



Newsletter 8

22nd October, 2015

Happy Thursday!.....At the start of the month, we began to celebrate Black Achievement Month, by sharing the story of Rosa Parks and how a single act of courage in an unfair world brought about dramatic change in thinking. Each year group was then given an envelope in which there was a small amount of information about a 'mystery' person who has overcome in some way the barriers of racial prejudice and influenced the world for the better. Since then, the children have been finding out more about 'their' person, at home and at school. In Monday's Collective Worship, groups stood up and shared what they had found out about Catherine Waithe, Alfred Fagon, Gloria Ojulari, Hyacinth Hall, Dixie Brown, Princess Campbell and Sherrie Eugene, and how these inspiring people have helped make the world a better and fairer place.

The end of term is always a time for reflection, and it has been a wonderful start to the year. Throughout the school, children are settled, happy and learning. Many visitors have commented on the lovely atmosphere around the place, and how warm and engaging our children are. Our Reception children have completed their first term in school, with new friends and experiences to now go with the new shoes and jumpers. It is so exciting to think about the adventures they will have with those friends in the coming years. At the other end of the school, our new Year 6's have made a flying start to their final year. They are excellent role models for the rest of the school and are embracing Year 6 with their usual sparkle, resilience, and humour.

Looking ahead to next term we have more visits, visitors, outdoor developments and events, all on top of our main business of teaching and learning. And it will be Christmas before we know it!

Have a very Happy Friday and a very restful holiday, and please pass on my heartfelt thanks to your child or children for helping to make St Stephen's such a lovely place to be. Andy Bowman

ParentPay.....Activation letters will be sent home on Monday 2nd November. You will then be able to go online and activate your ParentPay account. To help us in the transition period from ParentMail to ParentPay, please can you activate your account by Monday 9th November. We would really appreciate it if you could meet this deadline.

Once you have opened your account you will be able to pay for dinner money, school trips and breakfast club on ParentPay and **you will also receive all future school communications this way.**

As club cheques are made payable to the coaches, parents will be unable to pay for clubs through ParentPay at the present time.

Dinner money due for Term 2 is shown below. Once you have activated your account you will be able to make this payment by ParentPay. If you have any credits or debits these will be shown on your account. Please note that there is a minimum payment of £10 for dinner money on ParentPay, so should this sum exceed your payment due, a credit will be carried forward on your account.

Please note that if your child is in Key Stage 1 and therefore you do not currently pay for school dinners, you still need to register on ParentPay in order to receive school communication and pay for school trips etc.

In the initial 'settling in' period of ParentPay, we may still need to send an occasional letter or message via ParentMail or a paper copy, however this will only be for a limited period.

Thank you for your support while we introduce this exciting new method of payment and communication.

Stock up on books for Christmas!.....Our Autumn Book Fair starts in the school hall - or sandwich area - this Wednesday - 4th November - and continues until Tuesday 10th November. Your child should have brought home in their book bag today a leaflet giving an idea of the range of books available. Coming to the book fair is extremely beneficial to the children as not only does it highlight reading but also through the generous "commission" of up to 60% it gives us a valuable way to stock up our class libraries.

Books will be on sale after school from 3.30 - 4pm each day.

We look forward to your continued support and an enjoyable time for the children.

Sian Macdonald Library Co-ordinator

Clubs....Please note the following club information for the first week of term 2.

- There will be no **Multi-skills** on Monday 2nd Nov
- There will be no **Hockey** on Tuesday 3rd November
- **Choir** is starting on Thursday 5th November.

Secondary Application

Deadline.....Just a reminder that the deadline for applications is midnight on Saturday 31st October.



Help for Stone Removal.....Are you strong and could spare a couple of hours to help me remove some large stones and create a safer, more play-friendly area, near Year 1 pickup?

Please contact me (via the office) if you can help. Many thanks.
Nigel Cox (Site Manager)

Sports for Schools.....We had a very energetic, fun filled and noisy event with Emily Diamond on Friday 16th October, who led the whole school in a fitness circuit and delivered an inspirational assembly to us all. A brief reminder to bring back your sponsorship forms, and make sure your friends and family have the link to your child's fundraising page online by **Friday 23rd October**. We are hoping to be able to use some of the proceeds to buy some new and much needed sports equipment. Thank you for your support.

Halloween fire safety.....Avon Fire & Rescue Service is reminding parents to take care with Halloween costumes to reduce the risk of severe burns. Children's costumes have to meet a safety standard that states that if they catch fire, the flames must not spread faster than 30mm per second. This is to ensure there is time to remove the costume or extinguish the flames before a child is seriously injured.

Safety advice: Keep all costumes away from naked flames. Use LED candles in pumpkins and other decorations as these are much safer. Buy costumes from reputable sources as these will have been tested to fire safety standards. Check the label or packaging contains the manufacturers name, address, postcode or phone number and a registered trademark. Ensure the product is accompanied by instructions and safety information. Remember, cheaper products are more likely to be counterfeit and could burn quickly if they catch fire. Burns and scalds last a lifetime.

Anyone who thinks they might have bought an unsafe children's costume or sees any cheap branded or suspected counterfeit costumes for sale, can call Trading Standards on 03454 040506.

Stephanie Mounsey

Media & Communication Officer, Corporate Communication

PTA News.....

Table Top Sale.....Thanks for everyone's help last week, the sale was fun, our children had a ball and we raised just over £100. The teachers took a ton of lovely books and games and toys to use in their classes too. The items left went to the Toy Library, charity shops and in our own ragbag (thanks Ele and Melissa!).

Ragbag..... our textile recycling has just made another £62, thanks to Annie and Lisa and all who donated.

DVD Club - is coming back..... We would love to update our stock, so if you have any recent DVD's or timeless classics you are tired of watching (!) please bring them into school.

Also many thanks..... to Alice Rees, Sally and Debbie who have been working hard to put up the new seating area (paid for by the PTA), and maintain the raised beds and garden areas. It all looks great.

Carols on the Green..... We are looking for one more volunteer to help organise this lovely event in December, can you help?

Christmas Fair plans are underway, if you have any great ideas, can help with raffle prizes or in any other way please get in touch! A Very Merry Chr.. (ok too early!)

Have a lovely half term Angela pta@st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk

Dinner Money payments for Term 2.....

Years 3 to 5

35 days = £70.00

November (21 days) = £42.00

December (14 days) = £28.00

Year 6

34 days = £68.00

November (20 days) = £40.00

December (14 days) = £28.00

Please remember not to send in your dinner money payments, as you need to pay for school dinners through ParentPay from now on.
Many thanks.

Sports News...On Wednesday 21st October the girl's hockey team went to a tournament against the Royal High School. There were four matches and we won one, drew one and lost two. Our performance improved throughout the tournament and we started to spread out more and score goals. It was a lovely day and we all were inspired to play more hockey. **Sienna F13**

On Tuesday 20th October, the Year 6 Netball Team went to the Royal High School to play a tournament against other schools in Banes. We won some and drew some, we also lost a few but our performance improved enormously throughout the matches. It was a lovely afternoon for us all and we had lots of fun. **Evie F13**

