



St Stephens Community Academy

Fortnightly Family Newsletter

An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

"Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality."



Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Friday 1st November 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back – I hope you and your families had a wonderful half term and had time together to make some new memories. During the break we have been very busy at St Stephens improving the school grounds. You may have noticed that Zulu Lane, next to our Pre-School, has been flattened, tree roots have been removed and new tarmac has been laid. This is now a safe route into our school and will certainly help those of you with prams and toddlers. On our last Parent Satisfaction Survey this area was suggested as needing repairs, we agreed and managed our budget to enable this to happen. The steps leading to our main entrance and in the Key Stage 1 playground have also had new yellow hazard lines refreshed, definitely a necessary improvement especially as the darker nights are drawing in. Other exciting improvements have been happening in our playgrounds... see the section on School Improvement below!

I have been delighted to see how enthusiastically the children have returned to school this week. Our school value of the week has been 'Co-operation' and they have demonstrated this in many ways. I have observed pupils supporting each other in their classroom learning challenges, older children running lunch time sporting activities for the younger children, children in after school clubs working positively together to achieve results, teams of children working collaboratively to achieve a desired outcome e.g. a piece of music, a gardening plan or a list of prospective names for our new chickens! All of these also demonstrate our British Values of 'Mutual Respect' and 'Tolerance of Others'. What a positive way to start a new term - well done Team St Stephens.

Maura Furber

Attendance

Week Ending 1st November 2019

CLASS F	93.3%
CLASS 1	92.7%
CLASS 2	97.8%
CLASS 3	96.5%
CLASS 4	89.6%
CLASS 5	94.0%
CLASS 6	95.0%
CLASS 7	97.1%

School Improvement

Using some of our P.E. Premium Budget we are delighted to have had some new playground markings installed. The playgrounds were looking a tad 'tired' but now the Key Stage 1 pupils can use the balance bikes on the new road track, play hopscotch on a bright new set or play games on the alphabet tree. In the Key Stage 2 area we have now a 'Heart Line' circuit set and new times table ladders. The children have been delighted with the new additions

to their playtimes and it was wonderful to see and hear their reactions this week.

'This is such good fun!'

'I can feel my heart really beating fast- it's great'



Football Champs

On the 15th October St Stephens Academy entered their first Plymouth Argyle Football Club Festival and Competition of the year. Throughout the whole event, from the training sessions in the morning through to the matches in the afternoon, the team demonstrated co-operation, resilience, good manners and great sportsmanship. They have truly made all of us at St Stephens very proud.

As if this wasn't enough they went on to win every match played against four other local schools and came home the winners. What a great start to the season. WELL DONE TEAM ST STEPHENS. Football is coming home!



Y6 trip to see William Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 6 had the pleasure of being able to attend a performance of The Merchant of Venice at Launceston College. It was performed by both the Royal Shakespeare Company and members of Launceston College. Not only was this an amazing opportunity for the children to experience the work of William Shakespeare but also to see the engaging dramatics of such a prestigious company.



September 2020 Intake Tour

We were delighted to welcome families to look around our wonderful school this week. They were amazed by the opportunities that we offer here at St Stephens.



Poppy Appeal

Poppies and various other items will be available to purchase from the office next week in support of The British Legion Poppy Appeal. Items range from 50p-£1.50

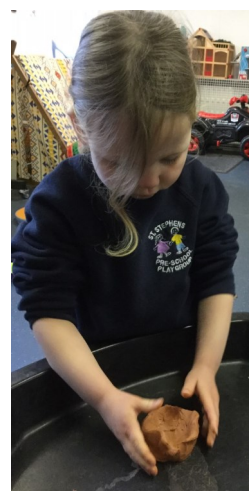


Pre School

This week at Pre-School we have been learning about Divali, the Festival of Lights. Divali celebrates good triumphing over evil, Diva lamps and fireworks were used to guide Rama home after rescuing his wife Sita. Alongside listening to stories about Divali we made diva lamps and firework pictures. A big thank you to Donna Cornish for supplying us with miniature pumpkins that we decorated with glitter and sparkles.

'The diva lamps show the way home' -Dais

'I saw fireworks with nanny at the carnival' - Sophia



Class F Invitation - Get Ready for Writing session - Tuesday 5th November 2019

We are inviting parents/.carers of children in class F to a 'Funky Fingers' session on Tuesday 5th November. It will be first thing in the morning. Come with your child into the classroom when you drop them off in the morning and stay to get some ideas to get little fingers 'ready for writing!'

Launceston Carnival

On the 13th October our amazing Samba Band, led by Mrs Gilbert, performed in Launceston Carnival. More than 40 children took part in the ensemble which Mrs Gilbert directed with her samba whistle. The children showed amazing resilience in carrying the instruments through the streets of Launceston, whilst keeping in time and playing together. Practice does make PERFECT. Well done everyone and thank you to all parents and friends who supported the community event.



