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@StStephensPri



## Newsletter 19

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

# St Stephen's Primary Church School

### Happy Friday!

**Date for re-opening...** As you will be aware, the government have said that it is possible that schools may start to re-open fully from 8<sup>th</sup> March. At this point, we have no further information and would not like to speculate on what that will look like, however please be assured that we are keen to get everyone back together in school as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, thank you for your positive feedback about the learning in school and at home. I am delighted with how children, staff and of course parents have made the adjustment. With just two weeks until half term, and now knowing that we won't be back to 'normal' after the holiday, we are looking ahead to the next few weeks to make sure we can continue to keep up the engagement and enthusiasm from our home learners and will be in touch with more details soon.

**Taking care...** We know it is tough at the moment. If you are worried about the progress your child is making at home or are struggling to keep them engaged please try to remember that, even including last summer term, this is a relatively short interruption to their overall education. Our teachers are trying to keep them engaged from our end, and you are doing your best at your end. Some days though, that may not be enough so please give yourself the licence to prioritise your well-being and that of your child and allow yourselves some time out when needed. If that means lessons are missed while you read a book together on the sofa, watch a funny programme together or they immerse themselves in something for the afternoon so that you can get on with what you need to do... then so be it. Once we are back together, our usual teaching, interventions and catch-up curriculums will kick back in. In the meantime, let's keep working together to keep everyone as well and happy as possible.

**Goodbye...** I am sad to be sharing that Mrs Pyatt has decided that the time is right for her to leave St Stephen's. After 10 years at the school as a member of staff and many more as a parent, it is really sad to be saying goodbye to Felicity. Working in Reception has meant that the vast majority of children have come to know and love her at the very start of their St Stephen's story and she will be greatly missed both for her care of our children and for her contribution to the St Stephen's staff team. She will be popping back in to say goodbye properly once we are all back together but in the meantime I know you will join me in wishing Felicity lots of love and luck for the future.

**Amazing Maths...** We always like to celebrate out of school achievements so wanted to give Femi in year 6 a mention for his fantastic exam result recently. As part of an out of school programme of work, he tackled maths GCSE and did really well! We are very proud of the resilience and determination he has shown. Well done Femi!

Have a wonderful weekend, Andy Bowman

*Love*

*Courage*

*Creativity*

*Joy*



## Norland College is looking for new placement families...

If you need an extra pair of hands, you may be interested in hosting a Norland student placement. We're looking for families to support our students on their daily and residential placements in Spring and Summer 2021. If you live within an hour's drive of the Bath area and have a child under the age of two years who is at home full-time with you, you could be eligible. All placements are subject to government Covid guidance.

Are you or someone you know interested?

Get in touch by emailing [placements@norland.ac.uk](mailto:placements@norland.ac.uk) to find out more information.

## Online Drum Lessons

If your child has been inspired to take up a new instrument why not check out our amazing Drum teacher, Mr Jordan Calvert. His drum kit and percussion lessons are available to book remotely whilst in lockdown. There are spaces for drum lessons throughout the day on Wednesdays as well as evenings and weekends. All you need to start is a pair of sticks and perhaps some pots and pans! Full kits and table-top drum pads are also available to hire. Please get in touch with Mr Calvert using this email if you have any questions or queries: [JordanCalvert.drumtuition@gmail.com](mailto:JordanCalvert.drumtuition@gmail.com)

**Climate Corner...** This weekend is the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch - why not take part and spend some time watching the birds which visit your garden. There's everything you need to take part on their website (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>), including a bird identification sheet and loads of other facts, photos and quizzes.

If you want to help our local bird population, and encourage more birds into your garden, you could get the kids to make a simple bird feeder. There are ideas here for making them from recycled materials

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/make-a-bird-feeder-from-recycled-materials>



## Children's Mental Health Week...

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and this year the theme is 'Express Yourself', and we are encouraging everyone to explore the different ways we can express ourselves and creative ways to share our thoughts, feelings and ideas. We will be incorporating some activities and ideas relating to this in school and through home learning from the children's mental health website.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk>



## [Children's Mental Health Week 2021](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

Children's Mental Health Week. Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on 1-7 February 2021. This year's theme is Express Yourself. All of our free resources can be adapted for use in school, for home-schooling, online lessons or independent learning.. Please add the dates to your calendar and sign up for email alerts for the latest Children's Mental Health Week news.

[www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)