



office@ststephens.bwmat.org

@StStephensPri



Newsletter 16

10th January, 2020

Happy New Year!

It's a new year, a new decade and there is lots of new-ness in the air in school this week with several new children joining us and new developments ready to launch. Here are some of the headlines...

New Curriculum... This morning you will have received an overview of our new curriculum structure and a summary of the thinking behind it. Through discussions with all parts of our school community throughout Spring 2019, we identified the four areas which were most relevant to our children now and for their futures and we have used these as the four 'pillars' around which we have woven the rest of the curriculum. Our vision was for the curriculum to be bound together by the magic of story and pictures and this has become a reality thanks to a generous donation which enabled us to invest in over 70 beautiful, high quality picture books, with more on the way. In classrooms this week I have seen this new approach begin to take shape and, while we will continue to work hard to develop and embed it, I am very excited to have a curriculum that is distinctly, and uniquely, St Stephen's.

Phase 2 Reading Records... If you have a child in Phase 2, today they should have brought home a reading record. We have produced these in order to continue the system from Phase 1 and I want to thank you in advance for your support with this. Frequent reading is essential for children of all ages in order to support the ongoing development not only of their reading skills but also of their spoken and written language (as well as being an enjoyable and relaxing pastime). We are looking forward to these records being maintained for all children so that in partnership with you we can maintain positive reading habits, develop their reading and comprehension skills and steer children towards new titles and authors they might enjoy.

Boys In Mind/ Girls Mind Too... On Monday we will be launching our new partnership with Boys In Mind/ Girls Mind Too. We are delighted to be a lead school for this organisation, whose aims are to reduce the stigma around mental health, challenge unhelpful stereotypes and promote positive gender images. Through this term, a focus group of children will, with help from professional film-makers, plan and create a short film around a theme of their choosing which will then be published on the Boys In Mind Website. We will keep you informed of progress and of course share the film with you once it is finished but in the meantime go to www.boysinmind.co.uk for further information.

Have a great weekend, Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



Phase 2 Reading Records...

Today, as in Phase 1, all Phase 2 children received their own Reading Record.

These Reading Records will be used by the children, teachers, parents/carers and other adults who will listen to your child read. Please record the page numbers, book title and how they have answered questions based on what they have read, as well as any other useful comments.

As in Phase 1, please ensure the reading record comes to school every day.

Thank you for your support in hearing your child read at home every day. Please record this in their reading records so that we can monitor and assess your child's reading habits and guide them to widen their reading diet.

Finally, a huge thank you to Dan Weeks, who is one of our Year 5 parents, for designing and creating the emblem that appears on the front cover. The children have been busy today making their emblem their own.

Many thanks,
Mr Preedy (Phase 2 Leader)

Football news...Thursday 9th January - St Saviour's 2 - 5 St Stephen's

On a wet and cold January evening, the St Stephen's Football Team took on local rivals, St Saviour's, in the 2nd round of the cup competition.

It was a convincing win for the team, who not only played well but conducted themselves as great ambassadors for the school. Zac Wood, who was captain for the game, was named Man of the Match with a solid performance as well as scoring from his own area.

Well done to all the players (and parents who braved the conditions) and good luck in the next round!
Mr Preedy

DIARY DATES 2020...

Coming up in January...

22nd – PTA Meeting 7pm – Venue TBC

23rd – Early Years Maths Meeting 6-7

Coming up in February...

4th - Newbarn Meeting 6pm

14th - End of Term 3

17th – 21st - Holiday

24th - Beginning of Term 4

After School Clubs... All clubs start again next week.

Please make sure that your child is collected on time at the end of their club and don't forget to complete a pink slip or email the office if your child is unable to attend for any reason. Please complete a green slip if there is a change to collection arrangements.

Bookings for Clubs this term are now closed.

Liz Flood

Drop in Pilates... Tuesday evenings in the school hall from 7.15 – 8.15 pm - £ 9 per lesson.

Pilates is a fantastic method of exercise that builds core strength, increased flexibility and makes you feel amazing! Its benefits include better posture, toned muscles and a reduction in aches and pains, come along and see what Pilates can do for you. A treat for your body, mind and spirit. Your New Year's Resolution all sorted! Call or email for more information.

Sarah Lloyd-Clarey SLCPilates sarah@slcpilates.fit 07879 607979