



## Newsletter 31

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

**Happy Friday!**....We have had a few requests for next year's term dates, so please find them attached to this newsletter. You will be pleased to know that they are much more straightforward than this year, and therefore I am expecting little if any variation between schools and Local Authorities. We will be taking Thursday the 1st September and Friday 2nd September as Inset days, so the first day of term for the children will be Monday 5th September. We have yet to finalise the remaining three Inset days but will confirm these as soon as possible.

**Surrounding Roads...** Thank you to everyone who has continued to park and drive thoughtfully around the school. I know how frustrating the amount of traffic can be for everyone, and I am afraid it continues to be a source of great frustration for some of our neighbours with more poor parking and even road rage causing upset this week. Please remember that the 'one way' system around the school is unofficial and be prepared to give way to let traffic flow both ways. And if there is a tricky situation, please respond in a manner which is appropriate for the many children who will be watching and listening. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

**Reading for Rio.....**With less than 100 days until the opening ceremony in Rio, here at St Stephens more Reading for Rio champions received their medals and certificates in our celebration assembly on Friday 6th May.

Gold medal winners: Layla White, Isla Halcrow, Cara Fereday and Louis Harris (F1), Clare Nagle (F2), Lynden BC and Ben Stacey (F3), Amelia Korner-Davies, Spencer Harris and Sebastian Day (F4), Jack Bowra and Aila Fereday (F6)

Silver Certificates were awarded to: Megan Rees (F1), Clare Nagle and Florrie Mellor (F2), Rufus Doherty, Lynden BC, Poppy Tucker, Kitty Peters and Jakob Zanutto (F3), Sebastian Day (F4), Dougie Langford-Richardson and Charlotte Willis (F6), George Solomon (F7), Sam Peters (F8)

Bronze Certificates were awarded to: Jack Arndell and Ronan Thornley (F1), Milo Young and Fraser Young (F3), Neva Tinne Stiffe (F4), Amelia Hobbs-Wall (F5), Paytrick Dalglish (F6), Kristian Goldinaga (F9)  
Congratulations to all our certificate and gold medal winners.

**Atse Bekafa School.....**A number of years ago St Stephen's set up a link with a school called Atse Bekafa which is in the Gondar region of Ethiopia. There are now many schools in the UK linked with schools in Ethiopia and are maintained and organised by a charity called Link Ethiopia. As a school we raise money each year to support our particular link school (Atse Bekafa) and enable them to improve their facilities for the students. Over the last couple of years, the money has gone towards creating a new library and stocking it with books. Link Ethiopia will always let us know what the money we raised has been used for. This link with a school overseas enables the children to be involved in something beyond their own surroundings and support pupils who are not so materially fortunate as themselves. In year 4 we also try to participate in some shared learning with pupils in Atse Bekafa and our children always enjoy receiving work done by the Ethiopian students. Parents can find out more details about link schools and the charity that oversees them by visiting the website [www.linkethiopia.org](http://www.linkethiopia.org)

Mrs Scott (St Stephen's link coordinator)

**African Flag Mufti Day.....**Thursday May 26th will be a mufti day in aid of our link school in Ethiopia. The children are being asked to dress up in the colours of the African flag assigned to their year group. There will be a minimum donation of £1 and the money raised will be sent to Atse Bekafa School. You should have already received a letter by Parentpay which gives details of the African flag each year group has been given. Have fun and please remember your donations so we can send as much money as possible to support Atse Bekafa. Thank you.

**INSET DAY NEXT FRIDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY.....**Just a quick reminder that the school is closed for pupils next Friday.



**PTA News..... DISCO TODAY!** Looking forward to seeing everyone at the disco after school today. If you haven't paid don't worry, please bring £2 with you. There will be things to buy ranging from 20p (glow sticks) to £2.50 (sandwich picnic bags). Please remember to leave a contact telephone number for older children whom you are dropping off. Have fun!

**SEEDLING SALE – donations needed – Thursday 26 May.** Thank you to everyone who has been busily growing and nurturing seeds for our seedling and plant sale next Thursday. Please bring your seedlings or plants along on the day. The sale will be after school on the green if it is fine, and in the hall if wet.

**SUMMER FESTIVAL Friday 24 June – Rio at St Stephen's – Music ideas?** We are hoping to celebrate the Olympics, carnival and all things Rio-style at this year's summer festival. Does anyone have a contact for a Latin American style band or act (Jamma de Samba have a full schedule) to get the party started? Please contact nicolaanderman@hotmail.co.uk

**FROM REVD PHILIP.....**Apologies if your child came home traumatised last week. Not by the unexploded bomb, but by there having been a circular saw in assembly. (I promise it was all done with health and safety uppermost in mind and practise.) I was looking at the best way to cut a log: with your hand, a banana, a smelly sock or power saw. The point was, we were looking at our core values of Love, Joy, Creativity and Courage. We talked about how these are wonderful words, but they mean nothing unless they become part of our lives. At Pentecost we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit - Jesus says this is power from on high. Christians believe that it's God's Spirit alive in us, and closer to us than our breath, that gives us the power to live these values which enable us to live well together.

There's going to be a big splash in our All Age service on Sunday (10.45) - I'm going to be doing my first baptism by immersion (a right proper dunking). Ciaran, a student at Bath Uni, found faith about a year ago and wants to be baptised 'like Jesus was'. So that's what's going to happen. We pray all God's richest blessings on him. We'll also be reflecting on the theological importance of Tough Mudder ...

On a sad note, many of you will know Margaret Lutterell, who lives along from the school in Richmond Place. A gifted tutor, she has helped and boosted many St Stephen's children over many years. I'm really sorry to say that she has had a stroke and is unlikely to recover. We pray for her, for Tony her husband, and all her family.  
Revd Philip

**Year 6 visit to Abernant....**If you chose to pay for this trip by instalments, please note that the May instalment is now due. Many thanks.

#### **Yr 5 trip to The Ashmolean Museum....**

Ms Dangerfield is currently making arrangements to reschedule this trip and we hope to send out the new date next week.

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

20<sup>th</sup> – Discos (PTA)  
24<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 trip to ss Great Britain  
26<sup>th</sup> – African Mufti Day – details to follow  
**26<sup>th</sup> – PTA Seedling Sale**  
27<sup>th</sup> – Inset day – School closed for pupils  
End of Term 5

#### **Coming up in June.....**

6<sup>th</sup> - Beginning of term 6  
13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Phonic Check Week  
**21<sup>st</sup> – Year 3 trip to The Roman Baths**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – F1 trip to Warleigh Lodge Farm**  
**(F2 Farm visit is on 1<sup>st</sup> July)**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – PTA Summer Festival**

**Bunting competition....**Everyone will be taking home today a competition entry form to decorate a piece of bunting for our quiet garden. All you need to do is decorate your piece in whatever way you like and bring it back to school by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May to hand in to your class teacher. The school council will then choose a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> entry to receive a prize. Everyone else will get their bunting put up in the quiet garden. Thank you very much for your support.

School Council

**This week in School council...** we discussed what school dinners we did and didn't like.

By William Palmer, School Council

