



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

**“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;  
Celebrating Individuality.”**

Friday 3rd March 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

WOW what another action packed couple of weeks we’ve had at St Stephens! This week I met with our Local Governing Body and actually became quite emotional when I spoke about how we extend the children’s personal development. The experiences the children are given through lunch time /after school clubs and planned enrichment opportunities alongside community involvement makes me immensely proud. These are all run by the amazing team here at St Stephens and community groups who support us and our fantastic PTFA. I think this weeks newsletter highlights just a few of these. I’ve run out of room for the additional opportunities we provide in our normal daily practice including music wellbeing groups, Lego therapy groups, fun-fit sessions and gardening group. I will try to capture some of these next time.  
Have a great weekend everyone and as it is St Piran’s Day today , the National Day of Cornwall ,I will end with the greeting **“Gool Peran Lowen”** . Thanks as always for all your amazing support.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement

As a UNICEF Children's Rights School, we know that children have a right (Article 28) to a primary education and young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of. At St Stephens we use our best endeavors to ensure this right is well and truly met. Below is our Vision, Values and Lived Experience. ( First-hand experiences and opportunities we offer)

### **Vision**

Embracing Learning, Inspiring Ambition, Celebrating Individuality.

### **Values**

Advocacy

Communication

Relationships

Leadership

### **Lived Experience**

Capabilities curriculum

Enrichment curriculum

Same curriculum for all pupils

Woodland skills Centre

Social development and Life skills

Steering Group

House Captains

Trauma Informed Schools

Rights Respecting Schools UNICEF

Visible Learning



## Sustainable Citizens

Year 2 had an exciting day 2 for their Woodland Skills learning.



We learnt about 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' by playing a sorting game. We thought about the question- How or what can we at home or school to reduce our waste and help our environment?

We revisited our learning from last week - Can we remember what eco-systems are?

What are terrariums?

Biodiversity - What is it?

All of life known to humans on Planet Earth can be found in 17 countries around the world and we found these countries on maps.

We then discussed flooding, about how important Beavers are and that they have been released/re-introduced to our local area on the River Tamar. Can we be busy beavers and build dams across gutters to slow down the waters flow? We used the wattle and daub technique to work in small teams to build our own dams.

We love where we live, so we finished the day by making willow hearts and weaving them with wool, feathers and nature items. Alongside this we took part in campfire cooking and made some toffee apples

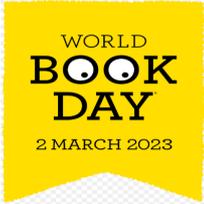
## Mastering Number in our Foundation Class

This week we welcomed some of the parents of our Reception pupils into a maths lesson. This was a great opportunity for parents to learn about how maths is taught in EYFS and the importance of early number sense.



Parents were involved in some activities with their child, which can be used at home to support 'subitising' skills: the ability to recognise how many are in a group without counting and being able to explain if it was '3 or not 3'.

Ms. Neale, our school and Trust Maths Lead, started the session and thank you to Mrs. Lumby and Mrs. Hobbs for introducing the activities from the Mastering Number Programme which we follow in the EYFS- they proved to be a huge success

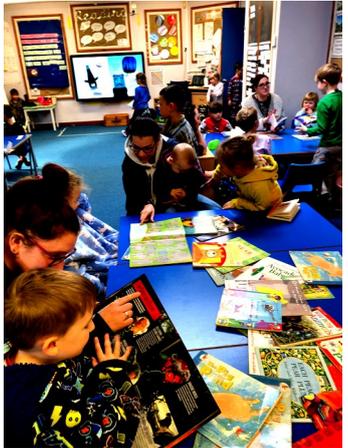


Thursday 2nd March was World Book Day and at St Stephens we are passionate about promoting reading for pleasure.

This year our theme was 'Snuggle up with a book' and the children came to school dressed in their pyjamas.

We wanted to offer every child at our school the opportunity to have a book of their own and develop their love of reading. Mrs Hooper met with the House Captains and decided that we wanted to give the children the chance to swap books that they have previously enjoyed, with other children in the school. This is something that links really well with our work on climate change and sustainability

We were absolutely delighted to receive so many book donations that each child in the school (including pre-school) was able to take home a 'swap book' as well as their World Book Day £1 Book Token.



Each class also held a 'Reading Cafe' from 2:45-3:15. This gave parents and carers the opportunity to come into their child's class and to share books and stories with them. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us today.

The classes also took part in special book day events including interactive live author links.

WE LOVE READING. The more you read , the more you learn. Thank you everyone for your wonderful support



### Gold Table

Congratulations to our most recent 'Gold Table' members –all recognised for demonstrating our school values Advocacy, Leadership, Relationships and Communication



We are so proud of you all –Great job Team St Stephens.

## Healthy Hearts



This week Year 1 have had a 'Healthy Hearts' workshop with Amy from Arena. We were learning why it is

important to keep our mind, body and heart healthy. Throughout the day, Amy read 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas and 'My Many Coloured Days' by Dr. Seuss and we participated in lots of different activities to help us with fun strategies to give us healthy hearts and happy minds.

