

An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"



Friday 8th December 2017



Dear Parents,

A continued thank you to parents for supporting us with our focus on behaviour. We recently had our Rights Respecting School Level One assessment and our visitors commented on how well mannered and respectful our children were across the school environment. We have started the period of assessments so children are working hard to showcase their learning from the term. This information will help us plan the Spring Term. Please do contact your child's class teacher if you would like to know more information on their learning progress. Please note the dates for the Christmas events. We look forward to seeing you all at the various events. Please do use the school calendars on the front page of the website. Regards, Mrs Saunders

Academy School Improvement:

We have been busy focusing on using assessment information to inform our school evaluation and our academy improvement plan for 2018. Teachers have been busy moderating children's learning with a range of evidence to make the Autumn term assessments.

Attendance

Wk Ending

1st December 2017

CLASS F	93.2%
CLASS 1	92.0%
CLASS 2	86.9%
CLASS 3	95.0%
CLASS 4	94.6%
CLASS 5	96.6%
CLASS 6	96.9%
CLASS 7	75.0%

Key Diary Dates

Weds 13th/Thurs 14th Dec	9.30am KS1 Nativity
Fri 15th December	9am KS2 Cinema Trip
Fri 15th December	1pm-3pm KS1 Christmas Party
Fri 15th December	PTFA Christmas Disco KS1 5pm-6pm KS2 6.15pm-7.15pm
Mon 18th December	Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation)
Mon 18th December	School Christmas Dinner
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-Fri16th February	Half Term
Thurs 1st-Fri 2nd March 2018	Year Three Residential, Slapton Sands



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RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS



LEVEL 1

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 14** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.'*

We had our Level 1 Assessment Day on Thursday 30th November and we are pleased to announce that Jilly, our assessor, awarded us with Level 1 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award! Jilly was impressed with the range of evidence that our Steering Group had assembled over the past 18 months, as well as how our school environment, and curriculum, reflects a commitment to promoting children's rights. The members of the Steering Group took Jilly on a 45-minute learning walk of the school to explain this evidence to her.

Jilly visited every classroom to ask the pupils a range of questions about their rights, including their knowledge of the Convention and whether they felt our school was successfully promoting their rights. Every class was welcoming to Jilly and answered her questions in a considerate, respectful and positive manner. Two groups of pupils from across both Key Stages also met with Jilly during the afternoon to answer some very thought-provoking questions, which they did brilliantly. Jilly commented on the excellent responses from pupils', as well as the positive feedback she received from staff and governors.

Huge congratulations to the members of the Steering Group who have worked towards this Level 1 Award for the past two years, as well as all the pupils, staff and governors who showcased St Stephens in such a fantastic way on the day. As a school, we should be very proud of our efforts and hard work.

The Steering Group will no longer meet every three weeks, however, the members will still remain in their role. They will continue to ensure that we are referring to and using our school and class charters, as well as keeping a record of lessons and discussions which take place regarding children's rights. Members will reconvene to take new visitors on learning walks of our school, explaining to them how we became a 'Rights Respecting School.' We will be continuing with our 'Rights Child of the Week', as well as focusing on a particular article from the Convention on a weekly basis.

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

Harper (Year F) for completing lots of English and Maths learning during her 'Busy Learning' and lunchtimes.

Hayden (Year 3) for independently writing a piece for the Christmas Carol Concert.

Well done to Harper and Hayden and all the children who were nominated by their class over the past two weeks!

Pupil Forum

Pupil Forum have been discussing various charities that they wish to support this year. The next one will be Save the Children. Children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers/outfits to school on Monday 18th December with a donation of £1. This will coincide with our school Christmas dinner day.



Pre School

We have had a very busy Autumn term and we are finishing with Christmas activities, we have glitter and sparkles everywhere at the moment! We are looking forward to watching the Key Stage 1 Christmas performance next week. We always enjoy looking for our friends who have now moved into school.

Please remember to vote for us at Tesco for the 'bags of help' scheme, we have until the 1st of January, the more votes we have the bigger the donation Tesco give us for the children.

Can we remind everyone that our last day is Wednesday 20th December and we return Monday 8th January.



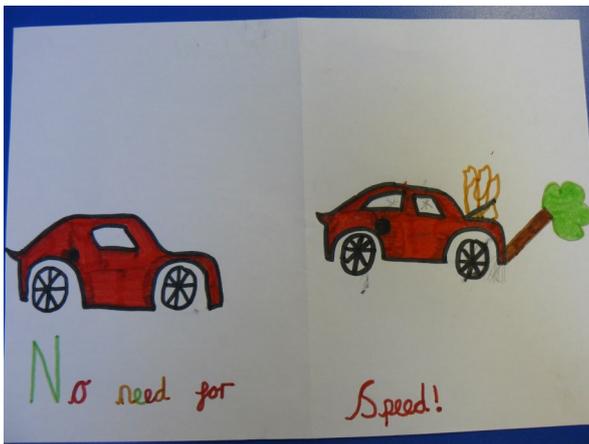
Surprise visitors!

