



Digital PREP NEWSLETTER

7th January - 16th January Lent Term Issue 1



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During our first full week back at school, I have been delighted to show four prospective families around St Edmund's Prep.

On one of the tours, the mother and I chatted to the children about their interests outside school. When I asked, "What do you like to do when you get home?" hands shot up in every class. As we left one room, she smiled and said, "That's interesting – not many hands went up for gaming." She meant online gaming, of course.

Since then, I have been asking pupils about their favourite board games at home – and every single child has had an answer ready. To me it is evident how active you are with your children at home and I thank you for this.

Life can feel so busy and pressurised. It is easy – and I include myself in this – to focus on what needs doing rather than what truly matters. Is it more important that the hallway is hoovered and every lightbulb works, or that we spend unhurried time with the children we cherish?

Board games offer so much: negotiation, turn-taking, listening, sharing, reading, resolving disagreements and, occasionally, learning how to lose gracefully (we don't seem to be too good at that in our house thus far). So as the weather turns colder, perhaps we can put the hoover and the screwdriver to one side, gather round a table and make some memories.

I wish you a very good weekend.

Mr Steven Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep School

Calling all singers!

Mr O'Brien, College Director of Music, warmly invites pupils in Years 5 and 6 to sing at Mass on a Sunday morning.

- Mass begins: 10.00am
- Rehearsal: 9.20am
- Families are very welcome to attend the Mass.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Mr O'Brien to nurture the musical talent already evident in our pupils and to help shape the future Schola. If your child is interested, please email the College Music School at music@stedmundscollege.org

Quote

"Children spell love T-I-M-E." – Anonymous

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: Which continent are giraffes found in the wild?
A: In next week's newsletter.

Stay connected



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Head Commendations



Benjamin Bussmann	Practicing his reading to ensure great progress
Noah Haines	Using complex sentence structures to create a wonderful description of 'The Salisman' from the class text
Oliver Hollingsworth-Gee	Showing excellent creativity and confidence in his description of 'The Salisman' from the class text
Mason Moran	Excellent creative ideas for writing
Alistair Perry	Excellent analysis of a persuasive argument outlining the advantages and disadvantages of texting

Important Dates - Next Week

Wednesday 21 st January	2:30pm – U11A & U10A Rugby v Heath Mount – Away 2:30pm – U11A&B Girls Football v Bancrofts – Home
Thursday 22 nd January	2:45pm – U9A and U8A Rugby v Keble – Home 3:00pm – U9A&B Girls Football v Stormont – Home
Friday 23 rd January	Form 1 & 2 Trip to Hendon RAF Museum 3:15pm – U11A&B Girls Football v St Francis College – Away

Important Dates - This Half-Term

Tuesday 10 th February	LAMDA Exams (Forms 5&6)
Thursday 12 th February	Krishna Temple Visit Bhaktivedanta Manor (Form 6)
Friday 13 th February	2:00pm – 3:30pm Nursery Stay & Play
Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February – Half Term	
Monday 2 nd March	Travelling Book Fair selling books until Tuesday 3 rd March
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	8:45am – 9:45am – Welcome Back Coffee Morning with Mr Cartwright
Tuesday 10 th March	Fab Science Workshops: Potions (Forms 1-6)
Thursday 12 th March	Exotic Animal Encounter Workshops (Nursery – Form 6)
Friday 13 th March	9:00am – Mother's Day Celebrations (Forms 1&2)
Friday 20 th March	9:30am – 12:30pm College and Prep Open Morning
Monday 23 rd March	5:00pm – 8:00pm Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 24 th March	2:00pm – Easter Story Production (Forms 1-6)
Wednesday 25 th March	5:00pm – 8:00pm Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 26 th March	2:30pm – Lent Term Ends. No Tea Time Club
Tuesday 14 th April	Trinity Term Starts

E-Safety

Conversation starters to understand your child's online life

An addition to your New Years Resolution list! Having regular conversations with your child can keep them safe online. Help them deal with online issues and open up about their digital lives with these 4 simple tips:

Talk early and often

- Talk with children from an early age to make it easier to maintain good communication.
- Have bitesize conversations that are relevant to them.

Choose the right time

- Choose to talk when you are due to spend some time together.
- Bring digital experiences into normal, everyday conversations.

Open up and share too

- Model the behaviour you want them to show by sharing about your day.
- Be open and encouraging to make them feel supported.

