



Digital

PREP NEWSLETTER

11th - 15th May Trinity Term Issue 4



Headmaster's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I still find the news hideously pessimistic, I consider myself all the more blessed to walk through these corridors and move around this place from day to day. Last week, I spent a week away at Norfolk Lakes, watching and encouraging children to overcome adversity, grow in friendship, and test limits — thankfully, I must say, theirs and not ours. The children were terrific company and impressive in so many ways, but it is wonderful to be back in the fold.

This week has brought the Pre-Prep concert, rehearsals for the quickly approaching Year 6 show, a visit from an RE Adviser for the Diocese of Westminster, a Year 5 Taster Day at the College and an inspirational assembly from a representative of the Jane Goodall Institute UK — just some of the highlights of the week.

In a rare moment this week, I found myself reflecting upon the nature of St Edmund's within the independent school landscape. It is truly independent. This gives us the licence and latitude not only to insist upon high expectations in academic spheres, but also to help children grow in their understanding of faith and to cultivate diverse interests and capacities to an even greater depth. One family touring the school this week left using the words "beyond expectation", amongst others. I am not surprised.

Watching one history lesson in the middle of the week — and teaching my own on the same objective, but in a different way — spoke to me about the care, thought, and preparation that staff invest in their teaching here, striving to give the children the very best experience of learning possible and tailoring it, as best they can, to individual need.

It is a little bit of a ramble from me this week, I am afraid, so thank you for bearing with me, and I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter. Expect more rambling next Friday at Sports Day — and make sure you wear a good hat. Should you do so, I promise to include you in our new "Parent Parade" feature for this year, matching accessories please. (Just joking!!!!)

Sincerely, and with all best wishes to you and your family,

Mr S Cartwright
Headmaster, St Edmund's Prep

Religious Theme

The Ascension of Jesus

Quote

"To find yourself, think for yourself."
— Socrates

Mr Cartwright's quiz

Q: What is the only mammal that can truly fly?
A: A bat.
Q: How many hearts does an octopus have?
A: In next week's newsletter.

Stay connected



@stedmundscollegeandprep



@stedmundscollegeandprep



@steds_prepsport



@stedmundsprepsport

Head Commendations



Catherine Bavis	An excellent creative collage demonstrating the importance of trees to the planet
Lucy Berkley	For a creative display of research into the importance of rainforests and why we have a responsibility to protect our planet.
Emily Bischoff	An excellent detailed response to an enquiry project on the importance of rainforests.
Gabriel Daodu	An excellent analytical presentation on why we have a duty to protect trees.
Ellis Elsom-White	For an excellent research project about the importance of trees and why we should be protecting the rainforests.
Kyra Naik	An excellent display of research into the importance of protecting the natural world and linking this to the belief of God making us stewards of His creation.
Hannah Osinibi	For including excellent detail in a research project about the natural world and the importance of protecting the rainforests.
Geroge Stainer	Excellent analytical work explaining the importance of trees to the planet.
Theadora Yiannoullou	For a wonderfully creative presentation of her research into the importance of rainforests and the impact of deforestation.

Important Dates - Next Week

Monday 18 th May	Form 4 Residential to SPEC
Wednesday 20 th May	Sports Day Field Events
Thursday 21 st May	U9 Cricket Fixture – Home vs Heathmount 3.00pm
Friday 22 nd May	Sports Day – Nursery and Reception in the morning, Forms 1 to 6 in the afternoon After School Parent & Staff Sport and Social 3:30pm/4:30pm – Last Day of Term
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May – Half Term	

Important Dates - This Term

Monday 18 th May	Form 4 Residential to SPEC
Wednesday 20 th May	Sports Day Field Events
Friday 22 nd May	Sports Day – Nursery and Reception in the morning, Forms 1 to 6 in the afternoon After School Parent & Staff Sport and Social 3:30pm/4:30pm – Last Day of Term
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May – Half Term	
Monday 1 st June	First day back to school after half term
Friday 5 th June	8:45am-9:45am – Welcome Back Coffee Morning with Mr Cartwright, Griffiths Room (College)
Monday 8 th June	Assessment Week
Tuesday 9 th June	Moving Up and New Students Induction Day
Friday 12 th June	2:00pm – EYFS Teddy Bears Picnic 3:00pm – Reception to Form 1 Parent's Transition Meeting
Friday 19 th June	8:45am-9:45am – Forms 1 & 2 Father's Day Celebration (Prep Hall) Form 2 Big Camp Out (until the morning of Saturday 20 th June)
Monday 22 nd June	Colour Run (Southworth Charity Fundraising Event)
Thursday 25 th June	2:00pm – Prep Prize Giving, Butler Hall
Friday 26 th June	Nursery & Reception Shepreth Wildlife Park Trip
Saturday 27 th June	Exhibition Day
Monday 29 th June	2:00pm – Mass (Celebration of First Holy Communion Children)
Thursday 2 nd July	6:30pm – Prep School Production with refreshments from 5:45pm
Friday 3 rd July	6:30pm – Prep School Production with refreshments from 5:45pm Reports live to parents
Monday 6 th July	Form 6 Parents & Children's Leavers Party
Wednesday 8 th July	Final Assembly 2:30pm – Last day of term finish (no Tea Time Club)



