

Goodbye

do widzenia

Auf Wiedersehen

Ahoj

Au revoir

Roots & Shoots

Summer Issue 2021

Goodbye

do widzenia

Auf Wiedersehen

Ahoj

Au revoir



Au revoir

Ahoj

Auf Wiedersehen

do widzenia

Goodbye

Dear Parents and Carers,

Crisis breeds opportunity. Through a tough year, the resilient courage of the St. Stephen's community, both children and their parents, and of course, of staff and school leaders has shone out, a beacon in hard times. Now we move forward, building on what we have learnt. Through the lockdown months the interaction between staff and the families we serve has strengthened community ties. Such strength through partnership will continue to be vital to the growth and flourishing of our children.

Governors support school in wanting parents to feel empowered as key-contributors to their children's learning. The new website will provide exciting online resources for children to learn in the company of their parents. We look forward to welcoming parents back into school for activities, including workshops, stay and play sessions, and coffee mornings. We know that where parents are fully involved with school in strong and purposeful partnerships, teaching staff build stronger relationships with children, and children settle more quickly into their learning.

So much has been achieved at St. Stephen's in the last 18 months to transform the learning environment for each child. A particular focus has been the provision of language enrichment through integrating more high-quality books into the curriculum. Staff use a range of activities that draw children into conversations; they model and reinforce language, encouraging children to talk, to explain what they are doing, and often, invite children to reflect more deeply on their experiences.

Do feel warmly invited to play your part in this exciting learning community at St. Stephen's!

Joyce Simpson

Chair of Governors

Goodbye

do widzenia

Auf Wiedersehen

Ahoj

Au revoir

The Nurture, Grow, Flourish (NGF) Awards

Nurture Award Criteria: This award goes to someone in class who has a nurturing and caring attitude towards others.

Grow Award Criteria: This award goes to someone in class who has really developed and grown during the year, showing superb progress in their learning especially during the pandemic.

Flourish Award Criteria: This award goes to someone in class who has flourished in all aspects of school life; taken on board home learning, tried hard since returning, making progress, etc.

Saplings Nursery AM



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Lina is kind and caring and has many friends in Nursery. She can take turns and share and always tries her best. She helps others in class when they are sad.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Ajwa has made fantastic progress in her number and written work. She always tries her best in everything that she does. She has produced some lovely mark making and can talk about what she has done.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Raymond has gained confidence over the last year. He will readily join in with all aspects of school life. He has taken an active part in home learning and has made good progress. Raymond always tries his best in whatever he does.

Saplings Nursery PM



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Imaat has many friends in Nursery due to him being kind, caring and able to share toys. If a child is upset he looks after them and always tries his best.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Safiya has developed some fantastic counting skills. She can recognise numbers and can count objects. She has produced some lovely mark making and has started to write her name on her pieces of work. She enjoys talking about what she has done.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Shaima tried really hard during lockdown. She has gained confidence and will now share her news with adults. She enjoys playing with her friends taking turns and has developed fantastic ball skills. She always tries her best in everything that she does.

Reception Twisters



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Joshua is a kind and caring member of our class. He always considers the feelings of others and often helps and supports his friends. He always shares resources, waits his turn and encourages other children to do the same. He is always friendly towards everyone, permanently has a smile on his face and likes making people happy!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Ramona has really stood out this year in terms of progress made and confidence shown to tackle all aspects of her learning. She always has a positive attitude and shows lots of resilience when faced with a challenge. She has really impressed me with her phonics and applying what she has learnt in her writing. This recognition is thoroughly deserved!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Isra has made amazing progress in all areas of the curriculum and shown that she can achieve anything she puts her mind to. She perseveres when faced with new challenges and shows great resilience. She always tries her very best in everything she does and with this fantastic attitude will continue to flourish throughout school!

Reception Spinners



Reasons given by the children:

Haleema is an extremely caring and considerate member of our class. She likes to ensure her friends are happy and always helps others, including the teachers. Haleema is a very positive individual and likes to make people smile. She is a great friend and a fantastic role model to everyone.



