



Digital PREP NEWSLETTER

19th January - 23rd January Lent Term Issue 2



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's been a while since I've been "booed" out of a room—but that's exactly what happened on Wednesday afternoon. I had just finished reading an engaging and interactive story to our Nursery and Reception children about a mischievous polar bear who loved to surprise people. In getting slightly carried away, the children delightfully turned the tables on me. Their reaction was a joyful reminder of the power of imagination and the sheer delight our youngest learners bring to every day at St Edmund's. What a privilege it is to count such keen and able children among our number.

Stories like this are at the heart of our early years provision: sparking curiosity, encouraging participation, and giving children the confidence to express themselves. Moments of fun and laughter like these are not only memorable but also, we hope, help to nurture a lifelong love of reading. As Dr Seuss wisely said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

In my notes last week, we touched on the value of board games (without dismissing the benefits of computer-based gaming), but it feels natural to continue promoting the benefits of reading to and with our children—and of cultivating a learning culture at home. The more our children see us reading and enjoying doing so, the more likely they are to pick up a book themselves—and enjoy it all the more.

So, a challenge: if you don't already have a good book waiting by the TV chair, perhaps now is the time to put one there. And rather than turning on *Traitors* (isn't it the final this week?), maybe we might turn a page instead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Steven Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep School

Quote

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr Suess

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: Which continent are giraffes found in the wild?

A: Africa

Q: What is the world's longest river?

A: In next week's newsletter.

Stay connected



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Head Commendations

Lochlan Barr	For a super piece of persuasive writing in English
Lucy Berkley	For excellent use of structures and language in creative writing and applying the techniques taught in class
Denzel Chikowore	For a wonderful piece of creative writing that included carefully chosen vocabulary and phrases to bring the scene to life
Lily Elliott	For excellent problem solving skills and perseverance in maths
Ellis Elsom-White	For excellent use of figurative language and sentence structures in creative writing
Minty Forbes	For excellent problem solving skills and perseverance in maths
Sammuel Junior Kitone	Humorous instruction writing
Ellie McGee	For a wonderful piece of descriptive writing about The Sailsman from the class text, Impossible Creatures
Lexi Norton	An emotive piece of writing using the devices and sentence structures discussed in class
George Stainer	Excellent emotive language and a development of his writing style over the term

Important Dates - Next Week

Wednesday 28 th January	Mayne Charity Event – Non Uniform Day 3:45pm – U11A and U10A Rugby v St Joseph's In The Park – Home
Thursday 29 th January	3:00pm – U9A Girls Football v Howe Green – Away 3:00pm – U9A&B Tag Rugby v Howe Green – Away
Friday 30 th January	3:15pm – U11A&B Rugby v St Aubyn's – 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

Check connected devices

Set Up Safe checklist – Set your child up for online safety with these simple tasks:

- Manage broadband & mobile networks
- Prepare their devices
- Talk & learn regularly
- Ensure that all devices have age-appropriate privacy settings and filters to protect children from accessing or viewing harmful content.

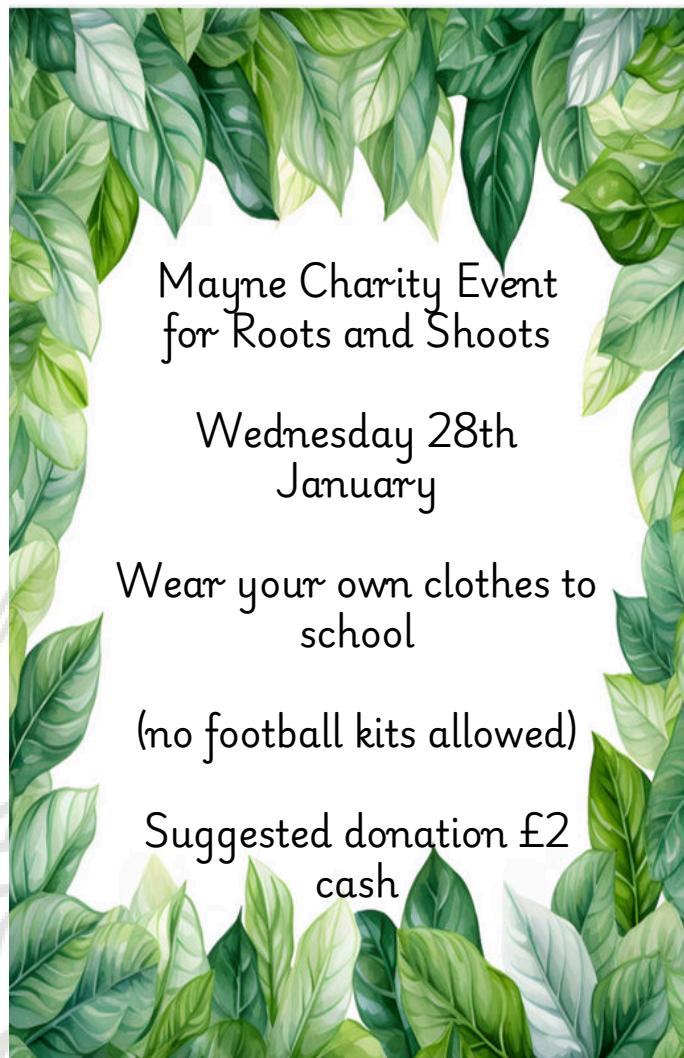
For more information, visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/>



Mayne Charity Event

Mayne House is excited to be hosting its very first charity event on Wednesday 28th January in support of Roots and Shoots—a wonderful charity that provides accessible and positive vocational and educational opportunities for young Londoners with an Education, Health and Care Plan. They have created a safe and inspiring space filled with nature in which young people facing multiple challenges can thrive.

