



Audenshaw Road, Audenshaw, Tameside M34 5HD

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Headteacher: Mr John Shelton
Deputy Headteacher: Miss Amanda Doan

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Unbelievably, we have reached the end of my first half term here at St Stephen's! As I reflect on the past few weeks, I would completely concur with one of the many positive comments which were written on a questionnaire at last week's Parent's Meeting - **'The family feel in the school is great!'** Indeed, the response was overwhelmingly positive, and I feel proud to lead such a great team and to have a school full of such fantastic children! Rest assured that we will use **ALL** your feedback to improve St. Stephen's, making it an even better place for you and your child.

One of the changes which will be made after half term is the introduction of **Early Bird Maths** across the school. This exciting initiative will see every child enjoy revision of key maths skills, **right at the start of every day**, in a fast-paced and engaging format. During last week's Parent's meetings, you will have been given a 'Maths Essentials' sheet by your child's class teacher so you can also support your child as they learn these key skills. To facilitate the introduction of Early Bird Maths, we have decided to make some important changes to the start of the school day. These will be effective after half term as follows:

➤ **In the morning, the gate will open at 8.45am and will then close at 8.55am. Any child arriving after 8.55, will need to enter school through the Office door.** (The official start time of the school day has always been 8.55am)

This will enable all the children to be ready to start Early Bird Maths promptly at 8.55am, meaning that they are really making the most of this crucial learning opportunity. (For your information, assembly on Monday and Tuesday will take place in the afternoon but the Celebration Assembly will remain at 9am every Friday.)

On the subject of the Celebration Assembly, can I say what a delight it is to welcome so many of you every Friday to celebrate the children's many achievements – both in and out of school. Please do come along if you can make it! A new addition to the Celebration Assembly after half term will be the **READING RAFFLE!** Every week, children in KS1 & KS2 will get a raffle ticket if _____. These will then be entered into a draw during the Celebration Assembly with the lucky winners receiving winning the right to choose a book as a prize. We hope that this will enthuse your child to continue to enjoy reading regularly, both in school and at home!

This half term, we have introduced a set of school expectations which the whole school community to adhere too. Jointly formulated with the school council, these 10 expectations will enable everyone to understand the importance of making correct choices. A copy of these expectations is attached, and I would be grateful if you could discuss them with your child to underline their importance.

'With God's help we love, listen and learn together to be the best we can be!'



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On the reverse of the expectations, and in response to feedback from the Parent's questionnaire, you will find a list of important diary dates for the upcoming half term.

It only remains for me to THANK YOU for all your support during the last few weeks. Personally, it has been such a source of support and encouragement to know that we are partnering with you as we seek to help your child realise their full potential.

In the first instance, please do speak to your child's class teacher should you have any compliments, questions or concerns as they are often the ones best placed to effect change if required. I am of course available too – please speak to me on the yard or pop into school.

Have a fantastic half term break with lots of family time! (Don't forget – gates open at 8.45am on Monday 5th November!)

With many thanks,

John S W Shelton
Headteacher

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