Reasons given by the children:

Zohaib has demonstrated great resilience and determination every day in Reception. He tries extremely hard to communicate with his friends and teachers, along with using more vocabulary and longer sentences. Zohaib's confidence and self-belief has blossomed which has meant he has shown super progress in a lot of areas of the curriculum. He worked really hard during the pandemic and adjusted to the new school routine during lockdown.



Reasons given by the children:

Munazzah has shown great resilience and perseverance this year and has made impressive progress across all areas of the curriculum, particularly in phonics and maths. I am so pleased with the amount of effort Munazzah displays daily and how she is an excellent role model to her peers. Munazzah also worked extremely hard during lockdown and I enjoyed seeing her fantastic work, especially her writing.

Year 1 Delius



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Fatimah is a caring member of the class who has always supported others with their learning. She has a caring attitude towards everyone and is always smiling. Fatimah is a respectful, kind and loving member of the class whom the class look upto.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Dali has shown immense progress in his learning, especially in his reading. Throughout the year, Dali has developed a love for learning and always makes sure he continues his learning at home. He has grown into a mature member of the class, he makes the right choices and has a positive attitude towards his learning.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Ruqayya has flourished in all aspects of school life, Ruqayya is enthusiastic about her learning. She has made a lot of progress throughout the year, especially in reading and maths! Ruqayya always wants to learn more, which is an excellent behaviour to have. Ruqayya ensures she recaps her learning at home and always shares her knowledge and ideas to others.

Year 1 Hockney



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Jibran is always kind and helpful to everyone in Hockney class. He spends time playing with everyone and is lots of fun! Jibran always helps children if they are on their own or unable to join in, he makes sure they feel included and that they are having a good time at school. You have a wonderful caring nature Jibran, you always have a smile on your face and a positive outlook, I hope you keep this forever! It's a pleasure to have you in our class.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Rastislava has made amazing progress this year. At the beginning of the year Rastislava was very quiet and didn't join in with the learning that we were doing as a class. Rastislava is now a confident member of the class and regularly joins in with class discussions. She is confident in her ability and will always try her very best at what ever she is doing. This is why she has made such fantastic progress – keep it up Rastislava!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Muzammil always does the right thing. He listens carefully, knows exactly what to do and then tries his best at this! He has made fantastic progress this year because he never gives up, he wants to learn and has done this both at home and at school. He is keen to join in all aspects of the curriculum from maths to PE to science to history. Muzammil also shares what he has learnt with his friends. You have had an amazing year in year 1 Muzammil, we can't wait to see how far you can go in year 2. Well done!

Year 2 Forster



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Fazilat always looks out for everyone else. She comes in and will asked each person how they are with a huge smile on her face. If someone is upset, Fazilat takes the time to make them feel better. She is fantastic at sharing her things and playing games with everyone. Thank you for looking after everyone in Forster class this year.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Haider started year 2 feeling a little shy but is finishing year 2 filled with confidence. He has not only made progress in the classroom with his work but during playtimes by playing with friends, making new games for everyone to play and even dancing in the classroom during our brain breaks. Well done Haider!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

When Abdul came to year 2, he was quiet and did not want to communicate with anyone. Now Abdul will speak with everyone, has a group of trustworthy friends and always wants to share his thoughts. He tries is very best to work independently to show his new skills. He has faced many challenges this year and he has overcome each one. Well done Abdul!

Year 2 Lister



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Aaron has been a kind and caring member of Lister class. He always looks after children who are upset or need a friend to play with. Aaron has a caring attitude and is empathetic towards both adults and children.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Hifza has grown in leaps and bounds this year. She has shown excellent progress in all her learning and has built up confidence to speak in class. Hifza has progressed in all her subjects and has grown to become a superb role model.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Zahrah has flourished exceptionally well in Year 2. She is an eager learner and wants the embrace further challenges in her learning. Zahrah has made remarkable progress since returning from Lockdown. She has made outstanding improvement in her reading as well as her other subjects. Zahrah is a brilliant role model as well as being caring and empathetic. She is helpful towards children and adults and has fantastic manners.

