



**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

*"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"*



Friday 17th March 2017

Dear Parents,



Another busy fortnight has passed with some lovely class assemblies that have taken place to showcase learning to our parents. We are now busy again with ADMAT events, which are taking place at Windmill. Year Three have been away for their first residential this year at Slapton Sands, well done to the children for this adventure, and a massive thank you for the time taken from the staff to complete this. Year 4 will be going to Slapton Sands in July as part of us starting to use more opportunities across the school. We have some new signs coming for playtime and lunchtimes, which have been written by the children and linked to the Convention Articles. We have a real drive on children and staff rights at present. Alongside this we are focusing on uniform and behaviour expectations throughout the school. We are hosting parent evenings coming up soon on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th March. Please do come and see your child's class teacher. Mrs Baxter and the pastoral team are also available to come and visit, and our governors will also be present—so please come and have a cup of tea with them. As ever your views and thoughts are welcomed—so please do get in touch.

Regards, Mrs Saunders.

**ADMAT School Improvement:** We have recently been focusing on our governors meeting. We have been reviewing our Academy Improvement Plan, PPG spending, School Evaluation Form, writing our Visible Learning Action Plan and UNICEF Level One application. We are pleased to share that Mrs Murphy is now fully back to work and is in role as Behaviour Leader as part of the pastoral team.

## Attendance

Wk Ending 10th March

CLASS F	94.6%
CLASS 1	94.2%
CLASS 2	94.9%
CLASS 3	97%
CLASS 4	92.6%
CLASS 5	95.6%
CLASS 6	96.4%
CLASS 7	88.6%

## Uniform

We are having a focus on uniform at present. There are lots of reasons why children wearing school uniform to school is important, as well as helping children to prepare for college. We have placed a number of adverts in our newsletter about uniform with a focus on shoes. Please may we remind everyone that children are expected to wear black shoes or trainers. We are seeing a number of different coloured shoes or laces at present. If we see this, staff will be contacting you to request that they wear the correct uniform/ footwear. Please can we remind children that they need to be wearing a clean school jumper and with our weather at present, it is important to have a coat in school. We understand that sometimes items get lost, so named items are really very helpful. You are welcome to come and see our lost property, this will be placed in the Year F area soon. With Summer coming you may be thinking about buying Summer uniform: please can we remind everyone that children must be wearing shoes or sandals with socks. Please can we also remind everyone that shoes with heels are not allowed in school due to safety. We hope this reminder helps. If you have concerns with uniform please do speak to Mrs Baxter (Parent Support).



## Holiday Request



Holiday authorisation cannot be made. We can only grant it in very limited exceptional circumstances for which there is a very tight criteria. We ask kindly that parents do not discuss this with each other as individual cases are personal and comparisons cannot be made.

## Attendance Reminder

Attendance at SSICA is important and we still have children who do not have 97% plus as an attendance figure. Let us know if we can help.

## Year 3 Residential

We had an absolutely brilliant time on our residential trip to Slapton Sands! Everyone showed fantastic behaviour and really immersed themselves in their learning.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all adults that helped with this trip, especially: Mrs. Bye, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Baxter and Miss Meakin!

Please look on our Class page for lots of pictures of what we all got up to!



### Diary Dates:

20th March	Class 2 visit to Homeleigh
20th March	ARB Sponsored bounce
21st March	Until 9.30am Parent Drop-In Morning
22nd March	2.30pm Pastoral/Governor meet
22nd March	3.15pm Class 4 Meet new teacher and residential meeting
22nd March	Year 5 Snappy Opera Project
24th March	Year 6 Launceston College visiting
24th March	Comic Relief Day

### **Vacancy for Casual Teacher for RHS Rosemoor**

RHS Rosemoor in North Devon, are looking for someone who would be interested in becoming their Little Acorns teacher – a new gardening and craft club for toddlers and pre-school children. It will be run once a month for one session initially and involve around 3 hours per month. If you would like further details, please follow the link below and then click on: Search Jobs/ Location – choose Rosemoor/ Search <https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/work-for-the-rhs>

### Is your child struggling to sleep?

On Monday 6th March there was a Panorama documentary about helping your child to sleep. The report reminded us all that tablets/ devices will not help anyone to sleep and they recommend the need to turn them off at least an hour before bed. They recommended quiet, fine motor skill activities to help the brain to close down and sleep. With many of our assessments coming up soon it would be a great time to start this type of bedtime preparation, if they are not in your house already! Please do come and speak with Mrs Baxter if you would like any advice or a chat. Here is the link to the documentary: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08hymf3>

## UNICEF

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 8** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Governments must respect every child's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.'*

Over the past fortnight we have been focusing on our 'Rights Children of the Week'. Every class has nominated a child each week for acting responsibly, showing positive behaviour or talking about their rights. These children have been sat on our 'Rights and Values Table' on a Friday lunchtime and their behaviour has been written on our 'Rights and Values Tree' in school.

The 'Rights Child of the Week' over the past two weeks has been:

**Jack (Year 5)** for including everyone in his learning.

**Andrew (Year 2)** for explaining to his class that he 'has the right to read.'

Well done to both Jack and Andrew!

## PTFA Family Quiz Results

A massive thanks to all of you who entered! We had 3 entries that got ALL of the answers correct, they were from Kacie-Lou (class F), Cody (class 3) and Hayden (class 4)... all those names went into a hat and Kacie-Lou came out as the winner! Congratulations, your prize is on it's way to you! Also a special mention to Lewis (class 6) who came up with some amazingly inventive answers to part 1 of the quiz.

## Year 2 ADMAT Event

Last Friday Year 2 walked to and from Windmill Hill Academy to take part in their spring ADMAT event. The event was based around storytelling and included activities such as recreating stories using Scratch, storytelling through dance, illustrating stories outside using chalk, story in a bag and scavenger hunts. The weather was great and the children had a fantastic time mixing with children from the other schools.

Free Mini Tennis Session (age 5-8) run by professional tennis coach James Brobin at Launceston Tennis Club. Monday 3rd April from 9.30am-10.15am. Limited places so please email: [brobinjames@gmail.com](mailto:brobinjames@gmail.com) to register .

## REMINDER -FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK

This will be taking place in the school car park on **Wednesday 22nd March** from 9.30am until 3.30pm.

## Eden Project

On Monday 13th March, Year 2 visited the Eden project for a fantastic day out filled with spectacular plants and gorgeous sunshine. We took part in a workshop called 'Green Machines', where we investigated the differences between green machines and metal machines. As part of the workshop we explored the biomes and took a closer look at some of the amazing and unusual plants on show.



## Sporting Events

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 netball team who retained the Launceston Area Netball Qualifier last week. We will now be competing in the next stage of the competition at Bude next Thursday.

Well done to the football team who took part in a competitive football match against St Catherine's this week, missing out by a narrow 2-1 defeat. The team showed fantastic reciprocity and were great ambassadors for the school.

