



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

9th February - 13th February Lent Term Issue 5



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

"Half-term already? Here? Now? Really?" remarked the Head, looking slightly dazed. I wish you all a wonderful nine days of family time ahead. It has been a privilege this term to witness such endeavour across the school. I genuinely feel — please tell me if I am wrong — that our partnership is growing, and I can see clearly that our children are flourishing as a result of the combined devotion of our staff and, of course, your support at home. Thank you. Two main notes as we close, if I may.

Firstly, we have embarked on a review of our uniform and standards and are working towards a simpler, more user-friendly parent handbook to capture the key points. One area that will be included — alongside guidance on hair, jewellery, watches and similar items — is nail gel and nail polish. While holidays are, of course, a time for fun and expression (we usually allow a few days at the start of term for children to "show off" a little), we kindly ask for your support in ensuring children do not attend school with nail gels or polish during term time. A uniform standard is just that, and at this stage our aim is to keep school life as focused as possible on learning and character development. Please do email me if you would like to share any thoughts on this; otherwise, thank you in advance for your support.

Our Pancake Race on Friday reminded us of the approaching season of Lent. Next term, we will have the gift of immersing ourselves in prayer, almsgiving, and self-sacrifice (or self-development), all with the aim of growing closer to God and His vision for us. It is a season of humble focus and power, during which significant character growth can and does take place. Over the coming break, if this season is meaningful in your family's faith life, I encourage you to talk with your children about their Lenten promise and to take time to re-emphasise the values that matter most to your family, perhaps considering how prayer or quiet contemplation might become an integral and important part of life at home.

We are all richly blessed — with the lives we lead, the people we know, and the many gifts and talents we have. We pray that we continue to use these blessings for the good of our children and in service to all those we are called to lead and support.

Have a wonderful half-term — continued prayers for drier weather,

Mr Steven Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep School

Religious Theme

Care of the Sick

Quote

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." — John Ruskin

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: Which part of the plant is responsible for making food?

A: The leaf

Q: Which English king had six wives?

A: In the next newsletter.

Stay connected



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Head Commendations

Henry Bell	For excellent effort in English lessons this week.
Marcus Hartley	For showing wonderful enthusiasm and interest in Geography lessons.
Annie Howe	For showing excellent effort and perseverance in Maths.
Kyra Naik	For thoughtful and well-considered contributions to work in RE.
Hannah Osinibi	For showing excellent perseverance and motivation in Maths.
Jai Patel	Excellent work and learning in RE on the Beatitudes.
Martha Wylie	Working hard and producing some interesting 'logs' based on Kensuke's Kingdom

Important Dates - Next Week

Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February – Half Term	
Wednesday 25 th February	3:45pm – U11A Boys & U11A Girls Hockey v St Joseph's <u>In The Park</u> – Home
Friday 27 th February	Travelling Book Fair 1:15pm – U9-U11 Cross Country @ Woodford Green Prep – Away

Important Dates - This 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, College Parlour
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

Timetable Changes after Half Term

After half term, Form 6 and Form 4 will be going swimming, while Form 3 will be taking part in Forest School. The activities will take place as follows:

- Form 6 swimming - Monday
- Form 4 swimming - Tuesday
- Form 3 Forest School - Friday



Form 3 - Stepping Back in Time

Form 3 stepped back in time this week as they explored fossils and the work of a palaeontologist. After learning how fossils are formed and why they are so important to our understanding of Earth's history, the children put their skills to the test in a hands-on challenge. Armed with an "excavation tool," they carefully extracted chocolate chips from cookies, discovering just how much patience, precision, and care real palaeontologists need to protect their precious finds!



Debate Club

To tie in with our learning on Safer Internet Day our question for debate club this week was, "Is AI a good thing?" Interestingly, none of the children that were at debate club this week think that it AI is a good idea, therefore Cameron and Lily had to pretend that they do for the purpose of the debate! They found this quite hard but did very well.

The 'Yes Team's' arguments were that it is useful to generate pictures and to help you if you are stuck on a question. They claimed that it is, in a sense, smarter than humans because thousands of people have contributed to AI, including people like Albert Einstein. The team argued that Alexa and Siri are useful because if you want to know, what is the weather like, it is much quicker to ask AI than having to load up a phone or laptop to find the information. Their final argument was that driverless cars are really useful too.

The 'No team's' arguments were that it is not always trustworthy and can give you the wrong answers. They said that, if you give it your personal information it might pick it up and store it and then you don't know where it will be sent. Similarly, if you put a funny picture of someone on the internet it might be sent on and on again and could be shared with people that you don't want to see it. They argued that because AI doesn't have emotions it can't do the same things as a human can do. It was also claimed that AI is taking away creativity from the human race.

The final vote was that no, AI is not a good idea. However we all agreed that it can be helpful sometimes!



