Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hate to say it but once again, you've been on the wrong side of the school gates. The children this week have been superb in organising, preparing and presenting pieces ranging through dance, drama and music and what joy they expound! Courage and bravery too, success and trial...I continue to be so proud of one and all. Thank you for your support of their endeavours and thank you Miss MacLauchlan for organising this opportunity. The children were treated to careful, constructive and considered judging so my thanks, to Mr Purves (Drama), Mrs McMeekan (Dance) and Mr Woodhall (Music) for their time and expertise (not to be underestimated).

As we wash-up the half term and new academic start-up, Nurse Sam conveys enormous thanks to you for your efforts in completing the medical paperwork in a timely and thorough manner. She does however, request that for medicines administration, that the online (VLE) form is completed. The pathway to this is noted below for your ease of reference. The Parent Reps and I met too and I for one got an enormous amount from the short time spent together. Parking, communication, the handbook, RSE, SOCS (activities) and believe it or not, soup were all under the microscope and on behalf of the governors and school, I convey my enormous thanks to the reps and to yourselves for helping the school to engage in child-centred, effective and open dialogue. We are each a part of something good here and each and every one of us has a significant part to play.

In communication terms, an error in the diary that grade cards will be released today. They will be with you at the beginning of December. Partially as a result of feedback garnered though the parent questionnaire at the end of last academic year, they have been re-formatted to give you more effective feedback on where your children is and how they are getting along.

Open Day looms large tomorrow and we look forward to welcoming in a good number of registered families. Thank you sincerely to all those of you whose children will be able to join us for what will no doubt be an engaging morning...with unquestionably engaging people.

With every best wish for a great weekend ahead,

Mr S Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund’s Prep

Please note that the field CAN currently be used from 15:30 under parental supervision. The Bounds Field is out of bounds to enable activities to take place should they be located there.

"Art doesn't give rise to anything in us that isn't already there. It simply stirs our curious consciousness and sparks a fire that illuminates who we have always wanted to be."
— Kamand Kojourî

Q. Which big ocean lies between America and Britain?
A. In next week’s newsletter
Last Week’s Answer
Q. How many months of the year have 30 days?
A. 4 - September, April, June, and November.
Head's Commendations

Ruby Clutterbuck - RE
Millie Brennan - Perseverance
Harrison Cunnah - Art
Grace Brown - Maths
Joshua Odewole - Positive attitude to learning
Deborah Adebite - Creative writing
Ariana Curran - Creative writing
Ellis Elsom-White - Creative writing
Edith Heppell - Creative writing
Oliver Hollingsworth – Gee - Creative writing
Alexander Ivnik-Sotiriou - English
Lorenzo Hookham - For creating an ancient Mayan mask out of clay
Monty Bonnett-Powell - Demonstrating logical thinking and hard work in his 11+ classes
Wesley Cooper - Demonstrating intellectual playfulness in poetry
Ronnie Dark - Maths
Emilia-Jane Noble - Demonstrating originality through poetry
Joey Payne - Maths
Emily Welberry - Maths

Upcoming Dates October

Monday 17th  2pm-5pm - U11 Netball v St Aubyn's (Away, match at 3pm)
            3pm-4pm - U11 Football v St Aubyn's (Home, match at 3pm)
Wednesday 19th  4.30pm - Half-Term Begins - Tea Time Club running as usual
Monday 31st  Return from Half-Term
Friday 4th  Fireworks themed cake sale for GOSH. Please bring in your nut free cakes and biscuits on Friday 4th of November and up to £2 so you can enjoy a break time sweet treat. Thank you for your support and for raising money for our charity this term.
Saturday 5th  5pm-7pm - Friends Firework Evening

Christmas card reminder: The deadline for ordering cards and other products is 19th October – all the details on how to order online are on the mock-up cards

E-Safety

How can I….? This section gives links to advice and guidance to common questions I am asked. This week...

