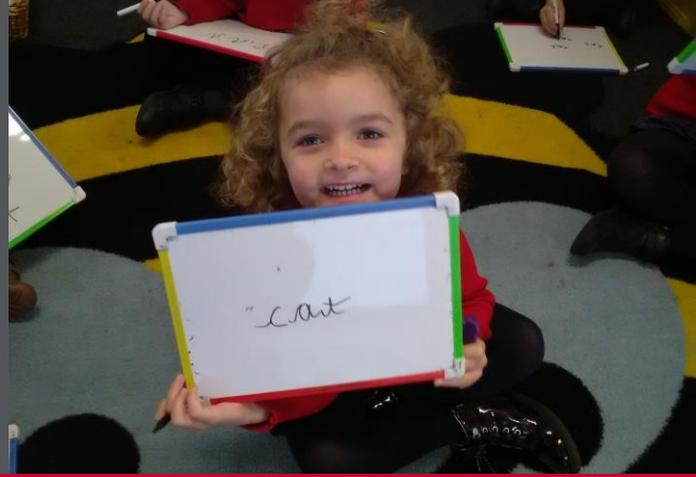




ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

CANTERBURY



Pre-Prep Newsletter

Michaelmas 2020

Dear Parents

Advent has started and we are full steam ahead for Christmas. All classes are taking part in Nativity plays which will be filmed and emailed to you. We are sorry you won't be able to attend this year but at least you will see the performance.

On Thursday 10th December we are holding a virtual information evening for anyone who is interested in their child joining Honey Bees (Reception Class) in September. If you have a child in Ladybirds or know anyone who has a child of the appropriate age please look at the school website for details of how to sign up to this event. The event has presentations from me and Mrs George as well as a Q and A section at the end.

On Monday 14th December we have our Christmas lunch which we are really looking forward to. On this day we would like the children to come in a festive themed outfit in exchange for a donation to Catching Lives, Homeless charity. Please don't go out and buy anything special, a hat will do but if you have jumpers or dresses that would be great. They do not need to wear uniform on this day.

We are really excited to launch our new Instagram, created especially for the Nursery and Pre-Prep! You can find us by searching @stedsnurseryandpreprep or, if you are new to Instagram, then download the app, it's easy to follow us! We will be regularly posting highlights from inside and outside the classroom and we think it will be a fun way to follow and celebrate the amazing children in the Pre-Prep. This month, we are posting a "Christmas Elf Around the School" story, the cheeky Elf will be in a different location each day...the children might have fun working out where he is!

I am sad to say Steve Bennett, our school Chaplain, is retiring at the end of this term. He has been a good friend to the Pre-Prep children and staff and we will miss him greatly. We will have a socially distanced leaving presentation for him in the last week of school.

The Pre-Prep Michaelmas term ends at 1.30pm on Thursday 17th December. We will have late stay for those with siblings in Junior and Senior school. Please can you let your class teacher know if your child will be staying late on that day.

We have had quite a few forms in for the Christmas holiday club which is great news. It will be running on Friday 18th, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December if you would like your child to attend please complete the form that was sent out to all parents on Monday 30th November.

Have a super weekend.

Best Wishes

Julia

Ladybirds

This week we have been learning about Advent. We have talked about what it is, made Advent chains and wreaths and lit our Advent candle. We wrote some Advent candle promises and they came up with quite a few such as tidying up their toys, helping their parents to cook, put plates in the dishwasher, talk to a new friend, work hard at school, etc. So I hope you have seen some of these at home!

We have talked about the tradition of Saint Nicholas and how in some countries he brings gold coins and fruit for children on the evening of 5th December. The children's eyes lit up at the thought of some early presents. A lot of time has been spent on Nativity rehearsals. The class have learnt the songs really well so I hope they sing beautifully for the filmed performance.

The Ladybirds were lucky enough to go with Mrs George to Forest School on Tuesday afternoon. They had a lovely time playing with all the resources and creating imaginary games.

I asked each child to write their name independently this week to see how they were progressing. I was pleased with the results and know it isn't easy to do without help. Thank you to those who are using our cursive letters at home, it definitely helps.