We made our own rainbows, painted rocks, participated in pilates and dance, spent lots of time outside, made erupting volcanoes, created rockets and much more! The children had an amazing, fun filled day and learnt lots along the way.

'We were exercises to keep us fit and strong.'

'I enjoyed pilates a lot. The best bit was being a monkey!'

'We were different animals in pilates.'

'Pilates helps you exercise your tummy!'

'we had to lay down with our cone on our tummy. We had to huff and puff to make the cone move up and down without falling off!'

'My favourite part was the Coke and Mentos experiment because it made an explosion!'

'We made volcanoes out of sand and we put some stuff in it and it erupted!'

'We had to cover the cup with sand to make a volcano. We put different food colouring in.'

'We played Simon Says - you have to listen carefully to the instructions!'

'We cut and coloured rockets and stuck on a plastic blower.'

'I made two little rainbows with spots on. I made it for my friend.'

'I'm giving my pebble to my mum.'

'We had a story about different colours and how we might feel.'

'I like the colour green - it is calm.'

'I used blue because I'm sad when I miss my Mummy.'

'We made rainbow heart pictures.'

'Rainbows for a healthy heart!'



## Coding with Immersion

Groups of children across the school have been using a programme called Kodu Game Lab with Ryan from Immersion. We are delighted that we have been able to secure sessions every Monday afternoon this half term.



"We created our very own computer game. We chose different colours and terrains to build racetracks and placed our robot characters in our created world. We learnt how to use coding to control our robots and try to navigate our racetracks."

Lots of focus and determination involved and everyone had great fun!

### After School Chess Club off to a great start.

A huge thank you to one of our parents , Ben Sonley, for offering to run a chess club at St Stephens Community Academy. This started after school today with a group of enthusiastic children ranging from Y1 -Y6. Today they learnt about key pieces and how they can be moved around the board. An enormous thank you also to "Chess in Schools " . <https://www.chessinschools.co.uk>

This company donated the chess sets , information book and links to online training that Mr. Sonley has accessed.

We do hope this club helps to develop a real love for the game because chess is played everyday around the world and brings people of different cultures and backgrounds together. Here are the top 10 benefits of learning to play :

Brings People Together

Teaches You How To Win And Lose

Helps Children Realize The Consequences Of Their Actions

Can Help You Focus

Chess Is An Educational Tool

Develops Creativity

Builds Confidence

Develops Problem-Solving Skills

Exercises The Brain

Chess Helps You To Remain Calm Under Pressure

We look forward to seeing how the group progress.



### World Music Group.

So what did you get up to this weekend? At St Stephens Community Academy Ms. Gilbert ran the first World Music Group for ALL family members last weekend . This is a FREE opportunity and fun creative way to explore the world around us and develop a greater global understanding through practical activities.

Come and meet new people, make friends, play music, dance, paint and taste food inspired by different countries. (Thanks to Rachael McQueen for teaching salsa dance steps this week ... we can't wait for the Japanese steps next week)

This is open to ALL families in our community -you don't have to attend St Stephens Community Academy to join us. The sessions run from 10-12 on a Saturday morning. If you are interested please just turn up or contact Ms. Gilbert for more information on 07526 230293.

A HUGE thank you to Launceston Rotary Club for funding today and the next 4 session. The club are a wonderful group who support our school community in so many ways- we are incredibly thankful for their commitment to the young people in and around Launceston.

We hope to see you next Saturday -what's not to like!



## Newquay Zoo Visit brings Science Learning Alive

This week Year 4 have had a fantastic day trip to the zoo in Newquay. This visit consolidates our learning in class. We found all of the animals we had written our animal profiles about and handed our learning over to the zoo keeper, Mark. This



really gave our writing a real purpose and audience. . Mark is going to share the profiles with the other zoo keepers and put them on display for future visitors. We hope the profiles will be informative to others –we worked so hard on our research.

We learnt about animals that live in the Savannah and asked lots of great questions. We had fun spotting the lynx and red panda. We were also really lucky to be one of the last groups to see the lions before they move to another zoo.



## St Pirans' Day Celebrations in Launceston for Year 5



Year 5 proudly represented St Stephens in the Launceston Saint Piran's Day March this Friday. We had fantastic weather which made it much more enjoyable. Year 5 were in good voice for the songs and really enjoyed the traditional dancing , especially when it got quicker and quicker!!

It was great to come together as a community to celebrate our local history and religion. A special mention to Curtis who took the photos and videos for us today- a news reporter in the making.



# KERNOW YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

ARE YOU CARING FOR A SIBLING OR A PARENT?  
DO YOU FIND COMPLETING SCHOOL WORK DIFFICULT?  
IS IT HARD TO SEE YOUR FRIENDS OR HAVE TIME FOR YOU?

SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS \* 1-1 SUPPORT \* ACTIVITIES IN CORNWALL



CORNWALL CARERS SERVICE

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