

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Termly Update 1 - 3.9.25

### Headteacher Catch Up!

Welcome back to a new school year at St. Stephens Juniors. I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer; weren't we lucky with the weather!

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to you for the effort that has been put into school uniforms, particularly footwear. The children look so smart! A reminder that if you have not been able to purchase a logoed sweat shirt, cardigan and hoodie, this can be bought from <https://www.harrissports.co.uk/>.

The children have had a brilliant first day back at school. The behaviour has been impeccable. They walked into collective worship without a whisper with many being awarded a gem by Year 6 for sitting so beautifully. They were eager to take part in discussing different questions and sharing their thoughts. As I told the children, this was the best first collective worship of a school year I think I've ever experienced!

The school has been busy over the summer. The area by the office and two classrooms have been decorated and new carpets put on these areas and two further classrooms. This is part of our rolling programme of decoration.

During our INSET days, training focused on safeguarding, building relationships with children, maths, reading and oracy. In addition, we spent a day with other schools within the Mosaic Partnership Trust (MPT) learning about recent research into good practice regarding teaching and learning and how strategies can be implemented in the classroom. This was led by a renowned educationalist, Sarah Cottinghatt.

We are now finalising diary dates for this school year. These will be sent out to you on Friday as both an email attachment and paper copy.

Enjoy the rest of this week and the weekend when it comes. On Saturday I am taking part in a 24 mile charity walk for Marie Curie (on the Gower coast) so if you see me walking strangely on Monday, that is why!

Kind regards

Louisa Wilson

Headteacher.

### Meet your New Teacher

A reminder that there is an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher on Friday 5th September at either 8:15am or 3:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to familiarise yourself with who they are and hear about their expectations. During this brief meeting you will also be able to ask general questions but not those which are pertinent to your child. If there is anything that you urgently need to share, please arrange to speak to the class teacher at another time. Thank you

## **Family Thrive Programme**

Last term Emma Betts, our Family Link led a family Thrive programme with a group of parent/carers. The programme focused on:

- 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
- everyday trigger times and how to keep calm
- how to be a behaviour detective.

Feedback from this programme has been hugely positive. Attendees have stated that it has been 'really useful to learn, new skills and ways of thinking how to help my child'; 'a useful opportunity to take time to re-focus and explore a range of ideas of how to deal with a variety of situations' and 'the course has enabled me to support and understand my child better - it's a great course!'

Emma will be running the programme again, starting in Term 1 on a Tuesday. The programme is for 6 weeks and 12 places are available. If you are interested in coming along, please fill in the Google form by following the link so that we can find which time works for you. <https://forms.gle/ZMN8ZWq35dyeGNnN7>

In September, we will let you know the outcome of the survey and a starting date.

## **Support Plan Meetings**

For those children who have support plans, meetings to look at these will be taking place on Wednesday 10th September. If this applies to your child, please go onto Arbor to book a time to meet your child's class teacher.

Louisa Wilson  
Head Teacher