



**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

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



Thursday 30th March 2017



Dear Parents,

Happy Easter! I do hope that you all have a lovely Easter break and we have good sunshine. It's been a great fortnight. Thank you for attending parents meetings. Well done to the children for the various events this fortnight. Congratulations to Year 5 for their Snappy Opera project at the Town Hall yesterday. Well done to the school for Science Day on Wednesday 29th March. Year Six had a great trust event at WHA. We are seeking your feedback on our tea and biscuit meetings, so please do complete the feedback slip on the letter sent out. We are very excited for the Summer Term, as the weather (hopefully) improves we have a number of child centred activities such as the Wizard Of Oz Production at the Town Hall in May for Year 5 and 6 children. Please remember due to Easter Monday we are back to school on Tuesday 18th April 2017. Best wishes everyone for Easter and I do hope the Easter bunny comes! Thank you for your continued support of the school. I would also like to thank the staff at St Stephens for their continued hard work and dedication to the school.

Regards, Mrs Saunders.

## Academy School Improvement:

The focus has been on teachers making assessment judgements to share with you at parents meetings. We have also been focusing on behaviour and attendance expectations these last few weeks.

## Attendance

### Wk Ending

24th March 2017

CLASS F	94.3%
CLASS 1	93.6%
CLASS 2	95%
CLASS 3	98.7%
CLASS 4	94.4%
CLASS 5	96.2%
CLASS 6	96.5%
CLASS 7	96.3%

## Attendance

Coming to school is really important, we are sure that you would agree. However, at SSCA attendance is below 95% which concerns us. We are working towards 97.5%. Some of these statements below may help you to understand why it is such a focus for us. **If pupils have greater than 95% attendance– 77% of pupils will achieve at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths. However if attendance is less than 90% only 42% will achieved 5 GCSES. That is a difference of 34%. The figure gets lower when attendance is less than 80%, with only 32% achieving 5 GCSES.**

The Department of Education makes it very clear that a child of compulsory school age must attend a school regularly if registered at a school. The child must maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance (above 95%) is important to allow a child or young child to fulfil their potential.

Key Reasons why it is so important that children attend schools: - to learn—to make new friends—to experience new things in life—to gain qualifications—to develop new skills—to build confidence—to have the best possible start in life.



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

01566 772170

### Animals

Please can we kindly remind all parents that dogs, including puppies, are not allowed on school site, including outside the pencil fence. Following a recent incident, please may we ask again that if you do have a dog outside the school grounds kindly ensure that these are dogs able to cope with large crowds and young children. It is important to us that all children are safe within and outside our school grounds. The school does contact the police if any incidents arise.

### **Attendance Reminder**

Attendance at SSCA is important and we still have children who do not have 97% plus as an attendance figure. Let us know if we can help.

### UNICEF

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 people from enjoying their rights.'*

Our preschool has now joined us on our journey to becoming a 'Rights Respecting School'. They are in the process of creating their own 'Preschool Charter' which, like our class charters in school, will replace their 'Preschool Rules'.

Our steering group enjoyed creating a 'Chicken Charter' in their last meeting which outlines the rights of our school chicken! They have also been working hard to ensure that every display in our school corridors have an article linked to them.

We have continued focusing on our 'Rights Children of the Week' with every class nominating one child each week for acting responsibly, showing positive behaviour or talking about their rights. These children have continued to sit on our 'Rights and Values Table' every Friday lunchtime and their behaviour has been added to our 'Rights and Values Tree' in school.

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

**Elsie (Year 3)** for always helping to keep her classroom safe and tidy.

**Lucas (Year F)** for being a good friend and congratulating other children when they have done something positive.

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

### Community Governors– A fantastic opportunity

We have two vacancies for community governors for SSCA. Please share the word with the local residents. We are full with parent governors but if you know of someone who would like to support the school by attending one afternoon meeting a half term and regular visits to school, please ask them to contact us at St Stephens. Mrs Saunders, Head of School would like to meet them and give them a tour of our fantastic site and explain more about the role.

### **Year Six Support**

As we get ever closer to Year Six / national assessments, Mrs Neale is kindly hosting revision sessions for children on Tuesday after school for Reading and Thursday after school for Maths. Do make the most of these sessions, which will be for the first three weeks back. We are delighted to announce that during the week of 8th May we will be offering all Year Six children a free breakfast from 8am to get them ready for their SATs. Chartwells will be helping to provide this breakfast – which will include bacon baps. We would like to see all Year Six children at school from 8am.