Year 3 Bronte



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Daniel is always helping his friends and teachers out, without having to be asked. He makes sure that the classroom is tidy, not just his own area, and ensures everyone is happy. He listens to others exceptionally well and always takes others thoughts and feelings into consideration.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Owaiss worked so hard and really engaged with all aspects of home learning during lockdown. It was lovely to see him at book swap and to read all the emails he sent, showing work he had produced. He has made excellent progress in all areas during year 3.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Manasa has tried exceptionally hard in all areas of school life this year. It has been wonderful to see her confidence grow, not just in areas like mathematics, but in terms of her friendships and social skills. She has clearly been practising her times tables and has been working so hard to do her very best.

Year 3 Haworth



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Fatima is an extremely kind and caring individual. She looks out for the other children and often puts their needs before her own. If someone in class is upset or sad, Fatima will check that they are ok and try to help. She has a gentle nature and works well with other children. Fatima demonstrates a maturity and concern for others beyond her years. Well done Fatima.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Layla has worked hard with determination and commitment to her learning all year! Every day during lockdown she emailed me examples of her work, which was completed correctly and with care and detail. She also came to school each week to change her reading book. This attitude has meant she has made good progress during the year, despite the pandemic. She has grown in confidence and it has been lovely watching her grow and flourish. Congratulations Layla!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Ibrahim has really grown during his time in year 3. He has continued to work hard academically and fully embraced the home learning, coming to school each week to change his reading book. As a result of this commitment to his learning he has made good progress. He has also grown in confidence and this was seen especially during year 3's swimming experience. After initially being wary of the water, Ibrahim fully embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm. Well done Ibrahim.

Year 4 McMillan



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Saliha, for her caring and nurturing attitude towards other pupils and staff in our class and around school. Saliha makes sure everyone is okay and shows a great deal of empathy and respect towards others. She has been a good buddy for new starters and is always willing to offer a helping hand when needed.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Damian started year 4 quite reluctant, shy and demotivated. This year we have seen Damian grow and develop in his academic abilities and in turn this has boosted his confidence and he tries really hard in every lesson. In English Damian has improved his spelling, handwriting and sentence structure. His attitude has been amazing towards all areas of his learning.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Areez has flourished in all aspects of school life. He is confident, smart and a great communicator. He has been a star pupil this year in McMillan class and has kept up to date with all his learning throughout lockdown. He is able to not just excel academically but also in extracurricular activities and tries his utmost best. I am really pleased with his learning attitude and behaviour.

Year 4 Priestley



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Over the year, Mary has always been the person who offers to help others during lessons if they need extra support from a friend. She has been caring, kind and supportive to new children starting in our class without English, showing them patience and respect. She also always offers to help in class with jobs and gives her own time to do so with a smile on her face.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Over the year, Hasher has really developed a positive learning mind set. He has made progress due to the amount of work which he produces and the effort which he makes. He shows he is enthusiastic and interested by always participating in lessons. Well done Hasher!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Sofia has really flourished this year and has made good progress in all areas especially in English. She has grown in confidence and with it so has her maturity and attitude to learning. She did not find lock down learning easy but she persevered through at home doing as much as possible and this a credit to her. Her hard work shows in the achievements made. She is a polite, respected and all round hard working girl.

