



St. Stephen's Church of England Junior School

Headteacher: Louisa Wilson
Deputy Head: Karen Tyson

South Gloucestershire Council

"Learning to change the World"



Newsletter 1

Friday 13th September 2024

Head's Monthly Catch up!

Welcome to a new school year at St. Stephen's Juniors. Whether you are a returning family or are new to our school community, we are very much looking forward to working with you over the coming terms.

Term 1 has got off to a great start! We have been amazed at how quickly the children have settled into their new classes; we are particularly proud of our new Year 3's who appear to be taking to junior school like a duck to water! Well done everyone!

Our newsletters are sent out at the end of each month. They are only monthly as we regularly update you with information as and when it needs to be shared rather than waiting for a newsletter to be produced. The newsletter is used to summarise what has been going on in school and to make you aware of more general information and upcoming events.

In addition to the newsletter, we will also be sending out a fortnightly Curriculum Newsletter. This will give you an insight into what each year group is learning. This is part of our plans to ensure that you are kept up to date with what your children are learning each year. Please find our first edition attached.

Further to this, your children will today be bringing home a paper copy of dates for the school year so that you have this to hand. We know that this is something that the infant school provides and that you find handy.

Finally a reminder that as a school we are always here to support both your children and yourselves. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Here's to another year of working together to ensure that your children achieve their very best selves.

Louisa Wilson
Head teacher

Keeping you in the know!

In response to the parent/carer questionnaire which you completed in July, we have reviewed how we are sharing information with regards to what your children are learning. As a result, the following will happen this year.

Class Pages - we have reverted back to individual class pages as we agree that photos on Facebook do not provide you with enough information. The class pages can be found on our website under 'Our Learning' and will be updated fortnightly. You will also be able to find the overviews outlining the learning your children will cover this year plus enquiry overviews on these pages too. This will be up and running by Friday 20th September so please visit them to see what your children have been up to;

Facebook - We are aware that not everyone uses Facebook and therefore miss out on the information we share regarding learning. Moving forward, Facebook will now be used to share whole school events and information;

Open Classrooms - we are increasing the number of opportunities for you to come into school to look at the favourite pieces of work that your child wants to share with you. This will take place on the **last Tuesday of each term**, starting on Tuesday 22nd October. Prior to your visits, your children will practice what they want to say and demonstrate their developing oracy skills when discussing their work. They love doing this so it would be great if you could attend. Timings for this will be 8:10am and 3:00pm;

Parent/Carers Evenings - These will continue to take place in Terms 3 and 5 assessment rounds with a written report being provided at the end of the school year.

Lansdown Road, Kingswood, Bristol. BS15 1XD. Email: office@ststephensjuniors.org.uk Website: ststephensjun.org.uk
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Reading

As a school we focus on the importance of reading, particularly ensuring that all children become fluent readers. Because of this, we have made some changes to how we deliver reading this year. Within lessons there will be a strong emphasis on children reading aloud to develop their fluency skills, through this class teachers will be able to hear all children reading every day. Class teachers will now only hear the lowest 20% of readers in the year group on a 1:1 basis; this will ensure that those children make the necessary progress.

We will no longer have reading records. This is because they do not benefit the children's reading ability and can often result in reading being a chore rather than a pleasure. We encourage children to read at home daily, both their school book and books they may have from the library or home

Children who are part of our phonics programme will be continuing daily phonics lessons and fluency reading groups, alongside specific phonic intervention. There will be a meeting for you to ask any phonics questions and find out how you can support at home with phonics on Tuesday 17th September. More details will be text out to parents and carers of children on the phonics programme.

Clubs

As a school, we are lucky to have a team of staff who enjoy running after school clubs for your children. However, it is the leadership team's responsibility to ensure that we do not overload our teachers who already work incredibly long hours both during the week and at weekends. With this in mind, we have decided that after school clubs will run from the end of Term 1 to the start of Term 6 so that teachers can

focus on the work involved in settling the children at the start of the school year and the additional hours required to write school reports in Term 6. Therefore clubs this year will run as follows:

- All clubs will run by the teachers will be on a Thursday from 3:00pm - 4:00pm;
- Clubs will run in six week blocks. The dates for these are at the end of this newsletter;
- Children will be able to sign up for up to 4 choices so we can organise club membership for the school year. We cannot guarantee which block your children will be assigned or that they will get all their choices;
- Should a club need to be cancelled, we will give a minimum of 3 days notice unless a member of staff is off with an unforeseen illness.

