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@StStephensPri



Newsletter 12

27th November 2020

Happy Friday!

Goodbye Mrs Kemp... Last week we said goodbye to Mrs Kemp who has been a midday supervisor here for the last 18 months. Rosie's energy and warmth have been a joy to have in school and we will really miss her but wish her all the very best. As Mrs Kemp leaves, we welcome Mrs Lee to our lunchtime team. She has settled in really well this week and it is lovely to have her here!

Ventilation... As Roy Castle once sang (almost): 'Ventilation is what you need!' and never has that been more true. Increasingly, research is pointing towards good ventilation playing a key role in keeping transmission rates of covid-19 down. The weather is much colder now than it was in September, but the potential risk is the same, and we are continuing to work hard to maintain many different procedures and measures to keep everyone in our building as healthy as possible. Maintaining good ventilation is an important part of this so please do send your child to school wearing extra layers to keep them warm over the coming weeks if they are finding their classroom a bit chilly.

Christmas 2020... It won't surprise you to hear that this year's Christmas build-up will be a little different to usual, however we are intending on embracing it as the unique moment in time that it is and helping it to feel just as special, if a little different. There is important information below about the implications for the current risk assessments and also some of the events that we have planned:

Firstly, what we can't do:

Our risk assessment requires us to restrict all non-essential movement of items coming into school and we need to co-ordinate things leaving school so that parents and carers can manage a sufficient quarantine. This will have the following implications as we approach Christmas:

- Unfortunately, children will not be able to bring in Christmas cards to distribute to friends or staff.
- Christmas crafts that the children make in class (cards, decorations, calendars etc) will be sent home however we will be collating them into an individual folder/bag for each child and will be sending these home on the last day of term. This will mean that you can more easily quarantine it for 72 hours at home.
- Some parents have been asking about our position on gifts for staff. We gratefully ask that if parents wish to send a message, card or gift to a member of staff they email or post it to school rather than bring in physical items. Thank you in advance for your understanding with these measures.

And now, what we will be doing:

- Christmas parties will be going ahead in the last week as usual. They will be in the classrooms which will be well-ventilated and with party games that fit within our indoor activities risk assessment. The PTA have kindly offered to provide snacks for the children, and these will be quarantined beforehand and handed to each child by a member of staff. On the day of their party, children can come to school dressed in party clothes (which are also suitable for them to play outside in!) if they wish to. Please see overleaf for your child's party day.

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



- **Christmas Performance...** We are working on a Christmas Performance which (if all goes to plan) will be premiered on Youtube at 9.30am on Tuesday 15th December. It will be about half an hour long and the plan is that the whole school community can sit down at the same time to enjoy it. Please do join us if you can. I will send the link out nearer the time. If we do not have permission for your child to appear on the internet I will write to you next week to explain how we intend for your child to still be involved.

- **Christmas jumper day...** We will be continuing the tradition of children being allowed to wear a festive jumper on the last day of term (Friday 18th December) if they would like to. All other uniform should be the same, and the jumper doesn't need to be a bought one – a bit of tinsel or a bauble on a normal jumper is just as good.

- **PTA events...** By now you should have heard about the Christmas Tree Sale and The Magical Mission treasure hunt that the PTA have organised. Christmas at St Stephen's always feels like such a community-wide celebration and these events are great opportunities for us to feel more widely connected, albeit in a different way to usual. Thank you so much to the PTA for all of the hard work that has gone into organising these events.

We will be in touch next week with a little more information about the performance prep but I hope what comes across today is our determination to ensure our children feel the Christmas magic just as much this year, even if we go about it slightly differently.

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

Top Doodlers...

This week we are celebrating these wonderful doodlers. Well done everyone!

- F1 – Josh
- F2 – Cecily
- F3- Kit
- F4- Lorna
- F5 – Harry P
- F6- Zoe
- F7- Ava H
- F8- Marcus
- F9- Alice C
- F10- Sam C
- F11- Harry C
- F12- Florence M
- F13- Amil O
- F14- Neva

ADVENT...

Put the adventure in to Advent!

Our wonderful **Advent Windows** start lighting up the community on Tuesday. You can find out more on the St Stephen's website (www.ststephensbath.org.uk) or with a leaflet outside the Rectory from Tuesday.

Also, we have some **Advent Bags** for you to use. They include an Advent Candle, a booklet of simple creative ideas for each day of Advent, and some short family prayers to use at mealtimes and bedtime. A wonderful way to journey to Christmas. Please email me (philip@ststephensbath.org.uk) if you would like one. They are free, but a small donation to cover materials would be great!



St Stephen's Primary Church School



We have some very exciting news!

St. Stephen's now have their own Facebook and Instagram page. Please follow us at [ststephens.primary](https://www.facebook.com/108846524379020) on Instagram and click the link below to find and 'like' our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/108846524379020/posts/108851374378535/?d=n>

Just like our Twitter page, we will be sharing posts about our children, achievements and community.

Many thanks,
Miss Downing

Calendar Dates...

- 1st December: Year 6 Evacuee dress up day
- 11th December: 2.00-2.45: Christmas Celebration
- 14th December: Reception and Year 2 Christmas Party
- 15th December: Year 1 and Year 3 Christmas Party
- 17th December: Year 4 and Year 5 Christmas Party
- 18th December: Year 6 Christmas Party
- 18th December: END OF TERM

And finally... In recent Collective Worship we have been thinking about how important it is to notice and appreciate the small things in life as one day we will realise that those are the truly big things. So I was delighted to see so many children notice and enjoy the stunning views that greeted us at the start of the day yesterday. In fact two year 6 children were so inspired they grabbed an ipad and dashed back outside to take these beautiful shots!



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