



# ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

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*Creativity, Independence, Respect*



# Welcome to Our School

## School Council

At St. Stephen's Junior School members of the school council take their responsibilities very seriously. We gather ideas and help make decisions about ways that we can improve our school and make it a happier place to be. We have discussions with our classes and all of the children can make suggestions to put forward for the School Council to discuss. Here are some ideas that we have initiated in School:

- Our Community Lunch – We invite our elderly neighbours to lunch and wait at the tables. We also perform music, singing and dancing for them to enjoy after their cooked lunch.
- We come up with ideas to improve our school – A school magazine, questionnaire for children, ideas for different clubs.
- We hold charity events for people in the local community with ideas for how to improve the environment.

We help children who are less fortunate than we are. eg, The Shoebox appeal.



## Message from the Head:

Welcome to St. Stephen's Junior School. We hope that this will be the beginning of a fruitful partnership between our school, your children and family.

We are a great school; we offer children a fantastic set of opportunities for learning and developing, we have some terrific teachers and some charismatic children. Our Headteacher is a National Leader of Education and we are a National Leading School, one of only a select few in southern England, working with other schools both in and out of Kent.

St. Stephen's Junior is a large, friendly, well resourced school located on a fantastic site close to the city centre. We are committed to providing a high quality education for all children. We believe in offering children opportunities to develop their core values of creativity, independence, respect and consideration. We believe the more opportunities we can offer children, the more children will be empowered, the more they will learn and the more they will want to work hard.

