



**Learning and Caring Together,  
"...they will flourish in the courts of our God." (Psalm 92:13)**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

What a busy start to the new school year we have had. The new to **nursery and reception** children are now 'old timers'. It feels like they have always been with us and they are happy and settled at St Edward's. Thank you to all parents and carers that have given positive feedback about our induction and settling in routines. It is good to know that we are getting it right! We are listening to your views on how we can make this even better too and will be considering plans for the next academic year very soon.

Curriculum learning has got off to a great start. It has been a pleasure to see the children learning both indoors and outdoors. **Hedgehogs and Bees** have been thoroughly enjoying Julia Donaldson stories. They have been retelling through drama and observing and finding evidence of Gruffalo habitats in the forest. In maths, they have been reading, writing and exploring numbers of the week in many ways. The Bees have even been using language such as more, less and equal to when explaining and justifying their learning. How fantastic that the EYFS half term ended with our nursery Hedgehogs sharing their Diwali learning with parents today. I know that you would want me to thank Mrs Best, Miss Machin and Mrs Leese and I hope you enjoyed the children's performance as much as I did!

**Robins, Bats and Frogs** are certainly ready for a rest over half term! The Year 2 **Harvest Service** was enjoyed by all who took part and those who attended. I am always very proud when the children lead the church services. Seeing and hearing the children reflect, thank God and pray for others is heart-warming. Many thanks for the produce that you donated for the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. I think we all agree that your generosity and the children's service are shining examples of our school motto in practice. As ever, thank you to Reverend Diane for her child centred address and to Mrs Gliddon and Mrs Huckfield for supporting Year 2 in their planning, practise and delivery to the congregation.

Key Stage 1 has been busy making soup. The 'real' purpose of this was to give them the opportunity to use and apply their knowledge of adjectives and imperative verbs. The outcome was delicious as well as educational! In maths, work on the part, part, whole model has extended their understanding of number this half term. The children have also been acquiring knowledge about the UK and capital cities in geography. In science, they have been building on knowledge of habitats from their Early Years curriculum. They are now able to classify what lives in ponds, fields, forests and the sea – ask them what they know; you will be wowed!

No rest for Key Stage 2 either! **Foxes, Spiders and Squirrels** have been learning about homophones, prepositional phrases and apostrophes for possession. They have been learning written column methods for addition and subtraction in maths and really impressed me with their explanations of how and why they use this method. The children were so excited before, during and after their visit to Weston Park this week. The timing meant that the children could share their historical knowledge with our Ofsted inspector on their return to school. I must say that the homework that I have seen is very impressive too. Thank you for encouraging and supporting your children to be great historians!

**National Poetry Day** was another fantastic opportunity for our children. All, including nursery, practised and recited a poem to the rest of the school. They were confident, clear and proud. Thank you to Miss Bills who planned for the children to take part and showcase their learning.

**National Democracy Week** has been an excellent opportunity for us to focus on democracy in school. Linking the role of MP's, what they talk about in parliament and how they make democratic decisions, to our school context, was clearly beneficial for the children. They prepared manifestos, 'campaigned publically' and voted for/elected their School Council representatives. The highlight for many was asking Karen Bradley questions, telling her what they would like her to discuss in parliament (stereotypes in sport, racism, reducing plastic...) and watching her present their School Council representatives with their badges of honour. Our children are certainly asking big questions and expressing their opinions which is fantastic! The children are also very opinionated on how they would like their local area to improve. They have been out and about in the village and liaising with a Local Parish Councillor, Caroline Lovatt, who came into school to listen to their views and answer their questions. The children's work will be submitted in their bid to influence change in Cheddleton. Thank you to Mrs Clifford for leading on these areas and ensuring that the voices of our adults of the future are represented locally and nationally.

**Watch me learn phonics** was well attended. Once again, thank you for your positive feedback. It is good to share what and how your children learn to read. Those of you that attended are now experts in phonics and understand how early reading is taught. I am sure that you are all using your robot arms, blending, segmenting and reading/spelling words with phoneme, grapheme correspondences (GPC's) and prefixes very confidently! Thank you Mrs Hordern – feedback shows how valuable parents find these sessions.

Other **fundraising events** this half term have included our Douglas Macmillan coffee morning where we raised £224.00. Thank you for your cake contributions, joining us for the morning and/or buying cakes at the end of the day. As ever, thank you to our PTFA whose commitment to SEAC is second to none. Wear it Pink day was also a huge success. Our contribution of £183.10 helped a local fundraising group meet their £10,000.00 target – what an achievement for such a worthwhile cause!

As we are all aware, mental health and wellbeing is high profile and recognised, quite rightly, as fundamental to us all. Indeed, 'Every Mind Matters'! I am delighted to share that we have been accredited with the National Children's Bureau **Wellbeing Award for Schools** this week. The verification report is detailed and overwhelmingly positive about how emotional wellbeing and mental health for all is valued and at the heart of our academy provision and practice. Mrs Leese led on this for us, with her wellbeing team, and she deserves high praise for her work and care at St Edward's.

Our **school values** have been agreed this half term. Thank you to those of you that contributed in choosing them. Staff, Local Academy Council members, children and community partners have also been involved in the consultation and we are pleased to share them with you now. **Our SEAC values are: WISDOM, HONESTY, COURAGE, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, COMPASSION and PERSEVERENCE.** They will be reflected in our vision statement, prayers and, most importantly encompassed within our culture, ethos and how we Learn and Care Together at St Edward's.

Before I sign off for this half term, as you are aware, **Ofsted** have inspected our school this week. The two day inspection included visits to lessons and wider provision, meetings with staff and talking to children about their learning and care. I know that you had the opportunity to share your views on parent view and in person too. A letter/report will be shared and published in due course.

I wish you a happy and safe half term. Take a deep breath before we return as autumn 2 is always a busy one both at school and at home ☺.

*Semachin*

Mrs Machin

