

**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

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



Friday 20th October 2017



Dear Parents,

Well done to the children for coming back so well to school. We have had a good start to the year. We have our chickens busy laying many eggs– which you can come and purchase through the school office. Thank you so much for all the Harvest donations which have gone to the Foodbank. A huge thank you to all the parents who have taken the opportunity to come and meet their child’s class teacher in our parent meetings. I would also like to thank parents for their support in the first PTFA meeting. Your time and dedication to the school community is well valued. I wish you all a pleasant half term break.

Regards, Mrs Saunders

### Academy School Improvement:

This fortnight we have had a visit from Mr Hermon CEO for the ADMAT. We had a positive report on teaching and learning across the school which led on well from the visit from our ADMAT School Improvement Team. We have been setting up performance management for all our teaching staff. Teachers have completed their half term review and this data is being used to inform provision for next half term. The school has been focusing on fluency/ multiplication facts for Maths from Year One onwards. We are focusing on spelling and reading for English most especially at Key Stage Two.

#### Attendance

##### Wk Ending

13th October 2017

CLASS F	96.6%
CLASS 1	99.2%
CLASS 2	92.8%
CLASS 3	94.1%
CLASS 4	99.6%
CLASS 5	96.4%
CLASS 6	95.7%
CLASS 7	96.0%

#### Key Diary Dates

Mon 23 Oct– Fri 27th	Half Term
Mon 30th October	Back to School
W/c 13th November	Parents eat lunch week, rota to be confirmed
Weds 15th November	Whole School Learning Powers Day
Weds 29th November	Wave Project, non-uniform £1 donation
Weds 13th/Thurs 14th Dec	9.30am KS1 Nativity
Tues 19th December	1.30pm KS2 Christmas Carol at church
Weds 20th December	Last day of term
Mon 8th January 2018	Back to School



## CARNIVAL

Congratulations to St Stephen's Samba Band who worked incredibly hard last Saturday, to put together a fantastic carnival piece.



We practised at school from 10 – 2, while our many wonderful helpers decorated instruments and helped in a multitude of other ways.

During the parade itself, children were a real credit to the school, even though they had a two hour wait between the judging and the parading. They all looked amazing in their new bright yellow and blue band hoodies, bought for us by Contract Plus SW Ltd and printed by Gareth Lancaster.

Thank you to all the parents, other family members and friends that came along to support by carrying heavy drums, holding the banners, taking photos or by playing. We all had a fantastic evening.



## UNICEF

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 12** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously.'*

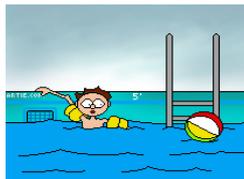
A big thank you to our 'Peer Mediators' who have written a short piece about themselves for the display in the school hall. Our 'Peer Mediator' caps have arrived and those pupils are now wearing them every lunchtime when in the infant playground. The 'Peer Mediators' are doing a fantastic job of supporting our younger pupils in developing their learning dispositions and play skills. Various members of staff have commented on the positive learning and behaviour which is present on the infant playground each lunchtime and we must thank the Peer Mediators for their role in this.

You may have noticed that our 'Playground Charter' and 'Reflection Zone' signs have been put up in the infant playground. There are identical signs in the junior playground, too. Both adults and pupils are referring to these when outside.

The 'Rights Child of the Week' over the past two weeks has been: **Hollie (Year 1)** for always being helpful around the class. **Jamie (Year 4)** for including other pupils in his learning. **Well done to Hollie and Jamie and all the children who were nominated by their class over the last two weeks!**

## Swimming—Year 5

In the coming half term Year 5 will be swimming on Tuesday afternoons for five one hour sessions, beginning **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017** and ending on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017**. We would ask that you contribute **£5 per week** towards the cost of swimming provision and transport. Payment is required via Schoolcomms in two instalments— one of £15 due on Tues 17 November and then one of £10 due on Tues 21 November 2017.



## Enrichments— How does the school help

We are pleased to share that the PTFA are giving each class £100 to support towards enrichments this year. We also have allocated some of our Pupil Premium Money towards helping the cost of visits. We always continue to find other ways to support parents. We have tapped into free transport through the Year 1 recycling visit. We appreciate your support to the school in helping to ensure enrichment activities happen for all our children.