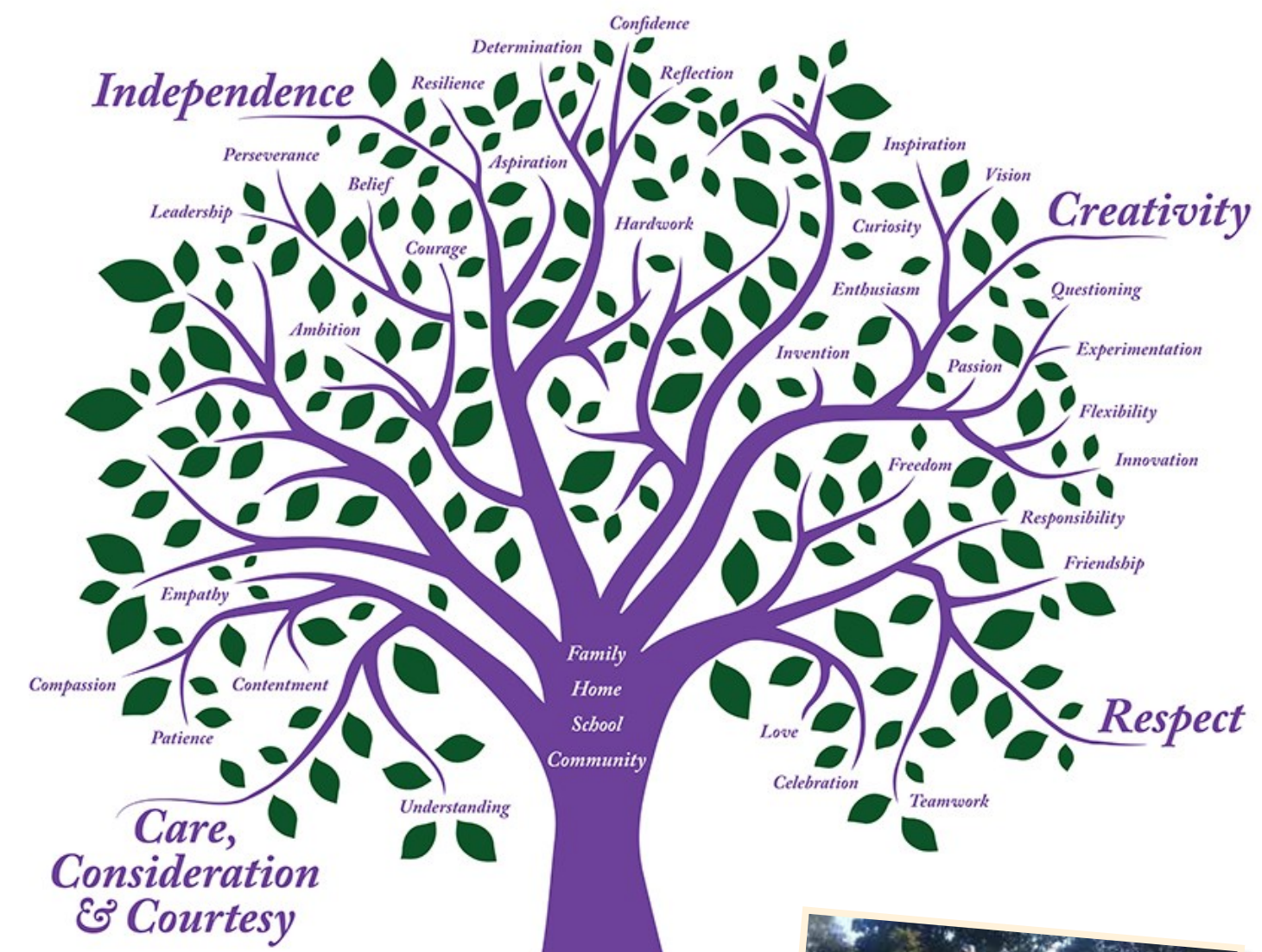
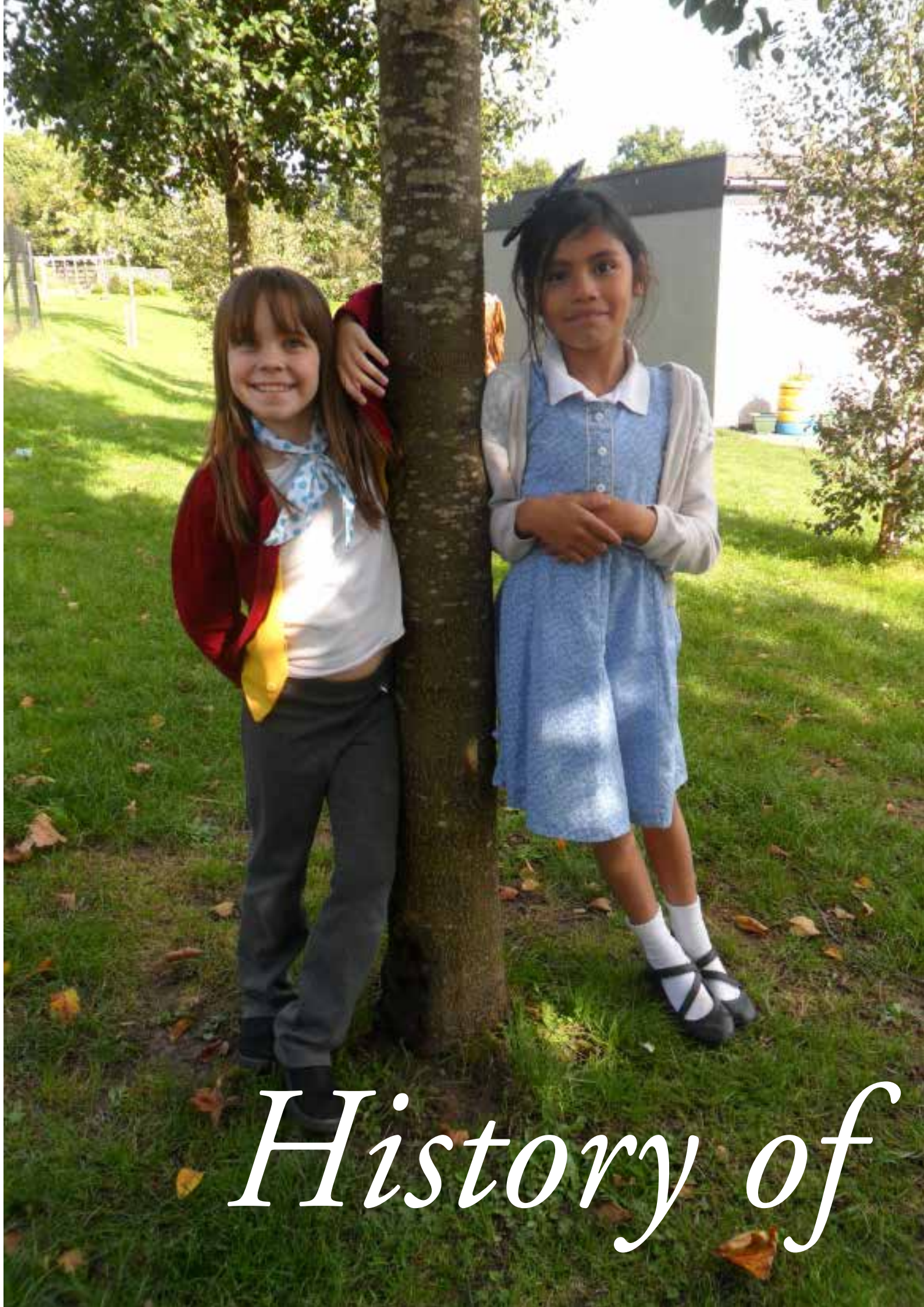
At school we recognise the individuality of all children as well as their unique skills and needs. We encourage all children to achieve their full potential and maximise their unique talents. We believe that hard work and commitment to learning is the key to success. Through hard work all children can achieve their potential, whether it is in maths, music, dance, sport or reading.

