



# Digital

# PREP NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> December - 5<sup>th</sup> December Michaelmas Term Issue 11



## Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Those of you who know me well will know a little about my Irish heritage and that my family and I regularly like to hide away in one of the remotest parts of the south-west of Ireland. Taking time to look out over the Atlantic, to walk amidst the emerald-green fields (all too often but delightfully boggy), and to enjoy the rich traditional music culture, so often by a peat-burning fire-side, helps to ground me. I suspect and hope that you, too, will have something similar – a place or space you have found and cultivated over the years that brings you peace.

One of the things that so often strikes me upon my return – most usually through Stansted Airport, if I haven't dared the drive – is the commercial nature of where we live and the pace of things. Last week, I was struck by a social media feed which, to me anyway, had nothing at all to do with the meaning of Christmas and more or less everything to do with flamboyance and bigger, brighter, better. I was so taken aback that I couldn't bear to watch it all. Perhaps my judgement was harsh...but the message was clear to me.

This time of year is not supposed to be so much about the sparkle and the shine, about what we get or even, materially at least, about what we are given. Christmas is a time for celebrating the birth of Christ, a time that reminds us of the privilege of parenthood, and a time for remembering the immaterial rather than the material.

In school this week, the children have focused on the first Advent theme: Hope. Through this time of celebration, let us move forwards with hope in our hearts — hope for peace in places where peace feels distant, hope for light where shadows linger, and hope that the love of Christ will guide our families, our community, and our world into a brighter tomorrow.

Wishing you a terrific weekend ahead,

Mr S Cartwright  
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep

## Religious Theme

Advent

## Forms for Completion by Parents

- Whole-School Pantomime complete [here](#)

## Quote

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Charles Dickens

## Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: Which two primary colours can be mixed to make green?

A: Blue and Yellow.

Q: What gifts did the wise men present to Jesus?

A: In next week's newsletter

## Stay connected



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## Head Commendations

Alexander Bates	Excellent creative writing using figurative language to evoke an atmosphere
Benjamin Bussmann	For his excellent writing about a naughty elf
Denzel Chikowore	For meta-thinking - monitoring, evaluating and self correcting his work which resulted in a wonderful setting description
Ellis Elsom-White	For creating a wonderful piece of writing that shows originality and fluent thinking through the use of figurative language and a variety of sentence structures
Kyra Naik	Excellent application of mathematical methods to solve problems
Louis Sawyer	For excellent use of vocabulary and figurative language in a setting description
Tilly Shipton	For excellent use of figurative language to describe a wintery scene

## Important Dates - Next Week

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	2:30pm – Immaculate Conception Mass followed by refreshments
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am – 1:00pm – Whole-School Panto
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Campion House Charity Event – Santa Run 2:00pm – 4:20pm – Ashwood Care Home visit, followed by Hillview (selected children only)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day 2:30pm – Term Ends

## Important Dates - Next Half-Term

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Lent Term
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Bikeability – Forms 3&4
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	8:45am – Welcome Back Coffee Morning for Parents
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	William Ward Scholarship Assessment Day (F2 for F3 entry)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	LAMDA Exams – Form 5
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Krishna Temple Visit (Bhaktivedanta Manor) – Form 6
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	2:00pm – 3:30pm Nursery Stay & Play
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February – Half Term	

Sponsored Santa Run - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
1k, 3k, 5k  
Christmas accessories welcome

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## Grinch-themed Christmas quiz

This week, there's lots of excitement happening in the library! Our Reading Ambassador Team have created and are running a fun Grinch-themed Christmas quiz throughout the week. Children simply need to spot the Grinch posters hidden around the school; each poster features a book title with a highlighted letter. When all the letters are collected, they will spell out three festive words. Answers can be written on the form which can be given to Mrs Christodoulou or Mrs Crook.

The quiz was entirely devised by our brilliant Reading Ambassadors themselves, and we hope it brings plenty of Christmas cheer and fun. And finally, please do encourage your child to visit the library and keep up their reading over the Christmas break!



## Little Edmundians Toddler Group

Discover the St Edmund's Prep community at our free toddler group, with woodland walks, music, rhyme time and stories, crafts and activities.

A weekly morning of stay and play with coffee for parents and carers, especially for little ones aged 6 months to 3 years.

Every Friday morning from 9am to 10.15am, join our team and discover our woodland forest school (weather permitting). Enjoy story-based play and sensory fun, music and singing and of course – coffee or tea for parents and carers! [Book here](#)

## Breakfast Club

Late arrivals breakfast club: unfortunately, the breakfast club doors necessarily close at 7:55am promptly each day. In the event of reported bad traffic, every effort is made to afford some latitude to the door, with an eye carefully kept on bookings that were made in advance and, in the event of a pre-booked child not turning up, we will endeavour to make a final check at the door shortly after 8am, but no later than 8:05am.

For all bookings, please continue to email [wraparoundcare@stedmundscollege.org](mailto:wraparoundcare@stedmundscollege.org)

## This Week In The Prep

### Advent

As is our tradition, the youngest child in the school lit the first Advent candle at assembly on Monday morning. Together, we begin this season with hearts centred on Hope.



# This Week In The Prep



## EYFS and Pre-Prep Shine in a Show-Stopping Nativity Performance

EYFS and Pre-Prep delighted audiences this week with a truly show-stopping Nativity performance. From a lively stable hoedown to dancing innkeepers and animals scampering across the stage, the production was filled with energy, laughter, and festive cheer.

This year's performance of Prickly Hay beautifully captured the true meaning of Christmas. Amid the vibrant songs and playful storytelling, the children conveyed a heartfelt message that resonated with us all.

The children worked incredibly hard in the lead-up to the show, learning lines, practising songs, and perfecting their roles. Their teamwork shone through as they came together on stage, and their pride in what they had achieved was clear from their beaming smiles. They not only performed wonderfully but thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

A huge thank you goes to all staff and parents who supported the production and helped us begin our Christmas festivities in such a joyful way. It was a memorable celebration of talent, teamwork, and the spirit of the season.





## LAMDA Showcase

During their LAMDA activity on Monday afternoon, Mrs Underwood's pupils went over to the College Griffiths Room with Miss Dee to watch College students performing. Well done to the three Prep pupils – Tito Adepegba, Jai Patel and Edwin Webster (all Form 5) - who also volunteered to perform.

## Service of Carols and Readings

A report and photos will appear in next week's newsletter.

## E-Safety

### Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online

#### 1. Start with the positives

Being online can be a great way for children to learn, be creative, and stay connected with friends and family. Recognising these benefits helps keep conversations balanced and encourages confident, safe use of technology.

#### 2. Find the right time and place

Choose a calm moment to talk, such as during a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the conversation when emotions are high or during a disagreement.

#### 3. Use child-facing resources and advice

Support your conversation with age-appropriate tools, videos, or guides. These can help children understand key messages and make the discussion more engaging and relevant to their stage of development.

#### 4. Ask about their experiences

Use open questions like:

- 'Have you seen anything online that made you uncomfortable?'
- 'Who do you chat with online?'
- 'Are they people you know offline?'
- 'How do you feel when using certain apps or games?'

#### 5. Make it part of everyday life

These chats don't need to be formal or one-off. Regular, relaxed conversations help children feel supported and more likely to speak up if something worries them.

From:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

## Photo of the Week

The photography project was Pictograms (Song Titles)  
Chains of Love, Charli xcx - Emilia Bolton

