



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

23rd February - 27th February Lent Term Issue 6

Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back. The staff and I are genuinely looking forward to the half term ahead: World Book Day next week, the Easter Story in the final week, fixtures, projects, the College production and, most importantly, the continued flourishing of the children. I hope the break brought rest for them — and for you.

As we enter Lent, we return to the Church's three pillars of preparation: prayer, charity and fasting. Pope Leo himself has encouraged us to approach this season through listening, fasting from hurtful words, and growing in togetherness. Altogether, there is much there to reflect upon.

On an early dog walk this week, under starlit sky, I passed a brightly lit gym. Inside, beneath bright lights and mirrored walls, a young man was running on a treadmill, fixed on his reflection. It made me pause. How much of modern life draws our gaze inward? Phones, pressure, busyness — all can narrow our field of vision. Some self-focus is necessary; we must be well in order to support those who depend on us. Yet Lent gently challenges us to lift our eyes: to look outward to others and upward to God.

In school, we will continue to encourage the children to do just that — through prayer, through acts of charity, and through the deliberate setting aside of unhelpful habits. Even one of these, embraced sincerely, carries quiet power. In classes next week children will be offered a purple ribbon. They might choose to wear this on their blazer as a sign of their Lenten promise. You might like to discuss this with them over the weekend.

As Pope Leo I wrote:

“What each Christian is bound to do at all times should now be practised with greater care and devotion.”

May this season hold that care and devotion for us all. We look forward to welcoming you to the Easter Story in a few weeks' time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep School

Quote

“In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.”

Pope Leo XIV. For the full text click [here](#)

Religious Theme

What is Lent?

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: Which English king had six wives?

A: Henry VIII

Q: What do you call a group of lions?

A: In the next newsletter.

Stay connected



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Head Commendations

Lizzie Belsey	Excellent work and thinking skills when working on fractions in maths
Harry Edgeley	Excellent work and thinking skills when working on fractions in maths
Georgie Gujral	Creativity in geography
Savannah Symeou	Writing an excellent and very creative playscript based on the story of Varjak Paw
Jude Weston	Creativity in geography

Important Dates - Next Week

Monday 2 nd March	Travelling Book Fair selling books until Tuesday 3 rd March 4:00pm – U11A Boys and U11A Girls Hockey v Howe Green – Home
Wednesday 4 th March	3:00pm – U11A&B Girls Football v Stormont – Home 3:15pm – U11A and U10A Rugby v Keble – Away
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	8:45am – 9:45am – Welcome Back Coffee Morning with Mr Cartwright, College Parlour. Entrance through 'The Elephant' entrance please.

Important Dates - This Term

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 this Half Term

This 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

Lockdown Drill

As part of our scheduled review of contingency planning, we held a Lockdown Drill in school today. The exercise was conducted in a calm and measured manner, and both staff and children were well prepared. I am pleased to say they responded sensibly and responsibly throughout.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Cartwright.

Welcome Miss Salter-Kay!



In her first week at school the children and staff have given Miss Salter-Kay the warmest of Edmundian welcomes. In attending the assemblies this week, the House Captains happily interviewed our new maestro of music asking questions like, what first made you fall in love with music? What instrument do you play (or what do you enjoy most)? If you could perform anywhere in the world, where would it be? What are you excited about bringing to our school? Even wanting to know who her musical influences are. Miss Salter-Kay was delighted to indulge the children with answers to their questions.