Form 5 - Science

Form 5 have been conducting investigations into air resistance. They planned and investigated which material made the best parachute. They had to ensure they knew their independent variable from their dependent variable and draw conclusions from their results. A much enjoyed lesson.





Performing Arts



Forms 3 and 4 had a morning of exploring brass instruments, with Miss Campbell the College Music teacher. They were introduced to the trumpet, trombone, euphonium, French horn and cornet. A demonstration of how to play the instruments, with well known tunes such as, the Star Wars theme, Harry Potter theme and some football chants, the children were inspired to ask thoughtful questions during the 'brass Q and A'.

What are the 2 parts called of the trombone?

The bell and the slide

How long would the French horn be, if it were uncoiled?

Approx 4 metres



Photo of the Week

Portrait Photography Project

Brooke Sales





Get Ready for a Book-Filled Fortnight

We have a wonderfully exciting run of literary events coming up, all designed to celebrate and promote a love of reading, writing, imagination and storytelling across the Prep School. Over half term, children are invited to take part in our Extreme Reading Competition – where is the most unusual, cosy or adventurous place you can read a book? Please send your photos to echristodoulou@stedmundscollege.org, and printed copies (clearly named) can be handed to Mrs Christodoulou for display.

We are also delighted to welcome the Scholastic Book Fair, running from Friday 27th February to Tuesday 3rd March – book fair tokens will be handed out after half term, so do look out for these.

World Book Day on Thursday 5th March will be themed around the wonderful world of 'Oz' this year. It will be a non-uniform day, and we hope to see plenty of green. However, if your child is not keen on green, anything they are comfortable in is fine, perhaps sending in something green in colour in a bag to join in the fun and theme later in the day, as it gathers pace. We will not be announcing the theme in school, with the aim of keeping our plans as low a profile as possible. However, if you feel it's helpful in preparing for the day, please share this note with your child. Depending on their age, you might find it helpful to watch the film (BBFC, PG) or read the book in advance, perhaps as a family treat.

Thank you

A big thank you for your generous donations which helped Campion House raise £529.50 for Grove Cottage last term.



THANK YOU
ST EDMUND'S
PREP SCHOOL

For raising an amazing **£529.50**
for Grove Cottage
January 2026



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. |

Drive with Eco mode on in your car, if possible.





Little Edmundians Forest Fridays

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](#)



Little Edmundians Mini Mondays

Our Mini Mondays toddler group sessions offer a free weekly morning of stay and play, with coffee for parents and carers, for little ones aged 1 to 4 years. With staff-led indoor and outdoor activities, including plenty of engagement in an educational environment, this is an ideal opportunity to explore imagination, communication, and social skills, while encouraging motor skills and coordination through play.

Join us on Mondays from 23rd February 2026, 9.15am–10.30am, in the Prep School. [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

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.

Half Term Holiday Camp at St Edmund's College

We are excited to announce that Mr Goodfellow and his Tiger Club team of staff will be helping out with the running of the Water Creations Swim Academy Holiday camps at St Edmunds College.

We have had several years of successful holiday camps run through the school holidays, firstly by Tiger Club and then more recently by Water Creations Swim Academy. We believe that this partnership will now help to create a range of more exciting opportunities for your children, with wraparound care provision now in place for all holidays (except Christmas) with the knowledge that your child will also be left in the care of a person that they recognise and that you'll all know from around the school.

[Book Here](#) for the Water Creations Swim Academy February Camp or scan the QR code on the poster at the end of the Newsletter.

February CAMP

FEB 16-20

AN ENRICHING HOLIDAY
CAMP THAT CHILDREN LOVE



AGES
3-12



ACTIVE GAMES & SPORTS

"BUILD SKILLS,
TECHNIQUE AND A
LOVE FOR SPORT"

- Mr Goodfellow
Director of Sport - St Eds Prep



LEARN TO SWIM

"BUILD CONFIDENCE,
SKILLS
AND A LOVE FOR WATER"

- Cory,
Director of WCSA



ART THROUGH THE AGES

"INSPIRE
CREATIVITY AND
EXPRESSION"

- Miss Dee,
Art & Drama Specialist - St Eds

ACTIVITIES

- Daily Mile
- Football / Fustal
- Dodgeball
- Gymnastics
- Musical Theatre
- Lacrosse
- Laser Tag
- And Much More!

Prices

10% OFF BEFORE 31ST JAN!

Sibling and multi-day discounts will be
automatically applied at checkout.

Times

Standard Day
9am - 4pm

Extended Day
8:30am - 5:30pm

Per Day

£55

£60

FREE
IF YOU SWIM
WITH US



SCAN
ME!



For More Information
www.wcsacademy.co.uk

Call Us
020 8016 4222

