



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

We Model What We Value

School News

July 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting term with so many activities and events. Some of the highlights included the Year 6 Challenger Troop, where we so impressed and proud at the conduct of our Year 6 students. They proved to us that they were ready for all the challenges of secondary school, showing incredible teamwork, resilience and independence. We couldn't be prouder of how far they have come in their journey and were equally impressed by their performance during production. Well done Year 6, to both staff and children! We wish our Year 6 children all the very best as they leave us and move on to secondary school.

We all enjoyed a fabulous, extremely well organised Sports Day that was fully inclusive and fun for the children to take part in. As well as production, residential and sports day our younger children have enjoyed a variety of trips. Children are now meeting their new teachers and we are holding a variety of transition sessions so that children feel safe and comfortable on their return to school in September. Please do keep an eye out for Parentmail which will detail the arrangements for the first day back to school. We wish all our school community a wonderful Summer break and we thank you for your continued support during this academic year.

Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney Headteachers

Pupil Voice – as well as asking staff and parents for their feedback we also make sure that we ask our pupils their thoughts:

What do you love about our school?

It's colourful and welcoming

I am excited to go in my classroom to learn lots of different things.

When people come here they feel like they belong.

I like maths because the teachers make it fun.

I like the spaces to play – the field and the land around us

I like the Headteachers ice cream on a Wednesday

I like the activities and play equipment at lunchtime

I like watching and joining in with class assemblies.

I like the effort they put into the food in the kitchen it's delicious.

In terms of improvements they told us:

More practical activities in lessons,

Children to be kinder to each other

More Art lessons

A varieties of different things to play with at break/lunch

And of course, lots more!

We will be starting our new term next year with a visit from Andrew Moffat, author of the No Outsiders approach. He will be teaching lessons across the school based on the books we have selected which all represent key themes of identity, belonging and acceptance. We think this will be something that the children will really enjoy as well as ensuring that these vital messages are understood and in place in our school community.



The books below represent the texts that will be covered throughout a pupil's time at SSJS.

Our Festival of books





We have been working towards becoming a Nurture school, which we will apply for over the Summer holidays. The Nurture approach underpins many of the ways of working we have at St. Stephen's Junior School already. Mrs Sazant (SENCO) and Mrs Whatley (SENCO), along with other staff in the school have been focussed on ensuring the principles of nurture are embedded within the school day for all our pupils to support them in navigating the school day.

As our entire school focus is based on ensuring all pupils have a sense of **belonging** in the school, we very much believe that this will be achieved through ensuring the 6 principles of Nurture are in place. We wanted to share these with you and will be sharing further updates as we progress through our Nurture journey.

- 1) Safety – through ensuring calm welcoming environments for our all our pupils, with an emphasis on growing relationships between staff and other pupils and treating each child as an individual, we will continue to ensure all our classrooms are safe spaces for pupils.
- 2) Wellbeing- there is a daily focus on teaching and ensuring wellbeing for all pupils – actively teaching pupils mindfulness and calming techniques as well a relentless focus on positive celebration of pupils.



- 3) Language – we are teaching all our pupils to communicate how they feel and understand their own emotions. There are zones of regulation displays in every classrooms and all pupils have been taught practical strategies to manage their emotions through lessons and assemblies.
- 4) Transitions – we know how important transitions are for pupils and aim to ensure that we give the best opportunities for pupils, whether this is through preparing them for a new class teacher, welcoming them to our school or saying goodbye to pupils and preparing them for secondary school. We also support pupils in a number of ways who find the transition from home to school more challenging.
- 5) Learning – by ensuring that there is provision for all pupils in their classrooms, we support pupils through a number of tailored resources and groups to ensure they can meet their learning potential.
- 6) Behaviour – following the Paul Dix approach for behaviour we know and understand that pupils' behaviour is a way of communicating how they are feeling. We have an unrelenting focus on consistency, support for all parties and education to help pupils manage their behaviour.

