



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

29th September - 3rd October Michaelmas Term Issue 4

Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Having finally booked myself in to witness one of the early-morning additional sports training opportunities, I was delighted to see more than a score of students receiving high-quality coaching and support from two of our sports coaching team. In the background, Mr Dixon, the College Director of Sport, was supervising the gym for any students keen to push some iron. Slightly selfishly, I envy the students these opportunities, recalling how much confidence and benefit I myself gained from getting into the gym. Student attendance at these sessions enables them to thrive, and I therefore write to thank you (and the aforementioned sports coaches) for the later nights and early mornings to which so many of our parents commit, as we strive to fulfil an aspect of the College's Mission: developing the whole child—mind, body, and spirit.

Moving from the gym, I quickly found myself acting as a judge in the Prep Hall for the annual Poetry Competition. Let me tell you, the standard was high—almost too high for us judges to discern a winner. Feedback offered to the finalists included a reflection on the efforts of all the children who entered (this year, a great number), as well as observations on the evident control and effective management of pace, literary devices, dramatic contrast, intonation and enthusiasm. These qualities reflect the encouragement given at home, the innate talent of the children themselves, and the near-bespoke targeted teaching they are receiving in classrooms.

Throughout the school this week, I have been involved in three tours. One visitor commented on the day how impressive the children were, while another dropped me an email this morning to reflect on the words of two girls in Form Six. The gentleman wrote: 'I am sure you remember the two young girls who expressed their opinions of the school. We would like you to commend them, on our behalf, for their frankness and honesty with five complete strangers.' I should note to you here—they were, quite simply and honestly, brilliant.

With the Cardinal visiting next week, please take a moment to register your attendance at the Mass and coffee afterwards (for Old Edmundians and parents only) via this link [here](#). Unable to take a moment for coffee himself, his Eminence will be attending his annual Governors' meeting immediately after he has been quizzed by our Form Six children who are looking forward to welcoming him into school following his blessing of our refurbished St Hugh's Chapel.

Wishing you a good weekend,

Mr Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep

Quote

"A smile is the universal welcome."

Max Eastman

Religious Theme

The Hungry (CAFOD) / Thanks for the Harvest

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: Which English king had six wives?

A: Henry VIII

Q: How many days does it take for the Earth to orbit the sun?

A: In next week's Newsletter

Stay connected



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Head Commendations

Emily Bischoff	Excellent analysis and linking of key concepts in Science
Sebastian Drake	Excellent personal analytical responses to Poetry
Ottile Easton-Brewer	Hardworking: writing a kind letter to George the giant
Georgie Gujral	Linking strategies in Mathematics
Riella Olaleye	Hardworking across the curriculum
Jai Patel	Science - Excellent work and fact file on the planets
Emmie Stark	Linking strategies in Mathematics
Thomas Suvari	Linking strategies in Mathematics

Important Dates - Next Week

Monday 6 th October	Flu Vaccines 3:45pm - U11 Football v Saint Nicholas - Home 3:45pm - U11 Netball v Saint Nicholas - Home
Tuesday 7 th October	2:15pm - U9 Netball v Royal Masonic - Away
Wednesday 8 th October	1:00pm - U11A Football @ ISFA Regional Qualifiers - Away
Thursday 9 th October	10:00am – Cardinal's Mass - College Chapel (doors open at 09:30am)
Friday 10 th October	1:00pm - U11 Netball @ St Aubyn's Tournament - Away

Important Dates - This Term

Tuesday 14 th October	3:45pm – 8:00pm In-Person Parent Consultations and Display of Work
Thursday 16 th October	5:00pm – 8:00pm In-Person and Video Parent Consultations and Display of Work
Friday 17 th October	Campion Charity Event – Wear Your Pyjamas to School Day 4:30pm – School Closes for Half Term. Tea Time Club will run
Monday 3 rd November	Return to School Inter-House Performing Arts Week: Music
Wednesday 5 th November	Inter-House Performing Arts Week: Drama
Friday 7 th November	8:45am – 9:45am – Welcome Back Meeting – Coffee Shop Inter-House Performing Arts Week: Dance
Wednesday 26 th November	Inter-House Spelling Bee Forms 3-6
Wednesday 3 rd December	2:00pm – 3:00pm – Nativity Performance EYFS & Pre-Prep
Friday 5 th December	2:30pm – 3:30pm – Prep Carol Service Forms 3-6 3:30pm – 4:30pm – Friends Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 10 th December	10:00am – 1:00pm – Whole School Panto
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day 2:30pm – Term Ends

E-Safety

What are VPNs used for? What parents need to know

Virtual Private Networks help users to browse online privately. Whilst they offer additional security, they can also leave children vulnerable to online risks.

