



## Where has the time gone?

The Michaelmas term certainly has flown by and, whilst it will not be ending in a traditional way, we are hopeful that the children enjoy their virtual learning next week. Hopefully you have looked through our Remote Learning Pack. If not, it's well worth a read (so says the author), not only for information about learning sessions, but also how we are trying to widen our offer – including Co-Curricular and story time. Please do encourage your child to join these optional sessions.

It would be all too easy to focus on the handful of positive test cases in the Junior School as the main focus of the last week, and I'm not going to lie that they rightly take time to investigate, but there is so much more that has happened. The learning in school has continued to be a triumph. My staff team have worked tirelessly and I am proud of all they have done this term and am confident that they will continue to give of their best until term ends next week.



Of course it is not just my staff who have been great – parents too have been so incredibly supportive of the school and have really shown me, in my first term, the very best of the St Edmund's family. Your understanding of the bigger picture has enabled my staff to focus on the most important job they have – caring for your child. Teaching and Learning is very much at the core of what we do. In the last newsletter I informed you all about my first formal lesson observation week. Alas, the second week for formal observations has been postponed for early next year. One of the most important parts of my daily routine is to say good morning to all the children and to carry out an informal learning walk. So *what will happen next week?* Fret not. During our remote learning next week, I will be having a brief Head's line (8.50am) each morning, mainly to say *hello*. I will also be invited to every virtual lesson so that, if I am able to, I will be able to log in to check on the children.

On Thursday (10.12.20) I presented my Head Teacher report to the Governors. In it, I wrote about our exciting learning plans for the future – specifically our vision for English in the school. We look forward to developing this further with our friends in Pre Prep. One key part of our plan is to look at spelling. So here's a challenge for you... *What does this word 'spell'?* GHOTI. If you're not sure, take a look at the answer at the bottom of this page.

During my Head's line today I spoke to the children about the key concept of gratitude; we explored what gratitude could look like in terms of Christmas, including Christmas presents! This term we have all had a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful to my dedicated staff team, all the parents for their support and empathy and lastly – our amazing children – who teach us something new each day. I must also say a huge thank you to our Chaplain, Steve Bennett, who will be leaving us at the end of this term. We wish him well and thank him for all he has done for our school family.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing your child back at school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Mr De Silva

Head of Junior School



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## Important news for those isolating

I'm sure that many of you may have seen news articles about the isolation period being shortened from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. Once we have official government guidance, we will be emailing JS parents should their isolation period be affected. If we do not email you, your isolation period will continue as previously communicated.

## Congratulations!

### **Bronze Star Certificates:**

Olivia W, Tabatha W, Peter S, Lucy S, Alexander R, Cora R-M, Filip P, Oliver P, Harry H, Eddie F, Oliver B, Eliana R-B, Hugo W, Beau B, Angus H, Oren R, Alyssia T, Tom B, Danny S

### **Silver Star Certificates**

Rohan L, Logan W, Naomi P, Clemmie A, Thomas L

### **Bronze and Silver Star Certificates**

Isla A and Riley C

### **Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Star Certificates**

Xavier G, Ben C

### **Certificates of Excellence**

Logan W, Setayesh KK, Ruaraidh A, Cameron C, Meena H, Fraser B, Joseph C, Drew T, Charlie F, Edward C-S, Zachary R, Maria S, Oliver B, Xavier G, Theo I, Jeremy I, Daniel D, Eliana R-B, Masha D, Alex S-B, Josie W, Olivia-Ray D, Niamh D, Thomas L, Alexa P, Poppy H, Seamus C, Maria H-S, Imogen F, Hamish A, Amelia W, Bella P, Nyan M, Joseph G, Scarlett W, Jake R, Robyn D, Tilly H, Jodi H, Daisy B, Meena H, Dylan S, Joseph G, Edward U, Hetty M, Leo S-H, Omna A, George G, Marshall C

### **Poetry Competition**

**First Place:** Evan G (US) and Maria HS (LS)

**Runners up:** Camilla B-P (US), Oliver B (US), Emma DCM (LS), Niyam Patel (LS)

### **ABRSM practical music exams.**

Tom B, Josh C, Ben C, Adetola D, Eddie F, Jeremy I, Luca L, Rohan L, Juliette M, Dylan S, Peter S, Ami W, James W

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available for entry into Years 7 and 9 and are awarded on merit to the highest achievers in competitive examinations and assessments. More information can be found here:

<https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/admissions/scholarships-bursaries-other-fee-remissions/>



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## Message from Mr Comfort

### Assessment: ARCs (Academic Report Cards)

As I am sure you already know, last week we successfully ran our Michaelmas assessments for Forms 3 to 8. The students were fantastic throughout and the staff have been equally superb in their marking and subsequent completion of the Michaelmas ARCs. These assessments will prove vital in the next stages of our teaching and learning and will inform our next steps in the Lent term. In the most loving way possible, I hope that all students experience some form of failure in these assessments. As Mr De Silva says, 'fail' stands for 'first attempt in learning', and to fail offers us the best learning opportunities possible. It will also ensure that we continue to challenge our students in every facet of their education and continue to build one of the most important skills in life; resilience. Please refer to the last newsletter when Mr De Silva shared his *Success is an Iceberg* analogy.

Next week, you will receive your Michaelmas ARC which will include information on your child's effort, attainment and progress thus far this year. As we move into the Lent term and begin to review our reporting, we would value your feedback as parents as to the current format of the ARCs. As such, you will soon receive a survey monkey which we would be very grateful if you could complete so that we can take this into consideration in our discussions.

### Parents' Evening

After our initial parent meetings and consultations earlier this term which took place either on Teams or via phone call, the school have now purchased the School Cloud software package which will enable us to run parents' evenings virtually.

More information will follow next term prior to the evenings themselves but if you would like an introduction to the system you can find one at the link below:

<https://www.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

We look forward to seeing you all (virtually of course!) soon! Best wishes to you all and happy holidays!

Mr Comfort



## Co-Curricular update from Mr McKean

Mr McKean is currently liaising with the departments in the school to put together a Michaelmas Term newsletter. Watch this space...



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## Message From Ms Dieppedalle: French Penfriends

Forms 5 and 6 wrote lovely letters to their French penfriends and they are now eagerly awaiting their response. Fantastique!



## Message from Mrs Barnes

Form 6 took a courageous step in independent learning by teaching themselves how to use Photopea, a free Photoshop substitute. Armed only with a basic guide and video that I put together and their own resilience and perseverance to develop their own Christmas card design. As many can vouch, learning new software is challenging, especially when learning remotely. A wonderful demonstration of all the above in Xavier's Northern lights style card.

