



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

15th January - 19th January Lent Term Newsletter 1



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What sensationally beautiful days we have had but, oh so cold. Please make sure those school winter coats are still being worn.

In undertaking a learning walk earlier this week, focus and endeavour in school are clear to see and the Form Six children especially have impressed the staff and me with their attitude to preparing for Monday's 11+ College Entrance Exam. Both the children and the parents of Form Six will be in my prayers over the coming weeks.

I encourage you to read the attachment included in the mailing this week, which shows how attendance has an impact on GCSE results, this includes a consideration of the impact of time lost in the morning owing to lateness. We are fortunate that neither of these things is a particular problem for us but I suspect that you would agree with me that we would want to be ahead of these issues rather than behind them and in this case, a little knowledge may go a long way. Also included as an attachment is helpful information from Nurse Sam. Illness is abundant and I am thankful for your attention and adherence to school policy in terms of what to do, when.

From me though, a note pertaining to uniform and appearance. Generally speaking, the children are impressive, thank you. The staff and I note that there is a little bit of creep though so some pertinent points here for ease of reference:

If hair is long enough to touch the shoulders, it needs to be all up. Half-up half down is lovely (I say as a father of two girls myself) but it is becoming a trend and we will end up with drift from a uniform standard. Though it pains me to say it, please can we save this style for personal time and own clothes days. Also, earrings need to be stud type, gold or otherwise. Any hoops or dangles could pose a danger at play and in sport. School coats are to be worn. If you take issue with this, please email me directly in order that the school can more fully understand and consider your point of view.

The staff and I will be giving the children a few days, grace over the points above but soon will have little choice but to engage with our Behaviour Procedure and try to get back to a consistently high uniform standard across the school. Please email in, make an appointment to see me or feed back any thoughts and feelings around this issue to your Class/Year Group Rep. Thank you.

Finally, several parents have noted the potential for ice on Farm Lane as you leave each morning. Let's keep on our toes in watching out for this... unless it's hot this weekend. Would you believe it, someone has already suggested that we'll need shorts soon!

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Cartwright,
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep School

Stay connected



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A warm welcome...and sad farewell

Mrs Kerry Pugsley, Clerk to the Governing Body joins us as School Secretary sitting opposite Mrs Dickinson in the Prep Office. Mrs Pugsley, formerly a Due Diligence Officer for HSBC, has worked with the Governing Board for around five years and is well known internally. A compassionate, highly-skilled, professional mother-of-two, we welcome her into the community and we are certain that children, parents and grandparents alike will be in more than capable hands.

Mrs Wright bids us an emotional farewell and on behalf of us all in and outside of the school, we convey our heartfelt and effusive well wishes to her and her family as she embarks on the next chapter of her career. Good luck, Mrs Wright!

Hot Topic (Inside info!)

At Debate Club this week we asked the question, "Should Social Media be banned for all children." There were some excellent arguments from both sides. The children were great at using what they have learned in their Internet Safety lessons and information from the Two Johns to back up their arguments. It was incredible to see how knowledgeable the children are and how well they could both identify the problems that Social Media can cause and suggest solutions and ways to deal with issues that arise. Reassuringly, all of them were able to express the importance of talking to a trusted adult when they are concerned about things that happen on social media.

In the end the children voted that, based on the arguments given, yes - social media should be banned for all children.

As an aside, we had started the session with quickfire agree or disagree statements and the only statement where there was 100% of the children in agreement was, "Parents spend too much time on their mobile phones." Hard news and maybe one for many of us to ponder or act on...

Head's Commendations

Rupert Neale	English
Niccolò Picardi	Reading
Tito Adepegba	English
Seb Gujral	English
Noah Pillai	English
Brooke Sales	English
Benedict Penfold	Excellent effort in class
Jude Foley	History
Elsie McPherson	History
Isabelle Ross-Field	History

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q:How many pairs of wings do bees have?
A: In next week's newsletter

Upcoming dates - Next week

Monday 22nd	Form 6 11+ College Entrance Exam Form 2 Scholarship Assessment
Wednesday 24th	3:15pm - U11 Girls Football v Stormont - Home 3:00pm - U11 Boys Hockey v Bishops Stortford College - Away
Thursday 25th	3:00pm - U9 Netball v Bishops Stortford College - Away
Friday 26th	IAPS Regional Netball Qualifier - Stamford School
Saturday 27th	ESFA County Football Finals - Parmiters

Quote

"A man should always consider how much he has more than he wants."

Joseph Addison

E-Safety

Things change so fast online that it's hard to keep up with what my child is doing.

Staying up to date with what children are doing online can feel like a challenge sometimes. However, you don't have to be an expert in every new app or service. Simply having conversations with your child about their lives online, and what to do if they need help or something goes wrong, is what's most important. Here are a few simple steps you can take to help bridge the gap.

*Talk little and often

Having a regular open dialogue with your child about their favourite apps, the games they enjoy, and their online friends, will help create an environment where chatting about online experiences becomes a normal part of family life.

*Stay proactive

As a result of discussions with your child about their online activities, take time to research the apps they're using, the accounts or channels they're following, and the games they're playing, to get a better idea of what they're experiencing and what your thoughts are towards it.

*Seek support

Knowing where to get help is essential. Each app or platform will have its own safety guidelines and reporting features, and having knowledge of how to use these will ensure you can make a report, seek help, and support your child to get the best out of the services they're using.

For more advice, see the UK Safer Internet Centre website (<https://saferinternet.org.uk>).

This week in the Prep

Tasty orange juice

Nursery have been learning the letter 'o' and to link to our letter sound of the week, we made some orange juice. We worked our fine and gross motor skills to squeeze the oranges to make our juice. It tasted yummy!



This week in the Prep

Evil Pea

Panic over! Form One were shocked and dismayed by the chaos found in their classroom on Monday. But after having written wanted posters, and calling on Supertato for help, the vegetables are safe and sound and order has been restored.



Fauvism

Form Five have been looking at Fauvism. Their use of bold non-naturalistic colours helps to represent emotions and mood. The children created colour pallets for different moods and then painted self portraits using their chosen colours. Can you recognise any familiar faces? You will soon be able to see this poster in the entrance to the school.





This week in the Prep

Celebrating Winnie the Pooh

Form Two celebrated Winnie the Pooh day by making honey sandwiches. We learnt about the history of Winnie the Pooh, discussed his character, and then enjoyed eating his favourite food - honey! We also sang the 'Winnie the Pooh' song.





PERFORMING ARTS



FORTHCOMING EVENT PREP CONCERTS CALL FOR PERFORMERS



We are looking forward to two concerts for individual singers and instrumentalists in Forms 3 to 6. These are to take place on Wednesday 31st January and Thursday 1st February at 2.00pm in the Prep Hall. The Visiting Music Teachers are currently being asked to recommend which of their pupils will be ready to perform a piece. [If your child is having singing or instrumental tuition outside school and you would like them to take part, please contact Miss McLauchlan by Wednesday 24th January.](#)

MUSIC EXAM SUCCESSES

Congratulations to [Adrian and Athena Yu \(Form Six and Form 5 Five\)](#) who have been successful in their recent Grade 5 ABRSM Music Theory exams.

Photo of the week

Aperture (Depth of Field) Photography Project - Brooke Sales