Follow the link to information from Internet Matters about what VPNs do and how parents can manage them to keep everyone in the family safe online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/managing-vpns-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>



Cardinal's Mass

Last week, I extended an invitation to parents to join us for the Cardinal's Mass at 10am (entry via the main College reception at 9:30am) this coming Thursday (9th October), in the College Chapel. As President of the College, the Cardinal tries to visit annually, and this year he will conclude the Mass with an informal procession to our Prep Chapel to give it a blessing, as its refurbishment and restoration near completion. Following this, we will offer refreshments in the Prep School and, for catering purposes, we would appreciate an indication as to whether you are likely to attend, [here](#).

Uniform Adjustment, Thursday 9th October 2025 - Cardinal's Visit

Please could all children who would usually wear sports kit on a Thursday, including those leaving on sports fixtures through the day, attend school in formal school uniform on Thursday 9th October, carrying their (name-labelled) kit into school separately. There will be an opportunity for the children to change later in the day. Thank you for your support as we welcome the Cardinal, Governors and Old Edmundians with pride.

Campion House Charity Event

Campion House is excited to be hosting its very first charity event on Friday 17th October in support of Grove Cottage—a wonderful local charity that provides vital support for people with learning difficulties.

The event will be a "Wear Your Pyjamas to School Day", with a suggested donation of £2.

Donations can be made via the QR code or by clicking here: [Grove Cottage](#)



Wear your pyjamas to school!
Friday 17th October
Recommended donation £2

Appropriate footwear for school activities!



Donate Here:



School Photos

CLP Events, our Prep School photographers, have generously provided a special discount code for school photos. The code is valid until midnight on October 5th, with discounts ranging from 5% to 15% depending on your total spend. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of this offer.

Forest School

We are trying to develop our Forest School area and I thought I would reach out to our wonderful parent community to see if anyone could help!

Please have a glance over the list of resources we are looking for. If you think you have any of these or know of anyone that might be able to help, please could you email me. ebruce@stedmundscollege.org

Thank you,
Miss Bruce

- wide logs for log seats
- cable wheels
- water trough
- tuff spots
- hammocks
- guttering
- short planks of wood
- children's spades and rakes (wood and metal)
- large wooden or metal spoons
- large wooden or metal bowls
- a mud kitchen (if anyone is willing to build us one that would be fantastic)
- baskets, wooden crates
- chalk boards big and small
- wood rounds (big, medium or small)
- large pebbles



This Week In The Prep



Welcome Cookies!

Thanks to some of the older children, new to the school, for attending High Tea with the Head last week. The conversation was convivial and explored early impressions of the Prep School. Mr Cartwright asked the children whether the school was different to their last setting. They all replied, 'Yes.' Going a little further, he asked whether it was, 'Good different or bad different?'. To this, the children replied a resounding and unanimous, 'Good different!'.



Form 1 and 2 – The Great Fire of London Workshop

Last week, Form 1 and 2 went on a journey back to 1666! With the help of the Freshwater Theatre Company, we brought the Great Fire of London to life through drama, games and lots of imagination. We discovered why the fire spread so quickly, acted out key moments, and worked together to solve challenges. The workshop was packed with fun, laughter and plenty of "aha!" moments – a brilliant way to learn about history!



This Week In The Prep



Form 3 - Nutrition

This week, Form 3 children learned about nutrition by designing their own healthy, balanced meals. They used their knowledge of food groups to include a mix of fruit, vegetables, protein, dairy, and carbohydrates!



Roles and Responsibilities in the Prep

At St Edmund's Prep, we continue to encourage roles and responsibilities. At the start of each new year, the children are introduced to the many exciting roles and teams they can be a part of within our school community.

This week, we are delighted to shine a spotlight on our Reading Ambassadors – a team of passionate pupils in Forms 3 to 6, who help to inspire a love of reading across the school. Here's what they do:

- Meet every Thursday lunchtime with Mrs Crook and Mrs Christodoulou.
- Help with literary school events such as National Poetry Day and World book day.
- Recommend books for us to buy in for our library. Seb Gujral suggested the Minecraft series books.
- Tidy library bookshelves to ensure fiction and non-fiction books are in the right place.
- Return and check out books for their class.
- Work their way through the library reading challenges.
- Assembly readings and newsletter contributions.



This Week In The Prep

Nursery & Reception - Exploring Autumn



Nursery and Reception enjoyed a walk around our lovely school grounds looking for signs of Autumn and the change of season. We looked at the colour of the leaves on the trees and found many conkers and acorns to fill our buckets.



U11 IAPS Regional Tournament

On Monday 29th September, St Edmund's Prep U11A football team travelled to Ashford Prep in Kent to take part in the U11 IAPS regional tournament. They were playing for a place at the IAPS National Finals at Millfield Prep. The team were very excited as they set off from school very early for the long journey ahead.