Year 5 Salt



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Safah is a very trustworthy, reliable and caring young girl. She has always understood right from wrong and a lot of her peers look up to her as she has a strong friendship network. Safah always wants to make sure others feelings are validated so will take time out of her break or lunch to discuss matters with her friends and reassure them that things will be okay. I am in awe at the girl she has become and I know she will continue to have this nurturing and caring attitude towards others.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

I am so amazed by how much Samuel has progressed this year. He has become much more confident in class to ask and answer questions, he has developed a mature and strong attitude towards his learning whilst making sure his peers understand the work too. He is a great role model and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching him. Samuel is a delight. I cannot put in words how proud of him I am!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

This year Laiba has flourished in all aspects of school life. I have watched her nurture her peers, help them in times of need and care for them when they need her help. During lockdown, she would come to school when changing her reading book and discuss her work with me; she kept the same standard of work at home as she did in school; I was always very impressed. Upon her return to school, Laiba has tried ten times harder in lessons to make sure she is understanding the learning and that she is ready for year 6. I have no doubt that she will continue to nurture others and that she will flourish even after her time in St Stephens. I hope she knows how proud of her I am.!

Year 5 Jowett



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Lolitta has so much love and warmth to share with her classmates, her family, wildlife and the environment. As she is such a fantastic listener, her friends trust her, value her advice and the benefit from the strong friendships they have with her. Her positivity and care of others, play such an important role in our class as this allows others around her to flourish. It has been a pleasure to have Lolitta in our class and I am sure she will continue show empathy and love for everyone she crosses paths with in her life. Well done Lolitta!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Tristan has developed and progressed in many aspects of school life this year. Academically, he has grown in confidence in his maths, which has now allowed him to take part in our year 5 math lessons even when faced with adversity. Personally, Tristan is beginning to develop his independence, understanding of his personal responsibility for learning and in his readiness to learn. I am certain this will only improve further in year 6. Well done Tristan!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Kaif has truly flourished in all areas of school life this year, even in light of the recent home learning expectations and disruption to school life. I am very proud of the progress he has made in his personal aspects of learning. Behaviour has improved dramatically and he is beginning to understand how to deal with negative emotions and turn them into positive learning opportunities. Academically, Kaif's focus in class has also improved, which in turn is proving very beneficial as he is making good progress in reading, writing and maths. I am glad his focus has been maintained since his return to school because the hard work and dedication he showed to his learning during lockdown was exceptional. Well done Kaif keep it up!

Year 6 Appleton



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Alexandra is one of the kindest, most caring and conscientious young people I have ever met. She is extremely considerate of everyone around her and is always considering how she can put the thoughts and feelings of those around her before her own. She is always unbelievably helpful and will go above and beyond to aid adults and children at our school alike. Alexandra's kind, caring, helpful and nurturing side was best exemplified when we had new arrivals to our class. Without being asked, Alexandra took it upon herself to translate for these children as she could speak the same language, as well as show them around school and generally just help them (and me) with day to day life. This is something I will be eternally grateful for. Never stop being you Alexandra – you are amazing just as you are! You have made me a very proud teacher this year! Keep it up at high school.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Alias has grown exceptionally this year, not only with regards to his learning, but also socially and emotionally. At the start of year 6, Alias was an extremely reserved and shy individual, who never offered any answers in class. However, as the year has progressed, so has Alias. Alias is now a bubbly, confident and outgoing young man, who always has a big smile on his face, both in and out of the classroom. He now continually offers answers in class, and will reflect on his own learning in order to improve it. Outside the classroom, it is lovely to see Alias actively engaging with all of his peers and being a model pupil in our class. With regards to Alias' learning, Alias has made exceptional progress this year, especially in reading and maths. Well done Alias – keep up the good work next year. You have made me a very proud teacher!



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Where do I start with Ajdin? Ajdin is a model pupil. He is kind, caring, respectful, polite and funny. He gives every single piece of work or activity that he ever faces, in and out of the classroom, his maximum concentration and effort. Nothing ever seems to faze Ajdin, and he approaches absolutely everything he comes across with an amazing attitude and lust for learning and life. Every challenge that he ever faces, is dealt with in the same way; with an unwavering positivity, spirit and resilience that we can all learn from and that never ceases to amaze me. This year, Ajdin has flourished in all aspects of his learning, but particularly in maths, reading, science, R.E and P.E and continues to lead by example in the classroom environment. However, not only has Ajdin flourished inside of the classroom, but he continues to flourish out of it too. Ajdin has taken part in after school clubs, drama and radio workshops and our end of year production to name but a few things. He is an excellent role model in our classroom and around our school and we are going to sorely miss when he leaves St. Stephens. Keep doing exactly what you are doing Ajdin – you are an inspiration to us all. You have made me a very proud teacher this year – good luck for the future.

