



A hello from your Headteachers:



We are delighted to introduce our new School News, which we hope to send out on a regular basis. As a school we have always welcomed parents in for regular events and assemblies, and sadly at the moment this is not something we can do so we felt it was really important that we have a regular opportunity to celebrate pupils work and achievements as well as updating you on life in our fabulous school.

We could not be prouder of how the children have returned to school, their positivity and enthusiasm for school life, the delight at being able to see their classmates along with their commitment to learning has been inspiring. Of course, school is different for our pupils and we are constantly having to think of new ways to overcome the logistical challenges but we can see from the smiles on the children's faces why it is so important that we are back in school together. We thank you for your continued support throughout this challenging time, it has never been more important for us to work together. **Laura Cutts and Sarah Heaney**



Voices from our School



'It's great to be back in school playing with my friends and learning.' **Yr. 3 child.**

'It's really good to be back in school, I feel comfortable here.' **Yr. 4 child**

'It's amazing to be back, school is different to how it used to be, but it makes me feel safe.' **Yr. 6 child.**

'It's wonderful to have the children back and see how happy they are and how well they have adapted to changes around the school.' **Mrs Oakes.**

'It is wonderful to be reunited with the school community after such a long and difficult time apart. Both the staff and the children of St Stephen's have become a second family to me over the years that I have worked here and being together with them again is comparable to returning to the warm comfort of your own home after a long walk in the wintery rain of January.'

Mr May

Our School Values - Belonging

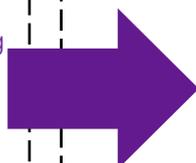
As new Headteachers to the school, we are re-evaluating our school values to ensure they represent what our school community needs at this moment in time as well as ensuring that they reflect what pupils will need to support them in the future. Having worked with our whole staff team to identify what is most important for our children returning we will be focusing on the theme of **Belonging** throughout the next two terms. We will discuss through our virtual assemblies and in class, "What it feels like to belong," and "How we can make others feel that they belong," on a personal, local and global level. We see our school as one big family and we could not think of anything more important than making sure that our children are welcomed back to a nurturing, safe environment and feeling that they belong here. We hope to work with all our parents to further develop our new school vision and values throughout the year so that they can help our pupils to flourish in the future. *"Belonging doesn't require us to change who we are, it requires us to BE who we are."*

Brene Brown



Upcoming Events – of which details will be released shortly.

- Parent consultations week commencing 12th October
- Kent Test- 15th October
- Headteacher Parent conference date tbc



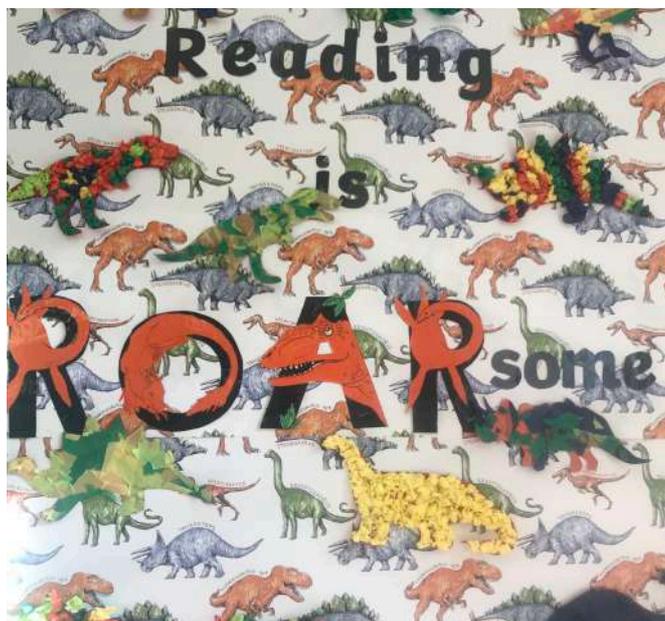
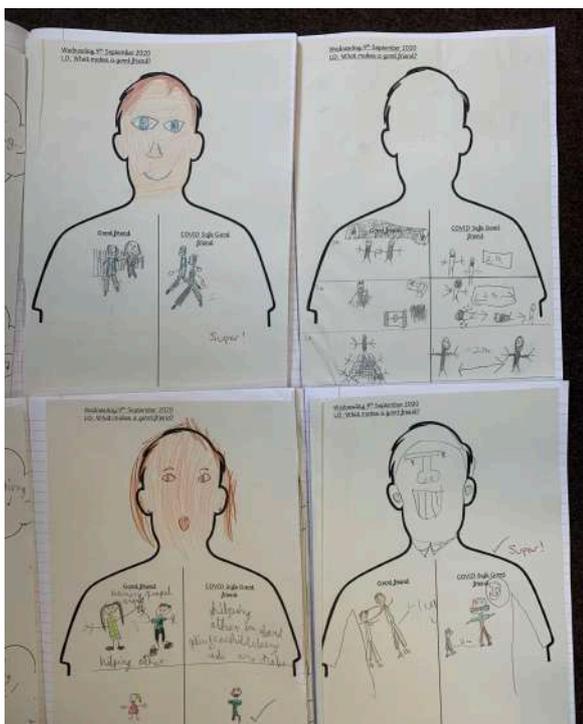
Weekly Celebrations

In this section we hope to share pupil's achievements and some of their work on a weekly basis. This week we just wanted to give you a snap shot of some of the fabulous work going on across the school.

Year 3

Oak Class have been exploring how we can still be good friends while staying COVID safe

Elm class were inspired by the story 'The Girl and the Dinosaur' which they loved discussing!



Year 4 – Can you spot your work?



In Year 4 this week, we created our own self-portraits. We used drawing and layering to create a self-portrait that would stand out and look really effective. We worked really hard and developed skills of colour, tone and line when producing them. Look how great they turned out!

Year 5



Some wonderful Matisse inspired artwork in Year 5 Beech class



Work about feeling safe in Holly class

Thursday 10th September 2020
Belonging and feeling safe at school.

Sense:	Example of how you feel calm and safe:
SWELL	My mum's perfume makes me feel calm because it reminds me of her. ✓
HEARING	The sound of the wind blowing makes me feel calm. ✓
TOUCH	Stroking my dog makes me feel calm and focused. ✓
TASTE	Spicy food makes me feel safe because it reminds me of Nepal. ✓
VISION	Watching films I have made makes me calm because I have worked really hard on them. ✓

Year 6



A beautiful message and artwork from the whole of Year 6 – We are all unique and beautiful, but together we are a masterpiece.

