



**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

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



Monday 24th July 2017



Dear Parents,

Well we have had another busy but successful year. We would like to thank everyone for their support during this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their endless hard work far reaching beyond the 9-3pm of the day. This newsletter showcases some of things we have achieved this year. We not only strive for academic excellence but we also provide a real range of experiences for our children. We all wish you a very peaceful and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you back on **Wednesday 6th September 2017.**

Regards, Mrs Saunders

## Academy School Improvement:

Well done to Year One who achieved 86% in their Phonics screening this year. Equally congratulations to Year Two on another successful year of academic results. Well done to Year Six for progress they have made this year. A especially good job on your maths results. Next year we will be focusing on spelling and reading attainment.

## Key Diary Dates

Mon 24th July	KS1 Beach Trip
Mon 24th 1.45pm	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Tues 25th July	Last day of term for pupils
<b>Wed 6th Sept</b>	<b>First day back to school for pupils</b>
Mon 11th Sept	First Day for <b>all</b> the Foundation Children
Wed 13th Sept	Roald Dahl Day

## Congratulations and Thank you to PTFA

PTFA this year have donated **£2910** to the school through fundraising events.

We have had:

PGL Coaches £600

Trust event Coaches £300

8x Class Trip Donations £800

Credit Trolley £140

Christmas Crackers £20

Year 6 Parents and Lollies £230

Gardening Club £30

KS2 waterproofs £360

KS2 Coaches to the Cinema £430

We would really not be able to do all our enrichments without the help of our committed parents.

Please can we kindly ask that children keep their large hair bows for home as they are getting ever bigger.

Also please can we ask that children keep henna designs for holiday time.



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

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## A Year of PE successes at St Stephens

### We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the Gold School Games Mark Award for the 2016/17 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. This year we have competed in a variety of different sports including netball, football, tag rugby, dance and multiskills, as well as attending festivals for dance, gymnastics, orienteering and hockey. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2018!

This year we were also fortunate enough to have our visit from our two Paralympic footballers, Dan James and Keryn Seal, where we raised a total of £602.20. The children were highly motivated by the visit and still talk about it now. We also won 'The equipment package' as part of a competition run by Premier League Primary Stars.

The children have enjoyed all of their sessions run by Plymouth Argyle this year. As well as the football sessions run as part of the PE lessons and the additional after school club, PAFC have also led sessions on cricket and athletics. We are looking forward to working with them a lot more next year where they will be delivering many alternative sports alongside football.

Children from Year 6 and Foundation have enjoyed riding their bikes this year. Many children in Year 6 took part in Bikeability at the beginning of the year where, alongside learning about riding and looking after a bike, they learnt about road safety and keeping safe when riding a bike. Children from our Foundation Class also took part in Balanceability sessions where they were learning how to ride a balance bike and some simple safety rules.

We hope that all of the children keep active over the summer and have a go at some activities that they may not have had a go at before.

Many thanks to Mrs Hooper who has led our PE for the last year. Her continuing efforts/ hard work and commitment to PE has meant the children at St Stephens have been provided with a real range of PE experiences. Mr Bullock will be taking this role on in September 2017.

## UNICEF at St Stephens

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 31** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.'*

We interviewed some Year 5 pupils recently to decide which two children would be the new steering group representatives for Year 6 next year. Congratulations to **Marley** and **Mia** who were the successful applicants! Both of these pupils were positively vocal in their interview about UNICEF and becoming a 'Rights Respecting School'. We are sure that they will prove to be fantastic steering group members when we reconvene for our first meeting in September.

A big thank you to **Chennai, Izabel and Phoebe** who have been superb Steering Group members this year representing Year 6. Becoming a Rights Respecting School and achieving 'Level 1' is a long process and much of the work required so far has happened 'in the background.' They have all been fantastic in setting up a 'Rights Respecting' approach around the school and have always attended our meetings with enthusiasm and positivity. The other Steering Group members wish them all the best for their move to college.

We have seen a positive impact of UNICEF so far with many pupils commenting on their rights and responsibilities and how this manifests itself in their behaviour and in the behaviour of others. Lots of classes have been learning about their 'rights' this week by completing various activities. We are sure that this understanding will be consolidated over the next academic year.

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

**Ayla (Year F)** for being helpful and looking after the classroom.

**Albert (Year 3)** for always trying his best.

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

Many thanks to Miss Moore in this role. We are well on our way to trying for our Level One Assessment in the Autumn term.

### **A year of residential success for all our Key Stage Two classes: Year 4 residential to Slapton Sands**

Year 4 visited Slapton Sands for a two day (one night) residential on the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July. We had glorious weather and all enjoyed an afternoon on the beach to develop their geographical and fieldwork expertise using key skills of reciprocity (team-work), problem solving and resilience through exploring the theme 'What would it be like to be shipwrecked on a beach? Pupils used their imaginative skills to create their own Treasure Island, made maps, used basic compass skills to bury and locate treasure and learnt to light a fire without matches.

We also experienced a walk in the woods at twilight, listening to the sounds of the woodland animals, birds and insects – although one pupil was convinced he heard a tiger, we can guarantee this was not the case!

After a hearty breakfast, we enjoyed a range of team challenge games - trying to solve the 'impossipuzzle', using giant skis to traverse the field of lava, moving a ball along drainpipes down a course, sorting the giant shapes to make a square and moving across 'boulders' and remembering a route without falling into the swamp. Our final activity was the low ropes challenge. The pupils took on the challenge of moving along the ropes or spotting one another; they were able to appreciate both their own skills and the importance of supporting others when trying to complete the challenge. The outcome was an increased sense of confidence, a positive attitude and a greater understanding of risk. We all enjoyed a wonderful experience and are looking forward to new residential adventures in Year 5.



