



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

We Model What We Value



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderfully busy and exciting start to the academic year at St Stephen's Junior School. We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 3 pupils, who have settled in brilliantly and are already demonstrating a positive attitude towards learning and school life. This term, we have focused on establishing high expectations for both learning and behaviour across the school. I have been incredibly impressed by the maturity, effort and enthusiasm shown by our pupils as they have embraced these expectations and made a strong start to the year. At the end of the last academic year, parents were invited to complete our annual parent survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views. The results are included within this newsletter and will help shape our future priorities.

We have introduced clear homework expectations because we recognise the vital role that parents play in supporting learning at home. Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Reading Workshop. We look forward to offering further parent workshops throughout the year to help support children's learning and development. We have also included information about PE, sport and personal development so that families can gain a greater understanding of the wide range of opportunities available to our pupils. We are particularly proud of our growing enrichment offer and remain committed to providing experiences that help children develop confidence, resilience, responsibility and kindness. Our children are the future, and we are passionate about ensuring they leave St Stephen's as well-rounded, caring and ambitious young people, ready for the next stage of their journey.

Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney – Co Headteachers

Highlights from the survey include:

- 93%** of parents agree that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn throughout the year, an increase from **88%** last year.
- 93%** of parents agree that pupils can take part in a range of activities at school, maintaining last year's strong result.
- 91%** of parents feel that the school keeps them informed about how their child is doing, a significant increase from **77%** last year.
- 90%** of parents feel their child has a sense of belonging at school, compared to **88%** last year.
- 88%** of parents say their child is happy at school, a slight increase from **87%** last year.
- 84%** of parents agree that their child does well at school, maintaining strong outcomes from last year (**83%**).
- 80%** of parents who reported a bullying concern felt that the school dealt with it effectively, a slight increase from **79%** last year.
- 88%** of parents would recommend St Stephen's Junior School to another family.

As a school, we are always looking to improve. Areas that we will continue to focus on this year include:

- Continuing to develop our wider enrichment and personal development offer and ensuring this communicated with all our families.
- Ensuring that our high expectations for learning and behaviour are consistently understood and experienced by all families.
- Strengthening communication between home and school so that parents feel fully informed and involved in their child's education.

Thank you once again for your continued support. By working together, we can continue to provide the very best experiences and opportunities for all of our children.



Celebrating sport and PE and SSJS!



At SSJS, we are proud of our commitment to PE, sport and physical activity as we work towards achieving another **Gold School Games Mark**. To achieve this award, schools must promote **60 active minutes a day**, participate in a range of **inter-school competitions and festivals**, develop **pupil leadership** through roles such as Sports Crew, and demonstrate an inclusive approach to sport.

Last academic year, our pupils have represented SSJS in a range of competitions including **football, netball, basketball, handball and athletics**, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout. We aim to attend at least **two competitions or festivals each term**, providing opportunities for as many children as possible to represent the school.

Our **Sports Crew and Sports Captains** continued to play a key role in leading activities, supporting events and encouraging participation across the school. Their leadership helps promote physical activity and the School Games values for all pupils. We have just elected our new captains – picture below!

We were also delighted to welcome **Olympic badminton player Helen Olver** and **Deaflympian and England Deaf Futsal player Emma Brown**, who inspired our pupils through workshops and inclusive sporting activities. Funds raised through our successful SSJS Bake-Off helped purchase new football goals and nets, netball posts, PE equipment and playground resources for our Sports Crew.

Alongside competitive sport, we promoted active lifestyles through our **Walk to School Weeks** and a highly successful **Sports Day**, with congratulations going to **Manwood House** for finishing in first place.

We are incredibly proud of the opportunities available to our pupils and look forward to building on another successful year of sport. **Mrs Herst and Miss Reynolds**

This term we attended an Athletics competition ... write up by Ava and Shanice – yr 6

On Tuesday 22nd September 12 children competed in an athletics competition at Canterbury Academy, where they faced 5 or 6 other schools. Their teamwork was amazing. They were cheering other schools “come-on you’ve got this!” we are proud to be 2nd and hope to be 1st next time. We were very tired after we finished and came back to school exhausted! We are very proud of our achievements here our the results- well done team SSJS.

	Girls	Boys
400m relay	1 st	5 th
75m sprint	1 st	3 rd
Standing long jump	4 th	1 st
Vortex	1 st	3 rd
Overall	2nd	

Meet our Sports crew who are organising activities at lunchtime on a daily basis!





Thank you to Miss Marmedova for organising the oracy cup – we hope lots of pupils enter!

What is the Oracy Cup? A speaking and listening competition for 9-15 year olds in Kent.

Why? To promote confidence, and speaking and listening skills

How? Parents/carers record a 2-minute video of children speaking about the power of sports/why sports is important/their favourite sports and send it to class teacher via Dojo.

What are the prizes? In-school competition winner will win a tour of Arsenal Emirates Stadium in London. A second winner will be chosen and their entry submitted in the wider Oracy Cup competition

When? 16th October - 9th November.



Spot the Newsletter Reader!

Answer the question below and email your answer to the school office by **9th November** to be entered into a prize draw to win a **£20 Amazon voucher**.

What percentage of parents said they would recommend SSJS to another family?

