



21st July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an extraordinary year for St Stephen's. Our achievements and support for your children have been recognised through Ofsted as has our work with you to support your children. Our focus on reading will continue next year, building on an increase in the types and number of books being read in school and at home has led to children making rapid progress. We have re-started our parent café on Wednesday mornings, continued our high number of clubs and after school activities and built an outdoor classroom that every child will benefit from next year.

We do, however, need to say thank you to staff moving on. Mrs Hare has been at St Stephen's for 10 years. She has been our Key Stage 1 and phonics leaders for several years, leading improvements across these areas and making sure that we can build on her achievements. Mr Kerr has been with us for 6 years, training as a teacher and working across school. He has helped improve PE across school, led many clubs and supported staff and pupils become physically fitter and be aware of how to look after ourselves more -especially after lockdown. Miss Molina has also been with us 6 years, promoting Spanish across school and supporting staff to lead their own Spanish lessons. All three staff have been key to our successes at St Stephen's, they leave us in a much stronger position, and I would like to thank them for all they have done for the pupils, staff and community we serve. We wish them every success in their future careers and know that they will always be welcome at St Stephen's.

Miss Heathcote will be joining our reception team. She is a very experienced teacher currently working in Halifax. Mr Anthony will also be joining as a teacher to work in Year 5, and Miss Needham and Miss Khanom will be teaching in Years 1 and 2. Miss Kouser, Miss Khan, Miss Begum, Mrs Parveen, Mrs Zubair and Mr Rehman will be joining our pupil support team. We were in a position, when advertising vacancies, of having a large number of applicants as people had heard about the work we are doing and wanted to be part of the St Stephen's team. This has helped us get high quality teachers and support staff that will help us further improve next year.

We will continue to look at ways of improving pupil attendance and punctuality next year and have appointed a new Family Welfare Champion – Mr Khan – to work alongside families to support this.

I have been supporting St Matthew's school for part of this year and will be returning to St Stephen's from September.

I wish you all a very safe and happy summer with your families and look forward to seeing you and your children for another exciting year in September.

Mr Urry