Accelerated Reader Prize Draw

A huge 'Congratulations' to our winners Hayden in Year 5 and Amelia in Year 2. Every time your child achieves 100% in an Accelerated Reader quiz they earn a raffle ticket which gives them entry into our half termly prize draw. This time the prizes were a family ticket for 4 to Camel Creek Adventure Park and a family ticket for 4 on Launceston Steam Railway. Once again a huge thank you to our local community for supporting our reading drive.



Year 5 Keyboard Lessons

Year 5 are extremely lucky. For the next 6 weeks Ms Bridle from the Cornwall Music Trust is teaching us keyboards. At the end of the six weeks we will spend a day at Launceston College for the culmination of this music project - Very exciting! First lesson was on Thursday and we have some extremely budding musicians.



Youth Council Meeting

Today our Youth Forum representatives took part in their first official meeting that was held in the Guildhall. There were several key points on the agenda. They have reported back about forthcoming community events that are happening in the near future. These include an ice skating rink in Launceston Town Square, the Santa Run and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

The other key item discussed was making Launceston a safer environment and what would support this.



The representatives also need to survey the classes at St Stephens to find out their answers to the following questions:

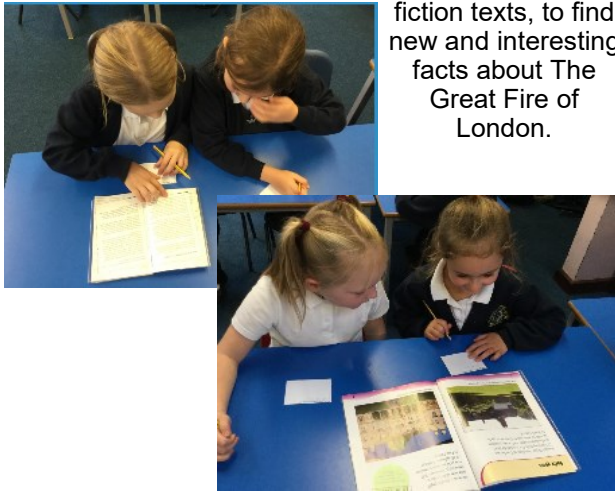
Do you focus on climate change?

What would you put into Launceston to make it a safer/ better environment?

Well done for representing St Stephens so well Leia, Joshua and Jamie. British Values in Action – working for our Community.

Fact Finding in History

In Year 2 they have been working on their own or with a partner, using a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, to find new and interesting facts about The Great Fire of London.



Pizza Perfect

As Year 4 came to the end of their learning about plants they made pizzas to celebrate the fruits, vegetables and herbs that grow. They learnt about different herbs and then how to make pizza dough from scratch. They had great fun choosing the vegetarian toppings, cooking the pizzas and were also keen to help out clearing up!



ARB

This week we have been learning about 2D shapes. We could remember the name of most of them. We had a challenge this week. We had to count how many corners and sides each shape had. We had some new shapes that we learnt about. They were hexagon - with 6 corners- and a pentagon with 5 corners. We found that sometimes different shapes can have the same number of sides and corners.



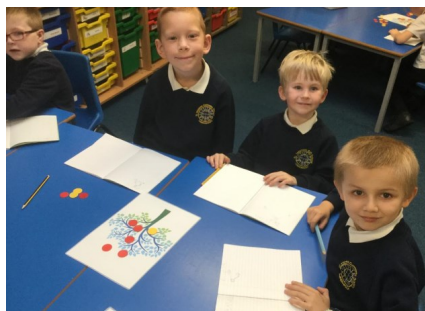
Addition Stories

As an introduction to addition, Year 1 have been creating addition stories. We have been using tress, counters and stem sentences to create our stories.

"First there were 3 birds on the tree, then 2 more flew along, now there are 5 birds altogether."

Once the children had created their addition stories, they

added a part whole model and number sentence to represent their story.



Meet our new Chickens and Ducks.

The great day finally arrived! On the last day before half term we were delighted to go and buy six new hens for our brand new chicken run that was donated by our amazing PTFA. Mr Gilbert and his afternoon gardening group have spent months constructing their new luxury 'pad' and today was the day to go and buy the new 'owners'. Thank you again to the PTFA for providing the funds for this purchase and to Mr Gilbert and his teams of children for all their hard work, man power and team work.

The next job is to decide on names for our new residents...school council votes this half term!

We also welcomed two beautiful ducks into our newly repaired home - a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Gilbert for this wonderfully kind donation....names to follow!

EGGS WILL BE ON SALE EVERY FRIDAY at the end of the day IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE. £1.00 for 1/2 a dozen. All proceeds will go towards looking after the chickens and ducks.

