



Newsletter 15

18th December, 2015

Merry Christmas!.....I have just got back from our end of term service, and it was truly magical. We had a Governor Nativity, the children sang absolutely brilliantly and as always Reverend Philip led the service with his usual blend of energy, humour and thought. It felt like a really special way to draw together the St Stephen's family Christmas. Thank you to all of the parents who joined us - you were in excellent voice and really helped create the wonderful atmosphere.

Towards the end of the service, we were joined by David Williams from the Diocese of Bath and Wells who came to present Judy Palmer with a special plaque to commemorate her fourteen years of service as a Governor, nine of which were as Chair of Governors. She spoke about what the school means to her, and of how well supported she has felt throughout her time here by the wide range of people she has worked with. She said that St Stephen's school will always hold a special place in her heart, and we thanked her from the bottom of ours. It was a lovely way to say 'au revoir' to a very special lady (it's not goodbye though - I'm hoping she will come in to hear readers!).

So that's it for the Autumn term. All that remains for me to do now is to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year, and I will see you in 2016!

Andy Bowman

ParentPay.....Thank you once again to everyone who has registered with ParentPay to receive School communications and to make any payments due for dinners, breakfast clubs and trips etc. We really appreciate the positive response we have received and we are glad that parents and carers are benefitting from the new convenient online payment system.

However, we are aware that not everyone has registered yet, so if you haven't had chance to do so, please could you sign up over the holidays, as we will be phasing out paper copies of correspondence in the new year.

Please note that even if you don't pay for dinners and breakfast club, you do still need to sign up in order to receive emails and texts from us, as ParentPay has replaced the old Parentmail system. Also, in the new year all payments for school trips will need to be made on ParentPay, rather than by cash and cheque to the office.

I hope this clarifies everything, but if you have any questions at all, or have mislaid your activation letter, please don't hesitate to contact the office who will be happy to help you.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

School Dinners..... Please see below the payment due for school dinners for Term 3 for Key Stage 2 pupils.

January – 20 days = £40.00

February – 10 days = £20.00

Term 3 total = £60

Please make your payment via ParentPay.

If you have any queries, please see the office.

Clubs.....There are no clubs the first week back after the holidays.

Clubs will restart week beginning

Monday 11th January.



A Spaceman Went Travelling... as liberally-haired easy listening guru Chris de Burgh once sang, and on Wednesday we shared the adventures of Tim Peake with Phase 1. We watched films of the preparation, launch and arrival of Tim's voyage which had happened the day before. On board, Tim has some rocket seeds and Parent Alice Rees has applied on our behalf for us to receive some of those seeds for us to plant and observe later in the year, so watch this space (no pun intended!).

PTA News.....

Christmas Tree Stars.....

A huge thanks to Lisa Franklin and Nic Anderman, and to Joerg, Marc and Ian for all their hard work creating a fantastic Christmas Tree Sale last Saturday. It was a lovely community event, attended by local residents and parents. They raised almost £700 for the PTA, amazing.

It has been a very busy time at school for everyone (parties, performances, concerts, carols, nativities, fairs, as well as loads of learning!). Thank you from the PTA to all our wonderful teachers and school community, and of course head teacher Andy Bowman for an action-packed festive celebration. We hope you have a lovely break.

Happy Christmas!

Angela

Christmas Parties.....

Our children have been partying all week thanks to the hard work and festive fun laid on by a whole host of helpful elves! Huge thanks to Sam Jennings who cheerfully led the party planners and to Anna Solomon for all her kind support. Thank you to each and every party co-ordinator and all the parents and kitchen staff (Rachel, Vicky and the team) who helped out - we know how to party at St Stephen's!

Diary dates reminder.....

Coming up in December.....

18th – End of Term

Coming up in January.....

4th – Term 3 begins

Coming up in February.....

2nd - Newbarn Meeting 6pm

11th – Storybox Theatre

12th – End of Term 3

22nd – Beginning of Term 4

Holiday Homework.....There is no homework being set over the Christmas holiday as we need the Phase 2 and Year 3 homework books on the first day of term for a “book look”.

Christmas parties.....As Angela mentioned in the PTA section above, the children have had some wonderful Christmas parties this week. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped to make them such a great experience for the children.

