



Digital

# PREP NEWSLETTER

8<sup>th</sup> December - 12<sup>th</sup> December Michaelmas Term Issue 12



## Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that, for you, this past term has gone a little more slowly than it seems to have done for me. Looking back at the many memories made and achievements across so many areas of school life, it is almost impossible to single out one highlight. Instead, a theme of blessing seems to have run through our time together – with so much to be proud of and grateful for.

From Fireworks Night to Anti-Bullying Week, Performing Arts Week, Inter-House Chess and competition at national level, to the Carol Service (wow!) and the wonderful Pre-Prep Nativity, we have truly been on quite a journey. This weekend, I was privileged to attend the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and saw first-hand the joy your generous donations brought to those present. For some, it will have been the main event of their year. The sight and sound of the College Drum Corps and the choir moved many to tears. The kindness shown by our College students was humbling, and it offered them a real opportunity to practise a message we promote both at home and at school: that true happiness so often comes from helping others rather than ourselves.

This second week of Advent draws us towards the theme of peace – peace for those struggling with adversity of any kind; peace in our homes among family and friends; and the eternal peace that only the knowledge of God's love can bring.

As our blessed St Edmund's community pauses for a short breather, we look ahead to January, when new families and new staff will join us, while some cherished colleagues move on to projects and endeavours anew. They go with our blessing and will always have a place here, in a school forever enriched by such amazing children and such devoted educators, parents, grandparents and Governors.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your support throughout 2025. Have a wonderful Christmas, and all the very, very best for 2026 and beyond. I for one cannot wait to return and see what adventures lie ahead, in 2026.

Sincerely,

Mr S Cartwright  
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep

## Quote

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." – John 1:5

## Mr Cartwright's quiz

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

A: Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## Stay connected



@stedmundscollegeandprep



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@steds\_prepsport



@stedmundsprepsport



## Head Commendations

Lucy Berkley	For a wonderful piece of creative writing that shows careful editing and consideration of the vocabulary chosen and the sentence structures used
Teddy Courtice	For helping others in computing lessons
Noah Haines	For a wonderful piece of creative writing from the perspective of a specific character that included secure use of time adverbials to create flow and carefully chosen vocabulary and phrases

## Important Dates - First Week of Term

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Lent Term
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Potion Workshop – Forms 3 & 4 (see separate Parentmail for info) 8:45am – Welcome Back Coffee Morning for Parents 4:00pm – U11A Boys Hockey v Heath Mount – Home

## Important Dates - Next Half-Term

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 & 6
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	

## E-Safety

### Helping children to stay safe online at Christmas

Please follow the link below to UK Safer Internet Centre advice on keeping children safe online over the holiday, when they have more opportunity to spend time on devices and increased parental vigilance is necessary.

The UK Safer Internet Centre 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>



## 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).

[Book here](#)



## Breakfast Club

Late arrivals breakfast club: The breakfast club doors 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. 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)

## Swimming Lessons

We are pleased to advise that Broxbourne Swimming Club will be running swimming lessons at St Edmund's next term. Our very own swimming teacher, Lisa Short, will be taking some of the classes. Further information can be found on the poster below.

**BROXBOURNE SWIMMING CLUB**

**WHO :**  
AGES 4+  
All abilities welcome

**WHERE :**  
St Edmunds College  
Farm Lane  
Old Hall Green  
Ware  
SG11 1DT

**WHEN :**  
**THURSDAYS**  
starting 5:30pm

**STARTING**  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
**UNTIL**  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Please note there will be no lessons on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February as this is during half term.

**SPRING TERM DATES & PRICING**

**LEARN TO SWIM**  
Give your child the best introduction to swimming with our new Learn to Swim classes.

**WIDTHS : £70      LENGTHS : £90**

- ✓ Build confidence in the water
- ✓ Learn safety skills
- ✓ Have fun!

**BOOK NOW :**  
**Email :** teachers.bsc@gmail.com  
**Website :** www.broxbournesc.co.uk





## Form 3 - Design & Technology

Form 3 enjoyed investigating, designing, and making their own bread as part of their Design and Technology project this week. The children completed different focused practical tasks to gather ideas for their design brief before starting to make their own bread. Detailed evaluation of the whole process enabled the children to analyse their design brief and think about future alterations if they were to make bread again. #HPL #analytical skills



## Santa Run

We had a fantastic time at this year's Santa Run, raising vital funds for Grove Cottage. It was wonderful to see everyone getting into the festive spirit — from sparkling Christmas accessories to joyful little runners taking part for such a meaningful cause. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, donated and cheered.







## Service of Carols and Readings

Our annual Carol Service is always a moving occasion and this year's was particularly so, not least because it was the final one of many for our outgoing Director of Music. The children did themselves and all of us proud, standing with impressive focus in their bright blue blazers, and reading and singing with such clarity, enthusiasm and joy. We were aiming for even better than last year and the Form 3 to 6 children certainly rose to this challenge. The music sung was an appealing combination of traditional carols for congregation, modern Christmas songs, and carols in French, German and Spanish. A particular highlight was the combined Form 6 and 5 Choirs delivering a thrilling performance of 'O Holy Night'. The Form 6 solo singers and the readers from across Forms 3 to 6 sang and read beautifully and with great confidence. We were most grateful for superb organ playing of Mr Benham and for the support of the College French, German and Spanish teachers, Mrs Rinaldi, Mr Rerutko and Miss Monge.





## Carol Singing at Ashwood and Hillview Care Homes

We were delighted to be invited back for the second year running to sing carols and Christmas songs to a most receptive audience of elderly residents and staff at Ashwood Care Home in nearby Ware. This year we also visited nearby Hillview Care Home for the first time. A jolly group of 13 singers from Form 6, decked out in eye-catching Christmas accessories, were accompanied during the visit by Mr Cartwright, Miss McLauchlan and Mrs Celano. For around half an hour in each care home, the children performed a mix of traditional carols and popular Christmas songs, including the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' with increasingly lively actions. It was lovely to be so warmly welcomed and to see the joy that the children brought to their elderly audiences.

