THE LIVING STONES

Wednesday’s Celebration Day Service at St Edward’s Church was one of our best ever. Children led the worship and there were piano and voice solos too. On the 150th anniversary of the Parish of St Edward’s, Father David in his talk spoke about being ‘living stones’, active participants in our communities and putting our God-given talents to use. As well as a celebration of the founding of the school, the day also marks the ‘Harvest’ and recognises the blessings we sometimes take for granted. Head Boy and girl, Ben and Savannah, went with Mr Welsh to visit the Almshouses and the Day Centre in Clarence Road.Gift Boxes of food and treats were handed over to the residents who were most appreciative. The stalls, games and activities in the afternoon were imaginative and absorbing – very much putting the fun in fundraising! All cash raised will be donated to Charities selected by the School Council on Monday at their meeting. Tomorrow, Mr Welsh plus student ambassadors will be attending the midday Mass at St Edward’s Church to mark the 150 years.

Alex P and Isabella J during Fundraising making Candyfloss to sell to the pupils

Parents’ Evenings

Year 5 parents have been meeting with their children’s Form tutor in the last fortnight and discussing how they have been settling in. We hope these have been useful meetings and feel the dialogue is really productive. We now enter a period in the run-up to Christmas when several more important ‘Home-School’ meetings take place.

Year 6 Parents’ Evening is next Wednesday and we hope you have been able to make appointments to see teachers to discuss progress. After half-term we have Curriculum Information Evenings for Years 7 & 8 (31st Oct) and Year 5 (5th Dec). The curriculum and its assessment does change from year to year and we believe these information sessions are an important chance to learn about your child’s experience and how you can best support them at home so do please book those dates in your diaries. Year 8 Parents’ (21st Nov) and Year 7 Parents’ (12th Dec) Evenings to meet teachers are also invaluable opportunities to share information and see how things are going both at home and in school.

Teachers’ Training Day

Today is an INSET day for teachers (training day). We hold it at this time so teachers can have appraisal meetings and review performance at a time other than last thing in the evening or first thing in the morning and before the new school year is too far gone! In addition there will be training on Safeguarding (a statutory responsibility of course) and as part of our focus this year on understanding and supporting mental health issues (a growing area of concern in our society) we have an external trainer talking about anxiety issues and young people.

Goodbye and Good luck

At the end of next week it is of course half-term. We will be saying goodbye and good luck to two members of our staff team. Mr Richard Chessman joined us last year to lead our PE department and is leaving for personal reasons and to work with individual or groups of children and doubling as a support team, covering lessons for absent teachers, working as part of our focus this year on understanding and supporting mental health issues (a growing area of concern in our society) we have an external trainer talking about anxiety issues and young people.

12th October 2018 - No. 3

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) School Trip

Last week 13 year 8 girls went on a school trip to Ditton Manor. At the start of the workshop we got into 13 groups, but each group had girls from different schools. At the beginning we were all very nervous and were reluctant to talk with the girls from the other schools. However, at the end most of us felt like we were lifelong friends. On the trip we learnt about what it was like to be a female in STEM workplaces. We learnt that at times it could be challenging but if we worked together it could fun and interesting.

In the morning we worked in teams to create a model of a resort. Each team was given a job to do and when we put it all together it was fantastic. After lunch we met some women who were leaders in technology. We got to ask them questions about their jobs and how to get started in a STEM career. By the end we all felt confident and understood why women in STEM jobs are important. There are many opportunities in STEM jobs and not just jobs where you have to be good at science. We all found it exciting, interesting and an educational experience.

I Price and E Bartlett

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 16th October Year 5 Retreat

Wednesday 17th October 4pm Year 6 Parents’ Evening

Thursday 18th October Year 5 Retreat

Friday 19th October Last day of term

Monday 29th October Pupils return to school

Work Going Home Week

Next week is our work going home week. Please see the attached letter to remind you how it works.
Books wanted
St Edward’s First School are looking to expand their in-class libraries for the Lower Juniors. If any parents have suitable books for children in Years 3/4 and they are in good condition then donations would be most welcome. Authors such as Michael Morpurgo, Roald Dahl, Morris Gleitzman, David Walliams or Dick King-Smith are still as popular as ever.

** PSA NEWS ** ** PSA NEWS **
Thank you to everyone who has sent in their forms for the 50:50 club. The first October draw will take place after half-term - so plenty of time to get your forms in. (Please see attached.) The raffle tickets for the Christmas Fayre are coming home from today and next week - so please look out for them, we have sourced some great prizes already this year. The first disco of the school year was a great success, the children looked like they had a great time and we raised £1,175. Finally, please do sign up to Classlist - see information attached - it is a really good way to communicate with other parents and keep up-to-date with PSA events.

Scooter Thefts
There have been a number of scooter thefts in the past couple of weeks and we wanted to alert parents. During the school day, the bike sheds are locked. However, they are opened at 3.30 just before dismissal.

We have entrances to a recreational ground and a main road, and so would advise that all items left in the Bike Sheds (Bikes and Scooters) are locked up individually. Please also label your child’s items with a postal code or telephone number—this helps identifying scooters that are similar or the same.

Well done
Congratulations to Charlie H, Jowan B, Max H, William B, Devon H, Casper L and Max C who all took part in the Windsor Half Marathon last weekend. All monies raised were donated to the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Huge well done to all involved.

REMINDERS
Y8 French trip payment was due 1st October. Final payment is due 1st November and all outstanding balances need to be paid at this time. Please contact Mrs Blanchard if there is a problem making these payments.

Music or Performing Arts Industry?
Calling all Parents who work in Music and/or in the Performing Arts industry and would be willing to share their experience in our “Music Careers” session please contact Mr Fabian at office@sterf.co.uk. Thank you

There are still some locker payments outstanding. Please arrange for these to be paid via www.scopay.com/stedwardsroyalfree

Online payments – We are receiving numerous reply slips stating that payment has been made online but on checking our records the payment has not been received. Please can you ensure when slips are returned to school that the online payment has been made. Thank you for your co-operation.

Term Time Absences
Just a reminder that term time absence forms are for every absence other than medical appointments.

These forms should be completed two weeks in advance of the absence and emailed to attendance@sterf.org.uk.

Accelerated Reader — Congratulations go to:

Millionaire: Jimmy W 7/4

Sports & PE Update
As we approach the end of this first term, the fixtures have been coming thick and fast and our students are ready for their first assessment of the year in PE.

Since the last edition of our Serfboard, the year 7 football team have played Upton Court Grammar winning 3–1 with goals from Marcus R, Will F and Nick F. Man of the match was Will F. The year 8 team played Churchmead winning 5–0 with 2 goals from Oli B and Alfie W, and another from Ben W, with the man of the match being awarded to Oli B.

The year 8 netball team also played in their first tournament and played an excellent match to win 3 of their games, draw 1 and unfortunately lose 3, but this was still enough to enable them to finish 4th out of eight. Player of the tournament was Eden H.

This week see’s the year 7 team take on local rivals Dedworth, and next week both the year 7 and 8 team will be taking part in a WSSP six-a-side tournament.

I would like to wish all groups good luck in their assessments next week in fitness, tag rugby and netball. After half term Key Stage 2 move on to Gymnastics and Netball, and Key Stage 3 will be moving to Gymnastics and Rugby.

Calling all Parents who work in Music and/or in the Performing Arts industry and would be willing to share their experience in our “Music Careers” session please contact Mr Fabian at office@sterf.co.uk. Thank you