



## Newsletter 9

6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

### Happy Friday.....

As well as this informative and entertaining newsletter, you should also today receive a summary of the School Development Plan (one for children, and one for yourself), updated for 2015-16. Following feedback from last year, I have tried to make the parent summary as accessible as possible to give you a flavour of the key areas we are working on this year. We are really excited about the direction in which this plan is taking us - it builds upon the ground work we put in last year, and begins to really shape what we do for the future. Hopefully it will provide a bit of context for some of the things you may have heard about (The Golden 3, and MAGIC marking for example) and will also give you a sense of the new ideas and initiatives in the pipeline. I will talk more about this plan, the thinking behind it, and how it fits into our longer-term vision, at the Information Meetings on the 17th November (2-3pm, and again 6-7pm) and I really hope you will be able to come along.

Have a safe, dry and happy weekend. Andy Bowman

### ParentPay.....

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up and made payments. We hope that you are finding ParentPay straight forward to use and ask that you activate your accounts as soon as possible, but by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at the latest please. If anyone has not received their activation letter, please ask at the office. Can we please also make you aware of a couple of points. School is charged for every ParentPay payment, so it will save us money the fewer transactions which are made. If you are able to pay for dinner money and any trips and breakfast club sessions at the same time and for as much as you are able to afford, this will help us to keep our costs down. Also, please be aware that when you sign up and are prompted to choose email or text alerts (for account balances etc.) if you opt for texts you will be charged for these. The school will continue to be charged for any other urgent text messages we send out. Please also be aware that you can register as many email addresses and mobile numbers as you like, not just the one you use to set the account up and log in to ParentPay. However, this is turned off by default and you need to activate it in your settings. Please ask at the office if you need any help with this. Many thanks.

**Anti-bullying Week.....** Week beginning 16th November is Anti-bullying week. All children will be doing some work on this in PPA sessions or in class and then on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November we will have a "Ring of Friendship" to show our joint agreement to beat bullying. We would like the children to come to school dressed in blue on this day as this is the colour theme for Anti-bullying week (we are not asking for a voluntary donation for this). Thank you for your continued support.

**2015 Reading Challenge champions .....** Congratulations to Jasmine McKinstry in F8 for completing her gold reading challenge and receiving a medal and certificate in assembly today. Caitlin McKay from F9 received her silver certificate and Vincent Lee from F7 won applause for completing the May Challenge. The reading challenge is open until the end of term for anyone who wants to finish before we take a break for Christmas.

**Book Fair business booming.....** Thank you to everyone who has bought or browsed at the Book Fair – business is booming! We look forward to seeing you all after school in hall tonight or on Monday or Tuesday next week. We open at 3.30pm and close at four o'clock.

### 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.



## Message from the Music Service.....

Did you know that the Bath and North East Somerset Music Service runs several music centres that your musical child could attend? If they play a wind, brass, string or percussion instrument, or sing, there is a music centre for them. We cater for all levels of ability from beginner to grade 8 and there are centres in Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton and they don't have to have lessons in school. There are also opportunities to introduce younger children to musicianship at our Music Clubs on a Saturday morning in Bath. Children learn many skills from playing an instrument, all of which can be developed further through ensemble playing. If they already play in an ensemble at school, they will also benefit from the experience they gain at a music centre ensemble.

For more details, please visit our website [www.banesmusiconline.co.uk](http://www.banesmusiconline.co.uk)

## PTA News.....

**PTA Meeting - next Tuesday 10 Nov - 7pm staff room - all welcome!**

### Christmas Parties Co-ordinator

We are looking for an enthusiastic co-ordinator to help manage the glittering, fun-filled children's Christmas Parties that happen just before Christmas, for all classes in Phase I and Phase II. Lots of support available and a schedule of what happens when. Please contact Angela at [pta@st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk)

### Gorgeous Christmas Trees - buy your tree from St Stephen's!

We are hoping to sell beautiful fresh Christmas Trees at school on Saturday December 12. They will be lovely Nordmann Fir, nice and bushy and, er, green! In fact dark green and glossy. Prices from £25, all proceeds to the PTA. If you think you would like one please email Nicola Anderman.

[nicolaanderman@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolaanderman@hotmail.com) This will help us gauge interest, before we branch out (sorry!).

### Christmas Fair - Saturday December 5 , 2pm-5pm

Thanks to all the Class Reps who are already planning their stalls and activities for the Fair. Raffle Prizes - could your company or contact donate a prize for our raffle? I am happy to write a letter from the PTA. Nearer the date we will also be asking for kind donations for Presents for Parents, The Tombola, Toys and Books, Mince Pies, Cakes etc. Class Reps - could the Class Reps for F12, F13 and F14 please get in touch, that would be great! Thank you.

### Ready Teddy Go!

Don't forget the magical Book At Bedtime next Thursday 12 November 6-7pm

Have a lovely weekend and thanks for your support, Angela

## Diary dates reminder.....

### Coming up in November

Book Fair every day until Tuesday 10th  
12th - Bedtime Story 6-7pm (Phase 1 children only)

### December

9<sup>th</sup> - Phase 1 Dress Rehearsal  
10<sup>th</sup> Phase 1 Nativity Performances  
AM parents of Forms 1,3 & 5  
PM parents of Forms 2,4 & 6  
11<sup>th</sup> - Phase 1 Nativity AM parents of forms 7 & 8 at 10 a.m.  
14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Week of Christmas parties  
15<sup>th</sup> - Phase 2 Christmas Concert 6pm - 7 p.m. in Church  
16<sup>th</sup> - Carols by Candlelight 6pm -7pm  
17<sup>th</sup> - Carols on the Green  
18th- End of Term Service 9.45am  
18<sup>th</sup> - End of Term

**Community Books...**for the last two years, local resident and friend of the school Jenny Sleep has been working to secure the red BT phone box on the green for the community to use as a book exchange.

After a great deal of work, and wonderful support both from Mrs Sue Bowen at BANES and Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones, Jenny and her team have been successful. The Book Exchange will be officially opened by Mrs Sue Bowen at 3pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Due to the available space, the exchange will be unable to accept children's books, but for adults it is a chance to bring a book and borrow a book whenever you wish.

What a fantastic gift to the community!