Over the next week we will be asking the children which clubs they would like to have in school. Once these have been finalised, we will inform you as to how you need to sign up for them.

You Little Gems!

We hope that your children have come home and talked excited about being awarded gems in school. This is because we have replaced house points with a new system for rewarding the children. Feedback from them was while they enjoyed earning house points, it was not promoting our value of humility and teamwork and that some children were logging more house points than they had earned making the house competition unfair.

As a result we have now moved to a system where children can earn gems for their house. These are collected in jars in each classroom then counted up each week. Overall feedback from the children is that they love the new system with earning a gem feeling more rewarding and of value.

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As the children now record their gems as a team and not individually, we will no longer be able to record house points on Arbor for you to see so please make sure you are asking them if they are earning gems.



Teacher Contact Forms

It is important that we are aware of any information which will allow your child to have the best day at school. Therefore, if your child is a bit out of sorts for some reason or there are changes to pick up for example, please let your class teacher or another member of staff know.

If you need to have a lengthier discussion, please contact the school to arrange a mutually agreeable time to do so. I am sure you will understand that teachers are unable to have these at the start of the day as they need to prepare and then take responsibility for the whole class. You can contact your class teacher using the **Teacher Contact Forms** on our website in the **'Our Learning'** section. Please use these to leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as they can. Please note that messages will not be responded to if they are sent after 6:00pm or weekends. They will be addressed the following morning prior to school starting.

Individual Support Plan Meetings

If your child has an Individual Support Plan, there will be an opportunity for you to go through this with their new class teacher. The aim of the meeting is to see how the plan is going and to gather both your child's and your views on this. These meetings will be taking place on Wednesday 23rd October. A link will be sent out to you shortly so you can sign up for a 10 minute meeting slot.

Harvest

Our Harvest Celebration will be taking place at St. Stephen's Church on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th October. Our service will be led by 4CW.

This year we will again be supporting the food bank based at the Christian Bourne Centre. We would be grateful if you send in any non-perishable goods from Monday 7th October. Thank you

Parking

We were visited this week by our local PC who has informed us that they will be issuing tickets to those who choose to park on the white zigzag lines. Parking on these results in 3 penalty points being issued on your license. They have also asked to take photographs to send details of cars abusing the white zigzag line law and that they will issue penalty points retrospectively. Please remember that the lines are there for a reason - to keep your children safe so please be mindful when parking.

Cigarette Butts, Litter Dropping and Poo Bags!

Please can we be more mindful of leaving the above mentioned items outside local residents homes as they are having to clean up after us.

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Times Table Championship

Next week we will resume our Times Tables Championship. This is when a child represents their class in competing against other children to become the Times Table Champion each term. In order to do so, they must learn particular times tables each week to enter the class competition (held every Thursday) to choose the class representative. The children are tested on multiplication, division and as it gets more difficult, fractions. The competition takes place during our Celebration Assembly each Friday. Here are the times tables that the children will need to learn this term:

By Thursday..	Times Tables
19th September	2's
26th September	2's and 5's
3rd October	No tables due to INSET on the Friday
10th October	2's, 5's and 10's
17th October	2's and 4's
24th October	2's and 3's

House Captains

Last week the children voted for the Year 6 they think will make excellent house captains. Following rapturous speeches from the candidates, the following children have been chosen
 Attenborough – Shane and Lillia
 Jackson- TJ and Yvie
 Lowinger – Jacob and Eni
 McEwan – Oscar and Mollie
 Congratulations to all of you!

Grandparents Lunch

To celebrate National Grandparents Day, we would like to invite these very important people in to have school lunch with their grandchildren. This will be held on Wednesday 9th October and we will be serving our very popular all-day breakfast! If your children do not have grandparents, an aunt, uncle or a person special to them who is not a parent can come in their place.

Details on how to book this will follow in due course.

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Diary Dates

INSET Days 2024 - 2025

Day 3	Friday 4 th October 2024
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 are for 10 minutes.

Open Classroom

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

Term 1	22 nd October
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 23 rd October
Wednesday 8 th January
Wednesday 23 rd April
Wednesday 9 th July

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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

Come Dine with Us

Wednesday 9 th October 2024	Grandparents Lunch
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

Church Services

Thursday 10 th October	Harvest led by 4CW 9:00am	Years 3 and 4
Friday 11 th October		Years 5 and 6
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

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