



Newsletter 31

19th May 2017

Happy Friday! Thank you to everybody who dodged the torrential showers and joined us for the opening of our Spiritual Garden last Friday afternoon. A week later and every child has been able to experience the garden for themselves and it is fair to say we are all delighted with it. Many people have contributed to the final result so I would like to take a moment to thank them...

Firstly, our **school council** have been involved right from the start with designing the garden, polling their classmates to choose features such as the arbour, and raising money to help fund it. Their hard work has meant it really is the children's garden. The stunning **mosaic birdbath** which is the eye-catching centre-piece to the garden was created by local artist **Emma Leith** who worked with several of our children, allowing them to lead the design and colour choices to create the beautiful final piece. Her work was largely funded by NADFAS Bath Evening (now known as **The Arts Society Bath Evening**) who have been incredibly supportive of, and excited about, this project. Another lovely feature of the garden is the eye-catching gothic arch mirror, very kindly donated by www.primrose.co.uk. The work to transform the garden was carried out by Darren and his team at **Daisy Rose Garden Design**. Darren did a brilliant job of taking the children's ideas, retaining the spirit of the original garden and adding his own expertise and ideas to create a beautiful, restful space for us all to enjoy. And finally, the person who has orchestrated all of this and for months has been passionately and diligently bringing it all together is our very own **Mrs Cross** who, helped in the final stages by **Mr Cox**, has done a fantastic job. On behalf of the hundreds of children who will enjoy the garden in the future, thank you to Jane and to all of our partners.

SIAMS Inspection... As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, on Tuesday of this week we welcomed SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspector Steve Ford. Mr Ford spent the day with us to assess how effectively we are meeting the needs of our children within the context of being an inclusive church voluntary aided school. We were incredibly proud to show him around our school and the children did a brilliant job of making him feel welcome. The report should be published within the next few weeks and I will share the outcome as soon as I am able to.

If you're coming along to the scavenger hunt tomorrow my fingers are crossed for lovely weather but I know you'll have fun anyway! I am really grateful to Roisin Couzins, Ruby Hazael and the PTA for all the work that has gone into organising what I am sure will be another brilliant event.

Have a great weekend, Andy Bowman

Clubs....Don't forget there will be no Year 3 /4 Neball today!

Tag Rugby Coach Wanted for September.... We are still looking for a new Tag Rugby Coach to run two after school clubs from September. If you know of anyone or are interested yourself, please get in touch with Liz Flood, our Club Co-ordinator at: asc@st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk

Walk to school breakfast... The school council are holding another walk to school breakfast on Wednesday 24th May. As with previous breakfasts, the idea is you can walk to school a little earlier than normal and for a small donation you can enjoy breakfast al fresco on the playground, served by our fantastic school councillors.

Abbey Hotel Lemonade stand... Last week we told you that the Abbey Hotel had kindly offered to jointly run a lemonade stand with us on their outdoor terrace tomorrow (20th). Unfortunately, this will no longer be possible, however watch this space for future partnership plans with the hotel.

Extreme reading

Congratulations to all that have brought in their Extreme Reading photos. They look amazing!

The Extreme Reading Challenge is going to be extended to all children. The deadline is now 16th June 2017.

All you need to do to enter is;

Get caught reading in an extreme or creative way.

When you have finished the book, review it on the back (Name of book, what it is about and your favourite character/section).

Bring into school to be displayed on your Extreme Reading Tree and wait to see if your class are the winners and receive your £100 to spend on books for your class.

Thank you to all parents for your help and support in encouraging your child to take part in this whole school reading challenge.

Many thanks,

Mr Preedy, Mrs Smith and Mrs Young



Fundraising Updates

Cake Sale for Julian House.....Year 4 are holding a cake sale on Thursday May 25th to raise money for Julian House. The sale will be after school and we hope to hold it on the playground outside F7 weather permitting, so please come and support us to raise lots of money for a good cause. (If wet we will hold the sale in one of the year 4 classes). Thank you.

African Flag Mufti Day.....Friday 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. Have fun and please remember your donations so we can send as much money as possible to support Atse Bekafa. Thank you, Mrs Scott

Scavenger Hunt... TOMORROW from 1-5pm. A fun and unusual team challenge taking off from the school hall. Please enter and pay in advance - by emailing Roisin Couzins at roisinwoolnough@hotmail.com or Ruby Hazael at rubyhazael@mac.com. Only 20 team places available.

Flow Kids' Holiday Club.... Here at St Stephen's School! Your kids can join a team of wellbeing experts from 9.30 to 3.30*pm (earlier start/late finish available £5) for a fund day of healthy activities including Cooking, Zumba, Mindfulness, Doodling, HITT and yoga. Tuesday 30th May £35 per child. Open to children from age 6 to 10. To reserve a place contact flow@apricotnutrition.com or ring 07989 306553.

Swainswick Explorers Holiday Clubs.....

There are opportunities to play with us coming up. We are based at our site on the 'At Home' Days, and out in the local countryside on our Explorer Days. All our days are for children and young people aged 4(reception) - 14 years and cost £40. Teenagers 14+ can join our team of volunteers.

May/June Half term dates

Tuesday 30th May Explorer Day, 10am - 4pm, additional hours 8am - 6pm

Wednesday 31st May 'At Home' day, 10am - 4pm, additional hours 8am - 6pm

Thursday 1st June 'At Home' day, 10am - 4pm, additional hours 8am - 6pm

Friday 2nd June Explorer Day, 10am - 4pm, additional hours 8am - 6pm

Days can all be booked via our website: swainswickexplorers.co.uk

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers.....

Last few weeks! We rely on these so heavily to buy Sports Equipment so please remember to bring them in and put them in the box in Reception before they go out of date. Thank you. Mrs Newman

Diary dates reminder.....

Coming up in May.....

19th – Year 6 Life Skills visit

20th – PTA Scavenger Hunt

24th-Walk to School Breakfast

25th Year 1 Farm visit

25th – Year 4 Cake Sale

26th – Mufti Day

26th -End of term 5

***Items in bold print are new to the list**

Mathletics News!...In June there will be some new features on Mathletics. Watch this space! Congratulations to Oscar Taylor in Yr 2, another Gold! It was brought to our attention that he actually achieved this at the end of April! Well done Oscar. Plus we celebrate this week's mathematicians:

Kristian Goldaniga
Sofia Baxter (Silver!)
Sophie Gittens
Emily Willis (Silver!)
George Willis
Izzy Manoli
Jasmine McKinstry
Sam Peters
Eva Blanchard
Charlotte Willis (Silver!)
Martha Robson
Leo Wakefield
Lynden Bradley-Cong
Ana Champion (Silver!)
India Cooper
Timo Patterson
Kitty Peters
Phoebe Weeks (Silver!)
Freddie Weeks (Silver!)
Fraser Young
Milo Young
Jakob Zanutto
Becky Baxter (Silver!)
Sophia Castro-Harrington
Jasper Gittens
Lily Williams

Healthy Mind and Body week Yoga taster sessions....

Last week we sent home a letter about taster Yoga sessions which will be held by Lucy from Yogadoo during the week after half term. We would really appreciate a **voluntary contribution of £1** for each child in order to be able to fund the sessions. Please could you send in your £1 donation to the class teacher as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your support.

Love Courage