### Diary Dates:

<b>Thurs 30th March 2017</b>	<b>PTFA Easter Bingo</b>
<b>Mon 2nd April—17th April 2017</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Tues 18th April 2017</b>	<b>Return to School</b>
<b>Weds 19th April 2017</b>	<b>Year 1 Lanhydrock visit</b>
<b>Weds 19th April 2017</b>	<b>KS2 Beach Safety Talk</b>
<b>Fri 21st April 2017</b>	<b>Yr 5/6 Maths Challenge Day</b>
<b>Fri 21st April 2017</b>	<b>Cake Sale</b>

### Year F ADMAT Event

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Year F had their ADMAT Trust Event which was held at Windmill Hill Academy. Year F children from St Stephens, St Catherine's and North Petherwin took part in a 'Traditional Tales' themed morning. Activities included going on a Gingerbread Man hunt, creating a bridge for the 3 Billy Goats Gruff, planting a runner bean based on the Little Red Hen and creating a house for the 3 Little Pigs. The children were split up into four groups and rotated around the different activities. It was a great opportunity for all of the children to make new friends with children from the other schools. Our pupils behaved wonderfully and completed the activities brilliantly! Well done to all of you and a big thank you to Miss Jones at Windmill for organising the event.



### Have trouble with My Maths access?

Some parents recently shared they are having trouble with My Maths access. Here is some guidance from our ICT technician:

My Maths requires flash which is not natively supported by iPads. The best way to access My Maths is to install the free App: Puffin Academy, you can then search for and open My Maths from within the App. (It is a browser that includes flash ). Do let us know if you are having any further issues.

### Online Safety Newsletters

These can be found on our website under the Newsletter section as well as under Online Safety.

### Dr/Hospital Appointments

Please try to limit the amount of time out of school for these appointments.

### SATS Information

Please see below links for parent information on the upcoming national curriculum tests. The booklets are also included in this newsletter and on our website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents>



2017 national curriculum tests for key stages 1 and 2: information for parents - GOV.UK

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Information leaflet and videos about the 2017 national curriculum tests (often referred to as SATs)

### Events

Disclaimer: All providers have confirmed that they hold all necessary accreditation, qualifications and insurance to organise and run the events and activities described. No duly appointed officer has inspected these services and parents must make their own enquiries and satisfy themselves as to the suitability of the providers before engaging their services. In all the circumstances, neither the school nor One Cornwall will accept any liability arising out of those events.

### Year 6 Transition to Launceston College

Please note: You should have received a Thumbprint Recognition letter, these forms should be completed and returned to us ASAP. Language choice letters and transition timeline letters have also been sent out. If you have not received these then please speak to the office.

### Accessible to all

**Our newsletters are available in large print. Please see the office should you require a copy in this format.**

### Attendance Matters

Going to school every day and arriving on time means:

- Better learning
- Making and developing friendships
- Positive self-esteem and confidence
- Having the chance to reach their full potential
- Improving learning to learn skills such as resilience and reflection

You can help us to help your child by encouraging regular school attendance.

Our aim is to improve children's school attendance and make sure the children get the best chance in education.



If you have any problems getting your child to school on time please contact the school office for help and advice.

### Remember!

A two week holiday taken during term time is over 50 lessons your child will miss. This means they will fall behind with their work.

As Parents/Carers you have a duty to ensure your children attend school and on time. You must provide an acceptable reason if they are late.

### OFSTED Attendance Grades

HIGH	ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE	IN LINE WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE
96.1% +	95.7-96.0%	95.0-95.6%
LOW	CAUSE FOR CONCERN	PERSISTENT ABSENCE
93.9% or below	90% or below	85% or below



## An Daras Multi Academy Trust



### ADMAT

### Attendance Leaflet

- Good school attendance includes arriving at school on time.
- Punctuality is very important as it sets standards later in life.
- We want to work for you to ensure all children have every opportunity to succeed.
- Remember we are here to help and advise.
- Contact your child's school as soon as possible if your child is absent.
- Our target for all schools is 97% attendance rate each year.
- ADMAT school reward good pupil attendance for classes and individuals.

## An Daras Multi Academy Trust



### Impact of Absence

Your child's education is very important.

Regular school attendance and a good education helps your children to fulfil their potential and gives them the best possible chances in life.

At An Daras we monitor the children's attendance and liaise with our Education Welfare Officer.

We work closely with families with low attendance or where non-attendance follows a pattern.

Children who are persistently late or absent soon fall behind with their learning. Children who are absent from school frequently develop large gaps in their learning which will impact on their progress and their ability to meet age related learning expectations.

A child whose attendance drops to 90% each year will, over their time at primary school, have missed two whole terms of learning.

### Lateness

Arriving for school late can mean:

- Missing important announcements during registration.
- Missing early morning challenge work.
- It may be embarrassing to walk into the class that has already started work.
- Missing part of the lesson which can be difficult to catch up on.
- Your child will have a poor attendance record.
- Lateness may lead to reluctance to go to school at all.
- It also disrupts the lesson and other children's learning.

