



Newsletter 28

22nd April, 2016

Happy Friday!.....Nothing says 'leaving for New Barn' like droplets of rain and an unexpected chill. However, spirits of the Year 4 children and staff were not dampened in any way and we waved them off this morning to enjoy a weekend of adventures and memory-making in Dorset. They will arrive back on Monday (eta 5.00 but I will keep you posted) and in the meantime you can follow their adventures on twitter @StStephensPri.

Replacing the irreplaceable Mrs Darch... was never going to be easy. As many of you know, she is a one of a kind and fulfils many roles in school. She will be leaving us at the end of next week and I know that many of you have been keen to find out what the plan is to replace her. I am so grateful to you for not asking her directly as I requested - we have both really appreciated this. So, here is the plan...

From Tuesday 3rd May (after the bank holiday weekend), every year group will benefit from a permanent Teaching Assistant for pretty much all day every day. For most year groups this represents a significant increase. This will enable Mrs Darch's intervention groups to continue, led by the year group's Teaching Assistant. It will also mean that we have the capacity to run 'bespoke' interventions for children in each year group, and teachers are able to direct this capacity in a very adaptable and creative way to meet the needs of their children as appropriate. The Teaching Assistant will also be your first port of call for all issues related to medical conditions as they will maintain an overview of the needs of children in their year group. I am really excited about this model, and believe it is an excellent way to honour and build upon the fantastic contribution Mrs Darch has made to the school. For specific reasons, in Year 5 this model will be fully in place from September, and in the meantime medical issues should be referred directly to the class teacher.

Our TA team, primed and ready for action is... Mrs Gunning and Mrs Pyatt (Reception); Mrs Francis (Year 1); Mrs Brown (Year 2); Mrs Kops (Year 3); Mrs Forder (Year 4); Mrs Burn (Year 6). Through Term 6, Mrs Holland and Mrs Lunn will be providing additional small-group teaching in Year 5.

In addition to this, Mary-Jane King, who is well-known to the school, will be working in Year 1 and 2 for the coming weeks, continuing the specific phonic interventions that Mrs Darch has been running. Unless you hear otherwise, please presume the times for these are staying the same.

Rocket Seeds... The seeds have landed, are planted and.....are growing!! All 200 seeds are now planted and in place in Ms Dangerfield's classroom, where a team of children are observing and measuring their progress. This is rare opportunity to be involved in a large scale, historic scientific experiment and I am so grateful to Alice Rees for working tirelessly to get this off the ground (so to speak!) I would also like to thank Kari Young and Clare Champion for helping Alice to get everything ready and then planting the seeds on Mon and today. Have a wonderful weekend.....Andy Bowman

Mathsletics update!.....Children have been whizzing ahead with Mathsletics. Nearly 400 certificates have been won by the children in Years 2-6 and the results are now in with St Stephen's Top Ten Mathsletics users from last term: Ashton Cox, Ben Elliott, Dylan Freeman, Evie Hopkins, Tate Hopkins, Katie Palmer, Lorcan Thornley, Emily Willis & George Willis. Well Done everyone and keep up the marvellous maths work!

Clubs.....Musical - from 28th April Musical rehearsals will be held from 3.30 to 5pm. Please bring a snack.

Absences from clubs....Please ensure you complete a pink slip (available from the carousel) if your child is not going to their club for any reason. This is a very important part of our safety procedure, helping us to account for all the children at the end of the day. Thank you for your support



Message from Revd Philip.....

Hope your Easter was wonderful!

This Sunday at St Stephen's we have a visitor from Christian Aid who will tell us about the work it does on the Bangladesh flood plains. Come and hear the story of Morsheda and Murshid, her baby, and the life they have in fear of the rising river. Learn of the life-giving work of Christian Aid, putting homes such as Morsheda's on mounds to protect them from the river - literally, raising to new life. Such services bring the often unheard stories into our communities and hearts, helps us to realise that we not helping 'them', but our neighbours. Usual time, 10.45.

Next Sunday, 1st May, I'm leading a storytelling service as part of the Larkhall Festival. The Big Gory Glory Story is a story that the whole of Alice Park can join in with. Come along at 12.30 and have a picnic, then support us as we unleash the interactive story, and more. Service starts at 2pm. It'll be fun.

Meanwhile, have a great weekend. (I'm off to Wembley to see Watford thrash Crystal Palace.)

Philip

Term dates reminder.....

Coming up in April.....

25th - Year 4 return from New Barn visit
29th - Inset Day - School closed for pupils
30th - Waitrose Bag Pack (PTA)

School Council.....Hello, I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about what we do at school council meetings. We have meetings every two weeks. The meeting is attended by the class representatives and a different Governor. Every two weeks, the Chairman opens and leads the meeting. We discuss issues and ideas that have been raised by the pupils and teachers. We vote on which ideas can be put forward for action. For instance, at the end of last term we talked about what we should do on joy day. After the meeting we leave with questions and issues to discuss with our classes in the following two weeks to take to the next meeting.

The school council is an opportunity for children to have a say in how the school is run.

Beau Holland School Council Representative F12

PTA News.....Waitrose Bag Pack - Sat April 30

<http://doodle.com/poll/yybvagc3h8akre8k>

Dads, mums, carers, teachers, children - we need you! Why not head to Waitrose and spend a really worthwhile hour or two helping the people of Bath to pack their groceries, raising vital funds for the PTA! Gather some older children (8+) and some adults (any age) and make it a bag-packing party! **Second-hand uniform sale** - TODAY, after school, renew your spring/summer wardrobe, bargains galore!

School Discos - May 20.....Please get in touch if you would like to help organise our children's discos, or if you have any great ideas for activities (dance instruction/games/competitions etc etc). Contact luwilkinson@hotmail.com

Exclusive **Golden Three cotton bags** now on sale - £3.50, look out for them at events and pop-up sales - no family should be without one!

Summer Fair Committee.....Join our Summer Fair Committee and help shape this year's Hippy Friday or Glasto at St Stephen's. Let's make it awesome. Contact Angela at angela36collins@gmail.com.

Mum's Night Out.....Save the date - Thursday June 30, an intimate gig (in the school hall!) with award-winning stand-up comedian Harriet Beveridge. For more info contact Marianne at mariannehogg@hotmail.com Have a great weekend (especially all you New Barners), and thanks for your support. Angela

