



# STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

*"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"*

October 2021

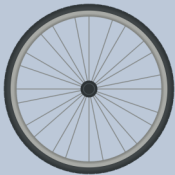
It has been wonderful to see how all of the children have settled into their new classes and embraced the new routines and exciting challenges presented to them. Our attendance across the school so far is 97.59%. Please remember that the national expectation for pupil attendance is 97% and we will be following our attendance figures closely.

## Staff Changes

During the summer holidays we said goodbye to two of our Teaching Assistants, Mr Shears and Mrs Bukzham. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and support during their time here. We wish them both the best of luck.

We welcomed Mrs Eggleton and Mrs Bowker who have joined our team of Teaching Assistants. They will be supporting our children in Year 5.

We would also like to welcome all the new families you have joined us, both as parents of our new children in Nursery and Reception and those who have joined Stephen Freeman in other classes across the school.



## Cycling to School

The bike shed is now safe to use, children may leave their bikes or scooters in the shed during the school day. If your child is riding to school, they must dismount before entering through the school gates and walk their bike (or scooter) to the cycle shed. Helmets should be worn as a matter of personal safety.

## Applications for Secondary School

For Parents of Year 6 children, the online application form for secondary school is now open. The deadline for submitting your application is October 31st 2021. You can access all the required information by going to the following page:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications/make-application>

The children in **Rainbow Explorers Nursery** have been getting to know each other and learning about life at nursery. They have started Forest School and have really enjoyed exploring all the different activities that take place there. Our story this term has been 'The Enormous Turnip' and we have enjoyed acting out the story and trying to pull up an enormous turnip! We made turnip soup and the children were fantastic at chopping and peeling. It has been lovely to welcome new children and families to our Stephen Freeman community.

A huge welcome to all the new children and their families in **Reception** and what a wonderful start we have had to the new academic year. The children have settled in beautifully and bring so much joy and happiness to our day. Our Read Write Inc. phonics lessons are fun and the children enjoy finding out what our new letter is every day. In our maths we have focused on the numbers 1, 2 and 3 and in our investigation time

we have looked at how we make groups of 1, 2 and 3 with different objects. The bikes have proved very popular in free flow and the children are very good at sharing with each other and they love demonstrating their progress to us as they whiz past. We are really enjoying seeing your Tapestry posts and thank you for sharing all the activities that you do outside school.



Self Portraits



Mixing Colour



Self Portrait

We love learning, we love fun. We are amazing down in Year 1

The children in both classes have settled into their new routines brilliantly and have exceeded our expectations for the beginning of the year, this has made two very happy teachers. In our 'Rhyme Time' topic we have been looking at 'Shark in the Park' and 'Oi Frog and Oi Cat'. In writing the children have been learning about the basics of writing including capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. They have shown great confidence with numbers to 10 in Maths and are using their phonics in their reading and writing. We look forward to building upon the children's hard work and focus and well done to you all with what has been a great start to our new learning journey.



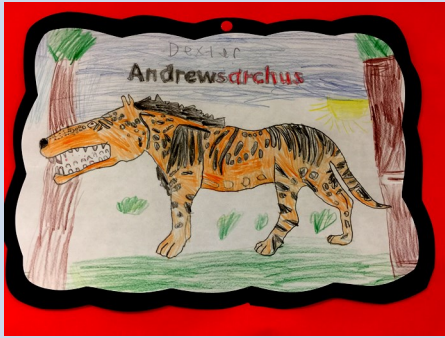
*Magical Potions and Spells in Year Two*

We have been designing our own magical potions and spells and we have added our recipes to our whole class spell book. We are enjoying the story 'Potion Commotion'. We have tried foods from around the world including mango, kiwi fruit, olives and couscous. In science we have been conducting simple experiments. We tested butter, ice and chocolate to find out which melts the quickest and we have been using the words 'solid' and liquid.

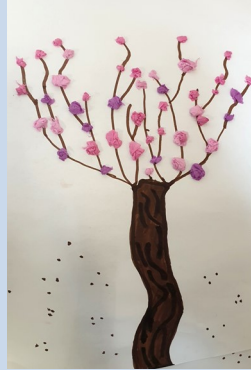


Year 3

Your wonderful children have been learning all about place value in maths and in history they have been learning all about the Stone Age, we are looking forward to using the facts that we have learned to inform our writing planning. We will be hearing, mapping, stepping, speaking and innovating Satoshi Kitamura's book 'Stone Age Boy'. Anyone for tennis? It's a big 'YES' from Year 3 as we work on our ball control and serve. In art we are studying cave painting and the children have enjoyed using mixed media to create wonderful images of mammoths and early man discovering fire. In science we have been learning about vertebrates and invertebrates and finding out about the skeleton.



The **Year 4** children have had an amazing start to the new academic year. The children have been finding out about aspects of Japan and China. Japan class used tissue paper to create their own cherry blossom trees and China class have created a representation of the famous Terracotta Army using clay. In Science we have enjoyed learning about electricity and circuits and in geography we are finding out all about Asia.



Cherry Blossom



Members of our Terracotta Army

**Year 5.** We have been wrapped up in learning about mummification and trying to solve Hieroglyphics. We are crazy about coding, we are 'Living on a Prayer' in music and seeking Sikhism in RE.

Keep it up Year 5 we are impressed with your enthusiasm



**Year 6** have been learning about Mexico's geography, history and culture, including its delicious cuisine. In our English lessons we have been writing persuasive letters to a variety of companies such as Dorindos Mexican Restaurant, asking if we could taste their food and to Chessington World of Adventures, asking if we could have discounted tickets to the theme park. We had to be really persuasive for that one. We are loving story-telling and the children have started writing their own versions of the traditional Mexican tale, 'Godmother Death' We have been active in PE developing our teamwork skills whilst playing ultimate Frisbee.



Congratulations

Well done to Maya, a current pupil and her sister Julia (an ex-pupil) who along with other members of the Bernadine Soul School of Dance performed at the Dance World Cup 2020. Their acrobatic dance routines wowed the judging panel and they were awarded with a bronze and silver medal.

We are very proud of you both.

