

Newsletter 9: Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents,



We hope that you all had a relaxing and happy half-term holiday. It has been great to see the children happily back in school and ready to learn for the second half of this autumn term. We are all so pleased that schools remain open, keeping the children learning and playing with their friends and bringing some normality to our lives at this time. A special welcome to Jonah who joined our Year 6 class on Monday.

Following All Saints Day, we have been thinking particularly about the saints this week and Mrs Higgins has discovered the interesting fact that St Edmund is the patron saint of pandemics! We pray that he is watching over us and continues to keep our school family safe and well.

If any child or family member receives a positive Covid test result, please let Mrs Higgins know as soon as possible by emailing her on head@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk

Lockdown routines – guidance for schools was only published after school closed on Wednesday afternoon. Fortunately there are only a few changes which affect the children. An important change for us is that clubs can only continue to run if their primary purpose is childcare. Therefore we will only be running Koosa breakfast and after-school clubs. We hope to return to the other clubs and activities once lockdown restrictions are lifted. Please stick to the guidance sent out earlier this week regarding drop-off and pick-up arrangements. **Remember we are now in a National Lockdown and everyone must follow the rules around social distancing, especially at the school gates, if schools are to remain open.**

PE kit days – as the weather is much colder and PE lessons are taking place outside if the weather is dry, please could the children wear tracksuit bottoms, navy or a plain dark colour. They could also wear a base, thermal layer if they are feeling the cold.

Poppies – over half term Lochie (Y4) made 120 big painted poppies for his friends, family and neighbours to put in their windows – he hopes this will cheer people up as well as help us remember. Nearly all of the houses on his street now have one of Lochie's poppies in their window! So far he has raised almost £400 for the British Legion 2020 Poppy Appeal and donations are still coming in. If anyone would like a poppy we still have about 30 left (let Jess know via classlist). Lochie's fundraising page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lochiespoppies> Well done Lochie!



Virtual Open Morning – this week Mrs Higgins held our first virtual open morning via Zoom. The presentation and short virtual tour made by our Year 6 Digital Leaders, are available on the school website. If you know anyone who is thinking of applying for a place then please do show them. <https://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Open+Mornings+and+Tours&pid=57>



Spooky Trail winners – thank you to everyone who took part in the PSA's half-term spooky trail in the shop windows in the town. The letters spelt BROOMSTICK and the winners, chosen at random are: Claire (YrR), Rafa (Yr1) and Iona (Yr2). Mrs Higgins has delivered the prizes to the children today.

The Brighton Road – well done to everyone who has had to negotiate the very busy roads due to the closure of Brighton Road. As the road closure and subsequent congestion is likely to continue for the next month, please consider parking further away and walking your child to school.



PSA cards, mugs and teatowels – thank you to everyone who supported this very creative and successful fundraising effort by the PSA. These items were sent out to your child on Tuesday of this week. Hopefully, you are delighted with the outcome – they will certainly make wonderful Christmas presents.

Headteacher's Blog – every Friday Mrs Higgins writes about what has been happening in school during the week in her Headteacher's Blog in the website. Do remember to have a look every week to keep yourselves up to date by clicking on this link. <https://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/blog/?pid=14&nid=10>

APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 INTAKE – the school would like to remind all parents of children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 that, if they wish their child to attend St Edmund's, they must ensure that they meet the application deadline of **15th January 2021**. Applicants need to do two things before that date:

- complete and return (to the school office) the **school SIF** (application form) which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website (School Information/Admissions).
- complete the **Surrey County Council online application** (<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>) which is open from **2nd November 2020**.

Parking and drop-off – thank you to those of you who are working hard to stick to the guidelines for using the drive-in drop-off zone. Here is a reminder of the rules for using this facility:

- If you wish to use the facility, **your child must be able to get out of your car unaided**. It is imperative that you do not exit your vehicle, but leave the school car park swiftly. If you have rear child-locks, these will need to be disabled for school drop-off so that your child is able to open the door upon arrival at school.
- Children should not be dropped on school premises before 8.40am. Please stick to your child's allocated drop off time when using the drop off zone. Several children have been dropped off early this week.
- When you enter the car park, please drive along as far as possible – do not stop by the entrance gate as this leads to congestion and traffic backing up along The Drive.
- Your child should disembark from your vehicle using the left hand door so that they can walk safely to and in between the yellow lines to the playground. If they alight from the right hand side of the car, this means they are weaving through the cars which is highly dangerous.
- Please ensure that your child knows that they must stay within the yellow lines at all times when walking to the playground.
- Please enter the car park slowly as a child may unexpectedly cross the car park.
- If you need to speak to Mrs Higgins, please call or email the school office; Mrs Higgins is focusing on guiding the children safely in to school in the mornings so please do not try to get her attention at this time.

IMPORTANT DATES	
<p>THIS TERM' DATES (new entries in yellow)</p> <p>Wed 11 Nov Seaside workshop for Y1</p> <p>Thu 12 Nov Flu vaccinations</p> <p>Fri 20 Nov St Edmund's Feast Day</p> <p>Fri 27 Nov YR Advent Workshop TBC</p> <p>Mon 30 Nov School closed</p> <p>Mon 7 Dec Elf Run for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice</p> <p>Fri 11 Dec Christmas Jumper Day/ Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Fri 18 Dec 2pm Finish for Christmas Holidays</p>	<p>THIS YEAR'S DATES (2020-2021)</p> <p>AUT: 1 Sept-18 Dec 2020 (half-term w/c 26 Oct)</p> <p>SPR: 4 Jan-1 Apr 2021 (half-term w/c 15 Feb)</p> <p>SUM: 19 Apr-21 July 2021 (half-term w/c 31 May)</p> <p>KNOWN INSET DAYS & CLOSURES</p> <p>1st and 2nd Sept, 2nd Oct, 30th Nov 2020</p> <p>15th March 2021</p>

Ethos Statement 8: I try to be just and fair.

We pray together: Father, you are always just and you are always fair. Help us to remember that in treating others justly and fairly we build a more peaceful world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

The Pope Speaks to us about Hope: "Life is often a desert, it is difficult to walk, but if we trust in God, it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Never lose hope; continue to believe, always, in spite of everything. Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable."



Money Matters: second half of the Autumn Term 2020	
Dinners (KS2 ONLY):	£81.60 (34 days at £2.40; Mon 2 nd Nov-Fri 18 th Dec 2020)
Governors' Fund:	£20 per family per term, cheques payable to "A&B Diocesan Trust St Edmund's"
Outings:	Cheques payable to "St Edmund's School Fund" or pay online via PMX ParentMail
PSA Website:	www.stedmundsschoolpsa.co.uk
Confused by educational jargon?	Try our glossary or Frequently Asked Questions pages under "School Information"
Still confused?	Then info@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk or 01483 414497
Dates for the year ahead	http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3&pid=14&viewid=1
Copies of the newsletters	http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Newsletters&pid=93
Clubs booking forms	http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Clubs+and+Activities&pid=34