



Dear Parents and carers,

When all the children returned to school on 8th March, it was wonderful to see the building filled with joy and laughter once again. We have all thoroughly enjoyed being back together. The sunshine and warmth has been such a relief this week - certainly a signal of fun times ahead and a taste of normality.

We have taken time this week to reflect on our experiences over the last 12 months. Despite difficult times, there have been so many achievements of which to feel proud. We have all learned so much (adults and children alike!) and many of these lessons will be carried forward into our future practice. The whole community has truly come together for the good of our children and achieved so much at such a difficult time. We wanted to extend our thanks, once again, for your kindness, generosity and unrelenting support.

The children have returned with enthusiasm and ready to learn. However, we do understand that, for some families, this has not been a smooth transition. We have appreciated the openness with which families have approached these difficulties, which has allowed us to provide support quickly. Please continue to keep in touch with us around these matters and we will always do our utmost to support you.

In the last couple of weeks, our staff have been busily working with their classes to work out what knowledge they have retained from their lockdown learning. We are so delighted with the children's progress and we are now planning specific next steps for them. Please take a moment to have a look at your child's [year group overviews on our website](#). Please note, some topics may have been moved around to fit lockdown learning, but the topics for the year remain the same. In the Summer term, we are looking forward to taking the children on trips to support their learning - watch this space for updates.

In addition to the exciting curriculum offer, we will be celebrating our St Stephen's World Book Day on Wednesday 5th May. You may remember, we changed the date so that we would all be back at school. We invite all children to dress up as their favourite book character - so wanted to give you plenty of notice to think about this over the holidays! There will be lots of fun class-based activities, including a classic poetry recital for all children.

As we approach summer, we are hoping to review our current risk assessment procedures and possibly ease some of the restrictions. We have taken the decision to wait until after the Easter holidays in order to make an informed decision. In the second week of Summer Term, we will communicate any changes. Thank you in advance for your patience.

We would like to gently remind you that we will expect a return to full school uniform on 20th April, including shoes.

Finally, we encourage you and your children to take a well-deserved rest over the school holidays.

Take time to enjoy the spring weather and the company of others (outside!).

Happy Easter from St. Stephen's School