



An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"

Mrs Hooper
Acting Head of School

Friday 23rd March 2018



Dear Parents,

More snow! Again a big thank you for your cooperation, making the decision to close the school is always tricky but the safety of the children and staff is paramount. A big well done to the children that represented St Stephens at Songfest last week, and a huge congratulations to Mrs Gilbert for helping the school to achieve the Cornish Singing Schools Award. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, so a big thank you from all of the staff and the children. A reminder that parents meetings will be taking place next Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th March. If you haven't yet booked a slot, sign up sheets are still in our reception area.

Academy School Improvement:

This week teachers have completed their half term review. We have been looking through learning evidence in books and a range of sources to ensure our assessments are accurate. This data is being used to inform our provision for next half term.

Attendance

Wk Ending
16th March 2018

CLASS F	97.1%
CLASS 1	89.2%
CLASS 2	92.7%
CLASS 3	97.3%
CLASS 4	95.0%
CLASS 5	91.0%
CLASS 6	97.6%
CLASS 7	85.7%

Key Diary Dates

Mon 26/Tue 27 March	Parent Meetings
Tues 27th March	Year 5 trip to Shelterbox in Truro
Weds 28th March	Outdoor Learning Afternoon
Fri 30 March-15 April	Easter Holidays
Mon 16 April	Back to School
Weds 18th April	Year 4 Eden Project Visit
Month of May	SATS Year 2
Mon 14-Fri 18 May	SATS Year 6
Mon 28 May-Fri 1 June	Half Term
Mon 4 June	Summer Term Inset Day
Tues 5 June	Back to school
Mon 11-Fri 15 June	Phonics Screening Week
Tues 24 July	End of Year



Smoothies for Year F!

Year F enjoyed creating smoothies with Sue from Chartwells on Wednesday as part of their 'Planting and Growing' topic. The pupils spoke about the fruits they could name and how many pieces of fruit and vegetables we should eat every day to maintain a healthy and balanced diet. They enjoyed predicting the colour that the smoothies would end up as and tasting their two smoothies (one made of fruit juice and one with cherry yoghurt). All of the



pupils tried their smoothies and the overwhelming majority thought they were delicious, with some pupils saying they are now going to make smoothies at home! A big thank you to Sue for spending time with the class.

Year 2 Visit to Eden



On Thursday of last week Year 2 visited The Eden Project as their class topic has been 'Green Fingers'. The children started the day by completing a 'Green Machines' workshop where they learnt about all of the different parts of a plant and their functions.

They then went and explored the Rainforest biome and the Mediterranean biome, where they got to learn about a variety of plants from different parts of the world. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, listened well and behaved wonderfully, representing the school brilliantly. Thank you to our parent helpers for coming on the trip with us.

Callington May Fest

For anyone interested in music or dance, there is a fantastic series of workshops over April and May, ending in a day of celebrations on May Day. There is a whole range of activities planned, from Flamenco, to Samba, to British Folk, led by experienced musicians and teachers. All the workshops take place in Callington at various venues and are free. See the below to find out more.

<https://callingtoncave.weebly.com/>

INTRODUCTION TO FLAMENCO WITH MERCEDES
 Whatever your ability, it's bound to be fun!
 Since graduating from the Conservatorio de Opatzo in Alicante, Mercedes Romero has taught dance and performed professionally for over 25 years. First settling in the UK in 1998 based in Plymouth, she delivered Flamenco and Salsa classes in several schools and colleges across the South West of England, most recently at the Plymouth School of Creative Arts.

She was an established teacher at the Barbican Theatre in Plymouth where she formed her own Flamenco group "Flamenco Vivo", performing at numerous venues, community arts projects, corporate events and private functions all over Devon and Cornwall. She has appeared in several artistic productions at many renowned theatres and dance venues in Spain.

Her passion and commitment to Flamenco has also taken her around the world, choreographing and performing with a number of Spanish dance companies in countries such as Mexico, Italy and France.

These sessions are for everyone - beginner or improver. Mercedes will take you through a journey of dance.

	17 Mar	7 April	14 April	21 April	28 April	5 May	12 May	17 May
Find Your Voice		10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	19.00-21.00
Flamenco	13.00-14.30	13.00-14.30					13.00-14.30	13.00-14.30
MayFester Music	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30			10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30
Samba Drumming				10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30	10.30-12.30
Hands-on	10.30-12.30							
Town Hall		Primary School	Methodist Church	Bull's Head Yard	To be confirmed			

Ready? Steady? Go for MayFest!

Saturday 19th May
 Fun with Music, Dance and Song - now in our 6th Year!
 Why not be part of it?
 Join our free tuition for beginners and improvers!

