



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



25th September 2020

Pre-Prep News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It looks like the Autumn weather is coming. Ladybirds have already had one puddle walk! With that in mind please remember to send coats in every day just in case of rain and you may even want to start sending in named hats, scarves and gloves.

We have had a few responses to the October half term holiday club. Please can you email me by Monday if you would like your child to come. The form to complete is on My School Portal.

Next Thursday would have been Harvest festival but because of the pandemic we are not allowed to have a Chapel service or invite parents in to watch. Each class will create a short film about what they have been learning about Harvest and send it to you. Instead of collecting food for a traditional Harvest display we are collecting money for 'Catching Lives', a local homeless charity and having a non-uniform day on Friday 2nd October. If you would like to contribute please send your donation in in an envelope. All donations will be gratefully received by the charity.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best Wishes,

Head of Pre-prep



Ladybirds

This week we have concentrated on trees and growing. On an outdoor learning session, we named some of the school trees and looked at the leaves to identify them. We collected some of the leaves and made magic wands with them. We also took some back to the classroom to create a beautiful leaf rubbing display. As some of the leaves are already turning autumnal colours we also talked about the changing seasons and used our watercolour paint palettes to paint autumn trees. As we have collected many seeds over the last few weeks the children have asked to plant some seeds and watch them grow. As Ladybirds can be a little impatient and want things to happen instantly, we have planted some cress seeds which should give us a quick result. We will also plant some other seeds that we have collected and see how they do in the future.

In maths we have continued to work on writing numbers up to 10. This is proving quite tricky as it is early days for good pencil control but they all enjoy the number games and activities. We have also been looking at 2D shape naming squares, triangles, rectangles and circles (some children know more exotic shapes such as pentagons and octagons). They have sorted shapes, thrown shape beanbags, used interactive shape games on the big screen and cooked pastry shape pockets and jam tarts. The class are improving their rubbing in technique in cooking and are pretty good at not getting the butter all over their fingers! Once cooked they like to share our creations with Shirley who serves our delicious lunches and with whom they have built up a lovely relationship.

In literacy we are tracing our names regularly, telling our news, developing language associated with our topic and maths work and this week have listened to and joined in with rhyming activities as a pre reading skill.

Well done Ladybirds a super week.



Honey Bees

This week the Honey Bees have continued their topic focus on minibeasts by exploring the non-fiction book 'Bug Detective' by Maggie Li. The children have been learning new facts and were particularly fascinated with stick insects and the bombardier beetle! We have undertaken online research to find out more about them and the children were spellbound watching a video of a bombardier beetle protecting itself.

We really enjoyed welcoming our Head of Senior Boarding and resident bee keeper Mr Jones, who came and talked to the children about bees and how they help us. Mr Jones brought some honeycomb from an old hive and his bee keeping suit and the children were fascinated in seeing where the bees live. The children learnt all about the queen bee and asked some really interesting questions, such as, "why isn't there a king bee?"

The children have also enjoyed sorting toy minibeasts according to whether they fly/have legs/have wings, and followed this up with a question and answer quiz game to identify a minibeast from clues given. We went on a minibeast habitat hunt in the garden where the children were given a photograph of a minibeast and had to show the rest of the class where it would probably like to live. Super work Honey Bees.

In maths we have continued with the 'number' theme and have been counting carefully to ensure we use 1:1 correspondence. We enjoyed a game of 'jumping frogs' along a number line, using a dice to see how many jumps we could take. It was very exciting to see who got to number 20 first!

In phonics the children have continued becoming familiarised with the high frequency word 'the' and have learnt the new phoneme/grapheme 'a'. The children have daily handwriting practice, including sand writing, rainbow writing and letter formation work and Mrs George is very impressed with the progress being made.

Forest School was wonderful! The children had decided that we should find sticks at Forest School to make our own model stick insects - and so that is exactly what we did! Armed with blu tack, double sided tape, googly eyes and lots of collected sticks, the children set to work. They all worked so incredibly hard and knew exactly how they wanted their insect to look, and focused until they were all satisfied with their creation. The children chose to collect some fallen branches to take back to class to display the stick insects, and we now have a fabulous 'tree' covered with camouflaged stick insects in the book corner!

Well done Honey Bees - another fabulous week.





Cricketts

The Cricketts have been using their geography detective skills to look at maps and photographs to identify and locate specific famous landmarks in Canterbury. They have looked for familiar places they have visited and written about them too. In phonics they have been spotting and writing words with the digraph 'th' and discovered it's in many words they know too. The children are working hard with their handwriting and joining their letters. In maths, the children have been spotting and making number bonds and are becoming quicker at recalling their number bonds to 10 and knowing that they can swap the digits and the answer is still the same. They have used IT programmes and Numicon to explore doubles. They have been looking at symmetry and lines of symmetry in shapes. The children have excitedly seen their French puppets with Madame Dieppedalle and are remembering greetings and questions. Tres bien! We have been finding out about the Canterbury artist, Thomas Sidney Cooper and looked at different landscapes he painted. Many of his paintings are on display in the Beaney in Canterbury. The children noticed that Canterbury looks very different today and there were more meadows and animals in the past. Inspired by this artist, they painted their own landscapes with cows, horses and sheep in.





Dragonflies

The Dragonflies have been transported back to 1066 and have learnt about the Battle of Hastings; we re-enacted the events in a drama session and even created a wonderful short video. We have enjoyed watching our Dragonfly 1066 movie all week and used it to sequence the events in a storyboard. The children examined sections from the Bayeux Tapestry to find out about the past - what clever history detectives.

It has been a very mathematical week - we have been exploring symmetry in the world around us and spent a very pleasant sunny afternoon in Forest School using mirrors to find lots of symmetry in leaves. We collected some particularly beautiful autumn leaves and painted them the following day using watercolours, they are wonderful paintings and we are very proud of them. We have also been doubling and halving small and very large numbers. The children have progressed from "skip counting" in twos to learning their two times table - this has been very useful to help solve doubling problems.

