



## Newsletter 27

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016

**Happy Joy Day!.....**What a week we've had! Exploring each of our core values has been so much fun and has created an even happier energy about the school. We started with Love on Tuesday, and a chance to explore what it is to be a loving person, and to be part of a loving school. The children explored this in all sorts of ways - through art, poetry, discussion, drama...some classes even had a visit from a puppy! Then it was all about Courage - when and how it can help us, the importance of *encouragement*, and when we might need to be courageous when we're learning, playing and living. The children had opportunities to use their own courage to overcome challenges, reflecting on how it felt, alongside a range of other activities. Thursday was Creativity day - paint, glitter, paper, junk, words, music, marble runs...you name it, the children have been creative with it. We started the day thinking about three key elements of creativity - innovation, divergent thinking and problem solving - and these were all explored throughout the school in countless ways. Meanwhile in the hall, Jan Dickinson and Linda Baker-Smith have been modelling creativity, starting to incorporate our core values into a mural.

As I write this we are really looking forward to Joy Day tomorrow to round off the week and term. The children have been delightful this week, and have seemed to really enjoy the themed activities so I have no doubt that Joy Day - a chance to play and celebrate the joy of being together - will be a huge success. The weather forecast at the moment is looking good...and I am discovering that it's really hard to type with my fingers so tightly crossed!

**Farewells...** On Tuesday we said goodbye to Amanda Graham who is jetting off for adventures in China amongst other places. She was really touched by all of the kind wishes and good luck messages and we all wish her the very best for the future. Taking over from Amanda is Liz Flood, who is our new Extra-curricular Clubs Co-ordinator and your new contact point for all things club related. And of course it is sadly also time to say 'au revoir' to Mrs Macdonald. Every child who has enjoyed World Book Day or taken part in one of our reading challenges has felt the benefit of Sian's presence in the school. Her dedication, calm approach and terrific skill as a teacher have made her an asset to the school for many years and we are looking forward to seeing her again from time to time when her other ventures allow it. But for now it's goodbye, and I know you will join me in wishing Sian lots of love and luck for the future.

All of which brings us to the end of Term 4. When the sun is shining, it is easy to believe that the Summer Term is almost with us. It will be sports day before we know it!

Have a wonderful holiday, Andy Bowman

**Dinner Money.....**Please see below dinner money figures for payment by Parent Pay.

Term 5 – 27 days = £64.80

April – 9 days = £21.60

May – 18 days = £43.20

If your child has a School trip and a dinner is not required on that day, please deduct £2.40 from the above amount. Thank you.

**Olympic Athlete Visitor.....**Just to let everyone know that the grand total raised was £1900, of which the school had £900 to spend on Sports Equipment.

With our profits we were able to purchase football goals which will be placed on the playground and a set of netball posts and class cricket sets. We will also be able to replenish our balls! Thank you to all the children and parents who support this super cause. We wish Emily Diamond success in Rio.

**Clubs....**Please see attached a club timetable for the first week after the holidays. You will see that there are only clubs on the Friday during the first week as these are in lieu of the clubs which will be missed on the Inset day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Abernant Year 6 residential visit.....** If you chose to pay by instalments, please note that a payment of £85.00 is due by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Many thanks.



**Message from Sally Potter.....**The St Stephen's After School Hockey Players have enjoyed much success this season and we are extremely proud of them all! The U11 (Year 6) team deserve particular mention for not only being league champions but also Cup winners, a magnificent achievement indeed! Special mention must also be made of the U8 teams (Year 3) who have represented the school in large numbers with at least 25 children playing a part in the U8 League win and the U8 Plate triumph. We of course cannot leave out Year 4, who were runners up in their League and Year 5 who also triumphed in their Cup competition, medals and silverware throughout! Well done teams! We have over 70 children participating and working hard at their hockey and this just shows hard work, determination and application pay off!

Whilst the league season has finished the school have also entered the BANES Hockey Tournament on 28th April and look forward to seeing how the teams do in this event. Result summary for the year so far...

U8 (year 3)- League Champions and Plate Winners  
U9 (year 4) - League Runners Up and 4th place in the Cup  
U10 (Year 5) - 3rd in Division 1 of the U10 league and Cup winners  
U11 (Year 6) League Champions and Cup Winners.

If your child is interested in playing hockey after school, please make contact with Liz Flood (Extra-curricular Clubs Co-ordinator) in the school office.

#### **Term dates reminder.....**

##### **Coming up in April.....**

1<sup>st</sup> – End of Term 4  
2<sup>nd</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – School Holidays  
18<sup>th</sup> - Beginning of Term 5  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 Residential Visit to New Barn  
29<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day – School closed for pupils  
30<sup>th</sup> – Waitrose Bag Pack (PTA)

**Year 4 residential trip to Newbarn.....**The balance for this visit should be paid in full by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please use ParentPay to make your payment. Thank you.

**Fundraising.....**One of our parents is running in this year's London Marathon on 24<sup>th</sup> April to raise money for 'Save the Children'. If you would like to sponsor her, please visit

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DefneSadalakMcKinstry>.

#### **PTA News.....**

**Creative Art Cards.....**Huge thanks to Karen Toogood for co-ordinating this year's unique works of art, made into cards, picture frames and block prints by our own children. You should have received your completed art cards this week, or very soon if it is a frame or print. This has raised a beautiful £215.11 for the PTA.

**Golden Three Bag for Life.....**We are producing 200 cotton bags for life featuring our colourful and cute golden trio - the owl, elephant and lion. On sale soon!

**Fond farewells.....**On behalf of everyone at the PTA we say an enormous thank you to Sian Macdonald and Amanda Graham for their amazing teaching, dedication, inspiration and love. Good luck for the future!

Thank you too to Andy Bowman and the teaching staff for a very special week based around the core values, the children have loved it!

Have a lovely break  
Angela

