



St. Stephen's Church of England Junior School

Headteacher: Louisa Wilson
Deputy Head: Karen Tyson

South Gloucestershire Council



Newsletter 3

Friday 29th November 2024

Head's Monthly Catch up!

November has been another busy month in school where there has been lots of different learning and fun to be had.

The children have continued to engage in different enquiries - these are as follows:

Year 3 - How do we live a healthy lifestyle with a focus on **Global Goal 3 - Good Health and wellbeing;**

Year 4 - How did the Ancient Greeks influence the Western World with a focus on **Global Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Institutions;**

Year 5 - How did the Anglo Saxons and Vikings change Britain?

Year 6 -What have the Victorians taught us about working life with a focus on **Global Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth and Global Goal 10 - Reduced Inequalities.**

This month we have thought about how important it is to show respect to each other as part of Anti Bullying Week and had fun raising money for Children in Need. Thanks to your generosity, we will be sending £248.75 to this worthy cause. In addition, the children in Lowinger had their well-earned treat for being Term 1 House Champions - making pizzas!

On Wednesday of this week, we held a No Pens Day. This was to allow the children to further develop their Oracy skills. In addition, Miss Porter and myself visited a Bristol primary school which is an Oracy Centre of Excellence. We picked up lots of ideas to implement in school; this will allow us to complete our application to become a centre of excellence too! We will update you with our progress towards this award in the future.

Have a great weekend!

Louisa Wilson
Head teacher

Goodbye and Good Luck!

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Zita Balla. Zita has been a part of our team for 5 years and has been key in developing music in the school. Zita is leaving for a new post in a Bristol school closer to where she leaves. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

In addition, Karen Stokes will be saying goodbye to St Stephen's Infant School. We know that Karen has worked with many of the children and families who are now in the juniors and has done an amazing job working with you. Karen also works very closely with us and we will miss her terribly. We wish Karen the best of luck too as she starts her well-earned retirement.

Change to Parent/Carer Meetings in Term 3

Due to a number of staff having to attend training on the original date, Parent/Carer meetings will now be taking place on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd January. You will be able to sign up for your 10 minute appointment on Arbor when we return after Christmas.

Jack Frost Performance

A reminder that next Thursday the children will be watching the Old Vic theatre School perform their version of Jack Frost. Thank you to the PTA for funding this event.

As the performance will end at 3:00pm, **Please collect your children from school at 3:10pm.** This will give us time to leave the hall and get back to their classrooms.

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



Home Learning

There appears to be some confusion over homework, particularly the new Spelling Shed online platform that has been introduced this year. Therefore, we have included the information shared in the last newsletter.

The children are set weekly assignments for home learning. They need to access this online in order to complete the assignments. We recognise that not all children have access to devices therefore they can attend a homework club in school in order to complete the work. Please let your class teacher know if your child needs to join this club.

All homework is set on a Monday at 3:00pm and needs to be completed by the following Monday at 8:30am. 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.

We are aware that the children are currently unable to get feedback on their arithmetic homework which can make them feel despondent, especially as they have worked so hard on it. The teaching team are going to have a discussion on how we can provide this shortly and make changes ready for Term 3. We will let you know how this will work in the next newsletter.

Football Report

It has been an incredibly busy time for the school football club in the first two terms of this school year. There have been many ups and downs with 22 players being part of games so far!

At the end of Term 1, the team managed to win a league game, beating Christ Church Hanham 3-2. This was an excellent game with a fantastic strike by Cole winning the game for us. Term 2 started off with a busy schedule. There were league and cup games which produced mixed success.

In the English Schools cup, the squad were very unfortunate to miss out on progressing to the next stage. In a tight group, the squad fought hard in their games. Despite winning the first game 1-0 through a

great goal by Shane and drawing 0-0 in the second round, a narrow 1-0 defeat to Blackhorse meant that they were the team to get through.

Returning to league action, the squad faced a tough fixture against Christ Church Downend. This was a tough game which ended in a heavy defeat, however immense pride was shown by adults in the togetherness and spirit shown to the very end.

Back to cup action, the squad again faced Blackhorse, this time away from school. On a small, challenging pitch the team did well at the beginning of the game only for a fine strike by a Blackhorse player to open the scoring. Trying to get back into the game, Blackhorse extended their lead before a good finish by Oscar in Y6 put us on the scoresheet. Despite their best efforts, Blackhorse won the game and went through to round two.

We also have a MOSAIC league against teams in our trust. This competition allows a greater number of players to be involved and increase opportunities. There were some players from Y5 making their debuts for the school and they came away with an amazing 7-1 win against Redfield Edge. There was fantastic teamwork, tackles, shots and goals. It was fantastic to see the children grow in confidence.

With lots more games to come, we look forward to seeing what further success we can achieve!

Open Classrooms

A reminder that our next Open Classrooms event will be on Tuesday 17th December. This is an opportunity for you to see your children's work and listen to them discussing their chosen work with as part of their oracy development. The classrooms will be open at 8:10am and 3:00pm. The session in the morning will end at 8:25am so please allow plenty of time to have a look. Thank you

Toast Money and Arbor

We have been asked if there is any way that you can see the balance of your toast money on our Arbor system. Unfortunately, this is not possible. Therefore, as advised in previous correspondence, we would suggest that you pay for toast weekly so that you can keep track of what you are spending. As always, the office will let you know if you lose track and are in deficit. We are sorry that we cannot help any further with this.

Times Tables Championship

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

By Wednesday..	Times Tables
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

Christmas Dinner

We will be having our Christmas Dinner of **Wednesday 18th December**. A menu will be sent out once the Food Council have tasted a range of desserts to decide which ones we are going to have. This should be by the end of next week.

In addition, the children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper with their uniform on that day.

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	Open Classrooms 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 21 st January
	Wednesday 22 nd 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 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