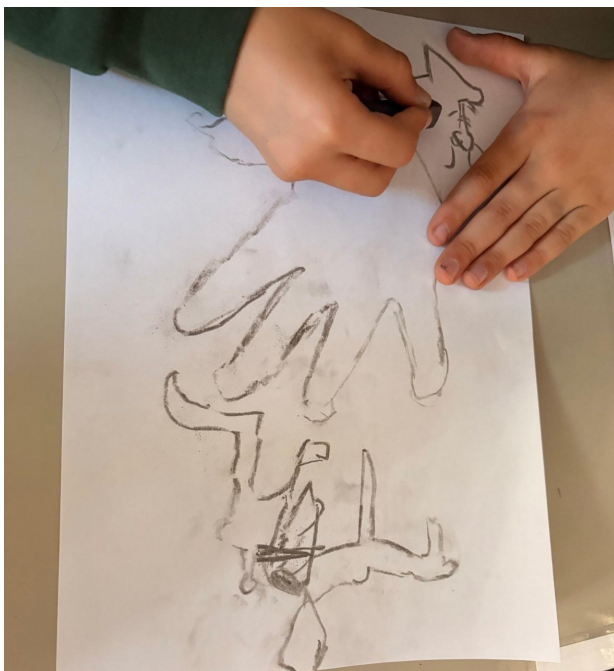
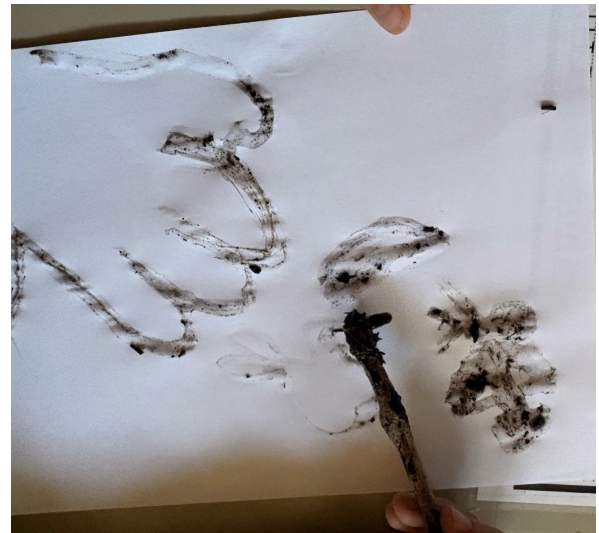
Hint: You can find the answer in this newsletter. One entry per family. The winner will be selected at random and notified by the school. Please let us know by the 9th of November.



Year 3



Year 3 have created Stone Age inspired art using natural materials and learnt about concentric circles and colour gradients to create a picture of stone henge at sun set .



Introduction

HELLO

Manta rays are wonderful sea animals, gentle giants and kind creatures. They are unique sea creatures. If they stop swimming they die. Mantarays are related to sharks. Read on to find out more.



WOW

Habitat

Mantarays live in the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans. They live warm, tropical and salty waters. They usually live alone but are sometimes in groups, and usually around the equator. Mantarays don't sting like stinging rays.



Appearance

Mantarays are big but they are very friendly. They're like gentle giants. They are very unique animals because they have 300 rows of teeth! They can grow up to 7m long!

Future

Mantarays might be endangered, that's why we need to protect them. We need to make sure they don't go extinct. Things Manta rays face are poaching, medicines and shot by tranquillisers and harpoons, divers and people touch them, climate change, water temperature and pollution.

did you know Manta rays are a mystery to scientists?

Manta
rays



Finn

Majestic Mantarays

Manta rays are marvel creatures. They are related to sharks and they're two different types of manta-ray, the giant and reef. Read on to discover more about these wonders of the sea.

MANTA-RAYS

Appearance

Manta rays have a black back and white belly used to mimic the lighter and darker sides of the water. They also have unique patterns on their black back. Every manta ray has different patterns.

Habitat

Manta rays live in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans, in tropical waters. They normally live alone but they can also be found feeding in small groups and still they only feed in small groups while 30 rays in a group.

Diet

Surprising, manta rays eat small food like shrimp, plankton and small fish. Because of this they need to eat a lot of food in one day. They swim around ocean keeping their food in their mouth whilst they swim.

Future

Manta rays face many threats such as being poached for medicines, but scientists don't know if they are endangered or not. They also face climate change that melts the ice from the Southern oceans, which cools down the waters that manta rays live in. They also a threat by divers touching them. Scientists think that they have a social layer of skin that protects them from bacteria. When divers touch them the skin breaks and then bacteria can grow on them.



Year 5

GOOD WORK

Year 5 have been
exploring coding





Year 6

Panda class have been finding inspiration in World War II and our class text. We have Rohaan's independent writing which is an informal letter. There are also 3 amazing creative homeworks by Florence and Ridaa!



when we used to eat together these were happy memories. It consoles me a lot. It still holds me that I got a signature of Lamine Yamal.

Please help Mama and give her the medicine on time. Tell her that I love her and miss her. Please stay safe. Also, can you get my laundry from the basement?

Although we are far away, don't lose hope. We will be reunited soon. Stay hopeful. My love, for all of you won't change no matter what happens.

Give Mama a hug from me - she needs one too. Also Papa as well - one last thing, I'll never forget you. Lots of love,
 Rohaan
 P.S: Take care of yourselves.