4. How can I set up YouTube so that the content is appropriate for their age? In the past there was only one level of filtering, called restricted mode. In 2021 YouTube introduced 3 levels of filtering which give parents further choice about what is appropriate for their child. Called ‘Supervised Experience’ you can see a useful guide by clicking on the link below. Don’t forget YouTube Kids for younger children.

https://www.youtube.com/myfamily
This week in the Prep

Lois Mailou Jones

Form 2 have learnt about Lois Mailou Jones, to celebrate Black History Month. Lois was an important African American artist in the early 1900’s, she had an influential career that lasted 70 years. She loved to include African themes in her paintings and was the very first African American to graduate from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts. We enjoyed looking at her work, exploring the colours and had a go at copying one of her famous pieces of work.

Exploring Poems

Continuing the joy of National Poetry Day, Form 6 have been exploring poems this week, including examples by well known poets such as Emily Dickinson. Emilia-Jane Noble created a vivid metaphorical poem about trees, Ava Spring used modal verbs to explore what she might do if she ruled the world and Phoebe Wild combined both, in her poem full of wishes for a better future. There were so many fantastic examples to choose from, but below is a particularly thought-provoking piece written by Wesley Cooper.

If Only

by Wesley Cooper

If only I could enclose pollution,  
And release clean air for all to breathe.  
If only I could overpower dictatorship,  
And subdue it with equality.  
If only I could incinerate hatred,  
And douse the world with love.  
If only I could vanquish poverty,  
And welcome fairness in its place.  
If only I could smother destruction,  
And let tranquility run free.  
If only I could conquer war,  
And sprinkle peace where it used to be.  
If only.
We all enjoyed our trip to Leafy Oak Garden Centre. We were very excited to board the school bus and after we’d fastened our seatbelts we were on our way.

We looked at all of the different plants, spotting lots of different coloured flowers as we went. We enjoyed watching the finches in their enclosure and spotted some Koi carp in the pond. After much deliberation we chose a winter pansy or viola each. Our flowerbeds look great now with lots of colour for the winter.
On Tuesday 11th October, the St Edmund’s Prep U10A team travelled to St Aubyn’s to play in their annual football tournament. The first match was a typically close encounter against Loyola. Despite having the majority of chances, we couldn’t quite break through and score a goal with the game finishing at 0-0. The second game was played against Bancrofts and this time we were outstanding in attack to score 4 goals and win 4-0. The third match was a goalless draw against Woodford Green Prep. The boys couldn’t quite finish off their chances with the opposition defending in numbers. However, a 5-0 win against St Aubyn’s ‘B’ followed to secure second place in group B and a semi final spot.

The semi-final was against Chigwell. They looked a physical team and had won their group. We played some fantastic football and created lots of chances to score. Eventually we took the lead with a great finish from lovely passing move. However, Chigwell hit us on the break and, with their first attack, won a corner late in the game. The opposition scored from this corner to force penalties. Showing great composure, we scored all three of our penalties and our goalkeeper saved the last of theirs to win the shootout and go through to the final.

The St Edmund’s Prep U10A team were really dominant in the final. They controlled possession and looked very dangerous on the attack. We scored two goals without reply to win the final 2-0. A great performance and the St Edmunds Prep U10A team fully deserved to lift the trophy after playing such superb football all afternoon.
Children in Forms 1 to 6 have enjoyed a wonderful week of celebrating the performing arts on Monday (Drama), Wednesday (Music) and today (Dance). Audiences of classmates and staff were entertained with a selection of drama improvisations and mimes, songs and instrumental pieces, and dances in a variety of styles. Congratulations to all the enthusiastic performers! Thank you to our three adjudicators, Mr Purves (Drama), Mr Woodhall (Music) and Mrs McMeechan (Dance) for their encouraging comments and thank you also to parents for your help in preparing children for the week’s events.

A full report with photos and results will appear in a newsletter next week.

**CHORISTERS**

Children in Form 6 are invited to audition for the role of Chorister after lunch on Tuesday 18th October. Choristers are appointed for the purpose of promoting singing and maintaining its profile in the school. The small team of Form 6 girls and boys leads singing at Masses and the children enjoy opportunities to sing solo or in small groups at special events in the Chapel. It is not necessary to be taking singing lessons to audition and no advance preparation is necessary.

**MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS**

Well done to Eme Udom in Form 5 on being awarded a Merit in her Grade 1 descant recorder exam.