



office@ststephens.bwmat.org

@StStephensPri



Newsletter 36

26th June, 2020

Happy Friday!

Staff Changes from September...As you will have read earlier in the week, there is very little change in staffing planned for September. However, one significant change is that Miss Warlow, who has been on a long-term secondment to St Michael's, will be returning to teach Class 1. We are really proud of the work that Miss Warlow has done during her secondment and are delighted to be welcoming her back again as Early Years and Phase 1 Leader.

Miss Warlow's return means that sadly we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Renwick. Although we always knew this was likely, we are still extremely sad that Mrs Renwick is will be leaving as she has worked within the school, in either year 2 or reception, for 18 months in total. Her calm professionalism, warmth and tremendous care for the children have made her a valuable member of the team and we look forward to welcoming her back as often as possible next year.

Transition Groups... For children in years 2 to 5, you should have received information about your child's transition visit group ready for either their 1st July or their 8th July visit.

As previously explained, children who are coming into school in blue, purple or green group have not been included in these transition visits as we cannot allow children to mix between two groups. If you have a child in reception or year 1 who is not yet attending school please do consider bringing them in. It will certainly help with their transition to have some time in school and they may be able to say hello to their new teacher while they are here. If you would like to take up their place, please just email the office and we will confirm ready to start the following week. We aren't able to offer additional transition visits for the children in these year groups as they already have the opportunity to spend time in school.

Children coming for transition visits should where possible wear school uniform, however I recognise that certain items, including shoes, may now be too small for them. Please don't buy anything especially but try to get as close to normal uniform as you can. All other details are on the letter sent out on Thursday. Thank you for your help with this – we cannot wait to see the children!

Catch-up Funding and the summer... You may have heard the government talking about additional funding for schools to run summer schools and catch up programmes for children. This was announced with little clarification and so has been reported in different ways, leading to some confusion.

I can confirm that the government have announced the following:

- £350m pounds will fund an online tuition programme to be accessed by some pupils.
- £650m pounds will fund catchup programmes for the children who need it.

We are talking with the Trust about how this money could be used to have the biggest impact throughout the next academic year and feel we can use it very effectively for targeted support. Unfortunately though, this funding will not stretch to subsidising holiday catch-up or a summer school, as has been suggested. However, following some exciting conversations over the last 24 hours, I will be writing to you on Monday with details of what we *are* able to offer over the summer, and how you can book a place for your child. To be clear, this won't be funded provision so there will be a cost involved but it will hopefully be of interest and use to many families.

Reports... This year, for obvious reasons, the majority of children will receive their end of year report by post. To ensure it reaches you, if you have changed address and not yet updated us, please do so by the end of next week. Thank you.

No Doodle Maths... Due to technical issues there isn't a Doodlemaths update this week. Mrs Foster is going to do a bumper celebration next week!

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



St Stephen's Primary Church School

Boys In Mind... St Stephen's is a lead school with Boys In Mind (www.boysinmind.co.uk) as mentioned in a previous newsletter, and we are working with their team on a film project involving children and their families. In this project, children will be talking about what family members do to support them when they are struggling / having a difficult time for any reason.

The children, with support from the Boys in Mind Team, decide which questions they want to ask and shoot the films themselves or get family members to film them. Their footage is then sent to one of the Boys in Mind film-makers to edit.

With the limitations of Lockdown, we are hoping that some children might be interested in shooting some interviews at home with you or other members of the family. We would love to hear your young people's stories of how an adult or family member has been supportive during lockdown, for example, and of the little things that made a difference. They could also interview you to hear your stories. We would particularly like to hear of how male family members have been helpful and supportive: dad, grandad, uncle or brothers...

If your child would like to participate let us know and we will organise a Zoom film training session with filmmaker Fran Landsman who will be editing the submitted films together into a final film. This film will eventually be published on the Boys In Mind website to help families locally, nationally and internationally.

There has been great feedback from children and young people who have been involved in the Boys in Mind film projects to date. They have learned new skills, have grown in confidence and have enjoyed both the film-making process and doing something to benefit others.

If you want to be involved please email Joan Cooper from the Boys in Mind team: j_cooper07@outlook.com and she will let you have further details or answer any questions you may have.

Learning Together... This week we have seen dragon hunting, sunset drawing, art related to Croc and Bird, egg dropping, next building, sports days and there has been lots of valuable discussion around the Black Lives Matter movement and how we can individually and collectively be drivers of change. Here are some pictures that capture learning both in and out of school...



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