

Governors' Newsletter - December 2009

Dear Parents,

We are nearly at the end of Term 2 and I know how busy and excited the children will be in the next two weeks as they celebrate the birth of Christ.

The Performance Management Panel, with the support of our school's improvement partner (SIP) conducted the headteacher's appraisal. The SIP has also visited us twice over the past year and scrutinised the planning and teaching of all the staff and checked the progress of the children and the leadership of the school. The school's results data, too, was put under the microscope and I am delighted that St Stephen's school was awarded a category 1 "outstanding." This was a worthy result for such hard work and dedication from all the staff.

At this time of year, the Admissions Panel has the difficult job of reviewing its policy. Last year we were aware of a problem in the older years when a sibling was unable to gain a place: it went instead to a Church child. We know that many parents were unhappy about this, as were the governors. We listened to you and we have changed the order of the criteria, putting siblings above the Church children. The Church attendance definition has also been altered slightly: children now have to attend Church at least twice a month and also live more locally. This new policy comes in to effect for Reception children in 2011 and for older children ("In-year admissions") from 2010. The full policy will be put on our web site, www.st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk very soon.

This term, the IT committee has been looking at ways to keep our children safe from cyber bullying and has been working in partnership with Mrs Russell on this important issue.

Our breakfast club has seen a small but sustainable growth in its numbers and I know what a great help this is to parents who avail themselves of this provision.

We continue to work in partnership with the headteacher, all the staff and of course, you, the parents.

All the governors join with me in wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mrs Judy Palmer (Chair of Governors)

St Stephen's CEVA Primary school.

Admissions to Reception from 1st September 2011

Admissions for "In Year" Admissions from 1st August 2010

Here is a summary of the proposed changes to the admissions procedure which you need to be aware about.

- Applications must be submitted to the Local Authority by the closing date of **15th January, 2011**. Parents can either use the Local Authority's On Line application facility or can complete the Local Authority's common application form
- The order of preference has changed. It is now:
 1. Children in care
 2. Siblings
 3. Church attendance
 4. Distance

In order to have a letter of support from the Church for criterion 3,

1. The children must have been baptised or have had a service of thanksgiving.
2. They or their parents must attend St Stephen's Church at least **twice** a month for a year prior to their application.
3. They must live within 0.6500miles of St Stephen's school.

The full policy will go on the school website:

www.st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk