



office@ststephens.bwmat.org

@StStephensPri



Newsletter 1

4th September 2020

Happy Friday!

What a great week it has been! Thank you for your support throughout, in particular with the start and end of day arrangements. Many of you have gone to considerable lengths to change your travel routines and I have been extremely grateful for the effort and creativity you have shown in adapting to this new way of doing things. The adjustments we made to the start and end of day arrangements greatly improved the flow to and from school today so thank for taking on board the communication and working with us.

Having all of the children back in school this week has been fantastic. Hearing the corridors alive again, and seeing friendships resume and strengthen has been wonderful and we are all looking forward to a great term.

Welcome... We have had the pleasure of welcoming lots of new children to our family this week. Class 1 and 2 have been into their classrooms for the first time, and across the school we have had children joining us, making new friends and settling in. I would like to warmly welcome all of our new families to the St Stephen's community and I hope your child has settled in quickly and is looking forward to their journey with us.

HomeRun App... I am pleased to announce that we have signed up for the HomeRun app – an innovative app with a focus on strengthening school communities and improving school journeys for all. The primary function of HomeRun is to help you to connect with other parents and carers so that you can co-ordinate travel arrangements whether it is drive-and-walk sharing, walking buses, riding or scooting together, co-ordinating meet-and-walk points or organising something more formal. I know many of you have arrangements between friends which work perfectly. This app is intended to support those arrangements and also bring in and help connect people who may otherwise not have known what was on offer. It is also a way of sharing school news and communication, but at this stage we will continue to use the usual channels for school news and updates.

I would love to see all parents and staff to sign up to the service as soon as possible, to support a more connected school community, improve our school runs and promote a healthier local environment.

Please use the link below to join our school's network and download the app:

The St Stephen's Primary Church School Registration Link: <https://user.homerun-app.com/welcome/sspcs3892p/sspcs>

I am really hopeful that HomeRun will help you with the challenge of the school run and keep this excellent momentum of change going.

Capturing the mood... I would like to leave you with this image which was sent to me this afternoon by one of our teachers. It is of one of our new Reception children and, more than the risk assessments, one way systems and staggered timetables, THIS is what this week has been all about for all of us here.

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman



Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



DoodleMaths update... Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful break.

All children in the school have had their DoodleMaths accounts set to 'recalibration mode'. This simply means that when your child uses DoodleMaths this term there will be a set of questions your child needs to answer. Please do not help them! The algorithm is such that it will detect the level your child is at and then tailor their own individualised program. The mantra of DoodleMaths is to use it 'little and often' but your class teacher will provide further guidance of DoodleMaths expectations as the term progresses.

If your child is in Years 1-6 and is new to the school, you should have received an email with how to set up your Doodle Maths account. If you haven't, please contact the office.

Happy maths doodling! Mrs Foster

Parentpay for Dinners... Please remember to log into your Parent Pay account to order school sandwiches. Lunches need to be booked before midnight the night before and if you pay for them there needs to be enough credit on your child's account to secure the booking. Children in Reception to Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

Parent Pay Activation Letters... New parents have been sent home activation letters to enable them to log into Parent Pay. We would be grateful if you could log in as soon as possible. Parent Pay is the way we communicate with parents, the way you book and pay for your child's meals. Thank you for your help with this. Any questions, please just call the office.

Second-hand uniform... We no longer hold second-hand uniform in school. If you would like to purchase or donate second-hand uniform, please email the PTA on: PTA@ststephens@bwmat.org

Visits to the office... Thank you for all of your efforts to keep visits to the office to a minimum. Please continue to phone with enquiries if at all possible rather than visiting in person and if you do need to come into the building, please wear a face covering. Thank you for your support with this.

Diary Dates...

Due to current restrictions, planning the year's events and key dates is taking a little longer than usual. Next week we will update you with key dates for the coming term and year. Thank you for your patience with this.