

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Friday 13th December 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Gosh I can't believe this is our last newsletter of 2019! I am writing this after watching the Foundation /KS1 Nativity play "Prickly Hay"-what an absolute treat that was. A HUGE thank you to all the staff involved in putting this performance together and well done to all the pupils for reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas. I was immensely proud of how well they worked together and had the confidence to speak and sing in front of an audience; I know many adults who find this daunting! I hope many of you will also be able to join us at St Stephens Church next Wednesday at 1.45p.m. for our KS2 carol service. Next week also brings the Pre-school Nativity, the KS1 Christmas party, the KS2 cinema trip, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day and a Christmas get together in the ARB. Many thanks must go to our fabulous PTFA who have funded several of these events - their on-going fundraising helps to provide so many wonderful enrichment activities for our pupils throughout the year. Thanks must also go to all the volunteers who have helped on trips and also enabled us to run so many wonderful clubs this term. We have new clubs to add to the opportunities we provide next term so look out for the letter on the first day back!

Finally let me take this opportunity to wish you and your wonderful children a very Happy Christmas –I hope you have an amazing holiday together creating new memories and sharing precious times – both these things do not cost anything but are the gifts that are priceless.

*Maura Furber*

## Attendance

Week Ending 6th  
December 2019

CLASS F	90.8%
CLASS 1	97.3%
CLASS 2	94.1%
CLASS 3	94.4%
CLASS 4	92.7%
CLASS 5	94.2%
CLASS 6	99.3%
CLASS 7	94.3%

## School Improvement

**"Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality."**

I would like to take this opportunity to say an enormous thank you to Miss Vincent who will be leaving St Stephens at the end of this term. Although we are all extremely sad to say goodbye to her we wish her much luck and happiness in her new venture; she will be joining her family business. We hope she will be able to visit us all in the near future. Once a St Stephens team member always a member of the team!

We shall be joined by Mrs Laura Mead for the next two terms –she is a very experienced teacher who has already met and taught the Y3 class. Mrs Mead has also had planning time with Miss Vincent so the transition will be smoother and she is very excited about starting with us and working with the children.

Don't forget we shall be starting a new whole school theme in the Spring Term

**"Innovation and Sources".**

Look out for new **Knowledge Organisers** and **Transferable word mats** linked to new learning coming home over Christmas. **Please support your child to learn the facts and find out more so they can impress us with their first learning quiz in 2020!**



**SOURCES**



### Cedar Grange Visit

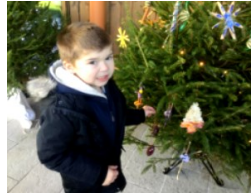
As part of our drive to become more involved with our local community we were delighted to accept the invitation to visit the residents at Cedar Grange Residential Home. Our samba band went ready to entertain and chat with the residents. They didn't disappoint and came back so excited to talk about the wonderful dancers and singers they have there - watch the video on our website!



We aim to visit each half term with different groups of children throughout the year. Our older members of the local community are a precious resource and we look forward to developing a special relationship with them.

### Class 7 Decorating the Christmas Tree at Tre Pol Pen

Class 7 visited Tre Pol Pen farm shop and cafe to decorate a Christmas tree as part of the first Christmas trees festival to be held there. In class the children made natural tree decorations to decorate the tree. They had a lovely morning, decorated the tree and played in the playground area. They developed life skills by choosing and buying a biscuit in the cafe.



Thank you Tre Pol Pen for a lovely morning and making us feel so welcome.

<https://trepolandpen.co.uk/pages/christmastreefestival>

### Raising funds for our Holes Theatre Trip.

Wow! THANK YOU SO MUCH for your fantastic support last week, both with cake and healthy snack contributions, and donations. Year 6 are delighted that they have raised £65.78 from their cake sale. These funds will go towards our theatre visit to see Holes next term. We would also like to thank the PTFA for supporting us with making this trip possible.