The first match was a close game against Solefield Prep, but St Edmund's Prep managed to find a breakthrough and won the game 1-0. Our second match was against Kent College and was not as close as we thought it may have been beforehand. Our boys were excellent again and won the match 2-0. Our final group game was against Marlborough House Vinehall School. By this stage the boys were playing some outstanding football and were in full flow. We won this game comfortably, 2-0. These results earned St Edmund's Prep U11A top spot in their group and a place in the next round quarter-finals against Russell House.

Our boys were once again too strong for the opposition and won the match 2-1. The opposition scored on a rare attack in the last minute but could not affect the result and our team progressed through to the semi-final.

Our semifinal match was against another team that were fancied for the title, a strong Brentwood Prep team in what was billed the clash of the Titans. Brentwood managed to score the opening goal but St Edmund's Prep replied almost instantly. With the game heading to penalties and with a spot at the nationals at stake as one of the final two teams in the tournament, Brentwood managed to score a long-range goal to win the tie. St Edmund's Prep U11A had to pick themselves up for a 3rd/4th Place Playoff and despite a strong performance against their earlier opponents, Solefield Prep, they lost this game on penalties.

This was a tough tournament against some of the leading independent schools in the region. we are very proud of the boys' achievements and they showed that they are more than able to compete against very strong opposition. Well done, boys!





Form 6 - Poetry

In English, this term, Form 6 have been looking at Poetry and emotive language. They have thought about the different forms of figurative language and analysed the impact of specific words to trigger emotions in the reader. In addition, they have thought about how to create a sense of rhythm and rhyme in poetry whilst also examining how these affect the mood of the poem. This week they wrote two class poems about emotions and how these feelings can impact our life. The poem a Rollercoaster of Emotions combines their lessons on metaphors with a grammar focus on conjunctions. Enjoy reading their collaborative and creative responses to the word Emotion.

A Rollercoaster of Emotions by 6 Manning

Hope is an illuminating light bulb
That shines through the darkness in a gloomy cloud,
And embodies all the light ,
And never shouts down a negative sound.

BUT
Envy is a troublesome pixie
That flies around the worries in your head,
And just leaves you to suffer ,
And never lets you go to bed.

SO
Exhaustion is a racing car
That burns out poisonous smoke,
And blows your deflated tyres,
And always makes you choke.

YET
Revenge is a blood- stained knife
That cuts down any signs of exoneration,
And engulfs all forms of positive feelings,
And never paints any form of peaceful decoration.

THEREFORE
Horror is a cold, dark ghost
That ensnares all positive thoughts,
And if you try to steal it , you will only feel it,
And it never lets you rest from being taught.

WHILST
Regret is a duel of two fearsome fighters
That never ends.
And regret is light trying to escape a black hole
And always bends.

STILL
Rage is a troublesome trek
That grasps you forever in time,
And takes forever to let you free
And never stops the clock's chime.

AND
Misery is a dry ,cold desert
That shakes you about in every way.
And takes you to hell in one step
And never gives you a drop of positivity in any day.



BECAUSE
Depression is the darkest of all shadows
That is always freezing you after death,
And making you feel isolated from reality,
And always drags you to the darkest depth.

HOWEVER
Anger is a calamitous thunderstorm
That provides a red heat
And goes through your finger tips
And never lets you sleep.

OFTEN
Confusion is a puzzle with no escape
That is taking control of your brain,
And forcing you to play the game,
And never letting you escape life's pain.

ALWAYS
Jealousy is a heavy stone around your neck
That always makes you grumble and groan,
And entices people when they see something new,
And always in the end they moan.

BUT REMEMBER THAT
Love is a shining and piercing torch
That lights up every room
And catches you when you are unaware
And never leaves you in a state of gloom.

AND MEMORISE THAT
Passion is an ever-lasting hug
That always gives a boost of hope
And goes with you to the end of the Earth
And never gives a harmful joke

FINALLY RECALL THAT
Happiness is a small golden puppy
That cuddles positivity into your heart,
And it makes you feel warm,
And always lets everyone take part.



Performing Arts



INTER-HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS WEEK



3rd – 7th November

Music, Drama & Dance Events for Forms 1 to 6

These three friendly competitions between the Houses, which are taking place during the week immediately following half term, provide an opportunity for children to enjoy performing in front of fellow entrants and an encouraging adjudicator. The events are open to all children in Forms 1 to 6 who wish to participate. Please note that children who have singing or instrumental lessons privately, as well as those who take lessons at school, are welcome to enter after speaking to their teacher.

Details of how to enter will be announced next week.

Photo of the Week

Nature Photography Project - Ezichi John-Nwosu



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DATES

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TUE 28TH

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College and Prep School

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EXTENDED



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ROUNDERS

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AND MORE!

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