



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

11th December - 15th December Michaelmas Term Newsletter



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Grandparents,

The holidays are here and I am so tremendously grateful for the efforts, partnership, commitment, joy and love that so many have shown over the past term. We eagerly await the ISI Inspection report, held in a backlog of reports as I understand it. I have no doubt that it will be summative and reflective of the work undertaken in the College and the Prep School and that it will be a report worth waiting for. In the meantime, cross your fingers and watch this space.

Heartfelt thanks to the children firstly – we have had such cause to be justifiably proud of them all. In the classrooms we have witnessed focus and endeavour, at Harlow Playhouse we saw exemplary behaviour and through both the Nativity and Carol Service, talent, desire, enthusiasm and more in spades. Heartfelt thanks to the staff too. On their behalf, my thanks for your generous gifts and thoughtful cards. Your encouragement means an awful lot to them. Heartfelt thanks finally then to all of you, parents and grandparents for bestowing upon us all at St Edmund's your faith and trust in the care, education and development of your children.

Christmas looms large and the bright lights of the Advent season, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love begin to lead as in a Holy and glorious direction. As families we will unite with our children and celebrate the joy of the season together. When we return, full (perhaps) of Christmas calories and with luck, well rested, we will once again eagerly engage with the new year ahead, ever striving to realise the best of ourselves and of course, crucially, the best of our blessed young children.

On behalf of the Governors and staff of the Prep School,

Merry Christmas

Mr S Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep School

Religious Theme

The Incarnation

Staffing Update - The Wright Stuff

Please join us in congratulating Mrs Wright on gaining promotion to the position of College Admissions Manager, beginning soon after the start of the new term in January. Mrs Wright has been a valued and valuable member of the team for many years and, on behalf of us all, I convey our thanks, deep appreciation and best wishes. We know that the College Admissions Team will be in experienced and reliable hands and take heart knowing that the Prep School will seldom be far from her thoughts. The vacancy in the Prep School office has been advertised accordingly.

Stay connected



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Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: What do Santa's elves learn in school?

A: The Elf abet

Quote

'God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.' Pope Francis

Head's Commendations

Tryaksha Pagolu	Being a role model to our class
Alek West	Being a role model to our class
Samara Kitone	Reading
Rafael Salinas	Reading
Jack Button	English
Sienna Grange	English
Beatrice Grundy-Wheeler	English
Isabelle Ross-Field	English

Upcoming dates - January

Tuesday 9th	First day of Lent Term
Wednesday 10th	U11A-D Netball v Bishops Stortford (Away)
Thursday 11th	College Music Scholarship Assessment 3.15pm - U9A&B - Hockey v Duncombe (Home) 3.15pm - U9A&B - Rugby v Duncombe (Home)
Friday 12th	College Art Scholarship Assessment Deadline for 7+ Prep Scholarship Applications 8.45am Welcome Back Coffee Morning for Parents, Coffee Shop or Refectory

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Christmas jumper at the Fayre. You helped saved the planet and raised £20 for Age UK, our Mayne House charity for this term. Thank you to the Eco Ambassadors for helping set up and run the stall.

E-Safety

Staying safe online at Christmas

Follow the link below to UK Safer Internet Centre advice on keeping children safe online over the holiday. Their top tips include learning your way around devices, setting boundaries around screen time and keeping phones out of bedrooms so that sleep comes first.

They also highlight the importance of talking to your child regularly and openly about behaviour and risk, so that they know they can come to you if something goes wrong.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/top-tips-for-staying-safe-online-at-christmas>

This week in the Prep

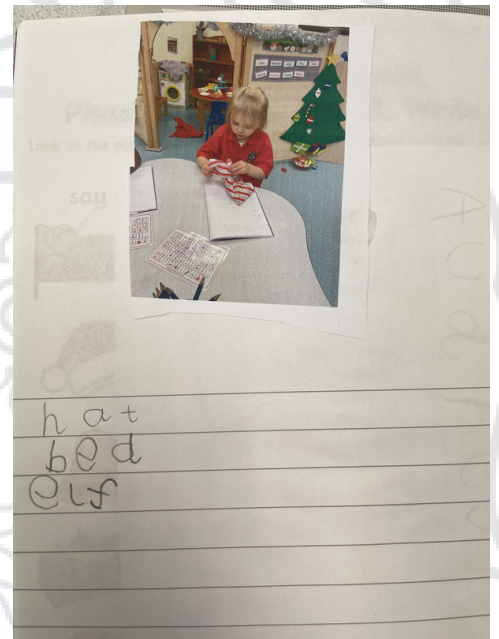
Biscuit decorating

Form Two had a great time decorating biscuits. We enjoyed designing our Christmas trees, but the best part was eating them!



Christmas Phonics

A cheeky elf came into our classroom and wrapped some of our toys. The Reception class took it in turns to unwrap the parcels. They said the words and segmented the words into sounds using their Robot Rick talk. Then used their soundcards to check the graphemes. Well done, Reception!



