



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



Newsletter 4: 16th October 2020

What a wonderful half term!

It has been an enormous privilege to see the learning unfold during this half term. No one would know that we had such a gap from conventional learning, as the children are really settling well into their studies and this can be seen by their progress. Huge thanks must go to the staff team here at St Edmund's for their teaching during the period of remote learning. That thanks, of course, is extended to you as parents for supporting your child. Thank you.

There have been so many highlights this half term, and, although we haven't had the usual array of sports fixtures and musical concerts, the staff have been honing skills ready for the time that we are able to showcase our skills and passion. Speaking of which, this week the Choristers were featured live on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday – please do [listen again](#); they also recorded a service for broadcast later this term.

In the last newsletter I spoke to you all briefly about exciting plans for the future. During half term, school will begin to have a rather interesting transformation. Form 3 will be split into two classes which will be located in the current Form 4 classrooms. Form 4's classrooms will be upstairs in the current fiction library and ICT. The library will be housed in the non fiction library (see possible design below) and the current Form 3 classroom will turn into a new ICT suite – called the Genius Laboratory (see possible design below). I spoke to the children about these changes during my Head's Line last Friday and we are all incredibly excited about the future plans for the school.



If you would like to find out more about exciting plans for the Junior School, please do join me at Parents in Partnership (PIPs) next half term. PIPs is a slightly less formal gathering for you all to hear about how we can realise the vision for the school – to provide outstanding learning opportunities for all children. The meetings will normally have an agenda, but the first one will be slightly freer. Please note, however, that these meetings are opportunities to focus on what the school is going to do in a positive climate and I look forward to feeling your enthusiasm for our school. Invites will be sent out in the next half term for a virtual meeting.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend and a super half term.

Mr De Silva

Mr De Silva

Head of Junior School



Congratulations!

On Friday 9th October, I was able to announce to the school the candidates chosen for the roles of:

- House Captains
- Sports Captains
- School Council

I am delighted to announce that the House Captains and Sports Captains for this academic year are:

	House		Sports	
Becket	Stella R	Oliver B	Ava G	Cameron C
Roper	Sophie K	Rhyd L	Jodi H	William S
Marlowe	Setayesh K	Yalamber R	Mehetabel M	Freddy B
Chaucer	Camilla B	Joseph G	Daisy B	George G

Thank you to all the children who were interviewed for the posts. Whilst I realise that some may be disappointed with not getting selected, I am hugely impressed with the level of support you have all shown your friends. Well done.

School Council

Well done to all of those who stood for election to be a School Council Member. The staff have talked passionately about your class speeches. Well done to you all. The School Council members for this academic year are:

Form	School Council Members		
3	Naomi P	Luca O	
4	Lucy S	Thomas A	
5	Alexander S	Penny B	
6	Oliver P	Josh C	
7*	Charles F	Joe G	Poppy H
8*	Mehetabel M	Seamus S	Fraser B

*3 classes per year group

Congratulations to:

For gaining their Bronze star certificates:

Masha D, Daniel D, Morgan A, Robert S, Jeremy I, Clemmie A, Olivia R, Thomas L, Daniel R, Megan G, Ruairidh A, Ellis H, Olivia W, Isla A, Ben C, Alexander S, Isabella R, Emma S, Josie W, Mya P, Theo I, Richard DC-M, Ben B.

For gaining Certificates of Excellence

Morgan A, Robert S

Congratulations also to Ami W for passing her Grade 8 Piano exam

Well done to you all!



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Message from Mr Comfort about Assessment

Our assessment and reporting systems are undergoing an exciting development this year, all to ensure that the level of teaching and learning is of the highest quality. For Forms 3 to 6, we have introduced termly standardised testing which will inform our teaching practice whilst also allowing for some extremely accurate and effective progress tracking of each individual student. For Forms 7 and 8, termly assessments will be created in conjunction with Senior School staff which will allow for GCSE skills to be assessed as part of our elite provision for these two year groups. In addition to these measures of progress tracking, we have introduced new baseline testing for both Lower and Upper school which will again inform our teacher's practice to ensure each individual achieves as highly as possible.

Our reporting cycle will also be amended this year given the continued disruption caused by Covid-19. By the time you read this, you would have already had parent-teacher meetings (via a phone call) with either your child's class teacher or form tutor which has hopefully given you an insight into their life at school thus far this academic year. Next half term, we will be issuing an Academic Review Card which will give you detailed information on your child's level of effort, attainment and individual progress. As a result of the production of this report, there will be no full written report this Michaelmas term. Next term, we will again produce an ARC report and run a full parents' evening (the details and logistics of which will be confirmed nearer the time).