Year 6 Cartwright



Reasons given by class/teacher:

The children of Cartwright Class chose Anaaya because 'she has a good heart'. They said that she 'works hard and always tries to make people happy'.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

At the beginning of the year, Amara set herself the challenge to develop her confidence to speak up in front of the class. Now she speaks regularly in class and her classmates always respect what she has to say. She has stepped outside her comfort zone to volunteer for a speaking part in the end of year production. Academically, Amara has grown fantastically through the year. Her SATS results for Reading, Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling show a move from 'working at the level expected for her age' at the beginning of the year, to 'working at the high standard' by the end.



Reasons given by class/teacher:

Liza has had a fantastic year. She takes her learning seriously, always pushing herself to do the best she can. This means that, despite the fact that she was new to English only two years ago, she achieved the highest marks in the class in both the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling SAT and also the Maths SAT. Liza worked hard at home throughout the lockdown period and makes great contributions to every Cartwright lesson.

Goodbyes in 2021.



Mrs Waterhouse – Deputy Headteacher

The St Stephen's family say a huge thank you and farewell to Mrs Waterhouse, who will be taking early retirement this year. She has served the pupils, families and staff of our school for 15 years. I know that you, like us, will be sad to see her leave, but thankful for her huge smile and energy she shows every day. In her 15 years at St Stephen's, Mrs Waterhouse has been a year 6 teacher, assistant head, deputy head and, for one year, acting headteacher. For all of these we are hugely thankful for her dedication and her care for every child. But Mrs Waterhouse is more than these important roles. Her commitment to serve our community, her consistency in always being available and her cheerful greetings at the start of every day sets all staff the standard that we aim to achieve. We will always be grateful for the residentials, her scary stories and leading by example in caving, even she was a bit scared. She leaves us proud of and knowing the impact she has made to 100s of children, some going to university, college and some becoming teachers themselves! We will all have fond memories of Mrs Waterhouse, and that will always be part of us and part of the history of St Stephen's. She will enjoy her new life on the east coast, walking her dog, gardening and enjoying the great outdoors, but will always remain with us in spirit. We look forward to seeing her back for events at Stephen's and wish her a long, healthy and well-deserved retirement. She will be greatly missed, thank you for everything, Mrs Waterhouse.



Miss Akhtar - Year 4 Teacher

Miss Akhtar joined St Stephen's in September 2019 as our support teacher in Year 6. She started as a newly qualified teacher and then joined our Year 4 team in 2020. She has decided to move to Stoke whereby she is getting married and has a new job in a local primary school in Year 3. We wish all the best for the future and congratulations with her up and coming wedding.



Mrs Bashir - Year 4 Teacher

Mrs Bashir joined us in January 2019 as a newly qualified teacher in Year 4. She took maternity leave in October 2020 and has decided that she wants to be a stay at home mum for the time being. We wish her all the best with her new family and we hope she will pop in to see us with her daughter one day.

Goodbyes in 2020.



Mrs Spring

Mrs Spring left us last year to retire but due to COVID we were unable to say a well deserved farewell for the 24 years she taught at St Stephen's. She also started at St Stephen's when it was a small one-form entry school and has worked across many year groups but will be remembered for working mostly in our Reception classes. Since leaving she is busy in the garden growing vegetables in her sons allotment. She likes swimming, pilates and has taken up ballroom and Latin dancing. To top all of that she is also a 'Pyjama Fairy,' this means sewing pyjamas and gowns for children in hospital. It sounds like she is having a wonderful time! We hope she can pop in to see us one day to say hello.