### Prickly Hay

What amazing cowboy themed Nativity performances from our Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 pupils this week. They sang, danced and acted to two full houses of very proud families and friends. A HUGE well done to the children for learning all the words and confidently presenting the story that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas. Hardly a dry eye in the room after the final song! Thanks also to the parents/carers for providing great costumes and, from the amount of you lip syncing in the audience, practicing lines and lyrics at home. Last but not least an ENORMOUS thank you to the amazing Foundation and Key Stage 1 staff who have co-ordinated and practiced with the children – these events do not just happen!







This year the charity that we are supporting with our Christmas collections is Action for Children-Kernow Young Carers: there are 64 young carers in the Launceston area, some of whom are our pupils. Robert Moule from the charity, visited last week to explain how they support young carers and what activities they fund to enable the children to have some quality time away from their caring roles.

#communitylinks

Total raised will be shared in the New Year-thank you for your generosity in advance.



## Design Technology

Last week we were very lucky to have Kate from Chartwells in school to help us make the pasties that we had previously designed. The children had been tasked to create a pasty for one of three target audiences: a manual labourer, a posh restaurant or a Christmas party. As a class, we came up with a design brief for each of these and the children then had to design their pasty to fit with the design brief of their chosen target market.



Before going home on Friday, we evaluated our pasties and gave them a score out of 10 for each of the criteria on our design brief.



We also gave them a score out of 10 for taste. The children had a fantastic day making their pasties - a huge thank you to Kate for making it happen.

## Visit to St. Mary's Church

The Foundation class have been working hard to make lovely Christmas decorations to decorate St Stephens tree at the annual Christmas tree festival at St Mary's church. The children collected sticks and pine cones from the school grounds to make the beautiful decorations.

They went on a trip to see all of the trees in the church. They caught a mini bus up to the church, had a look at all 75 trees and then walked back to school. All of the trees were beautifully decorated and it really got us in the Christmas spirit.



As always, we are truly grateful for our parent helpers as without them, the trip couldn't have happened.



## **POLAR EXPRESS PYJAMA PARTY**

**20. 12. 19  
6-9PM**

LAUNCESTON TOWN  
HALL

£5 per ticket before  
£6 on the door  
Ticket includes:  
Movie, hot chocolate,  
cookie

RSVP TO

polarexpresspyjamparty@gmail.com

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LAUNCESTON HOSPITAL  
LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

## **Transition Programme – Years 6 into 7 Key Dates 2020**

Launceston College staff visits to Primary School

- Year 6 Spring term
- Year 5 Summer term
- Year 6-7 Parents meeting Thursday 9th July 2020
- Year 6 induction days 13th and 14th July 2020

### Swimming Gala

Well done to the children who took part in a swimming gala led by Launceston College Sports Leaders. They demonstrated co-operation, team work, resilience and mutual respect. Great job guys.



### Launceston Christmas lights switched on.



St Stephens samba band joined together with other local schools to lead the Christmas procession and play at the turning on of the Christmas lights in the town square. The children played amazingly as usual and really led the festivities with enthusiasm and great co-operation. Many thanks to the wonderful Mrs Gilbert for organising and co-coordinating the event and all the fabulous parent helpers who support the band on a regular basis. It's beginning to feel like Christmas!

### Maths - finding the missing part

Over the past week, Year 1 have been consolidating our knowledge of finding the missing part. We started by working in pairs, using concrete resources to participate in some table top maths which helped us to develop our initial understanding. We then moved on to recording our findings using pictorals with part whole models and missing number sentences. Finally, we progressed on to the more abstract concept of missing word problems. We have shown super reciprocity and perseverance in our maths learning this week.



### Christmas Song Keyboards Project

As the culmination of the five week project with Cornwall Music Service Trust, Year Five went to South Petherwin to perform the song they have spent the last few weeks writing. They decided on the backing, chose the chords and chord changes, as well as writing the chorus and verses. They have been fantastic! They performed their creation in front of the whole of South Petherwin school. As well as their performance the staff of Year Five were proud of how they behaved visiting another school and felt they were truly ambassadors for Saint Stephen's.



### Y1 and Y2 Music Performance



This term Y1 and Y2 pupils have been fortunate to have guitar and samba music lessons from our wonderful Mrs Gilbert. We were delighted to welcome our families in for a special music concert today to showcase what they have learnt.

