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@StStephensPri



Newsletter 8

24th October 2019

Happy ~~Friday~~ Thursday!

Sporting Gold!... If you are a twitterer, you may have seen me tweet a brightly coloured celebratory gif announcing the fact that we have been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Gold Mark. This is an achievement we are extremely proud of and I am grateful to everybody – teachers, club coaches, Wednesday PE coaches, parents and carers who transport and cheer, and of course to the children who make sport here such an enjoyable and rewarding thing to be a part of. I would also like to mention the excellent work that Mrs Newman (who left us in July) did in order to secure this achievement.

In Mrs Newman's absence, we are determined that sport here will continue to go from strength to strength. As part of our curriculum work, we are remapping our PE curriculum to include a broader range of opportunities for the children and this will be overseen by the Healthy Body Healthy Mind curriculum team. In addition to this, Mr Cooper will be over-seeing the admin of all fixtures and tournaments. Rather than Mr Cooper going to all of the fixtures though, this will be shared amongst the staff with lots of us signing up to accompany the different teams to the many events we enter through the year. It is a slightly different approach, and one which may even enable us to take part in more events.

Walk to School Breakfast... Thank you to everyone who came to our Walk to School Breakfast on Wednesday. We had an amazing turnout – possibly the best so far – which shows a real appetite (pardon the pun) for leaving the car at home. To build on this, Liz Rees and the Clean Air for St Stephen's team are launching the walking buses after half term. Information about these will be coming home with the children today, including an anti-idling poster competition for the children to enter. I am really grateful to the Clean Air team for all of their work to get this up and running. As well as helping with the school run it will also really benefit the health of our children whilst cleaning up the air around school. I would love to see this go from strength to strength in the coming weeks so please get behind it if you can.

I also want to add my thanks to all of the staff who helped with the preparation, setting up and clearing away on Wednesday and to our fantastic school councillors who waited on tables.

Goodbye Eirini... You may remember that a few weeks ago I mentioned that Eirini, who has worked at After School Club since it was opened, is leaving us to pursue one of her greatest passions – art. Eirini's kindness, creativity and positive nature have really helped to shape the ethos of the club and she will be greatly missed by the staff and of the course the children. We all wish her the very best of luck for her next great adventure.

While we say 'bye to Eirini, I am pleased to be able to confirm that slotting into the After School Club team after the holiday will be Mrs Akiko Wakefield.

And finally... we come to the end of term one. For several of our children it has been their first term of school, for others their first term at *this* school and for every child there has been newness and challenge and lots to learn and hopefully enjoy. I hope they have a restful, happy and safe holiday and come back ready for everything term 2 has in store!

I will finish with my new favourite word, invented by a year 3 child this week...have a *fanperb* half term break! Andy Bowman



Book Fair... A huge thank you to everyone who came to our Book Fair last week. You helped us raise over £600 that we can spend on books for the library. Thank you to Mrs Smith, Mrs Young, The Junior Librarians and other adults that helped make this a really successful event. The picture below shows some of our new arrivals for the library with plenty more to come.

Many thanks,
Mr Preedy



DIARY DATES...

Coming up in October...

24th - Children finish school

25th – Inset

Coming up in November...

4th - Beginning of Term 2

4th Club letters out

5th - Flu vaccinations – Reception to Y6

8th - Second Hand Uniform sale

(after drop off AM and pick up PM)

11th -15th - Anti Bullying Week (15th Circle of Friendship)

15th - Reception 2020 Open Day 9.45 – 11am

21st - Bedtime Story 6-7pm (Phase 1 children)

29th Club application deadline

Coming up in December...

2nd – Deadline for Year 4 deposit for New Barn

7th - PTFA Christmas Fair 2 – 5pm

8th - PTFA Christmas tree sale - from 10am

10th - Phase 1 Dress Rehearsal 2pm

11th - Phase 1 Nativity Performances 10am

(Forms 1, 3 & 5)

12th Phase 1 Nativity Performances 10am

(Forms 2, 4 & 6)

13th - Phase 1 Nativity Performances 10am

(Forms 7 & 8)

16th – 20th Week of Christmas parties:

(16th R/Y2; 17th Y1/3; 19th Y4/5; 20th Y6)

17th - Phase 2 Christmas Concert 6pm-7 p.m. in Church

18th - Carols by Candlelight 6pm -7pm

20th - End of Term Service in Church 9.45am

20th - End of Term

(Items in bold are new to the list)

YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS...

We have been advised by B&NES Admissions Department that there are still a large number of secondary applications outstanding.

Please don't forget the deadline is **31st October** which is less than a week away! So if you haven't yet submitted your application, please do so as soon as possible.

PTFA NEWS...

Thank you to everyone who has joined us at meetings this term. We have had lots of excellent ideas and enthusiasm.

Class reps will be starting to tell you all about our upcoming fundraising events including Book at Bedtime and the Christmas Fair which is on Saturday 7th December from 2-5pm and our Tree sale on Sunday 8th December from 10am.

Thank you in advance for all your support.
PTFA