



**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



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

**Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher**

**Friday 29th March 2019**



Dear Parents/Carers,

The weeks are flying by and I can't believe this is the last newsletter before we break up for Easter! As usual the children and staff at St Stephens have been very productive and involved in a wide range of learning opportunities. Over the past two weeks we have seen a wealth of personal sporting achievements in school: tennis coaching from Launceston Tennis Club, badminton taster sessions, gymnastics lessons and football training alongside swimming sessions and Year 2 representing St Stephens in a Kwik Cricket Tournament. As if this wasn't enough the whole school has taken part in a run/ walk/ jog a mile sponsorship event to raise money for school funds. What an amazingly fit and healthy team we are. Many thanks as always for all your support in these events and providing your children with the appropriate kit in which to take part. All P.E. kits will be coming home over the holiday for a wash- it's always a good time to check that all the kit is labelled and still fits correctly, especially the trainers/ football boots- these children just keep growing!

We have also been very busy in school preparing the Library area for the introduction of Accelerated Reader (Year 2 upwards). This has been a very time consuming job but we know the results will be worth it. HUGE thanks must go to Mrs Grime, our newly crowned 'School Librarian', Miss Tierney, one of our School Governors, and Miss Pierce, a student who has been helping us on her days off, for their tireless energy and hard work to ensure everything is ready for the programme to start after Easter. The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary. Before Easter all the children will have sat a short online comprehension test in order to determine their ZPD. Using the outcomes of these tests, children will be directed to choose books from the school library that fall within this range and when they have finished the book, they will take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read. A letter explaining this further is attached to the newsletter. We are all very excited to begin this reading adventure together- this will replace the current colour coded book bands from Year 2 upwards. Year 6 and Year 1 will continue to work towards their Karate Reading Bands and use the colour banded reading books they use currently. Please keep checking our website, Twitter feed and class blogs to find out about all our other learning. Have a wonderful Easter with your family and loved ones and see you on 23rd April 2019 at 8.45 a.m. Don't eat too many chocolate eggs!

*Maura Furber*

## Attendance

**Wk Ending 22/03/19**

<b>CLASS F</b>	<b>93.0%</b>
<b>CLASS 1</b>	<b>97.8%</b>
<b>CLASS 2</b>	<b>88.8%</b>
<b>CLASS 3</b>	<b>90.4%</b>
<b>CLASS 4</b>	<b>95.4%</b>
<b>CLASS 5</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
<b>CLASS 6</b>	<b>93.7%</b>
<b>CLASS 7</b>	<b>94.0%</b>



## School Improvement

### The National School Breakfast Programme

We are delighted to inform you that our application has been successful and that our school has joined the government's National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP), which is being delivered by the charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast. As a NSBP School we are pleased to offer a healthy school breakfast, available to all, and enjoy the benefits that brings, with children settled and ready to learn at the start of the school day. Alongside our 'Early Start Breakfast Club' that you can access every morning from 8.00a.m. in school we are now going to be able to offer all our children a fresh warm bagel from 8.45 a.m. This will start on the 29th April. There will be different points across the school for your child to access one including the large playground for Year 3-6 pupils, the classrooms in Year F-Year 2, our pre-school and we'll make sure late comers can 'collect one and go' at the main reception.

**#NSBP | #fuelforlearning | #schoolbreakfast | #healthybreakfast**



**Kwik Cricket**—Year 2 were sporting superstars at the KS1 Kwik Cricket festival last week at Launceston College.



#### **PTFA—changes to planned dates:**

Friday 5th April—non uniform day and Easter competition winners will be announced

Friday 24th May—Crazy hair day

May/June—create and sell a Pre School tea towel

June/July—Leavers Hoodies for Year 6

**Sat 22nd June—Summer Fayre (revised date)**

Wed 10th July—Cake sale

Fri 19th July—Summer Disco

Fridays in July—ice creams for sale in playground after school

Wed 24th July—ice lollies for whole school for end of year treat!

Please continue to support us wherever you can, the funds we raise provide vital support to the school which in turn greatly enhances your children's experiences.



#### **Morning Routine**

As you may have already noticed this week once the school gate is opened at 8.45 a.m. different year groups are heading in different directions! We are asking all Year 1 and Year 2 pupils to head straight into class, just as the Foundation class already do. We are also asking all Year 6 pupils to head straight into class. Only the Years 3 ,4 and 5 meet and wait in the main playground until the bell goes and their teacher comes to collect them to lead them in. In the case of wet weather ALL pupils will head straight into their classrooms.

This has been done for several reasons. Firstly we prioritise your child's safety and happiness and we felt that the younger children would feel more secure and settled by instant contact with their class teacher and known adults. Also they take a little bit longer to independently organise themselves and their belongings in the morning so this enables the learning to start more efficiently. Alongside this they will be able to access our free breakfast provision from the 29th April in their classroom area. Secondly, the last year at primary school is such a crucial transition period for our Year 6 children before they start secondary education. For this reason we need them to take further responsibility and ownership of their learning by heading straight inside and starting morning challenges independently. The class teacher will be inside waiting for them and on the way through they will also be able to pick up a free breakfast bagel to help start the day and get their brains ready for action.