If your child arrives after the register has closed but before 9.15am they will receive a "late" mark in the register. Late arrival after 9.15am will result in an "unauthorised absence" mark for the morning session.

### Absences

All parents/carers should contact the school on the first day of their child's absence. We have an answerphone so you can leave a message at any time of the day or night. When parents/carers notify us of their child's absence it is important that they provide us with details of the reason for their absence.

All absences are recorded as either authorised or unauthorised absences on the computer (SIMS). It is important that we receive accurate information from parents with reasons for the child's absence. This information is used to determine whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

### Definitions

#### Authorised Absence

- An absence is classified as authorised when a child has been away from school for a legitimate reason and the school has received notification from a parent or carer. For example, if a child has been unwell and the parent telephones the school to explain the absence.
- Only the school can make an absence authorised. Parents do not have this authority. Consequently not all absences supported by parents will be classified as authorised.

#### Unauthorised Absence

- An absence is classified as unauthorised when a child is away from school without the permission of the school.
- Therefore the absence is unauthorised if a child is away from school without good reason, even with the support of a parent.

### First Day Contact

Where a child is absent from school and we have not received any verbal or written communication from the parent, then we initiate a first day contact process. Office staff will check registers on a daily basis, to identify those pupils who are absent. There are occasions when we are unaware why the child is absent and we will contact the parents/carers to check the reasons for the child's absence.

It is the parents'/carers responsibility to contact the school on the first day their child is absent. This is a safeguarding matter so that all parties know that your child is safe.





## Information for schools and parents: Primary school progress measures

In 2016 we introduced new national curriculum tests (commonly called SATs) to reflect the revised national curriculum launched in 2014.

Test results are no longer reported as levels. Scaled scores are used instead to help calculate the new progress measures for schools. **Scaled scores at key stage 2<sup>1</sup>** guidance explains in more detail how they are calculated.

### What has changed?

The way we measure primary school performance at the end of key stage 2 (KS2) has changed. Instead of measuring progress for individual pupils, the new measures look at progress at a school level. Progress measures provide parents with information to help them understand how their school is performing and to inform school choices.

In order to calculate the school level progress measures, pupils' results (at KS2) are compared to the achievements of other pupils across the country who had a similar starting point (prior attainment). Prior attainment is based on teacher assessment judgements at key stage 1 (KS1). Schools have progress measures published for 3 subjects: reading, writing and maths.

There are 2 main advantages to the new progress measures:

- they are fairer to schools because we can compare pupils with similar starting points to each other
- they recognise the progress schools make with all their pupils, highlighting the best schools whose pupils go furthest, whatever their starting point.

1. [www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2)



The **Primary school accountability in 2016: technical guide<sup>2</sup>** and accompanying video explain in more detail how schools' progress measures are calculated.

### What progress measures mean

Most schools will have progress scores between  $-5$  and  $+5$ .

If a school has a progress score of 0 this means that on average their pupils achieved similar results at the end of KS2 (end of year 6) to pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1 (end of year 2).

If a school has a positive progress score this means that on average their pupils made more progress than pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1.

**For example:** a score of  $+3$  in reading would mean that on average pupils at the school got 3 scaled score points more in the KS2 English reading test, compared to other pupils nationally with similar results at the end of KS1.

A negative score doesn't mean a school has failed or pupils have made no progress. It just means that on average their pupils have made less progress than pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1.

**For example:** a score of  $-4$  in maths would mean that on average pupils at the school got 4 scaled score points fewer in the KS2 maths test, compared to other pupils nationally with similar results at the end of KS1.

2. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/primary-school-accountability](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/primary-school-accountability)



### Further information

For parents, your child's teacher will be able to answer any queries you may have about the tests and teacher assessment, or you can visit [www.gov.uk/STA](http://www.gov.uk/STA) for more details.

Schools can find more information about:

- KS1 tests at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-1-tests](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-1-tests)
- KS2 tests at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-tests](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-key-stage-2-tests)
- scaled scores and the KS2 tests at [www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/scaled-scores-at-key-stage-2)