Academic assessment aside, we have also been conscious of our students' well-being (now more than ever) and as such we ran some well-being surveys with our Lower School students and will soon be running these with the remainder of Upper School. The results of these surveys have been insightful and interesting and I thought it may be prudent to share some of our findings with you;

Overall, the general positivity of students is good - the sense of school belonging and the class climate were particular strong points in the eyes of the children

Self-efficacy was slightly lower than we had anticipated and, as such, staff will soon be implementing some strategies in class to help assist in its improvement

There was a very interesting relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation which showed that students are more motivated to 'do well' as it was inherently satisfying and not simply to gain some form of praise/reward

Resilience and persistence scores were very encouraging- no surprise given the resilience shown by all during last term!

I will be holding meetings this week and next with some of our VAT (Very Able and Talented) students in Forms 7 and 8 to see, in their opinion, how we are currently stretching and challenging them and what more we could possibly offer them in the future to ensure we get the very best out of these gifted young learners- watch this space!

Introduction to social media for parents This practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media platforms was developed by Internet Matters, NSPCC, Parent Zone, and UK Safer Internet Centre.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Guide-Official-UK-Social-Media-Guidance.pdf>



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Message from our Librarian, Mrs Elford

I would like to remind all Upper School pupils they can email me at ke@stedmunds.org.uk to request books from the library. As the library is not in the Upper School bubble, there are a selection of books in all form rooms. In addition to this, books can be requested by email, and I will bring books to form rooms at morning and afternoon registration. As the days grow colder and shorter, there will be more time spent indoors providing lots of opportunities to enjoy one of the many books we have in the library.

Please can pupils spend some time during the half term holiday looking for books borrowed prior to lockdown. At present, there are still many favourite titles missing from the shelves; books will be gratefully received however overdue they are.

Message from Mr Underwood

This practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media platforms was developed by Internet Matters, NSPCC, Parent Zone, and UK Safer Internet Centre.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-Matters-Guide-Official-UK-Social-Media-Guidance.pdf>

Message from Mrs King

Form 7 and Form 8 – Please remember to bring a face mask into school after half term to wear when you are queuing up for lunch. Thank you.

Message from Mr Kincaid

It has been an exciting few weeks for Forms 7 and 8 in Outdoor Education lessons. We've had storms, rain and strong winds, and then more rain, and then brief sunny spells followed by even more rain. The pupils have been excellent, very enthusiastic and resilient in the face of challenging conditions. Form 7 have learnt the skills of fire making in tough damp conditions and everyone had a go at making some pancakes on an open fire. Although some of them had a slightly smoky taste, they were actually all very delicious! Extra thanks to the teams who made some for myself and Mr Jones, very much appreciated.

In Form 8 the focus had been on some bushcraft skills of rope/cord making out of stinging nettles and reeds. Some of the pupils were remarkably dextrous at this activity, with some making rope better than the teachers. We used this to create a tripod and will use these in the next session for boiling water and hopefully having some tea/hot chocolate.

Very excitingly over half term we have our giant tipi arriving in school (just in time for winter), this will give us a brilliant outdoor classroom and base for Outdoor Ed lessons. Please see the pictures on the next page...

Message from Mr Anderson

The Cardboard Boat Challenge tests your design, making and engineering skills to make a boat, no larger than a piece of A3 paper, out of cardboard. Your boat should be mostly made from cardboard but can include some other materials and it will need to keep a 500 gram weight afloat. Your finished product will be tested in school on Monday 2nd November, please make sure your boat is ready for testing in water. Points awarded for design style and total weight held in the water for 10 seconds. See poster.



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CARDBOARD BOAT

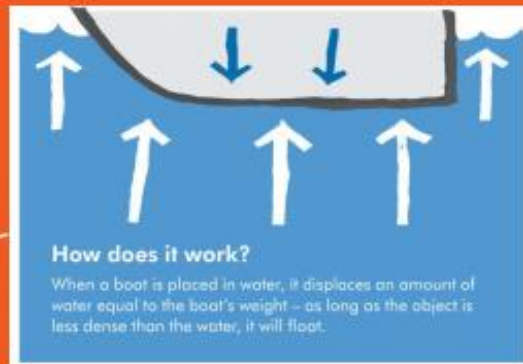
New Deadline
Monday 2nd November
Meet 1pm in Room JSB

The brief: Construct a boat from cardboard.

The Specification:

The boat you design and make must
Be able to support at least 250g
Be made mostly from cardboard
Be able to fit on an A3 piece of paper

Top tips- Back everything with wax paper or foil – be careful not to leave any gaps where the water can get in. Think about stability. Some shapes are more stable than others when a load is applied.



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