WHO WANTS TO BE HAPPY?

Welcome to all our readers as we start a new academic year 2019-2020. We send special greetings to those parents joining the StERF community for the first time. SerfBoard is our fortnightly newsletter for parents with news, celebrations, messages and reminders; we hope you enjoy! Our worship programme this week identified the 7 key habits of happy people. One of these is the concept of service – one of our core Christian values. Pupils were reminded how important this is in our school and of some of the ways (politeness, charity fund-raising, being kind, being helpful) in which it can be shown. Who doesn’t want to be happy? Senior staff have this week met with loads of happy children and their parents as we sign the Home-School agreement. It is good to see how many children have made such a positive start in their new school.

Join the PSA

Many of those parents of new children made it along to the PSA “Welcome” Reception on Wednesday evening. This was a chance to meet some staff, other new parents, hear how the newbies have settled in and hear about how through the PSA you can get involved in supporting the school and building our community. We hope that many of you whether new to the school or not will take the opportunity to lend a hand and your support by joining our committee or helping us run events. The first meeting of the new school year is on Thursday 19th September at 7.30pm in school. Or contact the school office if you’d like to join but can’t make that evening and they will put you in touch with the parent leaders.

Champions

Exciting events from the very end of last term included the School Council “pilgrimage” walking round Windsor and visiting twelve of its churches. They raised money for school projects including the painting of new colourful murals in the ‘Shared Block’ which were then created by students working with local artist, Gordon Collett. Columbia were crowned House Champions 2019 in the final assembly of the year. In other news, the school was delighted to receive a School Sports “Gold Award” recognising excellence in delivery of our PE curriculum and especially the breadth of opportunity available to our students. And one of our students, Amelie Knowland, now a student in Year 7, won a £25 prize plus benefits for the school in a National Historical fiction writing competition. Her entry “In Hiding” was judged to be one of the best stories from a wide and high quality field. Congratulations.

Open Evening Early Closure

Advanced warning that Wednesday September 25th is our Open Evening for prospective parents. We plan to close early (2.30pm) on that day to give staff some extra time to set up and those pupils helping out time to have a break ahead of what is a long evening. Please be aware of this as you will need to make alternative arrangements. Thank you in advance for your support. Letters will be available soon notifying you of all the arrangements. The evening officially starts at 6pm but some pupil helpers will be needed before then.

As well as over one hundred new students we welcome three new members of staff this term. Mr Mason joins our Year 5/KS2 team while Mrs Ward, Mrs Ambala, Miss Cottrell and Mrs Saunders will be part of our Teaching Support team. We wish them every happiness and success in their new roles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 19th September
HPV Dose 1 for Year 8 Boys and Girls

Thursday 19th September
PSA AGM Meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th September
Year 6 Victorian Day

Wednesday 25th September
Open Evening 6.00pm
(School Closes early at 2.30pm)

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Reminder: Locker payment of £10.00 due. If you have not already paid for your locker please make payment online via www.scopay.com/stedwardsroyalfree

Online Payments
Reply slips are being received but the online payments have not been received.

To avoid us contacting you again, please ensure the online payment is processed before returning the slips to school.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

J M Barrie
**SPORTS & PE UPDATE**

**It was great to see so many new faces at the PSA reception on Wednesday! We hope you found it useful.**

Find us on Facebook STERF PSA to keep up to date with the latest news. We will be organising social events very soon!

**AGM Thursday 19th September 7pm (at school)**

**everyone is very welcome!** Come along to meet other parents and share ideas about fundraising.

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**Sports & PE Update**

Welcome back!! It has been a busy start to the term with pupils fully engaged in PE lessons. This term KS2 pupils will be focusing on rugby and fitness and KS3 will be focusing on netball and fitness. Already there has been a lot of competition in the fitness tests to see who can achieve the best scores. Within the year 8 PE options class pupils completed the dreaded bleep test with Tristan scoring an excellent 13.6 and closely followed by Markus with 13.3. Well done boys!!

Just a reminder as we start the year it is really important for pupils to be wearing the correct kit for PE for their safety and participation in all activities. This includes the removal of jewellery, watches and glasses (sports glasses to be worn). As the weather starts to change pupils will be required to wear moulded boots when outside on the field. KS3 also need to ensure they have a gumshield ready for rugby next term.

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**Schools Games Mark**

We were informed at the end of the term that our School Games Mark application has now been finalised and we achieved the Gold award. Our application was regraded from a Silver award on the basis of the numbers of teams that competed in inter-school competitions throughout the year.

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**Student Council Church Walk**

Our student council church walk took place on the Thursday before the summer break. The annual walk represents their last fund raising event of the year and raised over £400 towards student council funds. We visited 12 churches on the walk and were greeted by a range of clergy including our very own Father David and Rev Pete.

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**Safeguarding**

New safeguarding information is now displayed in the school reception area. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please check the board which will provide advice on how to you raise your concern. Information can also be found on the school website.

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**Our Student Council are working hard to protect the environment by encouraging pupils, parents and staff to go plastic free. We will feature tips here each week on how you can do your bit to help**

**BUY REFILLS WHERE POSSIBLE**

Simple but effective. Buying refills of products such as air freshener, liquid soap, coffee, herbs and spices saves money as well as cutting down on plastic waste in terms of lids, bottles and so on. But be careful: most refills will still result in some plastic waste, so it’s always worth comparing just how recyclable the packaging is compared to that of the original.