### **Year 3 Residential**

In relation to our topic "The Stone Age to the Iron Age" Class 3 went on a residential visit to Slapton Sands in the Spring Term. We stayed one night and took part in two days of activities.

On the first day, we went down to the woods and made dens using natural resources. We learned how to 'hunt', how to tie knots and how to make willow fences. Later we had a hot chocolate and told stories around the campfire.

The next day, we went 'foraging' for food and learned about the different types of foods that were safe and poisonous to eat. We also learned how to light a fire without matches! To finish off we cooked some marshmallows around a huge campfire and sang songs.

We had an absolutely brilliant time on our residential trip to Slapton Sands! Everyone showed fantastic behaviour and really immersed themselves in their learning. Please look on Class 3's page for lots of pictures of what we all got up to!

### **Year 5 Residential**

Year 5 had an excellent 2 days in London. They enjoyed visiting Kidzania where the children tried a variety of jobs/ careers. Some of them even earned enough money to buy themselves a bank card! They also had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye—many thanks to Mrs Spence, Mr Terry, Mrs Paul and Miss Meakin for giving up their time to make this an incredibly successful trip.

### **A new Roof?**

Great news we won our bid for grant funding and we can get our flat leaking roof fixed. We are having work done as soon as the children stop coming to school over our Key Stage Two classrooms: Year 5/4/3. We have already begun to start packing so that we can ensure our classrooms are clear ready for the works. We may return to school with scaffolding up. So we have all four fingers crossed the weather holds this summer so the contractors can work through the large job successfully. We will keep you informed of progress on our website and twitter feed so do follow us.

### **Pupil Voice**

We now have:

School librarians/ Sports Leaders/ a UNICEF Steering Community/ Pupil Forum/ Green Leaf Team and a Friendship Team. Across the school children have been writing applications, taking part in interviews and are leading members of these teams.

### **Outdoor Learning**

We now have:

Children with a Wild Tribe kit across the school, children with welly boots/ old shoes and waterproof coats. Children across Foundation and Key Stage One take part in weekly Wild Tribe. Children in Key Stage Two have been experiencing outdoor learning. Mrs Gilbert will be leading more of this next year in her Creative and Outdoor dedicated role. We have held outdoor learning days where children have worked together across the age groups. We have also had a morning recently where Year Six have lead an activity morning for Key Stage Two showing their ever improving learning leader skills.

### **We offer provision from 8am!**

Breakfast Club and Learning Clubs.

Children are welcome from 8am to our school to have very filling breakfast with us and take part in learning activities. Please sign up with the recent letters sent out. We have also had some groups of children doing breakfast club groups for specific subjects such as Maths.

### **We are open until 4.15pm with our After School Clubs**

We have been proud of the fact that we have provided clubs for children until 4.15pm. We have had book clubs, computing clubs, sports clubs, dance clubs, music clubs and even Plymouth Argyle clubs. We will be sending out our club menu soon for the set dates in the Autumn Term.

It is a great way for children to develop their skills in the areas of their interests and we are seeing real talent just grow and grow!



## Our Chicken Coup!

Thank you to our parents who helped set up the chicken coup by the Wild Flower Meadow.

Unfortunately it needed to be moved. So on Saturday Mrs Gilbert took it down and moved and rebuilt it. A big thank you to Ms Neale who came into school to help us tidy the outdoor area. Thankfully the weather held for us!



## Arts and Creativity this year at St Stephens

It is very difficult to summarise all the aspects of the arts and creative teaching / learning that goes on at St Stephens, as much of it takes place in the classroom every day, through the range of activities that are planned for the children. However, thinking back, we have also embarked on a large number of projects and events this year, either class-based or school-wide.

Here are a selection!

### Music

- \*Concerts with Windmill and performances in the wider community with Samba.
- \*Samba rehearsals at Windmill and at St Stephens.
- \*Choir rehearsals at St Stephens Church.
- \*Y5 Snappy Opera Project.
- \*‘One-offs’ like the Y4 stringed instrument lesson.
- \*First Access keyboard sessions.
- \*Anne Stott music provider for KS1.
- \*Visit from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra on Science Day.
- \*Sea Shanty singing in KS1.
- \*Creative Day with a range of activities linked to the Arts and Outdoor Learning.
- \*Christmas performances.

### Fine Arts

- \*Art gallery from Arts Day.
- \*Y6 printing project at the Lawrence House Museum.
- \*The Charles Causley Festival art competition.

### Creative Writing

- \*Poetry competitions.
- \*Creative writing afternoon.

### Outdoor Learning

- \*Outdoor learning days.
- \*The sponsored dig for the creation of the wild flower meadow.
- \*Outdoor Learning sessions in each class.
- \*Visiting animals : chickens, chicks, snakes, tortoises & frogs !
- \*Y6 activity morning for KS2.
- \*Miss Bebbington’s amazing potato and sweet pea growing.
- \*Contributions from all our parents and helpers who have come in to school on a number of occasions for various activities eg cake sale fund raisers, chicken run construction and donation of free resources for outdoor learning.

Next year we look forward to developing this side of the school’s life, with projects on the horizon for First Access music teaching in younger year groups, partnerships with artists / specialists, more outdoor learning days and competitions / awards for children to work towards.

Well done St Stephen’s children for a very creative year!