Relationships between adults and pupils are a strength. Pupils' well-being is a priority for everyone. Ofsted 2023

Support over the summer!

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Kent



Helping families to flourish

If you are a family in receipt of benefits, there are a range of sports clubs and activities that you can take part in for free :

<https://www.theeducationpeople.org/media/6064/canterbury-summer-2024.pdf>



If you need food over the summer holidays you are able to self-refer to food bank who can support you.

<https://canterburyfoodbank.org/need-food/>

OSI Online Support and Intervention for Child Anxiety



NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust



OSI COULD HELP YOU

OSI (Online Support and Intervention) is an online platform designed to help parents to learn tools and techniques to help their child (aged 5 to 12 years old) to overcome difficulties with anxiety.

Parents work through weekly online modules that contain videos, quizzes, and interactive worksheets. Parents are also supported by a weekly telephone/videocall appointment with a practitioner.

You can access OSI at a convenient time for you using any electronic device!



GET IN TOUCH :

Scan the QR code for more information on OSI.

If your child attends one of our schools, and you are interested in learning more about OSI and whether this is the right support for you, please email our team at: EWTanESTenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk



Best care by the best people

If your child needs some emotional support over the Summer please do have a look at these resources.

YOUNGmINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

There is lots of support around transition for older pupils

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

kooth

Counselling and wellbeing activities are available at Kooth

<https://www.kooth.com/>



Anna Freud

Lots of resources on wellbeing and support. <https://www.annafreud.org/resources/children-and-young-peoples-wellbeing/>

If you have concerns around online safety, please do review our website which has a variety of resources which support children and families to use the internet safely. <https://www.ststephensjuniorschool.co.uk/pupils/e-safety/parent-resources>

