



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

2nd - 6th October Michaelmas Term Newsletter Issue 4



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Not to make light of the subject matter covered on Tuesday but, if your child now tells you they'll be calling Childline when you're trying to get them to bed on time, you know where it might have come from! Joking aside, thank you for your attendance. Feedback has been positive on the whole but, crucially, I believe the session underlined one salient point: the importance of strong relationships with our vulnerable children and cultivating a 'I can talk about it' climate. Well done for taking on the challenge of parenthood in 2023. Its rewards are a privilege and near boundless but it comes with unquestionable challenge which must be faced, and embraced to our blessed children's benefit.

On the theme of communication, as we approach the Parents' evenings (in two weeks' time) and the Parent Rep meetings, various topics are coming to the fore, one of them being school management of parent Whatsapp forums. Now, that this matter is trying to get onto the agenda raises its own questions I would suggest – without having direct exposure to the groups myself. The school, currently, is cautious about straying into managing the (private) conversation of responsible adults and I hope that you understand this. Whilst it reconsiders its stance though, I hope that I am not going too far in suggesting we all try to adhere to broad-stroke (and common sense?) guidelines:

- Chatter and conversation should be reflective of the wider School's ethos and aims: loving, nurturing and confidence building; Christ-centred.
- If a member of the group is concerned about a unique situation, take it up with the School directly or an individual member of the group directly.
- Read the newsletter or check email before asking a question to the group.
- As a reminder, Whatsapp should be used for school-related information only and should, please, not be used for promoting your business or to post 'humorous' memes etc, as what you find hilarious is possibly incredibly rude or offensive to others - we have many religions and beliefs in our community.

Any one week blazes past us – how quickly did September go – and the children are working hard in their classrooms. I am really looking forward to the parents' consultation evenings in a few weeks' time, a letter will be sent on Monday with booking details. Please also don't forget to complete the RE pre-inspection questionnaire (email of 3rd October), which will be so helpful for us as we aim to improve and sustain the children's experience of the spiritual life of our blessed school. You will be unsurprised to hear that the feedback that we have had so far, reflects the commitment that we all show each day in school, whilst offering in places, a considered view of the parent voice at this time. Our Harvest Liturgy this morning was wonderful. Let me tell you, one or two members of staff were nearly in (joyful) tears. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep

Religious Theme

The Hungry/Thanks for the Harvest

Quote

"It is not the strength of the body that counts, but the strength of the spirit." — J.R.R. Tolkien.

E-Safety

Apart from opening eyes to the potential risks associated with online gaming and the impact of social media influencers on children's views, a crucial message to have come out of the visit of 'The 2 Johns' to the Prep on Tuesday, and their talks to children, staff and parents, is that children need to feel confident they can talk to their parents and other trusted adults about their online activity, without being held back by worries about having broken e-safety rules.

At school we continue to be mindful that children may have 'digital worries' as well as 'real-life' ones.

There is an area containing advice and resources for parents and carers on the website for 'The 2 Johns': www.esafetytraining.org

Mr Cartwright's quiz

- Q: How many years are there in a millennium?
A: In next week's Newsletter
Q: Which mammal lives the longest?
A: The bowhead whale

Head's Commendations



Tryaksha Pagolu	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Arabelle Olowookere	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Millie Brennan	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Minty Forbes	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Gregory Scott	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Seb Gujral	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Joshua Odewole	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Ellie McGee	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Annie Howe	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Olivia Wheeler	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Laurens Scott	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Florence Bell	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Teddy Holliday	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Sofia Mazgutova	Inter-House Poetry Cup Competition
Georgie Gujral	Enthusiasm for all lessons
Lily Elliott	Maths
Asher Watts	Improved confidence
Jack Button	RE
Jude Foley	RE
Sophie Smawfield	RE
Toby Stainer	English
Oliver Upton	English
Maria Zaffuto-Pryce	English