At St. Stephen's we have a well equipped and "outstanding" Day Nursery, Breakfast and After School Club. These provide invaluable learning opportunities as well as a support for parents. Parents and families are also well supported by our Family Learning Manager and Family Liaison Officer.

We are all very proud of our school. We see ourselves as a team that has high aspirations, expectations and achievements.







For over 150 years, St. Stephen's Junior School has held a central place in the local community.

The original school building, founded by the Reverend John White in 1848, was located on St. Stephen's Green. The school moved to it's present location in 1952. At this time it was a mixed infant and junior school, with 305 children and just nine members of staff. The separate infant school opened in 1971.

Since 1995, extensions have been made to our Year 3 and Year 5 areas, and a new ICT suite was added in 2004. A purpose built nursery was opened on site in May 2009, providing high quality day care for children aged between three months and five years. The Phil Munson Sports Hall and dance studio were opened in November 2009 by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent.

In 2014 the School expanded to a four form entry with the erection of a spacious and well equipped modular unit to accommodate Year 6 in preparation for moving to secondary school. As a result, our classes are smaller than average 25+, allowing more individual attention for each child.

# History of the School



## *Numeracy and Mathematics*

At St. Stephen's, children's mathematical skills are developed through discussion, investigation, practical activities, problem solving and ICT.

Children are taught to visualise problems using the "Singapore math" bar model in order to help them understand how to solve word problems. Children are encouraged to practise their multiplication tables frequently and earn badges as they work their way towards being a 'Grand Master of Multiplication'.

## *Science*

At St. Stephen's we believe in a practical engaging hands on approach to science. Along with guided activities we encourage children to create their own investigations and experiments to lead their own learning. By creating their own investigations, the children develop key scientific skills as well as developing their scientific knowledge. This approach is supported by the National Curriculum, which highlights the importance of practical activities in science education.

We encourage your children to learn by playing interactive science games. If you know of any other games that you feel may be beneficial to the learning of science please to submit a link to our 'Contact Us' page on our website. We will investigate it and may add the resource link to this page.

## *Information and Communication Technology*

We are a well resourced school, with different technologies available to enhance learning across the curriculum. Our children have access to both laptops and i-Pads, giving them opportunities to develop their skills using different devices; this is important for an ever changing technological society. Pupils are taught computing skills, such as coding, in discrete computing lessons.

We help our children to understand how to stay safe when using the Internet, and instill in them a sense of responsibility so that they become respectful future members of an ever expanding online community.