Year 3

★ ★ GOOD WORK ★ ★

Amazing puffin sculptures





Pond dipping in Westgate Gardens

Year 5

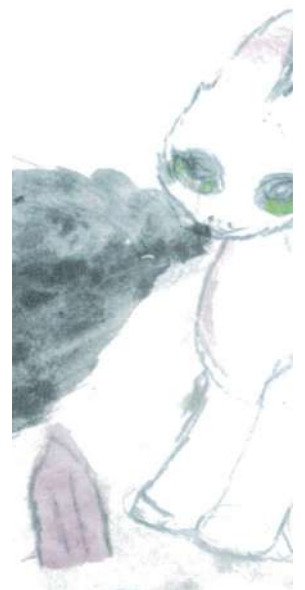
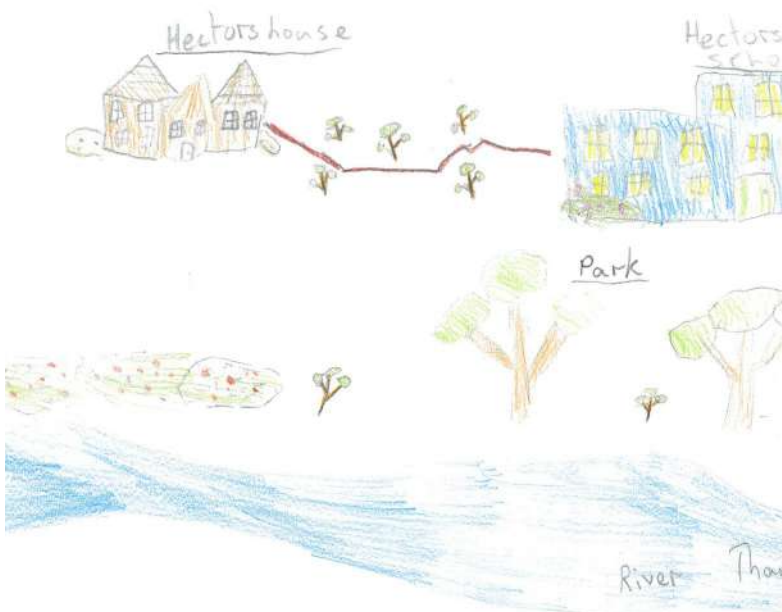
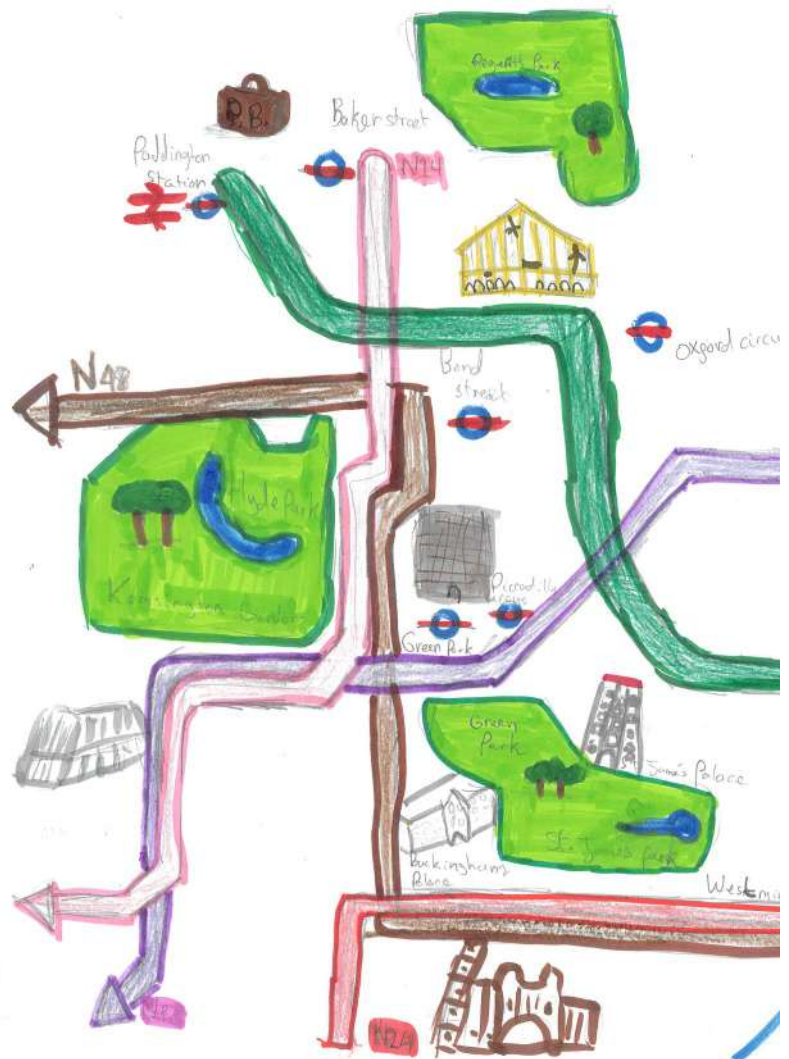


Two story maps linked to The Night Bus Hero by Onjali Q Rauf and dragon watercolour paintings.

Hector pushes the trolley in the lake

Hector helps the police

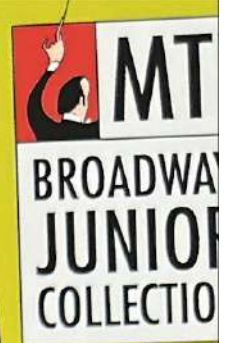
Hector tries to say sorry to Thomas





Year 6

Well done to all of the Year 6 students
and staff for putting on a fantastic show.
A lot of hard work went into this!!



DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS

SHREK

THE MUSICAL JR.

BASED ON THE DREAMWORKS ANIMATION MOTION PICTURE AND THE BOOK BY WILLIAM STEIG

BOOK AND LYRICS BY

**DAVID
LINDSAY-ABAIRE**

MUSIC BY

**JEANINE
TESORI**

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY

**DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS
AND
NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS**

ACTOR'S SOCR