



enquiries@ststephens.bwmat.org

@StStephensPri



Newsletter 22

26th February 2021

St Stephen's Primary Church School

Happy Friday!

The sun is shining, next week is Book Week, and we are all looking ahead to 8th March with excitement! I hope you received the email I sent out yesterday about the preparations that are underway ahead of the 8th but if you didn't, in summary current guidance is very much in line with that which was in place throughout the Autumn term and so our risk assessment, and associated plans, will be a revised version of those we were previously working with. This means that as it stands, the start and end of day routines, timetables and all other arrangements will be as they were before Christmas.

If you are new to our school family, there is a [FAQ section on the website](#) which captures the pertinent bits of information you will need, and details of start and end of day arrangements. You can also read our risk assessment there, the latest version of which will be uploaded by the end of next week.

Please be assured that in our staff teams we have spoken at length about how best to support your child in the coming days and weeks by providing the right balance in our curriculum and supporting them socially and emotionally. Whether your child will be adjusting to a new teacher and classmates in school, adjusting to being back in the building, or a bit of both, I assure you we will do everything we can to make the transition as positive as possible for your child.

Walking Bubbles... During the Autumn term we made great strides (pun absolutely intended) in our commitment to decreasing our carbon footprint, with far fewer parents using cars to transport children to school and opting to walk, cycle or scoot some or all of the way instead. The results were great to see, both in terms of the reduction in traffic and congestion, and in the impact on children's well-being.

If you are now looking ahead to the 8th and re-introducing your start and end of day routines, I once again ask you to plan a car-free journey or, if this is not possible, park a 10 minute walk away from the school. Thank you in advance for your efforts, which really do benefit everyone.

Parent consultations... We usually have parent consultations in term 4 but this year have decided to push them back to in term 5. This is so that when the time comes, your child's teacher has had a chance to gain a really clear picture of where they are and this should support a more pertinent conversation. As in the Autumn term, we will be using the School Cloud system and for new parents, Mr De Albuquerque will be in touch nearer the time with instructions. We will confirm the exact dates in the next couple of weeks.

Tree-mendous fundraising... Thank you to Poppy and Tess in Year 6 who, with the help of family and friends, have raised £46 to buy some fruit trees for the school grounds. A great idea and a brilliant effort! I will update you when they are planted.

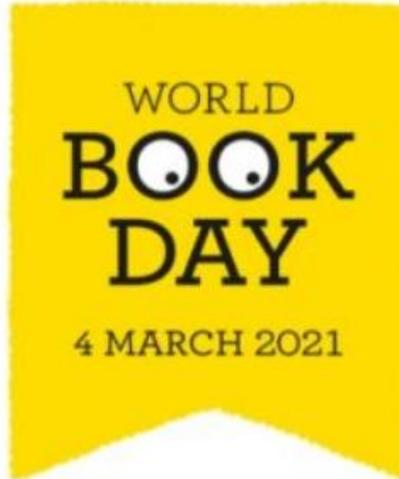
Enjoy the sunshine – Spring is definitely with us! Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



Next week sees *World Book Week* arriving at St Stephen's. There will be lots of stories and activities planned across the week with World Book Day happening on Thursday 4th March. It would be great to see as many of the children as possible dressing up as their favourite book character as possible on this day but there is no pressure as we understand the limitations at the moment.

On the 4th itself, we will also be attempting the '**10,000 Page Challenge**', which will see all of the children attempting to read 10,000 pages of a book/books as a school. By the end of Thursday or Friday morning, please let your teachers (online or in school) know how many pages you read on this day and we will announce if we met the target by the end of Friday.

Many thanks,
Mr Preedy, Mrs Young and Mrs Smith

Diary Dates Reminder...

April

1st – End of Term 4

19th – Term 5 Begins

May

27th – End of Term 5 for pupils

28th – Inset Day

June

7th – Term 6 begins

July

21st – Last day of Term 6

Climate corner... Spring is finally in the air, so the children can get their hands dirty planting some fruits and vegetables again. Growing food is one of the best things we can all do for the planet and for nature in our communities - especially if we use peat free compost and avoid insecticides.

Even if you don't have a garden, a window box of strawberries or tomatoes is great fun. If you do, beanstalks are always a crowd pleaser, or if you have the space, how about planting an apple or a plum tree this year?

There's a seed swap at Alice Park Community Garden on Sunday 7th March from 11-2pm. Bring along any unwanted seeds to swap, or buy some for a small donation. They will have all the allotment classics, as well as heritage & more unusual varieties for a bit of inspiration: <https://stayhappening.com/e/seed-swap-sunday-E2ISTFRNA6V>

Liz Rees



MESSAGE FROM THE PTFA....

Dear Parents/Carers and Friends,

Not quite the start to 2021 that we had all hoped for...we understand these last couple of months have been particularly tough and no matter what each of our circumstances are we are all feeling the strain but all doing a great job! Hang in there, 8th of March is just around the corner so just remember to be kind to yourself, we can only do our best given the situation we all find ourselves in. In preparation for the return to school we thought we would get started with fundraising and supporting each other!

World Book Day READATHON...

With world book day coming up we thought it would be appropriate to get the children all motivated and excited about reading whilst also getting involved to raise funds for the new library and some more books at the school. Details will follow with instructions about the sponsored readathon, so get ready to get reading and start pestering your family and friends for sponsorship.... WATCH THIS SPACE!

2nd Hand Uniform Sale – Deadline 12th March...

We will run a similar format of the uniform sale we held towards the end of last year, send in your request to katja.nagle@gmail.com before 12th March and we will bag up your requests (if we have it in stock) to distribute the following week. If you urgently need something before 8th drop us an email and we will try help as much as we can.

Due to storage space we are ONLY accepting uniform donations of the following items that we are very low in stock;

- Green fleeces
- All School logo items
- Any clothing of ages 10+

Everything must be in good condition please! Just email us with your requests with your contact details. We will place prices on the PTFA FB & Insta pages.

AmazonSmile & Easyfundraising...

We appreciate that shopping local, with our independent stores is important especially in the current climate. We also know that for ease and speed many of us turn to Amazon. Simply go to

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1116465-0>

And don't forget Easyfundraising for all your high street purchases and online groceries!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ststephenspribath/?invite=YHM3U5&referral-campaign=s2s>

Other ideas & PTFA Lottery...

We have been given the idea from a parent to run a monthly SSS PTFA lottery, where a draw will be held every month with 50% of ticket sales revenue going to the monthly prizes and 50% going towards the PTFA. The aim is to have at least 100 monthly tickets sold at £2 to £5 per ticket? We thought we would ask for feedback from parents if you would like to be a part of this? What you would be prepared to pay monthly? And if you have any concerns? Please drop us an email with any feedback. Also if you have any ideas for fundraising in the current climate that you would like to help run, your support and ideas are much appreciated.

PTFA Chairs Handover...with the library funds almost there, the time has come for us to step down and hand over the PTFA chair reigns. It would be great to continue supporting the new Chairs over the next few months. If you would like to step up with a friend or team of friends, or take on the challenge yourself, then drop us an email and we can tell you more about it! PTA@ststephens.bwmat.org

Thanks, stay safe and see you all on 8th March passing by the school gates with big smiles on our faces!

Karin and Sam