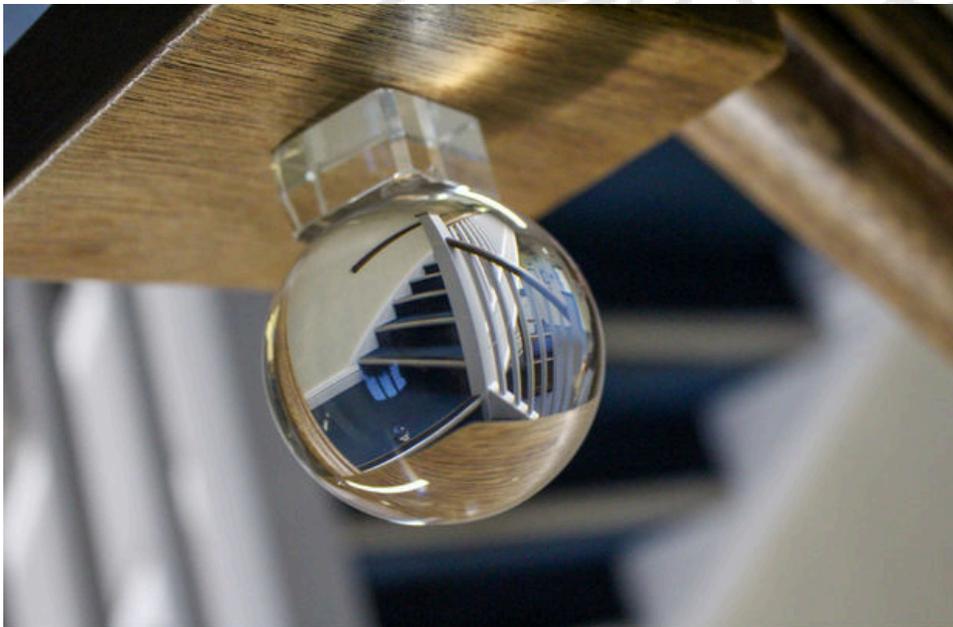
E-Safety

As we continue to explore themes of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the exciting opportunities for work and play raised on Safer Internet Day, the NSPCC has practical ways parents and carers can support children.

- * Explore the apps and websites your child uses
- * Talk about what AI can and can't do
- * Watch out for AI generated content – help children to spot signs of fake images or robotic language
- * Help your child understand what is appropriate to share
- * Model positive behaviour and critical thinking

For more information, please click [here](#)

Photo of the Week



Crystal Ball Photography Project
Brooke Sales



Form 3 - Rainforests

As part of our rainforest topic the children were given the task to research rainforests and present their findings in their own way. A variety of methods were taken and the children enjoyed sharing their findings with the class. Well done to all the children and the creativity that was shown; many facts have been learnt and new information shared!



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 your engine off when in traffic to prevent idling.



Form 6 - Educational Experiences

Year 6 had a very busy few days before half term. To start with, as part of an immersive day, they visited Bhaktivedanta Manor to learn about aspects of the Hindu Religion and its culture. The day was packed full of various tasks ranging from visiting a shrine devoted to Krishna to observing a performance of traditional Indian classical dancing. The children learnt how the hand gestures used in the performance were symbolic and that each movement told a story or represented a word. They took great care in trying to copy some of the actions and soon realised how difficult each action was when it was part of a sequence. An informative session was provided by the community, and the children were able to build on their knowledge about the Hinduism. The visit also included a chance to observe some oxen at work as they were used to pull carts around the farm. A group of children were brave enough to feed some kale to the cattle. A highlight of the trip was the lunch where the children experienced a whole range of delicacies whilst also eating some homemade chips. There was not a scrap left on most of the plates. A true sign of a well-fed bunch of children. To finish the visit the children took part in a drama session and there was a lot of laughter as they took on the parts of rain, gods and hills.

Later in the week, as part of their science curriculum, the children were lucky enough to attend a Q&A session with Dr Bramall. Prior to the discussion, they had written a series of questions they wanted to know about the circulatory system. Dr Bramall provided extremely knowledgeable responses to their questions and was impressed with the level of thought they had put into their enquiries. The questions ranged from how does exercise and diet affect the heart to how does the spleen function. I am sure the future doctors and scientists in the room were inspired by the experience.

It was a truly memorable week , packed full of a range of educational experiences.



This Week In The Prep



Reception - Visit from PCSOs

PCSOs Leon and Sally came to visit the Reception class today to tell us about being Police Officers.

We learnt that the police are part of four emergency services: fire & rescue, paramedics, and the coastguard. Leon told us the special phone number to contact them.

He showed us their uniform and all of the things they carry with them. He had a notebook and pens, his ID card, radio and camera. He was wearing a thick vest to keep his body safe, it was very heavy!

We took it in turns to ask questions. The children wanted to know:

If police officers were allowed to drive fast

If they have ever caught a bad guy

How they help animals in the road

Do they have a police dog

How we can become a police officer when we grow up

If we could sit in their police car. The children were given lots of information and the answer to the last question was..... yes!



Nursery - Stay and Play

On the last day before the half term we had a 'Stay and Play' session in Nursery. The theme was Love. Parents enjoyed joining in with the Valentine's Day themed activities decorating biscuits and being shown around the classroom by their children.





Book Fair

We are delighted to welcome the Scholastic Book Fair, running from Friday 27th February to Tuesday 3rd March at 3:30pm and 4:30pm. Book fair tokens were handed out this Thursday. Cash and card payments are welcome.

World Book Day

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.

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 9.15am–10.30am, in the Prep School.

[Book Here](#)

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](#)

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