

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

"Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality."

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Friday 13th March 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Another couple of weeks have flown past with our wonderful pupils representing St Stephens Community Academy brilliantly in a variety of events from the St Piran's Day parade and celebrations in Launceston, sporting events including a dance festival at Launceston College, a netball competition held at St Joseph's and Plymouth Argyle Tiny Tots sessions with our Pre-School to our Youth Councillors attending the latest meeting at the Guildhall. In all of these events other members of the public have commended their good manners, sportsmanship, respect and talent. As always we are immensely proud of them and how they demonstrate our school values and British Values. Go Team St Stephens!

It was lovely to speak with so many of you during the parent /carer consultations last week-lots of very proud faces and targets set to ensure your child continues to make good progress and achieve the very best they can. It is vital that your child knows and sees us working together; this partnership goes beyond academic success they need to realise we all have their very best interest at heart –we are here to support and educate the 'whole' child. With the stresses and expectations of everyday life it is key we recognise your child's mental health and well-being, developing their personal and social skills is of equal importance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maura Furber

Attendance

Week Ending
6th March 2020

CLASS F	96.2%
CLASS 1	93.0%
CLASS 2	98.6%
CLASS 3	98.4%
CLASS 4	95.7%
CLASS 5	98.4%
CLASS 6	96.7%
CLASS 7	75.7%

School Improvement

"Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality."

I am delighted to inform you that we have secured funding from the AnDaras Trust to complete the 'window project' at St Stephens. This will make such a difference in many ways. Firstly it will mean that each part of the school will have a brighter outlook– many of the old windows are so marked it appears that they are never clean! Secondly our hall windows will be on a system that will allow them to open and close fully to aid ventilation and also keep the heat in. This will also stop the water that leaks through into areas around the hall, being watertight in Cornwall is important! Lastly it will help to maintain the look and aesthetics of our school building– we want the school to be a comfortable and attractive place to learn and work in.

The works will commence in the Easter holidays and hopefully only take a couple of weeks to complete...depending on the weather. Please may I ask any children who use the school playing fields and playgrounds for football and the likes during the week-ends/holidays to be vigilant of any equipment and could you as parents/carers keep a regular check on them. If the builders feel they are a distraction or at risk they will obviously be asked to leave the school premises. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and thank you to the Trust for enabling this to happen.



Phonics in Pre-School

Our school reading drive starts from the very first days in your child's learning journey with us at St Stephens. Each week we have a focussed 'Sound of the week'. We explore saying, writing and looking at objects that begin with that sound. How many objects

beginning with the sound of the week can you and your child find in the home or on the way to Pre-School?



WOW - what an amazing response for our **Magic and Mystery themed World Book Day** at St Stephens. We chose this theme to coincide with the beginning of British Science Week. The children were so excited to talk about their characters and why they loved the book they had chosen. Thank you to all the parents/carers who supported this day with amazing costumes- the children loved it! Each child will now have brought home a World Book Day book voucher-make sure you take it to a local bookstore and exchange it for a new book to share together. WE LOVE READING !



Road Safety

I am sure that many of you are aware of the incident



Involving one of our pupils last week on Roydon Road. Fortunately the young person in question has now returned to school. A HUGE thank you to everyone who offered assistance and kindness to the families involved. Please may I ask you to reinforce and model good road safety skills to your children ASAP—this accident highlights how easy it is for children to think they have found a safe place to cross and run across a busy road without looking both ways. Since the council have lost the traffic 'lollypop person' it is vital that we remain vigilant around our community. Thank you for your support.



Youth Councillors -British Values in action.

This week our Youth Councillors met with other councillors from the local schools and discussed what the Town Council money was being used for in the schools in Launceston. We are hoping that some funding will be coming our way to help maintain breakfast provision once our Government funding stops in September 2020 and it has been confirmed that we have funds allocated for our pupils to attend the Community Shakespeare Project in the Summer Term. The meeting also considered the amenities around our area and what the pupils thought would be worthwhile additions e.g. electric charge points for cars. Our Youth Councillors will be asking the rest of the school during assembly tomorrow. Apparently due to the volume of lorries and traffic around Launceston we have the worst air pollution compared to other places in north Cornwall. The children discussed trying to lower the carbon emission by walking or riding their bikes to school. Great British Values well and truly being kept alive at St Stephens by our wonderful representatives.

St Piran's Day Celebrations 2020

Well St Stephens have made us immensely proud yet again! On the 5th March we took our Music Club members to the St Piran's Celebration in Launceston Town Centre along with Town and Parish dignitaries from the area and eight other local primary schools. The morning was filled with a parade, poems, singing, dancing, eating pasties, chatting with friends and of course St Stephens samba band welcoming everyone into the Town Hall for the celebrations. We were delighted by their enthusiasm, team work and respectful manner in which they conducted themselves. Many people commended their excellent playing, good manners and team spirit. A HUGE thank you to the wonderful Mrs Gilbert for leading and inspiring the children and all the parents who helped to support this event - we couldn't do it without you!



Netball Competition

Congratulations to our wonderful netball team who entered the Junior Netball Competition at St Joseph's School.

After some very close matches against teams from St Joseph, Egloskerry, Truro School and St Petroc, we are delighted to have been awarded 3rd place...only one point difference between the 2nd place!

Our netball coach, Miss Buckland-Rowe, was delighted to see the team using and applying skills and strategies they have been practicing in their squad training. Perhaps even more importantly several coaches from the other schools commented on what amazing manners, sportsmanship and team spirit our team had.

Many thanks also to Mrs Tape who helps to run the school netball club every week and Mrs Baxter for attending to support the children.

We are all immensely proud of the team's achievement -Go Team St. Stephens



Launceston College Dance Festival

Last Tuesday a group of our pupils from year 4 attended an afternoon of dance at Launceston College. They worked with older college students to create a dance to perform to the other schools also attending.



Miss Bebbington said she was so proud of their listening skills and team work-they demonstrated great co-operation to create a finished 'routine'.

The children all said they loved the opportunity and this is something we shall be focussing on in the summer term with a visiting dance teacher.



Peer Assessment in writing

At St Stephens we think it is vital that pupils take ownership of their learning and also share their expertise with



each other. In Year 6 the pupils have been self-assessing and peer assessing their most recent piece of English writing. The pupils are critical friends so that the writing can be improved before the final edit.

Real writers in action!



Science in Year 2



As part of Year 2's new theme launch for plants, we planted sunflower seeds and then wrote a recount about the process.

I wonder whose sunflower will grow the tallest?



Community Cohesion



Last Monday, one of our parents who is a paramedic visited Class F with an ambulance. He talked to us about what he does in his job and showed us the ambulance. We enjoyed hearing him use his walky talky to talk to the control centre.



Religious Education



As part of our learning about Easter, on Tuesday 25th February, Year 1 made pancakes and explored Shrove Tuesday traditions around the United Kingdom. In groups, the children helped to make, fill and eat their pancakes! "We used milk, flour and eggs. Butter went in to cook the pancakes. Mrs. Coole cooked the pancakes and she flipped them over to cook the other side." Rather skilfully, all the pancakes remained in the pan and the children assured me that no pancakes ended up on the floor or on the ceiling!

Some comments from the children:

"I tried lemon juice on mine for the first time and I love it!"

"It was my first ever pancake. It was delicious."

"I'd never tried pancakes before or lemon...the lemon was disgusting (!) but I loved the pancake!"

"I loved my pancake with jam on. It was so yummy!"

"For the first time I tried a pancake and I ate it all!"



The children also created their own stories about a runaway pancake. They displayed real imagination and independence in their story writing and should all be incredibly proud of their hard work.

Science –Investigating Weight and Mass

As part of our science topic of forces Year 5 have been examining the difference between mass (measured in Kg) and weight (measured in Newtons). We measured items with kitchen scales for the mass and force meters for the weight. We then compared them and looked at the relationship between the two.