Upcoming dates - October

Sunday 8th	Please complete RE pre-inspection questionnaire
Monday 9th	Squad Practice not on for hockey or football - This will resume again the following week**
Tuesday 10th	U10A Football Tournament - St Aubyn's U11A Girls Football Festival - Presdales
Wednesday 11th	Forms Three and Four Girls Football Festival - Presdales U11 A&B Netball v St Francis Collage - Away
Thursday 12th	3.15pm - U9A & B Football v Duncombe - Home 3.15pm - U9A & B Netball v Duncombe - Home
Friday 13th	9am - U7 Football Festival - Home 2pm - U11A SE Herts Prep Schools Partnership Football Cup - Home U11A SE Herts Prep Schools Partnership Netball Cup - Away - Stormont

**INTER-HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS WEEK – 16th-20th October **

Tuesday 10th October World Mental Health Day

Talking is one of the best ways we can look after our mental wellbeing. But a lot of the time, there are barriers which hold us back from having more deeper and meaningful chats. "It's easy to think children and young people aren't aware of the things we're worrying about as a parent, but they often pick up more than we think, or they might have other worries of their own."

The campaign 'Britain Get Talking' has created 'homework', a conversation starter for children to take home, designed to help them talk about the hardest subjects on their minds with their parents or trusted adults. All because sharing worries can help ease stress and reduce anxiety.

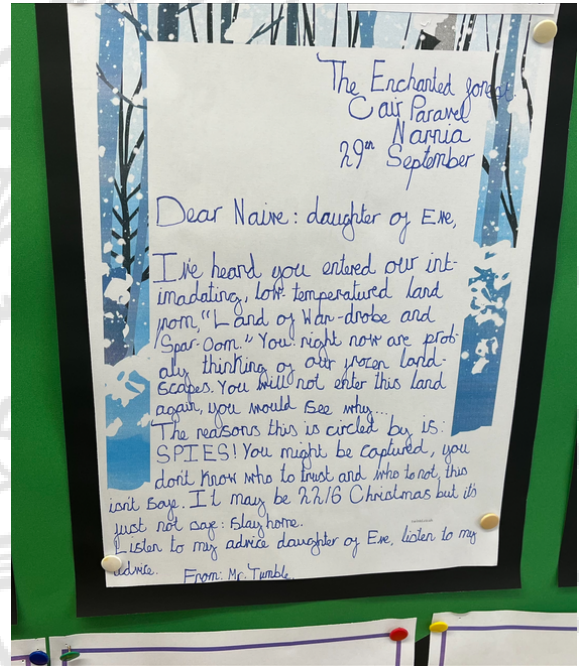
Please scan the QR code to link to the web page and file



This week in the Prep

Letters to Lucy

Form Five have started to read 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis. They have read how Lucy enters the magical world of Narnia through a wardrobe door. Whilst she was there Lucy met a Faun. Lucy manages to return back to the real world. The children in Form Five have written some letters, giving Lucy advice - should she or shouldn't she return to the mystical place of Narnia? These are letters of mixed views which include different modal verbs to help Lucy decide what to do next. Can you spot the modal verbs the children have used in their letters?



The story of creation

Form One have been learning the story of Creation' including Adam and Eve. They know that God created a beautiful world because he cares about us. We talked about the people we care about and made cards for them. Some have been sent to siblings, some to grandparents, and some to pet dogs and one to the sloths in the rainforest.





This week in the Prep

Space talk

Form Five sent a series of questions about Space to Tim Peake. They were lucky enough to receive a video link from him which they watched in class.

Thank you, Mrs Stark, for enabling this to happen.

Jouez-vous....

This week, Form Five children have practised asking and answering a question in French, filling up a survey with various partners. Do you play tennis? Do you play golf? They answered with a full sentence. An impressive range of positive answers!



Foundation Day Mass

Toby and Holly were honoured to present the Offertory to the Bishop at the College's Foundation Day Mass on Friday last week. Many attendees commented on their reverent composure in front of a near 800-strong congregation.





