



Newsletter 10

17th November

Happy Friday!

We started the week with a very special visitor. Steve Arnold served in the army and was injured in Afghanistan when he stepped on an IED and instantly lost both of his legs. He spoke to the children about his road to recovery, how he had gone on to compete in the very first Invictus Games in 2014, and this summer won two gold cycling medals at the games (which he bravely allowed our children to pass around!). He is now aiming for next year's Invictus Games as well as switching to para Nordic Skiing with a view to competing in the 2018 Winter paralympics. Steve is an inspirational person and I am looking forward to us following his journey and welcoming him back again soon. You can find out more about him here <https://www.steearnoldsport.com>

Congratulations Freya... I am delighted let you know that Freya Newman, who works in Year 4 recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Mother, baby, and excited older brothers are all doing incredibly well and we send her and her family lots of love.

Funding report... You may have seen the report in the Chronicle this week and wondered what the published figures referred to. The +£3000 against our school is the difference between the two possible funding formulas being proposed, both of which should help our funding to level out. However, the reality is that if our funding were to stabilise at the current low level, against rising costs it will simply prevent the crisis from worsening rather than ending the crisis so the campaign continues.

Football Champions... Our Year 5/6 footballers were crowned Banes Champions this week following a series of blistering performances. As one parent commented: *"The boys were an absolute credit to themselves and the school. They played with real determination, precision, and most importantly a big smile on their faces. It was also great to see them enjoy the victory but act with utmost humility."* I couldn't have put it better myself. Well done boys!

Circle of Friendship... Today, to mark the end of Anti-bullying Week, our whole school joined hands in the playground to represent standing together against bullying. When I said 'What do we say to bullying?' as one the children shouted "We say no!" Thank you for supporting this by sending your child in wearing blue – it is so important we make this bold annual statement of togetherness and love.

Have a great weekend, Andy Bowman

Clubs....

Please note there will be no Hockey or Netball on Friday 24th November.

Club letters for terms 3 & 4 will be available on Friday 24th November. You will find them in the carousel in the reception area. Some clubs have limited numbers so it is important to hand them in as soon as you can.

Ms Flood

Year 4 trip to New Barn....Just a reminder that the deadline for paying the £60 deposit for New Barn is Friday 1st December.

If you have any queries, please speak to Ms Flynn or pop into the School Office.

Changes to pick up arrangements....We would be very grateful if last minute changes to pick up arrangements could be avoided whenever possible. Of course we do appreciate that sometimes situations crop up which make pick up changes unavoidable and we need to notify your child and their class teacher of these changes. However, we would like to reduce the number of messages being sent through to the classrooms, as they inevitably mean interrupting the lesson. We really appreciate your co-operation.

Photos....Just a reminder that the deadline for returning photo orders is **Wednesday 22nd November**.



Zumba with Hannah.....

Mondays - St Marks School 7.15 to 8pm
Thursdays - St Saviours Church 9.30 to 10.15am
Saturdays - The Royal High School Dance Studio 10.15-11am
£5 per class, no need to book. For more details contact mrshlb26@gmail.com or 07825 180640

FLOWtopia, a wellbeing company for kids, is again running 2 special holiday clubs for kids age 5-11 on 19th and 20th December here at St Stephens School. A wellbeing Holiday Club offering sessions around cooking, yoga, craft, mindfulness and aerobics. Full and half days available. Limited places so book quickly. For more information look at www.flowtopia.co.uk or text 07989 306553.

Theatre visits.....We are very excited about our Theatre visit on 14th December when Crescendo Concerts will be performing The Snowman and The Night before Christmas. And in the New Year we will be welcoming 'One Day Performances' with their e-safety themed show.

Thank you to everyone who has already paid and if you have not yet done so, please sign in to Parent-Pay as soon as possible to make a contribution of £2.75 per child.
Many thanks.

Coming up in November....

22nd Dead line for returning school photograph order forms

23rd – Reception 2018 Open Day 9.15 to 10.15am

25th – PTA Christmas Fair

Coming up in December....

5th - Phase 1 Dress Rehearsal 2pm

6th- Phase 1 Nativity Performances 10am - parents of classes 1, 3 & 5

7th - Phase 1 Nativity Performances 10am - parents of classes 2, 4 & 6

8th - Phase 1 Nativity 10am - parents of classes 7 & 8

11th – 15th Week of Christmas parties

12th - Phase 2 Christmas Concert 6pm – 7 p.m. at Church

13th - Carols by Candlelight 6pm -7pm

14th – Theatre visit

15th - End of Term Service in Church 9.45am

15th – End of Term

***Please note items in bold are new to the list**

There was a fantastic turn out for Book at Bedtime last night. Close to 200 Phase 1 children in snuggly onesies, and their cuddly companions, curled up in their classrooms for a magical hour of candlelit stories. A huge thank to Gilli and everyone who made it possible, especially the teachers for their storytelling and classroom decorating skills, the fantastic team of volunteers serving the refreshments (and cleared up the spillages) and, also to Ms Flynn's amazing mum for baking an incredible number of scrumptious teddy bear biscuits. And lastly a big thank you to all who attended for your kind donations. So far we have collected over £330 for the PTA which will help pay for an author visit for World Book Day next year!

Don't forget! Bring in your good quality used and unused toys, books and presents for parents from Monday next week. Please leave in reception.

Festive Family fun at the Holburne

Museum..... Sunday 26th November from 12 noon to 4pm

Art Meets Science: A Festive Fusion FREE
Visit www.holburne.org for details.

MESSAGE FROM REV'D PHILIP....

My Boss is coming to St Stephen's this Sunday! Bishop Ruth, Bishop of Taunton, will be with us at the 10.45 service. And you are more than welcome. She's a wonderfully kind and wise woman who I know you will enjoy hearing and meeting. There will be 'In Pew Entertainment' boxes available for children. Have a great weekend!

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy