



Dear Parents/Carers,

Gosh another busy couple of weeks of exciting learning, enrichment activities, class trips, visitors, sporting festivals and charity events here at St Stephens. Never a dull moment! Please check out our website and class blogs to find out more information-its updated weekly.

I hope your children are busy collecting sponsors for our fitness circuits next Wednesday when we welcome a Paralympic footballer to inspire and motivate our pupils' sporting ambitions whilst raising money for our school. Sport has certainly been high on the agenda recently with a netball and multi-skills festival being attended. Our pupils demonstrated brilliant sportsmanship and competitive co-operation. Its also been wonderful to see the children using the new playground markings in both playgrounds. With that in mind the weather is certainly getting colder so please may I ask you to check that your child has suitable clothing; a warm waterproof coat, sturdy footwear, a hat and gloves in school every day –we love to get outside whenever possible but need the children to be warm and comfortable.

I was very impressed by the respectful way the children spoke about Remembrance Day this week and I was delighted to hear that many of them took part in the Sunday service in town representing the clubs and groups they belong to outside of school. The whole school held a minutes silence to ensure we never forget. The British Value of Mutual Respect at the forefront of our minds.

Thank you for your continued support – my door is always open if you need to see me. *Maura Furber*

Attendance

Week Ending

8th November 2019

CLASS F	97.6%
CLASS 1	96.3%
CLASS 2	93.4%
CLASS 3	94.4%
CLASS 4	96.7%
CLASS 5	98%
CLASS 6	98.6%
CLASS 7	85.7%

School Improvement

"Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality."

Last week I met with our school Governor, Sue Tierney, to discuss our Pupil Premium and Physical Education budgets to ensure we are meeting the needs of our pupils at St Stephens. This involves reviewing what resources we have in school or buy in and how we use them to best effect to ensure our pupils make progress and achieve national standards. Without doubt our best resources are our staff who work tirelessly to teach and inspire our pupils.

This week we were also delighted to be visited by our Academy Improvement Officer (AIO), Neil Swait, who is also a practicing Lead Ofsted Inspector. This termly visit focussed on our curriculum offer and our next steps to continue to improve the learning opportunities for our pupils. Some key strengths noted were: **"Leaders are taking swift and decisive action to secure a curriculum offer that is coherently planned and sequenced to enable pupils to achieve well. They have made strong progress in meeting the key areas for development identified during the last AIO visit. Evidence in pupils' work shows that they are now studying subjects in greater detail, enabling them to know more, do more and remember more. The school's focus on promoting pupils' use of subject specific language is working well. Pupils are recalling prior knowledge, understanding and skills more effectively and more readily, making connections between different subjects areas and units of study."**

Children In Need

Our Pupil Forum have done it again!! This week they co-ordinated, advertised and organising a non school uniform day, staff car wash and 'upgrade' your morning bagel to raise funds for Children in Need. As if that wasn't enough we were delighted to welcome Radio Cornwall and the real 'Pudsey' to our Friday Celebration assembly. I hope you heard us live on air! Thank you for your amazing generosity we have raised a staggering £234.58!!

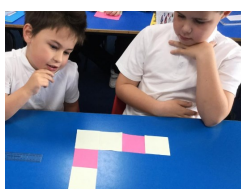


School Dinners

As you are aware going forward all dinners must be booked and paid for in advance via our schoolmoney app by midnight on a Sunday. If you do not have internet access at home then please feel free to pop into reception to use our WIFI there. If you have any problems logging on or using the system please speak to the office. Many thanks.

Exploring Area in maths

Year 4 have been exploring AREA in maths. We have been investigating how many different shapes we can make with an area of 6 (post-its).



Science Investigations

This week the children in Year 3 were tasked with investigating rocks in order to find out which type of rock would be best suited to building a set of stone steps outside. Through class discussion they decided that their steps would need to be hard, tough and able to withstand both pressure and weather. They were introduced to the terms durability and permeability and told that they would need to plan and carry out an investigation using a given list of equipment with the aim of finding out how durable and permeable each rock was. The children worked incredibly well in their groups and discussed how they would ensure that their test was fair so that they would obtain accurate results.



History in Action-Burning our own Pudding Lane

Year 2 had the most amazing history enrichment last week! A huge thank you to Launceston Fire Brigade who came to St Stephens and helped them to burn their very own Pudding Lane that they had designed and made in DT.



A great experience for all in KS1 and Isaac in Y6 who was a 'firefighter' for the afternoon –this is a career path he would love to take.



Such a WOW moment– making history literally come alive so the children have a better understanding of the event.

Funky Fingers!

Last week we invited our Foundation parents and other family members into school to learn all about Funky Fingers! The children were excited to show them all of the different Funky Fingers activities we do in school and they all joined in too. The children were delighted to be able to teach their grown ups! The children explained that we do Funky Fingers to make our fingers stronger

to help us control our pencil better when writing. The session was

very well attended and the feedback from parents and grandparents was very positive. One parent remarked ... "I never realised you did so much writing activities at this age" and another commented "No wonder they can't wait to come to school every morning"





Comic Artist Visits St Stephens Embracing Learning. Inspiring Ambition. Celebrating Individuality.

With our whole school Art focus on 'Drawing' this term we were delighted to welcome Kev F Sutherland - a practicing and renowned comic artist who has worked on many comics including Marvel and Beano, into our school. Thanks to parent contributions and our wonderful PTFA, St Stephens Academy were able to provide this wonderful enrichment



opportunity. Bringing learning alive and inspiring ambition in our children is key at St Stephens Academy and visits such as these put their classroom learning into the wider world context with real meaning considering the world of work. The morning started with the whole school being shown some art skills and techniques in assembly and then he went on to present a cartoon masterclass to Year 5 and Year 4. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed his session and his humour! The children learnt new drawing skills and both groups made a class comic which had short cartoons drawn by all the children. Kev drew a caricature of each child for them to take home, this is also in the comic. Currently copies of the comics can be enjoyed in our school entrance. A fantastic experience that the children and parents are still talking about-look out for future comic artists originating from the Launceston area!



Netball Festival

St Stephens entered their first netball festival of the year at St Josephs. Everyone showed amazing sportsmanship, teamwork and resilience. A huge achievement to finish as joint winners! All that hard work and training has paid off.



Multi-Skills Festival

St Stephens hosted the first An Daras MAT PE festival of the year, led by Arena. We welcomed other schools from within the Trust (Windmill, St Catherine's and Coads Green) to take part in the multi skills activities. Great team-



work and cooperation shown by all. A great way to get to know children from other schools too!

Balance Bikes

This half term Year F are learning new co-ordination and core balance skills on the balance bikes with Andy from Arena. They practiced balancing on the benches first and then walked around the room with beanbags on their heads.



After this they rode on the balance bikes and practiced turning and stopping.





Diarrhoea and vomiting?



There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as norovirus
If your child has norovirus, it's best to treat symptoms at home



stay hydrated



take paracetamol



prevent spread



stay at home for two days
after symptoms clear

Pre-School We are delighted to introduce our new 'toothbrush club'. This is part of the 'brighter smiles campaign' in Cornwall. As part of the initiative we will be regularly visited by an experienced dental nurse who will educate us, our children and families about the importance of healthy clean teeth. Every afternoon the children are encouraged to brush their teeth for two minutes, all the resources that we need have been supplied to us and toothbrushes are stored hygienically on our toothbrush bus, they will be changed frequently. As you can see, our children are really enjoying the opportunity to develop their independence while learning how to be healthy.

'We need to clean off the sugar bugs' - Sophia



Morwellham Quay: bringing history alive

We had a fantastic day visiting Morwellham Quay where we learnt all about the life of a miner in the 18th and 19th centuries. Assisted by our wonderful guide, Phil, we travelled back in time to the Victorian era when mining was at its peak in the Southwest. The train ride into the George and Charlotte copper mine gave us a real insight into what it would have been like to work underground. We realised how dark and how loud it would have been. To finish off the day, the children were put to work



as 7 and 8 year old children would have been back in those days! A huge thank you to the superb Morwellham Quay, all of the adults who helped out on the day and also to the PTFA for funding the transport.

Online Safety

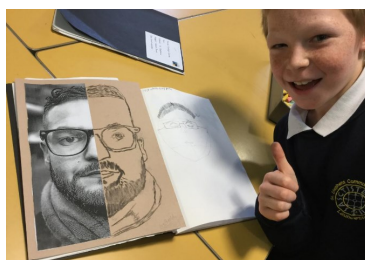


Here is a web page from our online safety provider that includes a number of handy guides that explain how to use parental controls for a number of common streaming sites eg Netflix.

<https://ssscpd.co.uk/parentsandguardians>

Drawing

Year 6 have done an amazing job on their portraits. They have worked really hard and focused carefully on line, tone, shape, form and texture whilst using charcoal as their medium.



LAUNCESTON SWIMMING CLUB



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER OFFER!

Interested in joining Launceston Swimming Club?

We're offering free membership for the remainder of 2019
and free swimming sessions for a month!

COME ALONG!

JUNIOR SWIMMERS CAN COME AND JOIN SWIMMING SESSIONS ON A
TUESDAY 6.30PM-7.30PM AND/OR FRIDAY 6PM-7PM FREE FOR A MONTH

Progress from 'learn to swim' and continue to improve your swimming

Improve your stroke technique and stamina

Our aim as a club is to help each individual swimmer achieve their set goals
and fulfil their own potential

Whether you're just looking to swim for fitness or your aim is to compete

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact
launceston.swimming@hotmail.co.uk

Proud to be accredited with the Swim
England Plymouth Network & part of the
newly developed East Cornwall Network



Junk Band WANTED large drain pipes of
different lengths for a new junk band!