Links in Year 3's Learning

We were learning how to write information texts using comparative and superlative vocabulary. We used our maths skills to measure out bones from 'The Book of Bones' by Gabrielle Balkan, in the playground and practiced comparing sizes.



We did some 'super' learning !



FOOTBALL INSET DAY

Only £12

Reception - Year 6

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE HOLDING A FOOTBALL INSET DAY @ ST STEPHENS PRIMARY SCHOOL.



TRYING TO BALANCE WORK, CHILDREN AND SCHOOL?
OUR COMMUNITY TRUST HAS THE ANSWER.

PLEASE BRING: LUNCH, DRINK, TRAINERS, BOOTS, COAT
PRIZES TO BE GIVEN OUT THROUGHOUT THE DAY

THE SCHOOL WILL BE GIVEN A £2 DONATION FOR EVERY PARTICIPANT.

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH
8:45am - 3pm

SIMPLY COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://ARGYLECOMMUNITYTRUST.CO.UK/ONLINE/SCHOOL-INSET-DAYS-2020/](https://argylecommunitytrust.co.uk/online/school-inset-days-2020/)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
LIAM.BRYANT@PAFC.CO.UK



An Daras Trust

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Head Teacher: Maura Furber



'Embracing Learning.
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12th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to update you on the school's preparations for a possible future closure due to the Coronavirus. The government are updating us on a daily basis regarding their plans for containment of the virus. We will inform you of any updates that effect school as they occur. If you do not hear from us, then assume we are continuing to open as usual.

In order to ensure you receive updates, please make sure your contact details are up to date. If anything has changed please notify the school office.

We are planning to provide work in the event of a closure for your child/ren to complete and more information will be sent out about this via text and Class Dojo for Preschool. We will also provide appropriate online learning support links for those who can access it. Teachers will aim to provide daily ideas via the website and we will also communicate updates in this way. However, please bear in mind, teachers may be caring for their own children and families, may have limited Internet access dependent on where they live or may fall ill themselves.

We want to reassure you that this is not a notification of closure and we aim to remain open unless advised otherwise.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Best wishes

Maura Furber

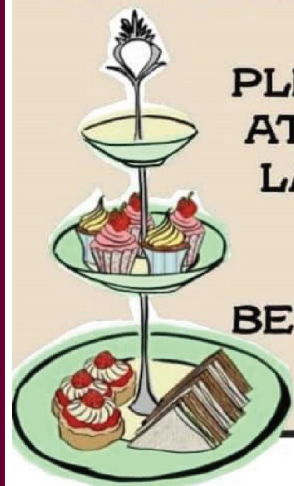
Maura Furber
Head Teacher



Tea, Coffee & Cake

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

EASTER EGG HUNT AND RAFFLE



PLEASE JOIN US
AT TINY TOTS
LAWHITTON,
PL15 9NJ

BETWEEN 10 AM
AND 1PM

All Proceeds to Children's
Hospice South West

Supporting
children's hospice
SOUTH WEST
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HOT CROSS BUNNIES GALLERY QUIZ

Take part in our Hot Cross Bunnies Gallery Quiz anytime from
Monday 9th March and Saturday 18th April* for the chance to win our
trio of baking bunnies: Ash, Aspen & Bunya.

It's almost Easter and our Hot Cross Bunnies have been baking some sweet treats for Charlie and the bear cubs. Not being natural bunny bakers, they've made a huge mess in The Bearhouse kitchen. Head Bear is a stickler for a tidy kitchen and our Hot Cross Bunnies have scamped off to hide in the gallery as they are so embarrassed at the mess they've made.

Find all eight of our Hot Cross Bunnies in the gallery,
identify what sweet treats they were attempting to bake and you could
be in with the chance of winning Ash, Aspen & Bunya...



*The Bearhouse is open Monday to Saturday 10am-4pm including Good Friday & Easter Monday.
Closed on Sundays, including Easter Sunday.