

Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

21st July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The summer term seems to have hurtled to an end bringing to a conclusion the first full school year of normality post-pandemic. It has been so wonderful to have a full return to school activities with swimming lessons, sports matches, a full trips schedule, full school class assemblies, concerts and visiting inspirational speakers. Even the weather couldn't put a dampener on the summer BBQ!

I would like to thank the whole school community for the support you have given the school this year, whether you have been in to hear children read, helped on trips, volunteered your time at FOSS events, donated generously to the school fund, sent messages of thanks and support – the backing you give to the school is always much appreciated.

There has been so much to celebrate this year:

- Our year 6 children have achieved incredible SATS results, and their smiling faces and quiet confidence displayed at the leavers service was lovely to see.
- The children have had sporting success; in particular winning our category (2 form entry) for Borough Sports (a fitting final accolade for Mr Downes!).
- We had a very successful audit of our Early Reading Provision following the implementation of the Little Wandle Programme.
- Our computing link with Orleans Park School has gone from strength to strength.
- External consultants have reviewed and complimented our Art and Maths curriculums.
- Our links with Richmond Music Trust and further development of our music curriculum.
- Successful implementation of the Stars provision.

As Governors, this year has brought substantial challenge, not least of which has been the difficult financial constraints imposed on us. I collaborated with 18 other Chairs of Governors from Richmond & Kingston to sign a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for Education this week outlining our concerns. Whilst we are fortunate that St Stephen's is not yet facing the decisions some other schools are, we are working very hard to generate income for the school as well as reducing our costs in order to sustain our current provision. Although we are always sad when staff leave, it has enabled us to review and re-structure the Senior Leadership Team to deliver a more cost-efficient staffing model for the future.

To the children that are leaving this week, after reading the pledges year 6 made as part of their leavers service, I am confident that your legacy of change will make the world a better place. (If you missed the leavers service, I highly recommend watching their pledges <https://twitter.com/StStephensCofE/status/1681713706663542802?s=20>). We look forward to seeing and hearing about the great things that you will achieve in the future as part of our wider community.

Keeping to the theme of legacy of change, I would like to invite parents to come to the school at 7.30pm on the 4th October for a Vision meeting where the Governors along with the Senior Leadership team will present our Vision for St Stephen's for the coming years.

If you are leaving St Stephen's this week, I wish you every happiness for the future. I hope you all have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing many of you when school returns in September.

With Best Wishes,



Alice Bishop
Chair of Governors

If you have not already committed to donating to the St Stephen's School Trust, and are able to do so, please do consider doing so now. Over the coming months and years, the school will need extra donations in order to sustain the current provision to children.

How to donate to the St Stephen's School Trust:

Invest my Community: <https://app.investmycommunity.com/st-stephens-school-trust-2695>

PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3138736> please also click link in PayPal to boost your donation by adding gift aid.