



St. Stephen's C.E. Primary School

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Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I've delayed writing this letter as I couldn't quite believe we would make it to the end of term with every class still in school!

I want to start my letter by thanking you for the support that you have shown the school and staff at St Stephen's, in particular by testing your children for Covid when asked to, particularly over the past couple of weeks. This has helped minimise the impact of the pandemic, enabling every class to remain in school and to protect the community. The many messages of support that you have sent have also been greatly appreciated by the staff. I also want to acknowledge the staff who, without exception, have worked extraordinarily hard returning to "normal" this term and helping the children close the gaps caused by covid. I wish to express my enormous gratitude to every member of staff for their dedication and commitment.

It has been lovely this term for the governing body to spend time in school with the children and to have face-to-face discussions with staff regarding their ambitious plans for the curriculum and the further development of the global citizenship programme. We are also so pleased that as parents and carers you have also been able to return to school for class assemblies, helping in the library and on school trips and had the opportunity to attend the Reception Nativity and the FOSS events! It has been wonderful to attend full school assemblies and to see the return of the happy hustle and bustle of school life.

I was also delighted to see St Stephen's recognised again at a national level in the Sunday Times Parent Power Tables with our school ranked 216th in the country out of over 15,000 primary schools. Whilst this is a drop from last year, this year's ranking was calculated from a three-year average of academic outcomes in 2019, 2018, 2017 and so doesn't reflect the year-on-year improvement that St Stephen's has achieved.

Whilst we don't yet know what 2022 will bring in terms of the impact of Covid restrictions or large-scale absences, St Stephen's is committed to ensuring that it does whatever it can to remain open and offer the children not only the full curriculum but as many learning experiences as possible.

I wish you and those you care about a happy, peaceful and covid free Christmas and New Year!

Best Wishes,

Alice Bishop
Chair of Governors.

Like many other schools, businesses and individuals in the current situation, St Stephen's has suffered a significant loss of income from lettings which has been compounded by increased costs to ensure the safety of the children and staff. 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.

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

Via Invest my Community:

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

Via PayPal – please also click link in PayPal to boost your donation by adding gift aid:

<https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3138736>