Form 4 SPEC Trip - Monday 18th May

Form 4 will be leaving for their trip at 9:00am on Monday morning and returning at 3:30pm on Tuesday afternoon.

Sports Day Field Events - Wednesday 20th May

The sports day field events will be taking place on Wednesday morning for Forms 3-6.

Sports Day - Friday 22nd May

We are looking forward to Sports Day next week. Please see the details below:

- EYFS Sports Day will take place at 9:00am on the Bounds Field, located behind the Castle Field.
- Forms 1-6 Sports Day will take place at 1:00pm on the Prep School athletics track.

In the event of severe rainfall leading up to Sports Day, we may need to postpone the event to the reserve date of Friday 5th June.

If weather conditions on the day make it necessary to cancel:

- a decision for EYFS will be made by 8:00am
- a decision for Forms 1-6 will be made by 10:30am

Any changes will be communicated via ParentMail.

E-Safety

The Online Safety Act

Internet Matters has published a report evaluating the impact of the Online Safety Act from the perspective of children and parents. Based on surveys and focus groups with children aged 9-16 -years-old and their parents, the report explores whether the Act has helped to make children in the UK safer online. It finds early evidence of progress with positive changes including families seeing more visible safety features and age checks becoming more common.

Families in the study agreed that stronger action to keep children safe online is needed and that more should be done by government and platforms.

Read the report: [The Online Safety Act: are children safer online?](#)

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.

Car share, walk, scoot, bike or use public transport when possible.



This Week In The Prep

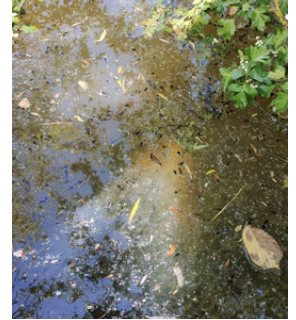


Terrific Tadpoles!

The Reception class enjoyed a very exciting walk to our school pond this week. When we arrived, we were amazed to see hundreds of tadpoles swimming in the water! We carefully collected some tadpoles to look after in our classroom so that we can watch them grow and change over the coming weeks.

Back in class, the children worked together to create a poster explaining how to care for our tadpoles. We have also started keeping a diary, writing about what we can see and drawing pictures to match. Soon, we will use our magnifying glasses to look closely for any changes as the tadpoles begin their life cycle journey.

We are all very excited to see what happens next!



The Great Chair Strike

On Monday, Form 1 arrived to a very unexpected scene — the chairs had gone on strike! They were tired of not being tucked in and of being leaned on all day. Even the colouring pencils joined the protest. With nowhere to sit, the children had to do their maths lesson on the carpet (which they secretly thought was hilarious)! Happily, our wonderfully kind and empathetic pupils quickly realised the error of their ways and wrote heartfelt apology letters. Order has now been restored, and all chairs are back at work.



Inter-House Cross Country

Our annual Interhouse Cross Country event was a fantastic display of determination, resilience and team spirit. All children from Nursery to Form 6 gave their all as they tackled the course with great enthusiasm and encouragement for one another. It was wonderful to see every House represented so proudly, with children cheering each other on from start to finish.

Congratulations to all runners for their effort and sportsmanship and to our winners:

Reception/ Nursery- Caleb B/ Martha N

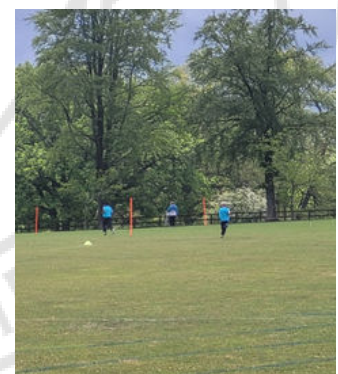
Form 1/2- Benjamin B/ Audrey M

Form 3/4- Theodore B/ Anulika M

Form 4- Samuel A/ Minty F

Form 5- Harvey L/ Faustine B

Form 6- Oliver H-G/ Hannah O



This Week In The Prep



Form 5 Residential Adventure

From May 5th to 8th, Form 5 enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Norfolk Lakes. Set in a beautiful waterside location, the site provided the perfect backdrop for a few days filled with adventure, challenge, and fun.