## *Literacy - Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening*

Through a rich variety of stories, films and non-fiction texts, children are encouraged to use language creatively to express their ideas, opinions and feelings. St. Stephen's Junior School places a great emphasis on reading, which helps to expand vocabulary and open children's minds to new worlds. Our well stocked library and enthusiastic Reading Co-ordinator ensure that children have access to an impressive range of high quality books.

Numerous events are planned to inspire a love of reading, including weekly storytelling sessions, author visits and regular costumed book days. Throughout the school year, exciting topics and 'enrichment weeks' provide imaginative contexts for writing. Strategies for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar are taught, and children are supported in editing and improving their own writing. The ability to read, write and communicate empowers our children for their future.

# *Our Curriculum*





## *Performing Arts*

Our children experience the Arts through festivals, performances and workshops.



We hold weekly class assemblies where children have the chance to sing, dance and act in front of their parents and the school, as well as special performances at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Every year 6 child takes part in the end of year production, whether it's backstage, singing, dancing, or speaking in the spotlight. The performances, held in a local theatre, are always hugely popular: it is a proud time for everyone! The school has been recognised by the Arts Council of England with an Artsmark Gold.

## *Dance*

The school has a specialist dance teacher, using a variety of stimuli from music to pictures, fantasy, fiction and fact, children explore and develop their creative mobility, confidence and expression. From these early steps many children move on to take part in dance festivals and competitions.



## *Music*

The school week starts with a whole school 'singing assembly' including a wide range of religious, seasonal, educational and popular songs. Each child will have at least one class music lesson each week, and every child is given the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments. We have a thriving school choir, a drumming club, recorder group, and a school orchestra. Children are encouraged to develop their performance skills at concerts and festivals. There are also numerous opportunities for children to have individual



# *Creative Curriculum*



### *Humanities*

Children are encouraged to find out about local and world history using the local environment, artifacts, books, pictures, historical records and the internet. We use role play and interactive activities to bring the past alive and allow children to understand the differences between the past and today.

The children are taught to locate various places, as well as engaging in map reading and using a compass. Issues such as tourism, pollution and climate change are also addressed. Local visits allow children to engage with their immediate environment.



### *Art and Design*

Art is taught as a skills based subject with the children using different mediums, art terminology and techniques as well as looking at their work in context to actual artists, past and present.



### *Cultural Awareness and Languages*

Children have the opportunity to gain a good basis in several European languages. They will experience language and culture in a variety of different ways including formal grammar lessons and informal conversations, activities and songs. They will also take part in numerous cultural days, focusing on international music, food, art and literature.



### *Personal, Social, Emotional and Spiritual Education*

Children learn about the key beliefs of different world religions so that they are able to compare, continue, or come to, their own beliefs. We encourage respect and understanding of different faiths.

# *Creative Curriculum*



# Sport and After School Clubs

## After School Clubs

St. Stephen's offer a fantastic range of after school activities providing new and exciting opportunities for all children. These range from the traditional football, netball, cricket, basketball and Rugby to less accessed sports like handball and squash. We also offer choices in The Arts with Art, Dance, Music and language clubs. A Homework Club is offered every day for those children who require extra support.



## Sport

Sport is an important part of school life at St. Stephen's Junior School and the important role that it plays in the development of young people. We use this to promote our core values of independence, creativity and respect. We pride ourselves on:

- Giving all children a broad and balanced sports curriculum that is inclusive, motivating and fun.
- Offering a range of sports clubs that will give pupils the chance to participate in sports that they would not normally play.
- Taking part in inter-school competitions where children will have the opportunity to take part in healthy competition.
- Organising inter-school competitions to teach children the importance of teamwork.

Our sports curriculum focuses on one specific area every term. Each area will contain certain transferable skills, designed to give children a chance to access a variety of sports.

We run an ongoing house competition that links to the sport curriculum; we organise lunch time activities (like the incredibly successful World Cup Football Tournament); we try our best to highlight those children who succeed in sport out of school hours and finish it all off with an upper school swimming gala and whole school sports day in term 6.