This then means that the teacher on duty in the main playground can monitor carefully three classes, and the Year 5 pupils who are responsible for 'Wake and Shake' activities can manage a smaller group with more impact. If the children have to head inside due to bad weather we will provide our free breakfast provision inside the building to ensure nobody misses out. Thank you for your support with this slight change and if you have any questions regarding this change please do not hesitate to come and speak with myself or any of the staff in your child's class.

**Maura Furber**

#### **Talking Mental Health Animation**

**TALKING MENTAL HEALTH**

Talking Mental Health is an animation designed to help begin conversations about mental health in the classroom and beyond.

The animation and accompanying resources have been created by a team of animators, children, teachers and clinicians, and is being taught to year 5 and 6 children around the UK.

The animation and resources are freely downloadable from [www.annafreud.org](http://www.annafreud.org)

#### **Finding support**

ChildLine: For 18s and under  
0800 1111

NSPCC:  
0800 800 5000

YoungMinds Parent Helpline:  
0800 802 5544

Youth Wellbeing Directory:  
[youthwellbeing.org](http://youthwellbeing.org)

#### **About the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families**

The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families has developed and delivered pioneering mental health care for over 50 years.

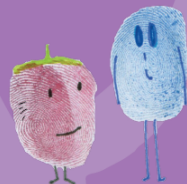
Our aim is to transform current mental health provision in the UK by improving the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of treatment.

We believe that every child and their family should be at the heart of the care they receive, working in partnership with professionals.



**Anna Freud  
National Centre for  
Children and Families**

**You're never too  
young to talk  
mental health**



**Tips for talking for  
parents and carers**

#### **Year 5 Fundraiser**

A massive thank you to all the children and their grown ups for baking and making a huge variety of treats for Year Five's fundraiser. There were all sorts of goodies some healthy, some extremely healthy, all tasty. The children ran the stall and managed to raise £87.25!!!

The money raised will help to reduce the cost to parents for this amazing trip and also to fund the little extras that we hope will make the trip special. This is particularly important as this will probably be the last London residential due to the Houses of Parliament changing the application process.





### PTFA Sponsored Mile

Thank you all so much for your overwhelming support for this fundraising event. We are delighted to inform you that we have raised a staggering £1,322.36 so far! If you have not sent in your contributions today, can we ask that you do so Monday. All money raised goes directly to fund enrichment activities for your children throughout the year.



### Coaching Sessions

Recently our students have been enjoying professional coaching taster sessions in both Tennis and Badminton.

A big thank you to Mr Bullock for organising such a wonderful opportunity.



### Tennis

As mentioned above, pupils from across the school have recently been enjoying tennis coaching with Launceston Tennis Club. If your child wishes to learn to play, the Club hold children's pay and play sessions which will start after the Easter Holidays. They are held every Monday afternoon at the tennis courts on the Launceston College Playing Fields from 4.30pm-5.30pm **for only 50p a session!**

All equipment is provided. There is no need to book in advance, but if you do have any queries, please contact Jenny Worth on: 07766 592519 or email: [jaw53@hotmail.com](mailto:jaw53@hotmail.com) or go to : [www.launcestontennis.org](http://www.launcestontennis.org)



### Pre School

This week the children have been enjoying bug hunting and successfully found lots of different creatures. When you are out and about this weekend, perhaps you could help them locate some more! Any pictures can be sent in via Class Dojo. Also a big thank you for your sponsorship money today, Pre School enjoyed the walk in the sunshine and funds raised will go to the PTFA.



### EASTER FUN at STARA WOODS on SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL PL14 7PG

Like being outside and discovering? The Friends of Stara Woods are holding a nature detecting morning on Easter Saturday from 11am until 2pm. You will have a list of things to find, make notes about and photograph. Prizes for the best photographs. Bring a phone / digital camera, a notebook and pen / pencil. This is a free event but donations are always welcome to help maintain our beautiful woods. Refreshments available. Parents will need to accompany their children. Stara Woods can be found near Upton Cross heading to Launceston. Guthrie O'Brien a directing researcher for wildlife documentaries will be bringing his cameras and showing off a few tricks of the trade for those who are thinking about a career in natural history.



### ARB News

Our topic is Julia Donaldson and we read Stick Man last week. In WildTribe we made our own Stick Man, choosing, collecting and joining sticks. We also tested to see how far we could throw our sticks. This week we are reading Room on the Broom. Our challenge was to make a wand and a broomstick and then see how many people could share a broomstick. The witch in the story had 5 but we could only get 3 on! We are really excited to get our new Scooter boards from the MCC group donation and have had lots of physical activity (and fun) steering, pushing, pulling and sharing. It is autism Awareness Week next week, the ARB are having a sensory exploration week, see more on the National Autistic Society website: [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)





## Vacancies

For current vacancies please go to the An Daras MAT website, [www.andaras.eschools.co.uk](http://www.andaras.eschools.co.uk) and click on the Work with Us tab.

