



# Trinity St Stephen CE Aided First School

Vansittart Road, Windsor, SL4 5DF  
T: 01753 862540 | E: office@tssfist.co.uk



Headteacher: Mrs Louise Lovegrove

6 September 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome back!

We particularly welcome all the new families into the school community. We have a total of 35 new children who spent their first day in the school yesterday. For the majority of them this will have been their first day in school. In my visit to the Reception classroom all was calm and the children were busy making new friends and investigating the learning experiences. A very positive start!

At the start of the school year we hold Welcome Meetings in every year group. This is an opportunity to meet your class teacher and learn about the expectations in the class. This will help you support your child's learning throughout the year. The meetings are held straight after school in the classroom and will finish by 4pm. Arrangements have been made for the year group children and their siblings to be looked after in school. Please do not leave children unattended on the playground. The meetings will be held during the week beginning 16 September and are detailed below in the autumn dates.

At the end of the summer the TSSSA held another successful working party - many thanks to those who attended. We managed to cut back the greenery at the front of the school and tidy the school car park as well as weed and tidy the playground. We also repaired the quiet garden fence and a few other minor repairs. These sessions are an excellent way to contribute to the school, meet people and keep fit! They are also making a positive difference to our budget by saving money on general maintenance. Our next working party is on 21 September starting at 9am and finishing at noon. Please let Caroline Colbert, Dani Grehan or the School Office know if you are able to attend.

The Singh and Clark families have been working hard on improving our grass over the summer holiday. Some of the seed planted has germinated and we are hoping will establish itself. Please try and keep to the path when walking from the Oxford Road gate into the playground to give it the best possible chance. Thank you.

The TSSSA had a very successful year last year and plans are already being discussed for this year. The AGM is detailed in the dates below and again is an excellent way of making new friends and being part of our school community. All are warmly invited to attend.

The school is very appreciative of the volunteering of so many of our parents who give up their time in a variety of ways to help us. We are in a time of straightened financial circumstances. The most recent BBC Panorama programme, 'Inside the School Cuts Crisis', last Monday made interesting viewing and is available on iPlayer for those of you who are interested. Thankfully we are not currently in the same situation as the featured school but all your help makes a big difference. Parents have asked me whether it is possible to purchase small items which would be useful in school. I have trialled an Amazon Wish List with a few parents over the summer holiday and we are now ready to roll this out to the parent community. If you wish to order an item from it you can either have it delivered directly to school if you add the school address to your delivery options, or have it delivered to home and bring it along to the school office? The link will be sent via separate email. Thank you again for all your support.

Many parents are anxious about the school bags. Apologies if my communication has confused the situation. As I said in my final email of the last academic year, the school book bags are ideal for the following reasons as they:



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- hold a reading book, reading record, homework (up to A4 size) and pencil case
- fit into a school drawer which means the child does not have to leave the classroom to collect anything
- are easy and light to carry which is physically beneficial for the child
- leave the cloakroom free of large bags which means it is always clear, particularly in cases of emergency
- are not overly expensive

It would be much appreciated if reading bags could be used in Year 3 and Year 4. If new small rucksacks have been purchased which you feel meet the criteria please continue to use them. I will however, along with the governor responsible for Health and Safety, be continuing to monitor the cloakroom situation and if pupil belongings are causing a hazard for evacuation I may be forced to ban bags other than PE bags and school book bags in the future.

At the start of the new academic year I would like to remind you of the School Attendance Policy. The governors of the school strongly believe that school attendance is key to making good progress and that every child has a right to access their education.

Children are able to come into school from 8.45am and must be in the classroom by 8.55am. The school bell will ring at 8.50am and the playground door will be shut at 8.55am. Any child not in the classroom at this time will be marked absent or Late if they arrive later. In accordance with our Attendance Policy any child arriving after 9.15am will be marked U, (Late after registers close) which is equivalent to an unauthorised absence. If you are late (after 8.55am) you must bring your child to the front door and sign in the Late Register so that we can be sure no child is left unaccounted for. If your child is unwell please leave a message on the school absence telephone line and phone in every day.

Absence requests from school will be looked at on an individual basis. Unless the circumstance is exceptional it is likely they will be categorised as unauthorised absence. Our registers are regularly checked by the borough Education Welfare Officer and it has become apparent in a few isolated cases that holiday may have been taken and the family has stated that the child is unwell. This usually comes to light through the register monitoring or the children's conversation in school. We would hope that all our families are honest and do not put their children in the very difficult position of having to be more guarded in their conversation with their friends and their teachers. Further evidence may be requested where this is believed to be the case.

At the beginning of the school holiday I sadly attended the funeral of Mr Julian Bell. Mr Bell had been a Learning Support Assistant at the school for 18 years. He will be particularly remembered by some of our long standing parents for his love of Dr Who and his creative talents. His sudden death was a shock to all of us and we send our love and prayers to his family.

Rev Sally Lodge will be leading a service this Sunday at the Church of St Stephen and St Agnes in Vansittart Road focussing on Education Sunday. Children are asked to bring along their school bags for a blessing at the start of the new school year. I look forward to seeing parents at the service.

Please see below for school dates for the Autumn Term and there is an Extra Curricular Clubs Programme and Autumn Lunch Menu attached to this newsletter.

*Louise Lovegrove*

Kind regards

**Louise Lovegrove - Headteacher**



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<b>FUTURE DATES</b>	
4 September	In Service Day
5 September	Pupil term starts
8 September	Education Sunday – service at St Stephen’s at 10am
16 September	Year 3 and Year 4 parents Welcome meeting (KP to host children in the hall)
17 September	Year 2 Parents Welcome Meeting (KON to host children in Year 4)
18 September	Reception Parents Welcome Meeting (HH to host children in Year 1)
19 September	Year 1 Parents Welcome Meeting (JC to host children in Reception)
21 September	TSSSA Working Party at 9am
28 September	TSSSA Art Festival
30 September	Y3 out all day (WWF)
4 October	Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity, starting at 9.30am
9 October	Year 3 and Year 4 at Windsor Library to meet Nick Arnold (Horrible Histories Author) 9.30am
21 October	Parents Evening 3.30pm
22 October	Year 4 at Windsor Castle
23 October	Parents Evening 5pm
24 October	Family Worship at St Stephen’s Church at 9am
25 October	<b>In Service Training Day</b>
28 October	<b>Half Term</b>
4 November	<b>Pupil Term Starts</b>
5 November	Year 4 Class Assembly
7 November	Year 4 out Harry Potter Studios
28 November	Family Worship at St Stephen’s Church at 9am
1 December	Christingle St Stephen’s Church 3pm
3 December	Flu Vaccinations
9 December	Nativity at St Stephen’s Church at 6pm
13 December	Christmas Fair 3.15pm in school
20 December	<b>Term Ends</b>
6 January	In Service Training Day
7 January	<b>Pupil Term Starts</b>



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