© Crown copyright 2017

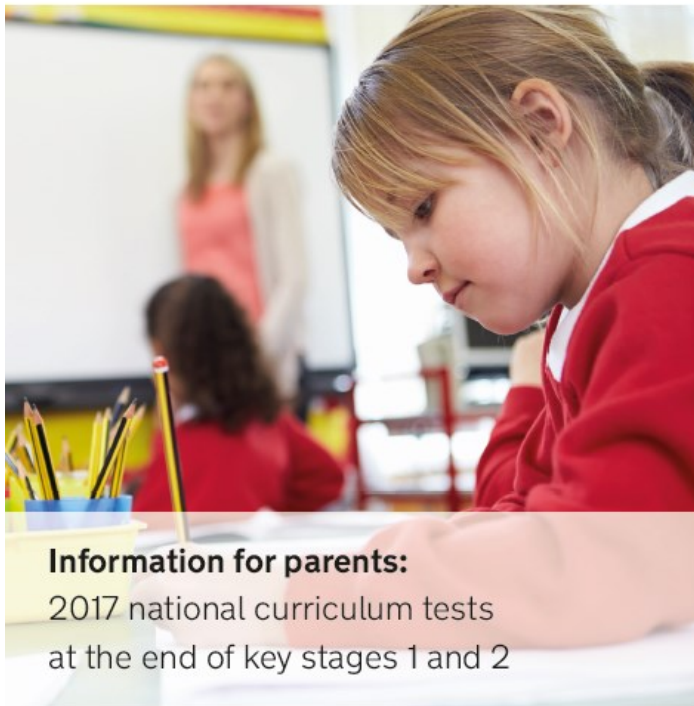
Information for parents: primary school progress measures  
Electronic version product code: STA/17/7916/e ISBN: 978-1-78644-388-5

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This document is available for download at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications).

**OGL**





## Information for parents:

### 2017 national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2

## Do you have a child in primary school in year 2 or year 6?

If so, they will be taking the national curriculum tests (commonly called SATs) in May 2017<sup>1</sup>.

The tests are not qualifications and don't affect your child's future options in school. The results are an opportunity to compare pupils nationally to ensure schools are helping pupils to master the basics in English and mathematics, and make progress.

They are also an important tool to help teachers identify pupils who may need additional support, and make sure this is put in place as early as possible.

## Key stage 1 tests – year 2 pupils

The tests can be taken any time during May and they are not strictly timed. Most pupils won't know they are taking them as teachers will incorporate them into everyday classroom practice.

Subject <sup>2</sup>	Test paper
English reading	2 papers: short text and questions; longer text with separate questions
Mathematics	2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning
English grammar, punctuation and spelling (optional)	2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary)

Teachers will use the results from these tests, along with the work your child has done throughout the year, to help them reach their own judgements about how your child is progressing at the end of key stage 1.

These teacher assessment judgements will be reported to you by the end of the summer term.

1. Participation in the tests is optional for independent schools.

2. The phonics screening check will also be taken by key stage 1 pupils during the week 12 to 16 June.



## Key stage 2 tests – year 6 pupils

The key stage 2 tests will be taken on set dates, unless your child is absent, in which case they may be able to take them up to 5 school days afterwards.

Date	Subject	Test paper
Monday 8 May	English: reading	1 paper
Tuesday 9 May	English: grammar, punctuation and spelling	2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary)
Wednesday 10 May	Mathematics	2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning
Thursday 11 May	Mathematics	1 paper: mathematical reasoning

By the end of the summer term you should receive test results for your child in English reading, English grammar, punctuation and spelling and mathematics. As there is no test for English writing, this will be reported as a teacher assessment judgement. You will also receive separate teacher assessment judgements for English reading, mathematics and science.



## Further information for both key stages

Teachers will make sure all pupils in their class are prepared for the tests and there's nothing specifically test-related that you should do to prepare your child. You should just follow the general advice teachers give about supporting your child's learning throughout the year.

If you want any further information about the tests or assessments, or have any questions, you should start by talking to your child's class teacher.

You can see examples of the tests your child will take at [www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials).

More details about the tests can also be found at [www.gov.uk/STA](http://www.gov.uk/STA).

© Crown copyright 2017

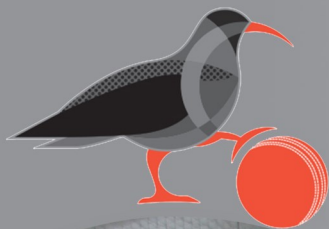
Information for parents: 2017 national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2  
Electronic version product code: STA/17/7922/Pke ISBN: 978-1-78644-346-5

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos or images) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This document is available for download at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications).

Images licensed from iStock.com. Pages 1 and 4: iStock.com/bowdenimages  
Page 2: iStock.com/Highwaystarz-Photography Page 3: iStock.com/Steve Debenport





Cornwall  
Cricket

# HOLIDAY CAMP



**WHERE?**

**WHEN?**

**TIME?**

**HOW MUCH?**

**WEBSITE:**

**CONTACT:**

Cornwall Cricket Centre, TR1 3XX

3rd - 6th April & 10th - 13th April

10am - 4pm

£15 Pre Booking. £20 on the Day

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

[m.kent@cornwallcricket.co.uk](mailto:m.kent@cornwallcricket.co.uk)