Create a safe space for your child

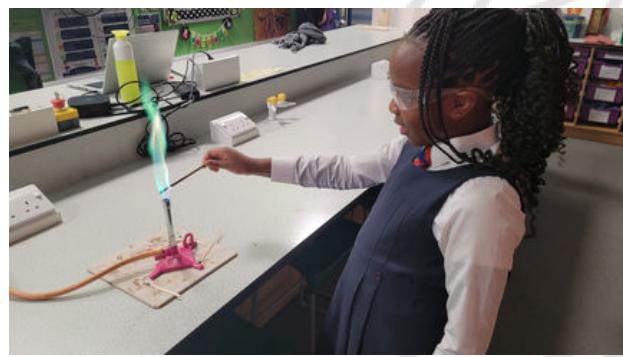
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Ensure your child feels listened to.
- When they start talking, hold off with questions and really listen.
- Be prepared, calm & patient with them.

This Week In The Prep



Form 3&4 Potion Workshop

Young chemists in Form 3 and 4 turned detectives in our recent Potions Workshop in the College Laboratories, where curiosity (and a little mystery) filled the room. Participants experimented with chemical reactions—mixing, fizzing, changing colours—to uncover clues about an unmarked solution. By observing reactions and comparing results, they pieced together the evidence to identify what it could be! Thank you very much to Miss Towns and Miss Parks for leading such a brilliant workshop for us!



Computing Conundrum

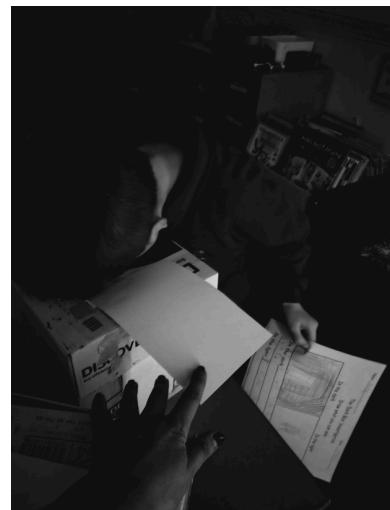
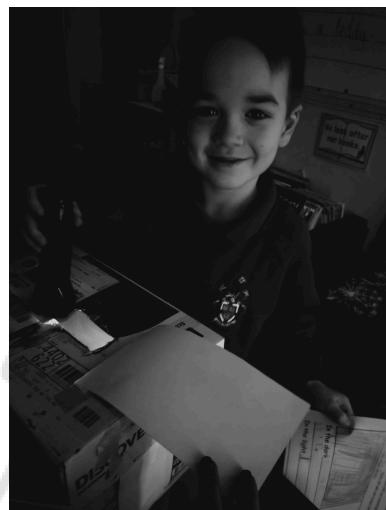
Form 3 have been having lots of fun learning about micro:bits in Computing. They discovered how the micro:bit works, how to connect it to a computer, and how to send their code to the device. The children used problem-solving skills to fix mistakes in their code and test different ideas. They enjoyed creating pictures on the LED display and programming the micro:bit to show different faces.



This Week In The Prep

Form 1 Super Scientists

Form 1 Super Scientists have begun their Light and Dark topic! This week they tested whether objects can be seen in complete darkness. Inside the dark boxes... nothing! But with a little light, everything appeared. The torches were definitely their favourite part 



Form 5 Gravity

Form 5 have been studying gravity. They carried out an investigation comparing weight and mass using Newton meters and scales. Lots of discussion, practical work and fun had by all.



Performing Arts



Form 6 ~Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona nobis pacem is Latin for "Grant us peace," a phrase from the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) in the Catholic Mass. As well as being sung in churches, it has also been adopted for use as a song with a broader message about peace. The melody has been passed down orally and is thought to be traditional, often attributed to Mozart and in the major works of Ralph Vaughan Williams's cantata.

Form 6 are learning to sing this short prayer for peace in a round of three parts and already they sound amazing.

Instrumental and Singing Tuition

Our Prep pupils are welcoming the New Year with continued dedication to their music lessons.



Deborah, Form 6



Lucy, Form 6



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](#)

Eco Corner

Eco Ideas

The Eco Ambassadors have thought of little ways we can try to be more Eco conscious in and around the school as well as in our lives.

Turn off your engine when in traffic.



Labelling Uniform

Please can you ensure that all uniform is labelled so that in the event of it getting misplaced we can return it to the correct child.

We have a number of items in our lost property that we believe have been purchased via New To You, as they have names in of children that no longer attend the Prep. Please can you also label any items purchased via New To You.

Invitation for Hertfordshire County Chess Team Qualification Tournament

The Team Manager for the Hertfordshire County Chess Team has been in touch to share that the Hertfordshire County Chess Team will be competing in the Inter-County Qualification Tournament in March 2026. To select talented players, they are hosting a Qualification Tournament. The top-performing players from this Qualification Tournament will be considered for selection to the County Team. Additionally, all participants will have the opportunity to develop their chess skills and deepen their understanding of the game. Should you wish to register your child, please see the attached flyer and complete their form [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



Chess Challengers

is organising

**Herts County Team Selection
Online Qualifying Chess Tournament**

Calling the County's Best Young Minds!

