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@StStephensPri



Newsletter 24

12th March 2021

St Stephen's Primary Church School

Happy Friday!

Finally this week, the day we were waiting for arrived! It was fantastic to see and hear our children back together on Monday and I have to say, they have coped with the transition back extremely well, despite the inevitable anxious feelings that many had. These feelings are to be expected, and staff are very prepared to do whatever we can to help so please keep communicating with your child's teacher if you have any ongoing concerns.

The buzz in school on Monday, as first staff and then children were reunited was incredible and that positivity has definitely carried us through. We had a few tired children this morning though, so the weekend has arrived just in time!

Mrs Francis... I am sad to be letting you know that after 17 years, the wonderful Mrs Francis will be leaving us at Easter to begin a very well-deserved retirement. Mrs Francis is a talented, caring and very skilful teaching assistant who has worked with approximately 1000 children in the time she has been here. Her contribution and dedication to our school family during her time here has been incredible, making it all the harder for us to say goodbye. However, a well-earned retirement beckons and I know you will join me in wishing her lots of love, luck and happiness for her future.

Mrs Gunning... I am sad to also be letting you know that after much deliberation, Mrs Gunning has also decided to retire this year. It is hard to imagine St Stephen's without Mrs Gunning. She is the longest standing member of staff, having been here for an incredible 30 years! She has shown such love for our school family and has dedicated her working life to our school and the children in it. It is such a shame that the pandemic has disrupted the final weeks of her time with us but as soon as restrictions allow, we will be welcoming her back so that she can see the children and we can send her off with how much we all love her ringing loudly in her ears! I will let you know when this will be, nearer the time.

Comic Relief... is next Friday and to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible, we will unfortunately not be able to allow children to bring in red noses and other merch, including t-shirts. Teachers will be acknowledging the day in class and there may be a few fun and funny activities lined up. If you wish to donate to this excellent cause, please do so via the charity's own donation methods. Thank you for your understanding.

Well done Laurie... Last Friday, Laurie in Year 5 did us all proud by taking part in the Big Bath Sleep Out. In his back garden rather than the usual venue of Alice Park, Laurie and his brother Isaac braved the cold and made it through the night! In doing so, Laurie and his family have raised at least £300 for Julian House. This is a brilliant effort Laurie – very well done!

Thank you for a lovely first week of the new chapter. Have a lovely weekend,
Andy Bowman

Love

Courage

Creativity

Joy



PTA NEWS... Just a short message to say thank you to everyone who has already handed in their sponsorship & reading challenge forms. We know after the manic first week back at school it's been a bit full on so we will be extending the hand in date to **Monday 15th!** If you have already handed in your form you can simply print out another form keep adding to your points over the weekend!

We've had a great response to the PTA monthly lottery, details of which will be out next month! Thank you to those who have already said they will take part.

Last chance to email katja.nagle@gmail.com with your uniform requests please.

Thank you for your support! And wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Karin & Sam

Climate Corner... It's time to have a rummage around for those National Book Tokens from last week, we've got some great recommendations for how to spend them. There are so many brilliant nature and climate themed books for children out at the moment, but here are our top three:

The multi-award winning *I am the Seed That Grew the Tree*, is a gorgeous collection of illustrated nature poems for children, one for every day of the year. There are old favourites and new discoveries to share at bedtime, or dip into any time of the day.

For non-fiction fans, the *Ecographics* series is hard to beat, with engaging text and illustrations on topics like climate change, pollution and natural resources. Each book is full of mind-bending facts as well as suggestions for how we can look after our planet better.

If picture books are your thing, *When We Went Wild* by Isabella Tree, is an uplifting story about how quickly nature can recover and return when you leave it be. It's the brand new children's version of the bestseller *Wilding*, which tells the true (and amazing) story of how Isabella's family rewilded their vast intensive farm in Sussex, and all the plants and animals that turned up as a result.

You can find them all at Bookshop.org - an ethical (and good value) online retailer which sources from independent bookshops. You can spend your tokens with them and choose which local bookshop you would like to support with your purchases, including Beaufort Bookshop in Larkhall, which is well worth an online browse.

2021-22 Inset Days... Will be as follows:

Thursday 3rd September 2021

Friday 4th September 2021

Monday 1st November 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Monday 6th June 2022