

Dear Parents and Carers

Termly Update 1

Welcome to the first edition of our termly updates. The new email format replaces our previous newsletter as decided at the last Parent/Carer Forum meeting. We aim to provide the same information but in an easier to read style. We hope that you like this; feedback will be gathered after a few issues. A copy of this email will be saved in our newsletter section on our website. We will also attach the diary dates with each update, highlighting any new dates which have been added

Head's News

As always it has been a very busy term with lots going on in school. The children have been focusing on the following enquiries:

Year 3: What is underneath our feet? Focus Text = Krindlekrax by Philip Kidley

Year 4: What is the journey of a raindrop? **Global Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation.** Focus Text= Edward Tulane by Kate D'Camillo;

Year 5: What do forces do? **Global Goals 4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality and 7 Affordable and Clean Energy.** Focus texts = The Barnabus project by The Fan Brothers and The Boy at the Back of the Classroom by Onjali Q.Rauf;

Year 6: What could the future of Soundwell look like? **Global Goals 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and 7 Affordable and Clean Energy.** Focus text = Wonder by RJ Palacio.

Please check your children's class pages on our website to see their fantastic work www.ststephensjun.org.uk/class-pages

In addition to their enquiry work, Year 5 have attended workshops led by the Dog's Trust on how to behave around dogs and tomorrow Year 3 are going on a trip to We The Curious. We hope they have a wonderful time.

The school has now been part of the Mosaic Partnership Trust for 7 months and we are reaping the rewards of working closely with other schools. Teachers are regularly attending network meetings relating to the subjects they lead; visiting schools to see good practice and taking part in training days on high quality learning and fluency reading. In addition, the school continues to work with Voice 21 in developing our Oracy approach across all year groups and subjects. When dropping in on lessons and talking to children, it is great to see how all this input is benefitting their learning. As always, the children have worked incredibly hard this term and deserve a well-earned rest next week.

Have a lovely break. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 24th February

Louisa Wilson
Headteacher.

Fluency Reading

There appears to be some slight confusion regarding fluency reading and hearing the children read individually. In Newsletter 1, we advised you that class teachers will be able to hear the children reading everyday. We would like to clarify that this is not listening to children reading individually but as the class teacher circulates the classroom while all children are reading out loud at the same time. As a school we only listen to the bottom 20% of readers on an individual basis.

We are also aware that many of you would like more information on this new approach and how the coloured books work. We will therefore be holding information sessions on **Thursday 20th March at 8:40am, 2:30pm and 6:00pm** in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

World Book Day

World book day is on **Thursday 6th March** this year and our theme is 'Reading Heroes. We would like children to dress up as a hero from a book; this may be a superhero, a sports hero or an ordinary child who is a real hero. To help with costume ideas the PTA will be running a costume swap on Monday 3rd March, where you will be able to pick up costumes or accessories for a costume. If you have any costumes/accessories to donate, please can you bring them to the office from Monday 24th February.

On the day, the children will be taking part in a variety of fun reading, writing and art activities based around creating their own class hero. We would also like to invite parents and carers to come in and read with children throughout the day; there will be a sign up sheet emailed on Arbor from Monday 24th February.

We are always wanting new books in school as the ones we have get old and the children's preferences in authors change. We will therefore be sharing our book wish list with you on this day so that if you wish to donate a book to the school.

Dance Competition

On Wednesday 12th February 2025, we took 15 children to St Michael's Centre to represent St Stephen's Junior School at The Festival of Dance.

Our dance team from Years 3 and 4 danced to the song 'Happy' while our teams in Year 5 and 6 danced to a 'Sky Full of Stars'. We danced alongside 7 other schools with over 300 parents supporting. Both groups performed amazingly well and the atmosphere in the dance hall was electric. At the end of the evening the organisers of the event commented on how well behaved our children were, alongside how professional and enthusiastic the dances were. Well done everyone! A big thank you to Miss P and Miss Wittcomb for training the children and giving up their time to support this event.

Nuts in school

We have noticed a small number of children bringing food into school which contains nuts. These have generally been in the form of chocolate bars such as Snickers and fruit and nut bars. May we remind you that SSJS is a nut free school. We have a number of children and staff with nut allergies and therefore it is our responsibility to protect them from the consequences of being in contact with them. Please be aware that if a child is found with a product with nuts in, we will take it away from them. Your co-operation with this matter is very much appreciated.

Red Nose Day

The school will be taking part in the brilliant fund-raising event Red Nose Day which is taking place on **Friday 21st March 2025**. As it is the 40th anniversary, we would like the children to come into school in 1980's fashion (this will be easy for some of our older members of staff!) or to wear something red. We will be asking for a £1 donation in return. Voice of the Change Makers will also be organising further activities such as a cake sale so that we can raise as much money as possible for this worthy cause. Further details will follow next term.

Parent/Carer Forum

The next meeting of our Parent/Carer Forum will take place on Monday 24th March at 6:30pm. This will be online. Please click on the link to join: <https://meet.google.com/iid-rjkw-ejv>

The focus of the meeting will be school policies. We would be grateful if you would complete a questionnaire to help us prepare for the meeting. Please use the following link to do so.

<https://forms.gle/ZvrtQcCk69yYX2c98>

Times Tables Championship

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

By Wednesday..	Times Tables
26 th February	3, 5, 6
5 th March	3, 6, 9
12 th March	3, 6, 9
19 th March	4, 8
26 th March	4, 8, 11
By Friday	6 and 9
28 th March	4, 8, 12

Sports Day

This years Sports Day will be on Friday 13th June. Further details will follow in Term 5