## DRUMS and KEYBOARDS

If anyone is interested in starting lessons with Mr Parkin on drum kit or keyboard, please contact Kari Gilbert for a form. On Wednesday in assembly, we saw some of his current pupils perform, ranging from those who had only been playing for a few weeks, to some who have been learning a few years. Well done to all the performers.

## Club Information

A reminder that school-run after school clubs will be taking place during the following weeks:

**w/c 30th October**  
**w/c 6th November**  
**w/c 13th November**  
**w/c 20th November**  
**w/c 27th November**





Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved. **Key adults: Mrs Saunders, Mrs Paul and Mrs Baxter.**

### Baking—Class F

One of Class F's topics this half term has been 'Harvest'. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October we worked as a class to bake a Harvest sheath with Chartwells, who provide our school dinners. We read the story 'The Little Red Hen' before so we understood the process of turning corn into flour and then bread. We worked brilliantly in small groups to create the various parts needed to form the sheath, which was then put together by Beccy from Chartwells. We also had the opportunity to form our own bread based characters or objects which we enjoyed eating that afternoon! The sheath was the centre piece of our school Harvest display the following day.



On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October we visited Malcolm Barnecutt's Bakery. We all bought an iced bun and enjoyed eating them at the Castle before walking back to school. We all thought they were yummy! A big thank you to Malcolm Barnecutt's Bakery for allowing us to visit and also to St Joseph's school for driving us into town in their minibuses. Finally, a big thank you to our parent helpers for coming on the trip with us. It was our first school trip and our adults said that we behaved wonderfully!

### OUTDOOR LEARNING DAY

Yesterday we had a wonderful morning doing a variety of activities out in the school grounds. It was great to see nearly everyone in the school in their outdoor / wet weather clothes and children gave their very best in resilience and resourcefulness whatever the activity. Groups on offer were : den building, junk band, water courses, leaf jigsaws, stick shakers, clay sculptures, 'lawn' games and drawing on the chicken run.

As sticks were a major feature of the morning, the afternoon focussed on a whole-school creative write, based on the story, Stick Man. Look out for the children's own versions on the board in the school entrance. A big thank you to Mrs Gilbert for organising this day.



## Flu Vaccinations

If you have a child aged 2 or 3, get them vaccinated against flu with the free nasal spray flu vaccine from your GP. School children from reception class through to year 4 will get their vaccinations through their school.



**5 reasons to vaccinate your child against flu**

- 1. **Protect your child.** The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. **Protect you, your friends and family.** Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. **No injection needed.** The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. **It's better than flu.** The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. **Avoid costs.** If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

**What should I do?**  
Children aged two and three years old are offered this vaccination in general practice. Your child's GP surgery should contact you. If you haven't heard from their GP by early November, contact them directly to make an appointment.  
Children in reception class and school years 1, 2, 3 & 4 will be offered the vaccine at school. Your child's school will provide details from the local healthcare team.

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/child-flu](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

**STAY WELL THIS WINTER**

Flu **i**mmunisation 2017/18  
Helping to protect everyone, every winter

## Weather Forecast—by Blane Class 6

**Sat 21st** Cloudy with a chance of rain and strong winds up to 49mph. Max 12\*c



**Sun 22nd** Rainy with sunny spells. Still windy but dropping off throughout the day. Max 12\*c



**Mon 23rd** Overcast with high chance of rain and possible sunny spells. Max 15\*c



**Tues 24th** Cloudy with sunny spells. Max 15\*c



**Weds 25th** Sunny all day. Max temperature of 16\*c



**Thurs 26th** Sunny all day. Max temperature of 17\*c



**Fri 27th** Mostly sunny all day. Max temperature of 15\*c



## Pre School

Good news - We have been successful in our bid for Tesco bags of help (the little blue tokens) and you can start voting for us from the 1st November 2017 until the 1st January 2018. We are going to use the money we receive to build a roof over our bike track, this will enable the children to access the space all year round. Please support our bid by voting for us, tell your family and friends.

**TESCO**



We are very lucky to have Celeste Sillifant joining our team at Pre-School, if you visit us she will be at the setting on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

Just a quick reminder, Pre-School finishes Friday for half term and we will return on Monday 30 October at the new time of 9.00 o'clock. If your child attends for the afternoon session this now starts at 12.00pm, your child will need to bring a healthy packed lunch. We finish at 3.00pm which enables parents to pick up siblings from school.