### Year 1/2 Hinduism workshop

As part of our learning about different faiths, children in Year 1 and 2 had the amazing opportunity to participate in a Hinduism workshop. We were visited by the inspirational Daya, who has led many workshops, for numerous schools across Cornwall and Devon, over many years. The workshop allowed the children the chance to enjoy learning about the Hindu culture, followed by dressing up in beautifully coloured, traditional clothing and dancing in the Indian style. They were also able to take part in some traditional cooking, including making and tasting potato curry and chapattis.



## Story Time at Charlie Bears

During the Easter holidays we will be reading a story for children, daily at 2pm in our museum at the Bearhouse in Launceston. \*

We will be telling traditional children's fairy tales, fables and of course stories about "bear-i-lliant" bears!

Entrance to the Bearhouse museum and the story time is free – story time will be a "beary" casual event with oodles of fun, if the little ones want to crawl, play, cry or just join in it is all okay with us.

\*The event will run from Tuesday to Saturday week commencing the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2019.

For more details please email [headbear@charliebears.com](mailto:headbear@charliebears.com), call us on 01566 777092 or just pop in to see us – we are at The Bearhouse, Pipers Close, Pennygillam Industrial Estate, Launceston, Cornwall PL16 7PJ.

We hope to see you beary soon.....



At Tiny Tots Ltd we are now taking bookings for our Easter Holiday Club for Primary aged children. The club is set in our beautiful woodland and run by Chrissie, our qualified Forest school Leader. The children will spend the whole day outside at our Base Camp and have a chance to explore the wider woodland. Children will take part in activities such as lighting fires, cooking on an open fire, den building, woodland crafts as well as lots of Easter related fun. For more information and to view our Easter timetable, visit our Facebook Page @holidayclublawhitton, our website [www.tinytotsltd.com](http://www.tinytotsltd.com) or call 01566 772134.



## Outdoor Holiday Club@Lawhitton

### EASTER FUN IN THE WOODS!

Week 1 - 8/4/19

Monday - Team games in the woods.

Tuesday - Den and shelter building

Wednesday - Bushcrafts, to include, lighting fires with handmade bow

drills, chopping pegs from wood and building a permanent fire pit.

Thursday - Building fires and making charcoal

Friday - River adventures including the mud slide, Easter themed nature crafts

Week 2 - 15/4/19

Monday - Survival skills. How to keep safe in the woodland

Tuesday - Campfire cooking. Making bread, toasting marshmallows and

popping popcorn

Wednesday - Easter Egg hunt and making chocolate nests

Thursday - Mud play. Using the mud kitchen, mud sculptures and mud painting

For children  
aged 5-11 years



@holidayclublawhitton

01566 772134



Tiny Tots, Sheers Barton, Launceston, PL15 9NJ

[enquiries@tinytotsltd.com](mailto:enquiries@tinytotsltd.com)

PosterMyWall.com



**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

**ST STEPHENS COMMUNITY ACADEMY**  
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E-mail: [ststephens@andaras.org](mailto:ststephens@andaras.org)  
[www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk](http://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk)



Exec. Head Teacher: W. T. Hermon  
Head Teacher: Mrs Maura Furbur

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

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are very excited to inform you that the Y2 –Y6 pupils will be starting our new reading programme called Accelerated Reader after the Easter break. The Y2 pupils and a couple of Y6 pupils have been trialling this new programme for us and their enthusiasm and delight in reading is growing daily.

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computerised programme that has not only been specifically designed to improve children's reading ability and continue to raise their reading age, but also to encourage and nurture a love of reading that will continue into adulthood.

The Accelerated Reader Program works by identifying a child's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is essentially a selection of books that will not only match their ability, but will also challenge them and develop their vocabulary. Each child in Y2-Y6 will have sat a short online comprehension test in order to determine their ZPD before the Easter holiday. Using the outcomes of these tests, children will be directed to choose books from the school library that fall within this range and when they have finished the book, they will take a short, electronic quiz that assesses their understanding of what they have read.

Each half term I will be holding an AR draw for a 'big' prize. Each time your child gets all the quiz questions correct they will be awarded a 100% raffle ticket by their teacher that will be collected and entered into the draw.

This will replace the original coloured 'book bands' in Y2-Y6. Each child will have their AR book to take home as well as a book to read for pleasure if they choose so.

Please note the children in YF and Y1 will continue to use the colour book bands and Karate Reader reward bands.

#### What does reading do for our children?

- Reading improves concentration - Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on the story when they're reading. Reading also relaxes the body and calms the mind whilst also exercising the connections in the brain.
- Reading teaches children about the world around them - Through reading, they learn about people, places and events outside their own experience.
- Reading improves a child's vocabulary, leads to more highly-developed language skills and improves the child's ability to write well.
- Children learn new words as they read as well as seeing how to structure sentences and how to use language effectively.
- Reading develops a child's imagination - When we read, we translate the descriptions of people, places and things into pictures.

- Reading helps children develop empathy- When we're engaged in a story, we imagine how the characters are feeling and use our own experiences to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have to say the children are absolutely buzzing about the new programme.

Many thanks

***Maura Furber***