

Pre Prep Speech – Mrs Sarah Bartholomew, Head of Pre-Prep

'WHAT A YEAR!!

Who would have thought that so many successes would have been possible in just one year.

The highlight of the year is the confirmation from the ISI (Independent Schools' Inspectorate) Report received in May this year. Excellent in both areas

We are all very proud of these accolades – I would like to thank my hard-working, dedicated, professional team for all that they do to go the extra mile to create wonderful memories and magical learning experiences for your children.

We have celebrated several events throughout the year, for example:

Music groups enjoyed participating in the Music Show at the end of May.

Clubs have been joined both at lunchtime and after school.

Mummies in the Pre-Prep enjoyed a Mother's Day Afternoon 'High Tea'.

The Dad's and special men in our lives enjoyed a Father's Day Breakfast with bacon rolls!

We had an Easter Egg Hunt with treats hidden by the Easter Bunny!

Harvest Festival was recognised along with Parent Drop-ins (which are also spread throughout the year).

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we dressed up and took part in a Book Character Parade.

Ian has been into the Pre-Prep with his excellent drama workshops as part of the KIC Theatre lessons we participate in each term.

Both the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and Key Stage One Christmas Nativity plays were a joy to watch.

Topics have been fun and exciting all year ranging from Ancient Egypt, Turrets and Tiaras, Around the World, Space, Beside the Seaside, Out of an Egg, Senses, All About Me, Teddy Bears, Earth, Seasons, Ourselves, Pets, Dinosaurs, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Who Am I, Animals, Transport, People Who Help Us.

The Pre-Prep have also explored the school, local and surrounding areas as part of the 'Outdoor Learning' and Excursion Trips we have provided all year round.

We enjoyed an ART themed week last term.

The Cricket and Dragonfly classes also took part in the Junior School Singing Competition and opened the show with their Pre-Prep song led by Harriet Clapp, the Music teacher. They felt immensely proud opening the event and seeing their siblings also perform at the show.

For the first time ever, the Pre-Prep were involved in the Dance Showcase where we opened the show and went on the stage with GCSE and A 'Level students. Thanks to Amy Payne for her choreography.

Pre-Prep work was proudly exhibited at the Art Exhibition for the duration of the Arts Festival. Even our tiny 2-year-olds produced beautifully creative work, along with the Pre-Prep.

Crickets and Dragonflies again danced their little socks off at the Festival ICONS event, which I'm sure you'll agree was truly spectacular!

I am immensely proud of their achievements.

The Pre-Prep celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. We celebrated in style with an outdoor street party, dancing, games, planted a commemorative tree, designed and decorated crowns and wore red, white, and blue for the day. I also created a long-lasting memory as a special gift for each child – a St Edmund's Coronation Mug and a gorgeous St Edmund's Coronation Teddy for keep sakes.

We successfully run 'Toddler Time' every week on a Friday morning from 10am-11am, providing a service to our community and enabling a smooth transition to starting school in our Butterflies Nursery.

The Holiday Club provision continues to prove to be very popular with the children and parents. I also wish to thank this Team for working every holiday and providing excellent care and provision for the children.

Prefect Badges were awarded to the Dragonflies. They are the 'leaders of the Pre-Prep' and received training and instruction from Senior School Prefects in preparation of this post.

Elisabeth Sherwin runs and manages the fantastic St Edmund's Nursery and Pre-Prep Instagram page, keeping our community up to date with what we've been up to. She does a wonderful job, and I am extremely thankful for that!

I would like to thank the Executive Team and Board for supporting me in my ventures and investing in the Pre-Prep to create a fun, attractive and welcoming environment. The children love the new Butterfly Garden, play equipment and re-vamped signage and playground markings.

We are now looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the Summer. But be rest assured the team will be eagerly awaiting the return of your children in September and have exciting things planned already. We certainly will hit the ground running.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year here at St Edmund's and look forward to welcoming you back in the new Academic Year.

Wishing you a happy and safe Summer.