The weather was mild throughout the trip, with a mixture of dry spells and some rain, but this certainly did not dampen spirits or enthusiasm. The children took part in a wide range of exciting experiences including canoeing, paddle boarding, climbing, fencing, and the ever-popular caving sessions. They also tested their agility skills on the low and high ropes courses, supporting and encouraging one another as they tackled the various challenges. Each activity encouraged the children to step outside their comfort zones, work together, and develop new skills and confidence. The children also enjoyed two walks off site, exploring the beautiful surrounding countryside and lakes, which gave them the opportunity to appreciate the natural environment and spend time together outdoors.



Mealtimes were a hit too, with delicious food keeping everyone well-fuelled for the day's adventures. The children were kept active throughout the day, with activities running well into the evening, meaning they were more than ready for bedtime and a good night's sleep after such busy and exciting days.

Our accommodation was clean and comfortable, offering a great space to rest and bond after busy days of activity. The children learned to manage their belongings, take care of themselves, and work cooperatively as part of a team. They were encouraged to keep their rooms tidy and show responsibility throughout the trip.

The residential gave the children the opportunity to learn not only new physical skills, but also more about themselves and each other. They developed resilience, independence, teamwork, and stronger friendships through shared experiences and challenges.

Upon our return, it was evident that our Form 5 students had grown both individually and collectively. Their excitement, shared stories, and newfound confidence were clear indicators of the positive impact of the trip to Norfolk Lakes.

A big thank you to all the staff who accompanied the children and looked after them so wonderfully throughout the residential. It was a fantastic experience and one the children will remember for years to come.

Well done, Form 5!



Form 6 Residential Adventure

Form 6 enjoyed a fantastic residential visit to Norfolk Lakes Activity Centre, where pupils took part in an exciting range of activities including high ropes, kayaking, climbing, survivor skills, giant canoeing and group stand-up paddleboarding, to name just a few.

The trip was a tremendous success, and it was wonderful to see every child demonstrate resilience, perseverance and empathy throughout the four days. Form 6 were an absolute pleasure to accompany and proved themselves to be excellent ambassadors for the school at all times.

We were particularly impressed by the way the children supported one another and embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and positivity — even when the drizzly rain arrived and strong winds made paddling on the lake especially demanding.

Thank you, Form 6, for making the 2026 residential trip such a memorable and enjoyable experience.





Performing Arts



Congratulations to students in Reception, Form 1, and Form 2 who took part in the Pre Prep Performing Arts Morning this week. It was a wonderful showcase of art, drama, dance, and music and was a great example of the versatility and artistic strength of the Pre Prep. After a percussion performance on xylophones and glockenspiels by Form 1 and 2, we were treated to two performances from the Ballet Club featuring students from Form 2 and Reception. Following this were some fantastic solo performances on a range of instruments including drumkit, ukelele, and piano, before energetic, enthusiastic performances of the French song 'Sur Le Pont D'Avignon' and the poem 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Form 1 and 2 then showed off their individual dances with 'The Toybox' and 'Magic Carpet', before the morning was finished off with a touching rendition of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'. The hall was beautifully decorated with Form 1 and 2's artwork, which beautifully complemented the performances on stage.

A big thank you to everyone who had a hand in making the morning a success, including Mr Pringle, Mrs Hutton, Mrs Hall, and Mr Burton for their support in preparing the soloists for their performances. Another special thank you to parents and grandparents who took time out of their morning to support the Pre Prep.

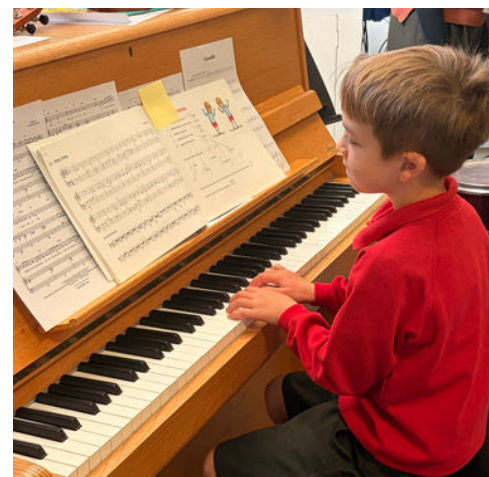


Photo of the Week

Anything Goes Photography Project

Theodore Bussmann

