



**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

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



Friday 24th November 2017



Dear Parents,

Another fortnight gone. You will have seen work has started on our fence. Thank you for your patience during this time. We have had a number of special events in place for our children. Year F continue to be out in the community, Year Six had a SMSC visit to North Petherwin and Year Five have been visiting Launceston College as part of our music provision. We have begun planning our visit from Shanghai teachers during the fortnight beginning Monday 15th January 2018. We are so pleased to have secured this exclusive opportunity as we are the only school in Cornwall for this round hosting two teachers. We will be opening our school to other visiting teachers from across the South West.

Regards, Mrs Saunders

## Academy School Improvement:

We have been visiting classrooms talking to children about whether they know what they are learning, how successful they feel about their learning and what feedback they get about their learning. It was a very positive visit. We have also been monitoring our learning environment. Follow us on Twitter and you can see examples.

### Attendance

#### Wk Ending

17th November 2017

CLASS F	95.7%
CLASS 1	94.0%
CLASS 2	97.7%
CLASS 3	95.0%
CLASS 4	96.8%
CLASS 5	99.0%
CLASS 6	96.5%
CLASS 7	90.0%

### Key Diary Dates

Weds 29th November	Wave Project, non-uniform £1 donation
Fri 8th December	Planetarium Year 4 and 6
Weds 13th/Thurs 14th Dec	9.30am KS1 Nativity
Fri 15th December	9am KS2 Cinema Trip
Fri 15th December	PTFA Christmas Disco
Tues 19th December	1.30pm KS2 Christmas Carol at church
Weds 20th December	Last day of term
Mon 8th January 2018	Back to School
Mon 15th January 2018	Shanghai Teachers visiting for two weeks
Fri 9th February 2018	PTFA Valentine Disco
Mon 12th-Fri 16th February	Half Term
Thurs 1st-Fri 2nd March 2018	Year Three Residential, Slapton Sands



[www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk](http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk)

01566 772170

## UNICEF

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 13** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.'*

As a school we are focusing on our **Level 1 Assessment Day** which is taking place on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November**. Our Steering Group will be having a final meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the assessment day itself as well as their roles on the day. One such role will be taking our assessor, Jilly, on a learning walk of our school, explaining to her how our school environment reflects a commitment to promoting children's rights. Jilly will be going into various classrooms to talk to pupils, as well as talking to a selection of staff and governors to get a feel for how the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has been introduced into our school and the impact this has had. Jilly will be with us on the day from 10.00am-3.00pm.

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

**Lola (Year 3)** for always being polite to children and adults.

**Caden (Year 6)** for showing respect to visitors to the school.

**Well done to Lola and Caden and all the children who were nominated by their class over the past two weeks!**

## CAR PARK

Please ensure that children are NOT walking through our car park. We regularly have reports of children running through our car park. It is not a safe place to have children walking through. Please can we continue to remind everyone that our car park is for our staff and needs to provide emergency vehicle access at all times. Please do walk if you are local and ensure our roads nearby are free of cars. It makes a much safer environment.

## Launceston Foodbank

would like us to pass on their thanks for the £122 raised over our Harvest Celebrations. Well done everyone!



**Pencil fence:** Our pencil fence is being updated. Work is happening to replace the pencil fence around our Area Resource Base and our playground. It is an exciting time as the fence will be upgraded and we will have fence for our extended Key Stage One playground. Please keep safe during this time.

## Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.



### What difference could I make as a parent?

The short answer is: a lot! Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day.

Before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from the time they're born gives them the comfort of your voice and increases their exposure to language.

### Building vocabulary and understanding

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out print. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work as well. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books, finding out what interests them and helping them to find books that will be engaging and fun for them. Give time to helping them practise reading the books they will bring home from school.



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We would like to say a huge **thank you** to Mrs Murphy for her time and dedication to St Stephens Community Academy over the time that she has been here. She has now chosen to retire and we wish her all the very best in her retirement. She will be finishing with us on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Year 5 class split will be taught by a new teacher. A letter will be sent to parents about this next week. All the classes will have an opportunity to express their best wishes next week.



Do you keep ringing the school?

We have an answer phone. Please do leave a message. Our school lines do not open officially until 8.30 and then close at 3.30pm in line with our office. We also may not answer in the day as our lines are busy or the office have left their desk as part of their work. Do please leave a message with your question or an absence.

Questions about clubs/ visits and events can be found on our website.



The PTFA would like to thank everyone who has supported our events so far, the Halloween Disco was a great success raising £251.65 and the recent Non-Uniform day raised £149. The team are working very hard behind the scenes to prepare a full agenda of events which we will share with you in the New Year and this week we have enjoyed 'The Lego Batman Movie' at our After School Cinema and seen the first of many PTFA Tuck Shops!

The funding period for our round of the Co-op Local Community Fund has finished and we are delighted to reveal that it has raised a massive £3669.41 for our PTFA!!! Watch this space for news on how this is spent! The Launceston store are holding a celebration day tomorrow (25th Nov) where a group of pupils will attend with Mrs Gilbert to say thank you to the members and customers who've raised this money.

Date for your diary: Friday 15th December - Christmas Disco. Yellow forms will be sent home beforehand or can be collected from the school office closer to the time.

Scholastic Book Party: The PTFA will be hosting an online book party from now until the 8th of December. (Separate yellow notices have been sent home this week with all the information on.) This is a great opportunity to browse through a fantastic selection of books and order in the comfort of your own home whilst helping the school earn free books!

You can view the book party and place orders using the web link below. (Feel free to share this link with family and friends so they can order through our shop as well, they will just need to quote your child's name and class.) If you are ordering presents for your child and would rather we didn't send the order home with them, please add a star next to their name or pop a note into the office, we will then know to hide the order from them! If you wish to order but do not wish to do so online you can request an order form from the school office.

<https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/party/st-stephens-community-academy>

## Children In Need

This year we raised a tremendous £161.20 for Children In Need—so a big thank you to everyone for contributing!



## Year F Trip On Thursday 23rd November



Year F visited Vanstone's Garage in Newport Industrial Estate as their class topic is

'Cars'. The children had the opportunity to have a tour of the different parts of the garage and learn about the different jobs involved in being a mechanic. They learnt many things including how a tyre is inflated and changed, where a vehicle is spray painted and how the paint is mixed. They also looked at the various tools that mechanics use as well as seeing the different parts of an engine which had been taken apart. They learnt how computers test what parts of a vehicle are or are not working as well as seeing where the vehicles are tested and worked on. The pupils had the opportunity to ask the questions they had thought of as well as sitting in Vanstone's tow truck and learning about how the garage help members of the public who have broken down! **A huge thank you to Vanstone's garage for allowing Year F to visit and taking the time out of their very busy day to talk to us. The children learned lots and listened and behaved beautifully. Finally, a big thank you to our adult helpers for coming on the trip with us.**

**Team Green Leaf** have been active in personally cleaning up the school, finding ways to decrease our impact on the environment and spreading the word. This relatively new group are keen to make a difference and they have great plans which will be revealed. **Watch this space!**