## *Before and After School Care*

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am to 8.45am daily, offering children a substantial, healthy breakfast. (7.30am start also available)

There are a variety of activities and games to keep the children busy until school begins at 8.45am.

## *Acorns*

The Acorns Day Nursery is open for 51 weeks of the year, and offers places for babies and children up to school age. The Nursery is situated in large grounds and children are cared for in purpose-built rooms which cater for different ages and stages of development.

In partnership with parents we aim to encourage and support children to explore and discover the fascinating world around them. We provide plenty of stimulation and lots of challenging age appropriate activities in a deeply caring and safe environment.



*“Children thrive in the exceptionally stimulating environment”.*

*“Children demonstrate they feel safe, secure, confident and happy as they thrive in the company of their friends and adults in the nursery”*

Ofsted - 2013

## *After School Club*

**After School Club opens Monday to Friday 3.00 - 6.00pm**

A light tea is offered from a tasty and varied menu, and drinks are available throughout. We offer a safe, fun and friendly environment with a wide range of activities suitable for children across the age range. These include art and craft, physical games, iPads, film night, quizzes and competitions and a quiet area should your child wish to take it easy!

## *School Meals*

Fully qualified catering staff organise and prepare the highest quality in school meals, offering a well balanced and nutritional variety of daily meals.

Meals are freshly prepared and are cooked on site using fresh ingredients which are locally sourced where possible.

The kitchen organise theme days, allowing children to experience new dishes and develop their awareness of foods from around the world. Children are taught basic cookery skills by our catering team and learn how to cook simple recipes that they can use at home.

As a healthy school, all children learn about making healthy food choices and milk and fruit is freely available to all pupils at morning, break and lunchtime.



# *Wider Opportunities*





# Beyond the Classroom

## Library

We have a well stocked, computerised Library open for all children at lunchtimes and after school. Our knowledgeable Reading Co-ordinator is always on hand to assist children with their questions and choices.

Our Family Reading Club runs every day between 3.00 and 4.00pm in the library. The library offers many activities such as lunchtime reading groups, a 'Read 2 Dogs' reading scheme, and the kindle club.



## Choir

At St. Stephen's Junior School the choir meets every week and are challenged with new songs each term. There is a strong emphasis on musicianship and professionalism within the choir and the children work to a high standard throughout the year.

Our choirs take part in some great events including the 'Canterbury Big Sing' at the Marlowe Theatre, a performance in Canterbury Cathedral and various Community Lunches held within the school each term. The numerous performances through the year help to build the children's confidence and performance skills.

## Family Support

St. Stephen's Junior School nurtures the links between families and School life by the support of our Family Learning Manager and Family Liaison Officer. Available daily to talk to parents, our Family Learning Manager can help children and families overcome barriers to children's learning. We offer a range of pastoral support sessions for children either 1:1 or in small groups who are experiencing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. Our Family Liaison Officer also organises events, fundraising and trips, and is an important contact for financial matters too.

## Festivals

St. Stephen's are passionate about participating in local events and festivals. One of our favourite events is The St. Nicholas Parade at Christmas time, where schools parade through the town following St. Nicholas who is welcomed to Canterbury. We take singers, drummers and dancers for the parade and celebrate the arrival of St. Nicholas in style.





# School Trips

*This is a snapshot of our children enjoying some of the many school trips we offer ranging from local visits to the Cathedral to skiing in Italy!*







*We feel genuinely happy to have our children at St. Stephen's Junior School. As well as being looked after academically to an incredibly high standard they are offered such a wide variety of other activities to develop them beyond academia.*

*I asked the children "what is the best thing about this school?". They all agreed that it is "because it has the nicest teachers who sort everything out when you're upset".*

*As parents we have been continuously impressed with St. Stephen's Junior School. Freya has done so well the last two years and has had fantastic teachers helping her along the way.*

*The extra curricular activities are fantastic and Freya has enjoyed some memorable experiences such as skiing in Italy and performing in dance.*



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