Goldfinches have been spotted eating the seed heads in the Wild Flower Meadow!



Art Club

Well done to the children from Art Club who had their posters put forward for the Road Safety Art Competition : Amber, Nataly, Milly, Ben (entry below) and Elsie.



Zebidiah's Art Gallery

St Stephens and other local schools have been asked if we would like to join in with an art exhibition at Zebidiah's in town, on the theme of 'wildlife'. Your child may have come home with a letter explaining how we are going to run this event – thank you to those keen children who have already signed and returned their form to express an interest. Art work can be submitted from YF to Y6 – if you would like a letter, ask at the office or find Kari Gilbert. Follow the link below to find out more about the gallery. Look out for Mr Hudson's work there, if you visit!

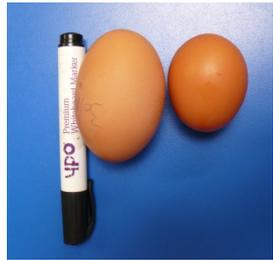
<http://www.thepost.uk.com/article.cfm?id=108259&headline=New%20arts%20collective%20gallery%20space%20opens%20in%20Launceston§ion1s=news&searchyear=2017>

Junk Band

Look out for Junk Band performing at Late Night Shopping from 6:30 – 6:50pm outside Lokaroma.

Children have already played a local gig with this new band at the Co-Op on Western Road, as a thank you to the Co-Op for donations to the PTFA : Lewis, Summer, Jess, Elsie, Mia and Oscar.

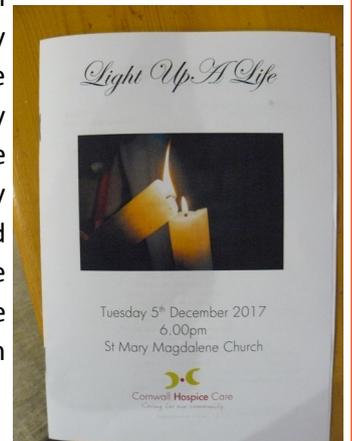
Many thanks to the children and parents for turning up on a cold Saturday afternoon to play!



The chickens have been laying some enormous eggs lately – but this tops the chart at 100g! Many thanks to all the families who have bought and enjoyed our school eggs this term – several of you have reported double-yolkers!

Choir

What a fantastic group of children we had to represent the school on the evening of Tuesday 5th December at St Mary Magdalene. We had been asked by Rvd Teresa Folland to perform as part of a charity carol concert – something that many of us were nervous about, as the choir is very new with many recently-joined members. The children performed beautifully however, despite nerves, and behaved impeccably during the service. Well done choir – we now look forward to Song Fest in March.



Our 'Christmas Around the World' crib made by children across the school for St Mary's Christmas display. Drop in to see it and all the beautiful trees in the church, on Late Night Shopping : Friday 8th December.



Christmas in Launceston

See poster in foyer - events include :

Friday 8th December : Late Night Shopping with procession and various events / entertainments.

Saturday 9th December : Christmas Market in Square.

Thursday 14th December : Carol singing around the tree, 6:30pm (not a school choir event).

Saturday 16th December : Carols by South Hill Choir, 2:45 pm Town Square.

Saturday 16th December : Community Carol Concert, 7:30pm Launceston Town Hall.

Sunday 24th December : Christmas Eve shopping 10am – 3pm.

Free car parking on Saturdays in December, in Westgate Street Multi-Storey.



The Wave Project

Last Wednesday we hosted a non school uniform day in aid of The Wave Project. This provides opportunities for children to develop their water skills. A number of our children have benefited from this project in the past so we wanted to show our appreciation. We had excellent feedback as you can see from below!

“It was great to meet you and see some of the children again today. They did such a great job!

The grand total that your school raised was £141.05; a further £21.05 was raised from raffle tickets and wrist bands in addition to £120 from non-school uniform. This is AMAZING and will contribute to making such a difference to the children and young people we work with. Thank you so much for making it such a success.”

For more information on The Wave Project and the work they carry out visit: www.waveproject.co.uk

PTFA

Christmas Disco—Friday 15th December. Yellow forms are being sent home today or can be collected from the school office. These should be completed and returned with payment by next Wednesday.

Our Scholastic Book Party has been extended to Tuesday 12th December. You can view and place orders using the web link below. Remember 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. Order forms can also be requested from the school office if you don't wish to order online.

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

Visit of Lord Rowan Williams to Launceston Library

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Rowan Williams, will be visiting Launceston to share his interest in Charles Causley's poetry. He will be taking part in an event at Launceston Library on Saturday 9th December between 10:30am and 12:30pm. He will be working with children to prepare Christmas cards based on the Christmas poems of Causley. He will begin by giving some short poetry readings. This is a free event.