This week in the Prep

Chaplaincy Chat

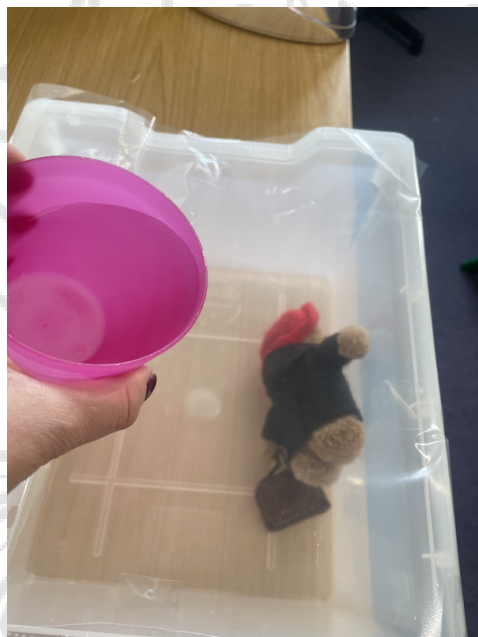
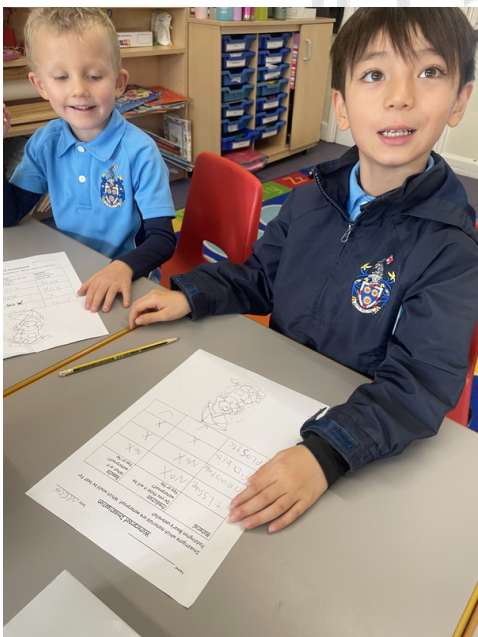
Each week in Advent we have visited the children in Reception to talk to them about what Advent is and to do some Advent craft with them.

We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas!



Paddington's umbrella

Form One have been investigating which material would be best for Paddington's umbrella. They watched with excitement as the tissue paper, newspaper and fabric let in lots of water. Thankfully, the plastic proved waterproof and Paddington stayed dry!





This week in the Prep

Woodland Art

In Forest School this week we have been creating woodland art, with Christmas as our stimulus. The children listened to a story about a kind old man who created a special Christmas Tree for the birds covered in their favourite food. They collected fallen leaves, branches, moss, sticks and other woodland resources. They worked brilliantly together, sharing ideas, allocating jobs and most importantly using their imagination. Here are three beautiful Christmas Trees, a Santa and an Angel.



Service of Carols and Readings

The children of Forms Three to Six sang their hearts out to a packed College Chapel of parents, grandparents and staff at Monday afternoon's Carol Service. Looking focused and smart in their bright blue blazers, they communicated a real sense of enthusiasm and enjoyment, which touched the hearts of their listeners. As usual, there was a varied selection of traditional congregational carols, plus Christmas songs for each year group and carols in French and German, all sung from memory. The Form Six soloists and ensemble singers, many performing for the first time, sang with confidence and beautiful tone. Well done to Ollie, Jack, Holly, Ella, Sienna, Sophie, Florence, Eme, Zina, Patrick, Edward, Antonino, Oscar S-A and Thomas. The readers too impressed with their fluency and clarity. Well done to Ralph H, Sophie and Ava (Form Six), Ebele and Leo (Form Five), Tommy and Annie (Form Four) and Noah and Faustine (Form Three). The snare drum accompaniment to 'The Little Drummer Boy' was played with perfect timing by Daniel (Form Six). Thank you to Mr Benham for his splendid organ playing.





This week in the Prep

College & Prep Recorder Ensemble performance

For the past few weeks, Eme, Ella and Edward (Form Six) and Faustine (Form Three) have been privileged to join the College Recorder Ensemble, which is directed by their teacher, Ms Catherine Wild. It was a delight for Prep children and staff to hear the beautiful tones and harmonies of the eight-strong ensemble, who performed arrangements of 'Away in a Manger' and 'Silent Night' during morning breaktime on Wednesday. We were pleased to welcome back former Prep students Catherine Cooper and Jemima Uzoka, who both began their recorder journey in Form Two and now also play the oboe.



Carol Singing at Ashwood Care Home

A merry and very festively adorned group of 14 Form 6 singers, accompanied by Miss Bruce and Miss McLauchlan, sang superbly to the residents and staff of Ashwood Care Home on Wednesday afternoon. Mixing traditional carols and popular Christmas songs, with some solo verses and lively actions too, they performed for half an hour and were treated to delicious refreshments afterwards. Some of the older people joined in enthusiastically with the singing and one lady even conducted the children's performance throughout from her front-row seat. Well done to the children for bringing such festive cheer and thank you to the Manager of Ashwood Care Home and her staff for such a warm welcome.





This week in the Prep

Polar Express

Marcus is an old Prep student and Deputy Head Boy of the College. Having finished at the prestigious London School Of Musical Theatre, Marcus's first role was as the conductor on the Polar Express



Two of our favorite photos from Photography Club

Christmas Tree - Olivia Wheeler



Torch Light - Sienna Grange