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



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.

Make sure your litter goes in the bin



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

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.

This Week In The Prep

Reception - Phonics

Reception have been searching for words containing the digraph 'th'. They were finally found under the tough tray, we needed torches to see them! We were confident cats, using our soundcards and phonic knowledge to write the words to match the pictures – it was a tricky job! Well done Reception.



Form 2 - Early Aviation

Form 2 have been learning all about the fascinating world of early aviation. In history, they explored the pioneering achievements of the Wright brothers, and in English they studied the life and adventures of Amelia Earhart.

We learned about these aviators' incredible journeys and their experiences with flight, discovering how determination, curiosity and courage helped change the world. To bring their learning to life, we even designed and created our own aeroplanes.

Inspired by Amelia Earhart's famous words, we are embracing her advice: "If you want to do something, do it. You never know how far you'll get." 



Forest School Mud Kitchen

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents who generously donated a mud kitchen to our Forest School. This wonderful addition has already brought great enjoyment to the children and is enhancing their outdoor learning. We are extremely grateful for this kind and thoughtful contribution, which will benefit the children for many years to come.

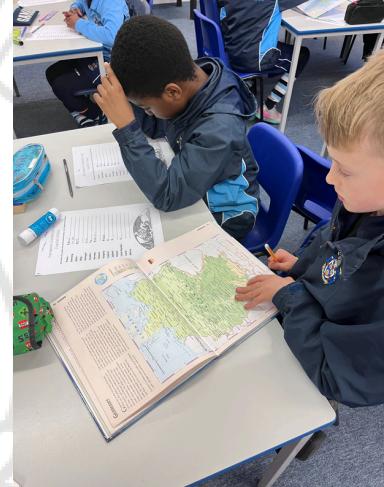
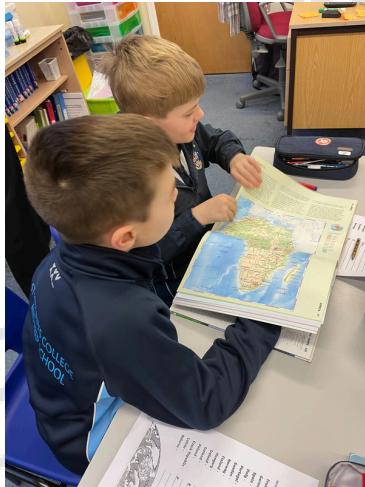
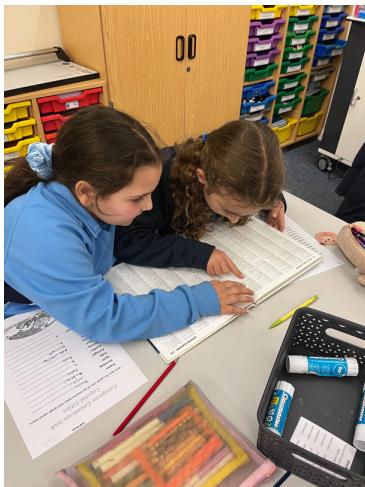


This Week In The Prep

Form 4 Travelling the Globe!

This week, Form 4 have been busy travelling the globe—without leaving the classroom! Using atlases, the children have explored continents, countries, and major world features, developing their map-reading skills and widening their understanding of geography.

Our journey began with learning about the Equator and how it divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The pupils identified countries from each hemisphere and used the atlases to gather key facts about them, including climate, location, and cultural features.



Forms 5 & 6 Crime Scene Investigators

On Tuesday, Forms 5 and 6 took on the role of Crime Scene Investigators, employing a range of collaborative, critical thinking and investigative skills to solve a crime. They were faced with a truly immersive experience as the College laboratories turned into a crime scene.

Donning their CSI suits, in order to preserve the crime scene, they crossed the police line and began to put together clues to identify the potential suspects. They soon learnt that Victor, a science teacher, had been fatally injured and that the crime had occurred as a result of a dispute over a winning lottery ticket.

Heading into the laboratories they looked for forensic evidence to prove their theory. Using chromatography, they were able to identify who had written the note left at the crime scene. Great excitement occurred when they were able to test the residues of a substance left at the scene. Fingerprints were taken and footprints were measured to add to the evidence. Finally, they were able to establish a cause of death.

Using problem solving skills, the children identified their key suspect and used the evidence to prove their suspicions. Leaving the crime scene, they reflected on the events of the morning, sharing theories and in some cases discussing future career paths. It was truly a wonderful experience embedding all aspects of the HPL philosophy –“everyone can.”

Thank you to the College Science Department for providing the children with such a wonderful opportunity.





Performing Arts



Some highlights from this week's music lessons have been Form 4 learning to play chords. We have pupils at different levels of musical competence, the pupils who take regular instrumental tuition helped their peers in understanding and playing chords. We learnt that a chord is two or more notes played together, that a triad has three notes, and that you can share the notes among everyone playing instruments.

- A chord is two or more notes played at the same time.
- How many notes in a **triad**?
- To find the right notes for a **triad** you play, miss, play, miss, and play a note.
- You have to play the notes at the same time for it to be a chord (and a triad).



Form 3 have been learning to Salsa. As part of the Lent Term music unit on Latin dance, children explored salsa rhythms through practical dance lessons. To complement this work, they all learned clave rhythms, sang songs, and played a range of percussion instruments.

Photo of the Week

Aperture (Depth of Field) Photography Project

Lizzie Belsey