This week in the Prep

Harvest time

Nursery have been thinking about Harvest time and thanking God for all the food we are lucky enough to have. We planted cress seeds last week and the seeds grew very quickly. This week we harvested the cress and put the cress on some buttered bread to make a sandwich. Some of the children were not sure about the taste but we all liked the freshly made bread!

Every week we have Funky Friday Fingers where we strengthen and exercise our fingers to help our fine motor skills. This week we continued the Harvest theme and cut up vegetables using safety knives and scissors.





Performing Arts

Harvest Liturgy

Our four newly formed Choirs, involving all children in Forms Three, Four, Five and Six, contributed beautifully to this morning's Harvest Liturgy in the Prep Hall. Forms three and five performed seasonal songs - 'In the Autumn' and 'Let's Harvest' - while Forms four and six performed reflective songs about the wonders of the natural world and caring for the environment - 'Look at the World' and 'Right to Survive'. A promising start to singing this term and Miss McLauchlan and Miss Bruce are greatly looking forward to starting rehearsals of music for Christmas.

INTER-HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS WEEK – 16th-20th October

Music, Drama & Dance Events for Forms One to Six

Please encourage your child to consider entering the Dance, Drama or Music events (or two or even three events), either individually or with a small group of children, preferably from the same House.

Music

Forms One-Six are invited to perform a piece on the piano and/or on another instrument(s) (including voice) - solo or in a group.

Pieces should last no longer than around 2 minutes.

Dance

Forms One-Six are invited to perform a dance - solo, in a duo, or in a trio or group - in any style, to music of their choice.

Dances should last no longer than around 3 minutes.

Drama

Forms One-Two are invited to perform a short mime (no speech, just actions to tell the story) - solo or in a group (maximum 5 children) - based on one of the following titles:

*The picnic

*The birthday party

Mimes should last no longer than around 1 minute.

Forms Three-Six are invited to perform an improvisation (using speech), solo or in a group (maximum 5 children), based on one of the following titles:

*At the theme park

*At the farm

*At the seaside

Improvisations should last no longer than around 3 minutes.

Costumes and props are encouraged, though not essential.

Photo of the Week

Alphabet (Photography an object beginning with each letter) Photography Project - Ella Rudman





Elements of Emotions by Five Vaughan, inspired by Time written by Victoria Bloom

Here is a poem written collaboratively by all of Form Five Vaughan. This poem was inspired by a poem called Time written by Victoria Bloom – the children had to use metaphors and the same rhyming patterns she had used.

Life's a river which excites at the start
And slowly meanders to a peaceful end.
Life's a piece of paper, really thin
easy to fold and quick to bend.

But Fear is a dark hallway forcing you in

Fear's a pain that rages up your life,
waking you up in the middle of the night.
Fear's a thunderstorm blocking your happiness
Take the plunge, banish it from your sight.

Fear's a brick you can't move it out of the way.
It is a bomb exploding as you run out of time.
Fear's the night that blocks you having your say
like a thief stealing our bravery, committing a crime.

Fear's a clock telling you it's the end of the day,
taking over your thoughts with an unique blast.
Fear's a jail too dark to escape
Its like a earthquake too far and too vast

But Anger is a voice that wants to shout.

Anger is a wrecking ball destroying your path,
Smashing and crashing with a almighty snap.
Anger is a roaring lion ripping you apart
Stopping you from finishing your final lap.

But Laughter's bubble gum you never stop chewing.

Laughter is the sun that brightens up your day,
Showing you the path to a wonderous place.
Laughter's a tree giving life to you and me,
Bringing total joy to everyone's face.

But Time's an athlete challenging you to win the race.

Time's the World, which never stops turning
with it you stand out bold.
Time's a human in its own special way
When it ends you will stand out cold

But Remember

Life's a journey with all its ups and downs.

