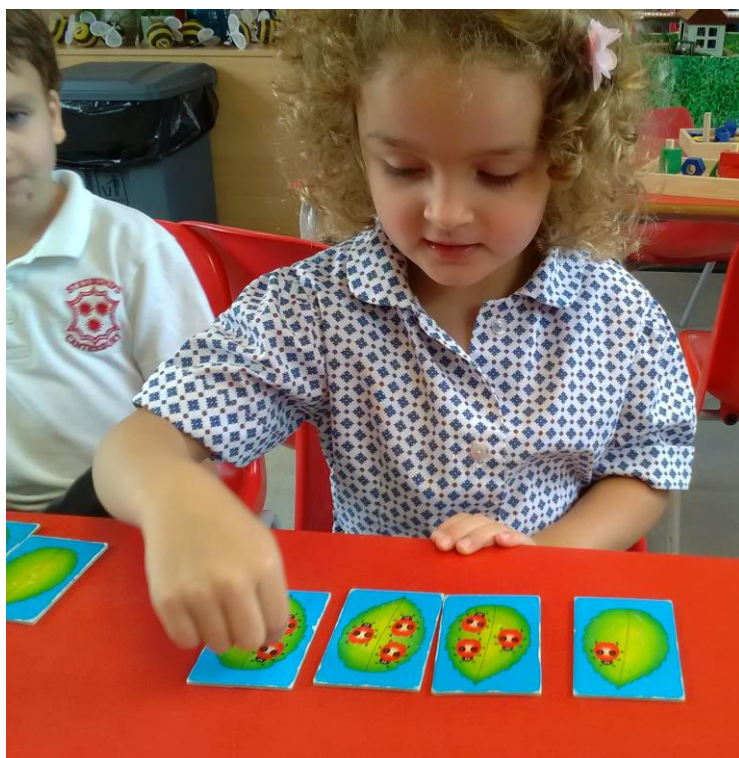
The Honey Bees have spent the week continuing to re-settle back into school and playing, whilst being busy learning how to write their names cursively. Mrs George is very impressed with some of the independent name writing already! We have also been finding out about what it takes to be a good friend. We have enjoyed reading books offering different scenarios about being friendly or unfriendly, and *The Selfish Crocodile* by Faustin Charles and *Michael Terry* was definitely the favourite!

We have made a list of things that we can do to be a good friend and made our own friendship recipe from it. The children then made paper plate faces and cut out chef hats to stick on to display for our friendship recipe display.

Forest School was simply wonderful. The children all loved exploring the site once more, and we spent the afternoon bug hunting and cooking in our mud kitchen. Lots to learn about staying safe and enormous fun.

The highlight of the week was cooking friendship cakes for each other, and the children delighted in checking with a friend to see how they would like their cake decorated.

Next week sees us begin our first topic, *Magnificent Minibeasts*.





Cricket

What a busy week in the Crickets! The children have been learning about alphabetical order and upper and lower case letters. They have played games differentiating between the two and created a collaborative class display of wonderful paintings. Then children had to match the appropriate upper/ lower case letters. They are getting very quick at knowing that names ("Zac Crawley the cricketer begins with an upper case Z" and "a kite begins with a lower case k"). In maths, the children have been sequencing and spotting missing numbers. They have used number lines and 100 squares to help them. They created long, slithery snakes to complete their sequences. The Crickets have been sorting objects according to different criteria into Venn diagrams. Very impressive! As part of their topic work on "Who do you think you are?", the class drew and labelled their own mind maps, portraits and wrote about themselves. In music, they listened to Swan Lake and a piece by Einaudi, and used percussion instruments to explore quiet/ soft sounds. They also performed rhythms. We have started to learn the names of body parts in Spanish and sing "Heads and shoulders". Fantastico!

Dragonflies

The Dragonflies started their topic "Turrets and Tiaras" this week. Before we learn about the Royal Family, we are looking at our own families - creating family trees and Coats of Arms. We have been finding out about how the world has changed since Grandad was a little boy and we thought of our own questions to interview Grandad (or Granny) this weekend. We wrote our questions carefully, making sure we put question marks at the end.

In Maths we are identifying and ordering numbers to 100 - looking carefully at the tens and units and creating our own 100 squares and bead strings. We have been chanting the 10 x table (conveniently there are 12 Dragonflies!) and are learning to recite the 10 x table and quickly answer Mrs Sherwin's "quick questions" in mental maths.

What a tremendous start to the term!