Make Music • Find your voice • Flamenco

Samba Drumming • Try an Instrument

SEE INSIDE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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Pre School



We have recently set up our Pre-School group Facebook page, this will give you up to date information about the setting and the activities that are available to the children. Please take a look and have a chat with the team if there is anything you would like to have on the page. Next week we will be having lots of Easter activities and maybe a visit from the Easter bunny.

Pre-School will finish on Thursday 29th March and return on Monday 16th April.

Launceston Show Thursday 26th July 2018 : GARDENING COMPETITION!

This year, schools have been asked to contribute to the show by producing an 'upcycled' garden container, with plants growing in it. The idea is that the container you make, should be able to be placed permanently, somewhere in the school grounds.

The prizes will be : 1st prize £50; 2nd prize £30; 3rd prize £20. There will also be prize cards and rosettes for every entry.

The planted container can be brought to the field at Kennards House on the Wednesday 25th July between 3 – 6 pm. If you have any queries, do not hesitate to call Maggie Colwill on 01566-785485 or email maggiocolwill@cloud.com.

Please see Mrs Gilbert if you are interested and would like an application form.



CALLING ALL ARTISTS : Andaras Art Competition!

The schools of the An Daras trust are going to have a competition to find the top artists of the Academy. The theme is WHERE YOU LIVE. Entries can be in any media (e.g. chalk, pastel, paint, pencil, collage etc.) but cannot be 3D. Minimum size is A4, maximum size is A3. Teachers across the schools will collect entries and Mr Hermon will judge them with the rest of the central office team. The closing date is 27th April, so get creating over the Easter holidays! Three winners will be picked and each will receive a £10 WH Smith voucher, and the opportunity to go to An Daras Central office to see their artwork unveiled ... good luck everyone!



Mayor's Charity Event

We are excited to have been asked to take part in the Mayor's Charity Event on 20th April, in Launceston Town Hall. We will be performing alongside other schools and youth groups, including McQueen's Theatre School. Our choir will be teaming up with Coats Green to sing some of the songs from Song Fest again, Drama Club will be performing some material from Robin Hood, and there will be a range of other soloists from across the school. In addition, we will have on display in the Town Hall foyer, artwork that was shown at Zebediah's Gallery in town, as well as some pieces that members of Year Five have been working on this term. The primary schools are able to perform between 4:30 and 6:30pm ... it promises to be a fantastic event.

Thank you to Maunders



The chickens were able to say thank you to our local business, Maunders, by sending them six boxes of eggs this week! This is because Maunders donated the wire that we used to put the chicken run together. We hope that the staff there, enjoy the eggs!

Wild Tribe Afternoon : BEST DRESSED VEGETABLE!



On the afternoon of the 28th (day before we break for Easter), we will be holding another outdoor learning / 'Wild Tribe' afternoon. We are excited to be hosting a few special visitors this time, including Mrs Tremayn who will be teaching us some Cornish folk dances, and also Ms Ryan with her ponies!

Some of the activities will involve mud, so old clothes, wellies and if possible, over trousers, will definitely be needed!

To raise money, we will also be holding a best dressed vegetable competition (see example here). If you would like to enter, bring 50p on the day with your veg, and give it to Mrs Gilbert. Remember to put your name on your work. Veg can be composted at the end of the day, or can return home with their owners!

... Fruit also allowed!



Song Fest concert

Congratulations to our choir, who worked really hard last week to produce an excellent evening concert, of twelve Cornish / Devonian folk songs. The children were rehearsed at maximum concentration by Cornwall's vocal leader, Angela Renshaw! They then performed to a packed Town Hall audience. St Stephens children were on the front row and very much on display – and they certainly lived up to the occasion in terms of the commitment, concentration and knowledge of the music that they showed. We also had a few surprises, with children volunteering to dance, take on solo roles (Evie) and play instrumental solos (Oscar on drums). The icing on the cake came when St Stephens won an award : the Cornish Singing Schools Award, which acknowledges the enthusiasm, effort and time dedicated to singing and music at our school. Well done St Stephens!



Reading Karate Bands



This week our Reading Karate bands arrived at school. This is a new whole school incentive to encourage the children to read at home. The more you read, the quicker you move up the bands. Each week we add that week's number of reads onto a running total. When children reach different milestones for the number of reads they have completed and had signed by an adult, they receive a different coloured Karate band. The children need to bring in to school their current band to swap for their new band. When the children reach black they keep their black band and start collecting from white again.

Multiskills

This week 10 children from year 1 and 2 represented St Stephens at a Multiskills festival at St Josephs. The children took part in a variety of activities including netball, hockey and tennis. They all had a fantastic time and were great ambassadors for the school.



NEW website sections

Thanks to Mrs Spence for creating new sections on our school website, for Creative Arts and Outdoor Learning. Now we can put on all our news and events, to represent the work that we do in these areas at St Stephens ... watch this space!

