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@StStephensPri



## Newsletter 26

26th March 2021

Happy Friday!

**End of Spring Term...** Firstly, a little reminder that next week is the last week of the Spring term and we break up on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April with Good Friday falling on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. It has been an extraordinary term in so many ways. Our children have done brilliantly and will certainly be ready for a well-deserved rest.

**Phonics Videos...** Following the success of our addition and subtraction maths video guides (still available on our website [here](#)) we have produced a series of video guides to help you support your child with phonics. The videos focus on Phase 5 phonics, which children typically begin in Year 1 and the guides are intended to provide you with the knowledge and terminology to help develop our home-school partnership in this vital area of learning.

The videos can be found [here](#) and are arranged on the page in the order that we teach them in school. We hope you enjoy them and find them useful.

**Year 1...** I just wanted to share this lovely photo of two of our year 1 children finally cracking the code and peering in the case for the first time. They knew that they were going to find something special in there, and sure enough they saw...their reflection! It's all part of 'exploring the wonder of ourselves' in the mental well-being strand of our curriculum.



Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

**Climate Corner...** We all need to reduce the amount of energy we use. There is, however, an easy way to start - we often don't realise just how much we're wasting. At school we're on the road to addressing our energy usage with the help of EnergySparks (you can see how we're doing at <https://energysparks.uk/schools/st-stephen-s-church-school>).

So now it's our turn. Why not sit down as a family and look at your gas and electricity bills together so you know exactly how much you're using (and spending!)? Then set yourselves the challenge of finding ways to reduce this by 10%. There are loads of simple wins – switching appliances off at the socket, turning down your heating by 1°, and switching all light bulbs to LED's are some ideas to get you going. Getting the kids involved might even mean they remember to switch the light off when they leave a room!! The Energy Saving Trust have loads of info about reducing energy usage at home – [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

Year 5 have been enjoying finding out about where our energy comes from, and the impact different types can have on the world and our carbon footprint. For an extra win, switching your energy supplier to one that's 100% renewable is a super easy way to reduce yours. (check out Good energy or Green Energy UK)



## DoodleMaths News!...

Between the 1st of April and the 30th April, DoodleMaths will be running a Spring Challenge - the DoodleMaths Challenge! The Challenge encourages children to use Doodle for a few minutes each day, helping them to rebuild their confidence and get back on track in their learning. Best of all, those who take part can earn a free pin badge and certificate!

From the 1st of April, visit [parents.doodlemaths.com](https://parents.doodlemaths.com) and press Register next to your child's name.

Then, encourage your child to earn 450 stars (or 350 stars if they were born on or after 01/09/13) and achieve a 7-day streak in DoodleMaths. Once they've reached their target, you'll be able to claim their reward by logging in to the Dashboard and pressing Claim reward.

Also, after Easter the DoodleMaths trophy is returning in school! Each week your class teacher will choose one child from the 'green zone' that they think are worthy of the trophy.

Trophies will be awarded to one child each week. Winners will be posted in the newsletter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Happy Doodling!

Carol Foster

## Diary Dates Reminder...

### April

1<sup>st</sup> – End of Term 4

19<sup>th</sup> – Term 5 begins

### May

27<sup>th</sup> – End of Term 5 for pupils

28<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day

### June

7<sup>th</sup> – Term 6 begins

### July

21<sup>st</sup> – Last day of Term 6

## 2021-22 Inset Days...

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022