



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY



Newsletter 14: 23rd April 2021

...and we're back!

It has been delightful to have the children back at school after their Easter Holiday. During the past few weeks the nation has had some highs and some lows. Whilst COVID numbers seem to be improving, we are all mindful of doing what we can to keep our school family as safe as possible, particularly as I know a number of families who have felt significant hardships during this time and the loss of friends and family. Our collective desire to do *our bit* has really brought the best out in us as a community. As I mentioned in a previous communication, our children – because of COVID – have had experiences that none of us can really empathise with, but, of course, we have also done our very best to support our children during this time. That being said, school has been a constant – albeit virtually at points.

Another historical event in our national picture during this Easter Holiday, and relating to a significant constant, was the Funeral of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. Whilst commentators have been able to extemporise on his service to the nation, I would like to reflect on his role with family. Of course the wonderful thing about family is that each one is unconventional and therefore special in its own right. Families argue, cry, smile, laugh and love. It is clear from the few stories we have of His Royal Highness that this was certainly true of him and his own family, but, in spite of the highs and lows he was a loyal servant to Her Majesty the Queen and to our nation. So what does this mean to us here at St Edmund's? We are a united family and, as such, we too will go through the perceived emotional rollercoaster of family life – we argue (politely and without using inflammatory comments or statements), cry, smile, laugh and love. We are united in service to your child. To provide your child with outstanding learning opportunities and to love them; sometimes this will be tough love, as our role is to do all we can to help your child to be the best they can be. Our collective thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty and the whole Royal Family.

There are many wonderful things to look forward to this term, especially the ducklings! On Thursday the children were set their World Earth Day tasks. Good luck to them. As you would imagine, the staff have been working incredibly hard planning and preparing for this final term of the academic year. As mentioned in the letter sent out to you on Monday 19th April, we will be launching *positive presentation*. My staff team have very high expectations of the childrens' learning; our drive on presentation is now being aligned to those expectations. We are also trialling a different approach to marking and providing feedback to your child. The most important part, for me and my staff team, about marking, is that we are praising children for their hard work and effort and, importantly, giving them next steps to their learning. This will be done through highlighter pens and a few symbols, which will be communicated to parents after the trial. During this term we will also be looking at our uniform expectations and about acceptable use of mobile phones in Forms 7 and 8, as per the Junior School Handbook.

Thank you so much for your support during this academic year. We are all hugely privileged to work, teach, learn and have fun at St Edmund's. Over the past year, our pupil numbers have continued to grow, and I am delighted to announce that there will be 4 classes in Form 7 next year; a significant number of children want to have our St Edmund's education and I need to be mindful of the class sizes in Form 7, hence the decision (as ratified by Governors) for 4 classes. Thank you so much for your support. If you know of a child who would benefit from our St Edmund's education, please do ask them to contact admissions@stedmunds.org.uk

Communication – Mrs King is acutely aware of the number of emails sent to parents and from next week we will only be sending emails out on Tuesdays and Thursdays, unless there is a specific sporting event or need for an emergency communication. One recent letter sent out to Forms 7 and Form 8 parents discusses Relationship and Sex Education and we are delighted to invite Laura Jones to speak to our children, including, for Form 8, the importance of *what is consent?* Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr De Silva

Head of the Junior School





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Congratulations!

Bronze star certificates:

Jason Y, Eddie K, Ted P-C, Maisy K, Isla B, Ami W, Oliver C, Scarlett W, Brandon E

Bronze & Silver star certificates:

Noah J, Mae M

Silver star certificates:

Oscar C, Poppy H, Betsy C, Danny S, Beau B, Ben H

Silver & Gold star certificates

Sancy LC, Tom B

Silver, Gold & Platinum star certificates:

Niamh D

Gold star certificates:

Jake B-W, Oscar De Varennes, Bella P, Niyam P, Ben H, Maria H-S, Adetola D, Mya P

Gold & Platinum star certificates:

George W

Platinum star certificates:

Beaulieu B, Thomas H-W, Oren R, Alexa P, Jamie J, George W, Olivia D, Naomi P, Josie W

Platinum and 2nd time around Bronze star certificates: Thomas L, Alice F, Isabella R

2nd time around Bronze star certificates: Emma SK, Alice F, Masha D, Isabella R

Platinum, 2nd time around Bronze & Silver star certificates: Lucy S, Xiaocan L

2nd time around Bronze, Silver & Gold star certificate: Josh R

2nd time around Silver star certificates: Aine R-M, Logan W, Thomas A

2nd time around Gold star certificate: Robert S

2nd time around Gold & Platinum star certificates: Alexander S-B

Certificates of Excellence

William A, Daisy H, Poppy H, Xiaocan L, Kimberly S, Scarlett W, Hamish A, Bella P, Sonny M

For passing their Trinity College London Practical (Voice) Music exams:

Meena H, Percy M, George G, Dylan S

For entering two classes (piano) and gaining two commendations at the Stratford and East London Music Festival:

Ami W

For passing Grade 5 Music Theory: George G

For winning 1st prize in the League of Friends of Kent & Canterbury Hospital 'Fauna and Flora' under 18s photography competition: Matthew Williams

Bronze certificates for completing 5 Accelerated Reader quizzes:

Alex P, Aine R-M, Maria H-S, Seamus C, Naomi P.

Bronze & Silver certificates for completing 10 accelerated Reader quizzes: Naomi P