

Dear Parents,

We have navigated our way through a busy fortnight in school since our last newsletter with our classrooms being full of varied learning experiences for the children. We look for to some of you joining us for our parent maths and phonics drop-ins next week.

Earlier this week it was World Mental Health Day and in school we were reflecting on the importance of taking care of our mental health just as we do our physical health. We've talked about the benefit of talking to others to help share our worries. Some of the children in key stage 2 have a home learning task this week that focuses on talking. We hope that this promotes the importance of finding time to talk.

October is also Black History Month, a time when we celebrate the significant achievements of black people over the course of history. Our key stage assemblies this week focused on this theme and we were exploring the work of individuals who have helped to inspire change and contribute significantly to aspects such as literature, music, sport and healthcare. Within our teaching over the course of the school year, we focus through a range of curriculum areas the importance of celebrating our diversity and the right that each of us has to be treated equally (UNRC Article 2).

You may have noticed that the grass bank between the ramp and the playground has seen some action over the past week. We have purchased bulbs for each of the children in the school community to plant to add some colour to the school grounds in the spring. The planting of these will be continuing over the coming week too. The Eco-council have some signs that they will be staking into the ground as a polite reminder to adults and children alike not to walk or run across these areas. Please assist us in giving these bulbs the best chance of blooming when the spring arrives.



### Harvest Festival

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to the two Harvest Festival celebrations that took place last Friday. The hall really was jam packed. The children in all year groups across the school played an important role in reminding us about and thanking the many people who help to produce, harvest and transport the food that we have to eat. As a Rights Respecting School, we have talked with the children to help them understand that the right to nutritious food is one that all children are entitled to (UNRC Article 27), but one that sadly not all children receive. We are extremely grateful for your generosity, donating a huge amount of food for our school collection. These donations were collected at the beginning of the week by volunteers from the Vineyard Church who run the Storehouse foodbank. They too wished to pass on their thanks for your many donations.





## Family Thrive course for Parents and Carers

Many of you will already be aware that at St Edmunds we use a particular approach called the Thrive Approach to support the social and emotional development of the children in our care. This is an approach informed by established neuroscience, attachment research as well as child development studies. This approach underpins how we interact with your children, how we manage behaviour, how we recognise aspects that we need to support them with and how we positively support them to develop their own self-regulation skills.

We are going to be running a six-week course to introduce you to the fundamentals of Thrive and how it works in practice. We ran this course last academic year and the parents who attended spoke very positively about the course content. The course will be run in school in groups of up to 12 parents, with the intent that we will repeat the course again later in the year if there is a high level of interest expressed by parents.

Coming along to the course will enable you to find out about:

- the Thrive Approach
- how our brains develop
- how your right brain talks to your left brain!
- why play and creativity are so important to you and your child
- how to support your child at times of change and difficulty
- spotting 'trigger times' and how to support your child through these
- how to be a behaviour detective

This course will be running in school on Monday afternoons from 1-3pm for six consecutive weeks commencing Monday 30th October 2023. The course is run by a Thrive-approach course leader who is an experienced licensed practitioner. To book your place on the course, or to find out more, please email the school office by Thursday 19th October.

## EY Porridge making

The children in Early Years have been using the story of Goldilocks and the three bears as the basis for their learning this week. They had fun making and then sampling their own porridge this week. Arabella brought in some homegrown rhubarb and the children cut it up and cooked it to add to their choice of toppings alongside jam and honey.









### Diary Dates

Wk beg 16th      Parent drop-ins (see last newsletter for individual year group dates)

### **HALF TERM (Wk beg 23rd Oct)**

Tue 31st Oct	Closing date for secondary school application for Yr6 pupils
Wed 1st Nov	Whole School Mass—All Saints 9am (parents welcome)
Thur 2nd Nov	Individual School photos (for pupils in the main school)
Wed 8th Nov	Flu Immunisations
Wk beg 13th Nov	Learning conversations begin (Wk beg 13th, 20th and 27th Nov)
Tue 14th Nov	Individual School photos (for pupils in The Nest)

#### Yr 4 Geography local study

Earlier this week, the children in Yr4 took a walk around some of the roads surrounding the school to explore and compare the quality of the different environments. They stopped in various locations to make and record their observations ahead of their next geography lesson.



#### **Save the date!**

The Friends will be organising Christmas disco events on Friday 1st December.

#### Donations

Do you have any of the following types of toys that your children no longer make use of at home?

Lego and Lego people  
Playmobil  
Plastic animals  
K'nex  
Loom bands  
Peg boards  
Pom Pom makers & wool  
Fidget toys  
Games such as Dobble, Guess who, card games  
If so, the staff who run our after-school club would be keen to add to the resources that the children have to play with. Donations would be hugely appreciated.

#### **HALLOWEEN HALF TERM WORKSHOP**

Looking for an art focused activity for your child over half term, why not take a look at what Crafty Foxes are running <http://www.thecraftyfoxes.co.uk/kids-clubv>



### **Night of Light**



**October 31<sup>st</sup> 5.30 – 7.30pm**

**The Crypt, St Edmund's Church**

**Come and celebrate All Hallows Eve with fun, games and treats!**

**Come dressed in your brightest, funkiest clothes or dressed as your favourite saint.**

**£2 per child, £5 per family**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult.**















**Hot dogs, cakes and drinks provided**

**Book in advance, so we can get your halo ready!**







**Book at: [geraldine.mckeag@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.mckeag@gmail.com)**



**The Children's Liturgy Team**



             



**Mid day supervisors**



 We are looking to expand our team of Mid-day supervisors to support the children at lunchtime both in initiating playing games 


 outside and when eating their lunch. If you 

 would be available between 11:30-1:45 on two 

 or more week days and would be interested in 

 joining the team or would like to seek more 

 details please speak to a member of the office 

 team. 