

Newsletter No:5 – February 2017

Creativity, Independence and Respect

Dear Parents

We welcome all the children back for the second half of the school year. It's wonderful to see that the days are getting lighter and what appears to be an unseasonably early spring! We have an exciting half term ahead with performances at the Gulbenkian Theatre, World Book Day, sports competitions and our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake race.

It is interesting to see in the media the challenges faced by our colleagues in the health services. We should remind parents of the pressures we also face in the education sector. We too have difficulty in recruiting teachers. Several years ago we would see 30-40 applications for each teaching vacancy, now if we are lucky, we will only get 2 or 3 applicants for a teaching post. We are also seeing a real cut for the third year in a row to our school budgets of between 5-8%. This is due to additional costs being charged to schools for National Insurance and pension contributions. We also expect to see additional charges for our business rates. I believe we all recognise that quality education is not sustainable without enough financial support from central government.

We are sad to see the departure of our colleague Katy Brooks from the Infant school. We would like to assure parents that we work very closely with our Infant school seeking to provide an excellent education for the children at both our schools. We do seek to make the transition to the Junior school as best as we possibly can for the children and to maintain positive links between both schools. With this in mind we are delighted to be working with the infant school on several projects including an evening of dance and music at the Gulbenkian Theatre. We are looking forward to working with Alice Edgington, staff and children at the Infant school over the next few months.

Yours faithfully

Mr S. Pywell

Executive Headteacher

Sporting Congratulations

Well done to our Tennis Team (Ben Gusic-Wan, Cameron Grieve, Athena Martin and Nobel George) who were awarded Team of the Year at The Canterbury School Sports Partnership Awards Evening at Canterbury High on 9th February.

Congratulations also go to our Lower School athletics team who have qualified for The Kent School Games Final in

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day in school on Thursday 2nd March and children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book which they can bring along with them should they own a copy. We look forward to some wonderful book characters arriving at school.

Secondary School – 2017

Please note that Year 6 parents who applied on-line will be informed as to their child's allocated school by e-mail after 4pm on Wednesday 1st March. All parents will also be notified by letter which is sent by first class post on Wednesday 1st March.

SATS – Year 6

Week commencing 8th May 2017

Can we please ask parents to ensure that their child attends school unless they are unwell.

Spring Concert

We are all looking forward to our Spring Concert, which is taking place on Friday 24th March. A separate letter will be coming out shortly with final details. We hope you can come along to this popular evening.

Breakfast/After School Club

Availability is limited in both clubs with only a few spaces on a Thursday and Friday. As a club, we offer a wide variety of interesting activities for the children throughout the year, including using our school field for outside activities in the warmer months. If you are interested, please contact Ruth Gough by email:

rgough@ststephensjuniorschool.co.uk for more information. Details can also be found on the school website.

Leaflets/Fliers

Please could we ask parents to refrain from handing out fliers/leaflets to other parents whilst on the school grounds.

Sainsburys Vouchers

We are once again collecting these vouchers. If you have any at home please drop them into the School Office.

TERM DATES 2017

Thursday 2nd March

Friday 3rd March

Monday 6th March

Tuesday 7th March

Thursday 16th March

Friday 17th March

Friday 24th March

Friday 24th March

Friday 24th March

Friday 31st March

Friday 31st March

Monday 3rd April – Monday 17th April

World Book Day

Beech Class Assembly

Parents Evening

Parents Evening

Music & Dance Festival at The Gulbenkian

Ash Class Assembly

Red Nose Day

Elm Class Assembly

Spring Concert (more details to follow)

Bay Class Assembly

Last Day of Term 4

Easter Holidays