



Newsletter 5

2nd October, 2015

Happy Friday!

This week we held the first PTA meeting of the year, which included a review of last year. And what a year it was. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make the events happen - they generated so much fun and community spirit while raising vital funds for school. One of things that made the events such a success was the tremendous support you gave them, and I am aware that it is sometimes unclear what impact the money raised has on school. I can reassure you it makes a huge difference to us. Last year, the PTA kindly committed around £7000 to various aspects of school life which help make the school the special place it is. They funded Jeni Reid's class instrumental teaching, paid for world book day authors, bought Manga High (online learning platform) for Year 6, paid for the regular refreshing of the play pod resources and so much more which supports our annual rhythm of events and opportunities for the children. This year, we will be asking them again to support these valuable and enriching aspects of school which really do impact upon our children's lives.

Last year, we also focused on the project of developing the outdoor environment and hopefully you will have seen the plans in the entrance foyer for our stage/ outdoor classroom area. We want to get this absolutely right, and I am really excited about the final result - it will be well worth the wait. We have other plans for the outdoor space, including a slide and climbing web, and are exploring suppliers at the moment, but want to be sure we are able to successfully complete the stage project before we over-commit funds. I will keep you posted.

Finally, two PTA-funded tweaks...Thank you to Nigel and his team of helpers who put together the PTA-funded arbour seating area for the newly-cleared seating area by the carpark this week, and for those of you who don't frequent the year 5/6 corridor, it has had a face-lift, including three lovely PTA-funded sofas (and we are waiting on some colourful new tables). Cushions are being hand made as I type, and can't wait to send out a photo of the final effect.

So, it is a time of exciting developments and lots of forward motion. This year's School Development Plan will be published in the next fortnight and I will be holding a vision meeting to look at recent developments, as well as future plans and ideas, shortly after the holiday (I will confirm the date of this soon as possible). Have a great weekend, Andy Bowman

Year 6 residential to Abernant....Hope the packing is going well! Just to confirm that we will be departing from St Stephen's Church on Monday morning. The church doors will be open at 9am with a view to leaving at 10am prompt. Please use the side entrance to avoid getting caught up in a Pilates class!

Message from the casting producer at Airmageddon productions..... We have an exciting opportunity for children aged 9 - 14 in your school. We are producing a brand new entertainment series for **CBBC**, from the producers of Robot Wars, and are now searching the country for fearless children to take part.

The series is called **Airmageddon** – it is a brand new, large-scale show which will give children the chance to customise and fly one of our amazing drones competitively in a large studio arena. The contestants will compete with their remote controlled drones in the ultimate test of aerial skill. Each 'pilot' will be joined by a friend or relative of any age who will become their Wing Man or Woman (e.g. uncle, big sister, best-mate etc.) who will provide an extra pair of eyes and tactical support as they navigate the flying circus.

More information on the CBBC website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/airmageddon-2015-be-on-a-show>



MESSAGE FROM REVD PHILIP AND REVD DEBBIE.....I can't believe I've missed three newsletter deadlines already this year. Many apologies.

The great news, as those who came to the Harvest Service last week will know, is that we have a curate! Revd Debbie Pow is with us for four years. She and her husband are farmers over in Inglesbatch (near Priston), and she is totally good news for our parish. Do look out for her and make her welcome when you do.

HARVEST

This Sunday is our Harvest Celebration at St Stephen's. It's a choral communion at 10.45, with children's groups. At 6.30 there is a service of Harvest Praise at St Mary's, Charlcombe. A chance to sing hymns we love, and reflect on God's generosity.

Hope you had a good summer - see you soon!
Revd Philip

(My favourite line from Edinburgh this year - Feeding the 5000 with five loaves and two fishes? That's not a miracle, that's tapas ...)

PTA NEWS

Class Reps....If you have chosen your class rep for 2015/6 could you forward the new lovely people's details to: pta@st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk F2,F3,F7,F8,F9,F12,F13,F14. Thanks.

Events.....Christmas Fair – date for your diary – Sat December 5th, 2pm-5pm

If you would like to be on a small but hugely influential (!) committee to help organise the Christmas Fair, we'd love to hear from you!

Carols on the Green - volunteer required.....Could you spare a few hours to help organise this popular event in December? Delivering flyers, liaising with suppliers, selling mince pies, setting up, tidying up. Please contact Melissa at mittens2000@hotmail.co.uk

Table top sale coming soon.....We are hoping to organise a table top sale in October, so please start looking in your cupboards! Buggies, bears, biscuits, bric a brac, toys, games etc. etc.

Grow A Pound Wins National Award!.....Premier Lettings who sponsored Grow A Pound have been awarded a prize along with St Stephen's for 'fundraising innovation', at the Agents Giving Gala Dinner in London. Phil Spencer from TV's Location Location Location handed over the glass trophy at the ceremony and talked about the amazing ways our children had raised the money. The trophy was accepted by Alex Solomon from the Rightmove Foundation.

Lovely!

Have a great weekend

Angela

Coming up in October

5th EYFS start full time
5th-9th Year 6 Residential
8th EYFS homework meeting 2:30
12th Full Governing Body Meeting
16th Olympic Sprinter in school
21st and 22nd Parent Consultations
22nd Children finish school
23rd INSET
26th- 30st Holiday