In PE, wearing their wonderful Christmas hats, the class took part in the Lapland Run trying to complete 145 miles. The class ran laps of the sports hall adding to the total. A super effort Ladybirds.



Honeybees

The Honey Bees have had a most exciting week with the start of Advent bringing some Christmas decorations into the room. The tree went up and was decorated over 2 days and the children were delighted to meet the Christmas elf who magically appeared in the class on Tuesday. He has been named Elfa by the children! Elfa gets up to all sorts of mischief...

Nativity rehearsals have been taking place each day and this is a real focus as we get ready for the filming next week. I am sure you will have heard one or two of the nativity songs already!

The topic focus has continued with Hibernation as the children were so interested in it last week. We have been watching presentations and a short film about hibernation, sorted animals according to whether they hibernated or not, made the most fabulous sock animal puppets and finished off their clay hedgehogs from last week.

In Literacy the children have recapped their work on the grapheme 'c' and have learnt the new phoneme and grapheme 'k', along with the high frequency word, 'up'. Daily reading is showing real progress with the children now confidently reading some high frequency words by sight. It really is a joy to see the children really enjoying exploring new stories as they read and to see their progress.

In Maths this week the children have been introduced to coins to the value of 10p. The children have been identifying the different coins and working with 1p coins to buy items at our pretend shop. The children have also been introduced to the idea that they can pay a given amount using a different combination of coins. We have taken prints of coins in playdough and enjoyed playing in a pretend shop.

The children are making wonderful progress in Spanish and Mrs Purnell has taught the children colours and numbers to five. We are delighted with their enthusiasm for learning another language.

Forest School was a delight, as always. The sun shone and the children simply enjoyed being in their special woodland area. They chose to play in the den, cook up a range of goodies in the mud kitchen, share using the see-saw and help to make willow brooms that they could sweep up with. A delightful afternoon.



Cricket's

This week lots of strange sounds could be heard from the Cricket classroom. The children were exploring the sense of hearing and had to try and guess all sorts of everyday sounds. This resulted in lots of discussion and laughter. The children found out about how messages are sent to the brain, enabling us to hear. They discovered there are three tiny bones inside their ears and matched their names to the bones. Those that had horse ridden quickly spotted the stirrup! They also learnt about sound vibrations and investigated vibrations using rulers and instruments. We put beads on drums and noticed how they 'jumped'. Using play dough to represent earwax, they observed how the wax collects dirt inside their ears to protect them. The class shared their sound prep and we had lots of fun sharing their playlist of songs which make them want to dance. They have great tastes in music and have introduced me to lots of new bands! Miss Coleshill kindly talked to the children about hearing impairment and how she has had to wear hearing aids since she was a little girl. She showed them a collection of hearing aids and how they work. We talked about the importance of being able to hear, such as, if a fire alarm goes off and not to stick things in our ears. In maths, we revisited some areas from this term and counted in 2s and 5s. We used bead strings, interactive hundred squares and chocolate coins to count and spot patterns in digits. In writing, we are continuing to add connectives and punctuation. In Design and Technology, we used a wide variety of boxes and tubes to create instruments. We used a range of cutting and joining techniques, added details and improved our models. We then performed to one another. What a talented band!





Dragonflies

The Nativity rehearsals have started in earnest! The children continue to impress with their singing, dancing and (most importantly) reserves of patience while they wait for their turn... they are learning to listen and wait quietly while remaining in character, well done. Please continue to practice your lines at home - some of you are getting a bit rusty! Mrs Pickles has been busy with her needle and thread and we have wonderful costumes, we are all tremendously excited!

The Lapland Run was also very exciting - thank you all for arriving in a Santa Hat or festive alternative on Tuesday - it made our marathon very fun. The children ran so fast it was hard to get a photo! We are well on our way to reaching the 145-mile total - we just need a little help from our friends in the Junior and Senior School.

The school work continues in the classroom and we wrote wonderful Snow Poems this week, using exciting verbs and beautiful adjectives. Many of us are also using wonderful adverbs - now all we need is some snow to enjoy! In maths we are adding three numbers - we can often use our number bonds or doubling facts to help us...so we have been revising those too.

