

Dear Parents and Carers

Termly Update 3 - 25.4.25

Welcome back to Term 5 at SSJS. We hope that you all had a lovely Easter and benefitted from the lovely weather at the start of the two week break.

Headteacher Catch Up!

The end of Term 4 was extremely busy with events going on in school. We had a fantastic 'Decorate an Egg' competition with some excellent entries from the children. Entries included 'The night before Eggmas', 'Roneggo', 'The Wizard of Egg' and 'Wickegg' to name but a few. Our winning entries were 'Traiteggs' for the individual entries and the Solaregg System' for the family entry. Well done to everyone who took part.

4TM led our Easter Celebrations in church with a beautiful telling of the Easter story. They clearly explained the events leading up to Good Friday and Easter explaining why Jesus was sacrificed to forgive us all our sins. Well done 4TM for all the hard work that you put into this.

Finally, we had our annual Choclottery. Over two thousand tickets were sold and we had over 100 prizes! Thanks to your generosity we raised £450 to send to Comic Relief making a grand total of £972 following our Red Nose Day escapades.

On another note, having completed 34 years as a teacher and as I head towards retirement in a couple of years time, I have decided to reduce my working hours. As from this term, I will be working a 9 day fortnight and will be having every other Friday off; this will start on Friday 2nd May. In my absence, Rosie Cook (Deputy Head) will be in charge of running the school, supported by Karen Tyson (Acting Deputy/SENDCo) so if you need to speak to a member of the leadership team, you will be directed to them. Any correspondence that may come direct to me will not be responded to until the following Monday. I would like to assure you that I still remain committed to St Stephen's and will continue to give 110% to serving our community on the days that I am in.

Have a super weekend

Louisa Wilson
Head Teacher

Welcome back!

This week we have welcomed Rosie Cook (Deputy Head/SENDCo), Katie Crossfield (class teacher), Georgina Davies (class teachers and leadership team) and Jess Blake (lunchtime supervisors) from their maternity leaves. While we know it has been hard for them to leave their beautiful babies, we are delighted to have them back on the team.

Even though Rosie has returned, Karen Tyson continues to work at the school so that a thorough handover of SEND can take place before she leaves us at the end of the summer term. If you have **already been working with Karen**, please continue to correspond with her but please copy Rosie into any emails (rosie.cook@ststephensjuniors.org.uk) **Any new concerns should be emailed directly to Rosie.** Thank you

SAVE THE DATE! SEND Information Sessions

On **Wednesday 7th May** we will be holding two parents SEND information meetings to give information about our SEND provision in school. They will take place in the school hall at 8.45 - 9.45am and we will repeat the same information at 6.00 - 7.00pm. These will be information sessions to discuss our Universal Offer for SEND in school and how we work to identify and support pupils with SEND in the school. We would love to see lots of you there.

Parent and Carers Forum

At our Term 4 meeting, we discussed the school's Behaviour and Uniform Policies, Online Safety and the school's Annual Parent and Carer Questionnaire. The outcomes from these discussions are as follows:

Behaviour Policy:

- For the school to make clearer in the policy how it is adapted for children with SEND;
- Consistency across the school with how different staff deal with different issues;
- To provide a summary of the policy for new parent/carers including rewards;
- To hold a meeting with a focus on Thrive, how it works and any links to the behaviour policy.

Uniform Policy:

- To keep the polo shirt white as it is easier to purchase;
- The importance of uniform in preparing children for secondary school;
- To police parts of the uniform which is important e.g. jewellery and its impact on health and safety. It was agreed that it is right for the school to get in touch with families if uniform is an issue;
- Reminding the children and parent/carers that uniform is not a fashion statement and that more trendy/elaborate clothes should be kept for outside of school.

Online Safety:

- It was clarified that Online Safety is taught termly.
- It was requested that the school looks into running a parent/carers workshop on phones and how to keep children safe when using them. The school is now looking into this.

Toast: The new way of ordering/paying to stay the same;

Annual Parent and Carer Questionnaire:

- Questions to stay the same.

The next meeting of the Parent/Carer forum was due to take place on Thursday 15th May with a focus on SEND/Inclusion. However, as there is a meeting on 7th May the week before to cover this, **the next forum meeting is postponed**. An additional meeting will take place in Term 6 to look at the outcomes from the questionnaires completed by both the children and parent/carers. This will take place on **Tuesday 10th June at 2:15pm in school**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Parent and Carer Questionnaire

It is time for us again to gather your feedback on how you think we are doing as a school. The questionnaire is based on those questions which you would be asked by Ofsted during an inspection with space for you to note any information that you wish to share with us. It is important to us that as many families as possible complete this so that we understand what is working well for your children and yourselves and what we need to further improve on.

The link for the questionnaire is as follows: <https://forms.gle/1ARXTTR6URboGBYy6> The closing date for feedback is Friday 9th May. Thank you for your anticipated time in completing this valuable source of information.

Attendance - Penalty Notices

We want to clarify with you when a penalty notice will be given. If your child has 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks, you may be issued with a penalty notice. One day is made up of two sessions - morning and afternoon. The sessions of absence can be consecutive, for example, one week of holiday or not or 10 sessions spread across 10 weeks. This is why you may receive a letter from us if you have requested an absence for your child which is less than 5 days in total.

A World Champion in our midst!

Some of you may have noticed that Miss P is not in school this week. This is because Kaitlyn has been representing Great Britain in the Cheerleading World Championships in Florida. We are so pleased to share with you that Kaitlyn and her team have won and will be bringing home the gold for a second year running. Well done Miss P; we are all so proud of you!

Bible Stories

Over the last couple of years, we have been working with children in Year 5 on the projects Christmas in a box and Easter in a box. It has been an inspiration to see the children's enthusiasm and excitement as we explore the Christmas and Easter Story. With this in mind, I am planning on running a couple of sessions entitled "Bible Stories." These sessions would be an opportunity for the children to listen to a bible story and then explore it deeper through

questions and discussion. "Bible Stories" will take place on Friday 2nd May, Friday 9th May and Thursday 15 th May between the hours of 12:30pm and 1pm in school. All the children are welcome.

Rev Regan Meares (Curate at St Stephens Soundwell)

Finally, please find attached updated dates as this includes next year's INSET days.