



St. Stephen's Church of England Junior School

Headteacher: Louisa Wilson
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South Gloucestershire Council



Newsletter 2

Friday 25th October 2024

Head's Monthly Catch up!

The children have now been back in school for eight weeks. With this being the longest term of the school year, the children have worked hard to remain focused and on task with their learning. I hope you were impressed with the work that your children shared with you during our Open Classroom event this week and noted the progress that they have already made in such a short amount of time. Children, keep up this brilliant work and positive attitude!

The Open Classrooms, curriculum newsletters and fortnightly updates of class pages on our website (which have enquiry overviews on each class page) are in response to the question on our parent/carer survey 'The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year'. We hope that these improvements will keep you more informed. In addition, please ask the children about their learning; when they say they have done nothing in school that day, they are telling fibs!!

As always, there has been lots going on in school this term. We had a wonderful poetry day where the children all learned a poem to perform for you; 4CW did a brilliant job leading our Harvest service in church and the children have been engaged in the following enquiries:

Year 3 - What can we see from how the Stone Age, Bronze age lived;

Year 4 - Are humans and wolves similar?

Year 5 - What makes us all the same?

Year 6 - How has our understanding of the human body changed over time? **Global Goal 3 - Good Health and wellbeing.**

Have a lovely break from school. We look forward to seeing you all on 4th November.

Louisa Wilson

Head teacher

Home Learning

We are very excited to inform you that we have subscribed to a new online platform called **Spelling Shed**. This platform will allow the children to practice key spelling patterns at home through fun and engaging games. All the children have logged on and enjoyed a training session at school, and they will be coming home with their username and password.

As part of this programme, we will be setting weekly assignments for home learning. Your children will need access to the online learning platform in order to complete this. We recognise that not all children have access to devices therefore please can you contact the school office if this is the case for your child. We can then invite these children to a homework club in school so that they do not miss out. Thank you.

Spelling Shed homework will be set on a Monday at 3:00pm and needs to be completed by the following Monday at 8:30am. To make it easier, moving forward, all home learning will be set at this time. A reminder that our home learning is as follows:

- A minimum of 3 reads per week for all children;
- Years 3 and 4 - times table practice on TT Rocks Starts or a paper copy for those without access to devices;
- Year 5 and 6 - arithmetic set on Google Forms or a paper copy.

Please contact your class teachers if you have any questions regarding this information.

Homework set today will need to be completed by the first Monday back.

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'Learning to change the World' through the UN Global Goals



SEND Review

During the second week of November, the school will be having an external review of its SEND. It is really important that your views are shared as part of this. Therefore, please take the time to complete the following questionnaire which you can find by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/LaPqLrsrixKLDogE8>

We would be grateful if this could be completed by Wednesday 6th November. If you do not have a child with additional needs, there is no requirement for you to complete this. Thank you

Fireworks Display

Our wonderful PTA are hosting another fireworks display on Friday 8th November. Gates open at 6pm with the display due to start around 7pm.

A bar, pocket money glow toys, hot chocolate and other refreshments will be on offer. Be sure to eat before you come along for a drink and enjoy the show. To register, please email the PTA at ssjsfireworks@gmail.com where you will be sent details on how to pay. Tickets are £3 person; Age 4 and under go free!

Times Tables Championship

A huge WELL DONE to Dexter in Year 6 who is this term's champion of champions and has won his class a party!

Please find below a list of the times tables that the children will be tested next term:

By Wednesday..	Times Tables
6th November	2's, 4's and 8's
13th November	2's and 3's
20th November	2's, 3's and 6's
27th November	5's and 6's
4th December	3's, 6's and 9's
11th December	No tables due to church service
By Monday..	
16th December	2's, 3's and 7's

Bonfire Lunch

On Tuesday 5th November, we will be having a special Bonfire lunch menu. Please have a look at this on our website along with our Term 2 menu which has been

put together in consultation with our school Food Council

Art Competition

Children have the opportunity to enter an art competition ran by Mangotsfield Secondary School. The task is to create an artwork to illustrate an event from History. They could draw a scene/event, person, artifact, animal or they could draw in response to how other artists/craftspeople have recorded/responded to history or in response to historic crafts (armour, ships, pottery....). Included are some inspiration pictures. They are looking for artworks that show - creative use of line, colour, and are thoughtfully inspired by history. The winners will have their work displayed in the exhibition at Mangotsfield and some will receive a very special art prize!

Art work needs to:

- Be on paper/card no larger than A4.
- Can be drawn, painted, collaged or created digitally.
- On the back of the artwork, please ensure that the students first name and surname, age, school, class and historic era that inspired is written on the back clearly.
- Handed to your child's class teacher.

Deadline for entries: Friday 8th November

Diary Dates

Christmas Dates

Please find below dates for events that will take place at the end of November and December

November	
Friday 29th	Christmas Fayre
December	
Thursday 5th	Old Vic performance of Jack Frost (school will finish at 3:10pm on this day)
Wednesday 11th	Year 6 visit to Bristol Hippodrome to watch the pantomime
Thursday 12th	Christmas Service led by 4GE - Years 3 and 4
Friday 13th	Christmas Service led by 4GE - Years 5 and 6
Tuesday 17th	Talent Show Final
Wednesday 18th	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19th	Shining Stars
Friday 20th	End of Term 2

Further details will follow next term.

INSET Days 2024 - 2025

Day 4	Monday 6 th January 2025
Days 5 and 6	Monday 21 st July and Tuesday 22 nd July 2025

Parent/Carer Meetings

Term 3	
	Tuesday 14 th January
	Wednesday 15 th January
Term 4 - Year 6 only	
	Tuesday 25 th March
	Wednesday 26 th March
Term 5 – Years 3-5	
	Tuesday 29 th April
	Wednesday 30 th April
Term 6	
	Wednesday 16 th July (optional if you wish to discuss your child's annual report)

Meetings will run from 3:00pm to 6:00pm and

Open Classroom

These will be held on the last Tuesday of each term at 8:10am and 3:00pm

Term 2	17 th December
Term 3	11 th February
Term 4	1 st April
Term 5	20 th May
Term 6	8 th July

Individual Pupil Support Plan meetings

Meetings will run from 3:00pm to 6:00pm and are for 10 minutes.

Wednesday 8 th January
Wednesday 23 rd April
Wednesday 9 th July

Club Blocks

Clubs run by teachers will be on a **Thursday**

Block 1	17 th , 24 th October 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th November
Block 2	5 th , 12 th December 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th January
Block 3	6 th , 13 th , 27 th February 6 th , 13 th , 20 th March
Block 4	27 th March 24 th April 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd May

Church Services

Thursday 12 th December	Christmas led by 4GE	Years 3 and 4
Friday 13 th December		Years 5 and 6
Thursday 3 rd April	Easter led by 4TM	Years 3 and 4
Friday 4 th April		Years 5 and 6
Thursday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers	Year 6

Come Dine with Us

Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Mother's Day Lunch
Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Father's Day Lunch

SATs Week – Year 6 only

Monday 12 th to Thursday 15 th May 2025
