

**Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher**

**Friday 7th February 2020**



Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe this is the last newsletter before we break for half term! The weeks seem to be flying past with lots of exciting opportunities and challenges. It has been very interesting hearing what our pupils think about our school over the past few weeks– we have now collected their ideas and the Pupil Satisfaction Surveys can be found on the class blog/ information pages. We are delighted that the vast majority enjoy coming to school and feel safe. As always there are things to further embed and work on -our Pupil Forum will help to steer any changes that are viable...I'm not sure about the request for a gold school uniform!

I hope you have also taken the time to read the results of our recent Parent Survey—it is so wonderful to have your support taking our school forward. Last week I was delighted to welcome Neil Swaite, our Academy Improvement Officer, to review our early reading and phonics provision. I am also delighted to share a summary of the strengths he observed –please see the School Improvement section below.

It has been brilliant to see so many parents/carers using our new Reading Lending Library in the main reception-make sure you come and have a look– what a positive message to send to our children-reading is important and fun for adults too!

Please don't hesitate to pop in and see me if there is anything you need to talk about, have ideas to share or if you'd like to come in and help in school– we would really appreciate if you have time to hear some children read. Thank you as always for all your continued support.

*Maura Furber*

## Attendance

Week Ending

**31st January 2020**

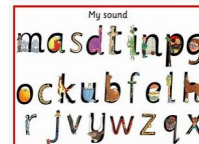
<b>CLASS F</b>	<b>77.7%</b>
<b>CLASS 1</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>CLASS 2</b>	<b>99.3%</b>
<b>CLASS 3</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
<b>CLASS 4</b>	<b>93.6%</b>
<b>CLASS 5</b>	<b>94.6%</b>
<b>CLASS 6</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
<b>CLASS 7</b>	<b>74.3%</b>

## School Improvement

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

Last week our Academy Improvement Officer and practicing Lead Ofsted Inspector, Neil Swaite, visited us to explore the quality of reading provision and to assess how well the school is teaching phonics and supporting all children to become confident, fluent readers. I am delighted to share the **summary of strengths** he identified:

- The teaching of phonics and early reading is effective.
- Leaders place the upmost importance on ensuring that all pupils, including the weakest 20%, become proficient readers.
- The school's phonics programme is suitably ambitious. Leaders have set out the precise number of letters and sounds that pupils need to learn term by term.
- Pupils demonstrate a good level of accuracy when applying their knowledge of letters and sounds in their reading.
- Children start learning their letters and sounds from day one in the Reception class.
- Pupils working behind the pace of the school's phonics programme are catching up quickly.
- Teachers and teaching assistants have received well targeted training in early reading and phonics. Consequently, they are suitably skilled and demonstrate a good level of expertise.
- Pupils talk enthusiastically about books. They display a love of reading.
- Pupils concentrate well in their phonics sessions. They are exceptionally well behaved.



### Watches



It came to our notice last week that a few children

are wearing watches that are a **safeguarding issue. Please do not allow your child to wear a watch that has a camera or internet facility.** We are sure you understand the dangers involved in such items within a school setting. Such watches will be removed from your child and stored in the school safe until a responsible adult retrieves them. We are happy for your child to wear a simple wrist watch that supports their learning and does not become a distraction in lessons.

### Parent /Carer Reading Lending Library

We are delighted to see that our Parent/Carer Reading Lending Library was being put to good use on the first day before Breakfast

Club! Reading is such a key priority for us at St Stephens and what better way to demonstrate to our pupils the importance and enjoyment that reading brings by seeing their loved ones reading also.

The lending library is in the school reception area by the office. Feel free to come and sit down and enjoy a book, take one home to read and return when finished. Any books you've enjoyed that you could donate to the lending library would be gratefully received.



### We Love Reading

To promote reading for pleasure and the love of reading, Year 2 and Year 6 shared fiction and non-fiction texts. Year 6 were amazing role models, questioned the Year 2's expertly and they enjoyed building relationships together.



We were also delighted to welcome family and friends to our Early Bird Reading Session today in YF-Y2. This will happen for YF-Y2 every Friday morning at 8.30am in your child's class.

### Youth Councillors -British Values in action



Last week our three school representatives attended the Youth Council meeting at Launceston Town Guildhall. the main item on the agenda was 'Climate Change' and how it is making an impact in Cornwall. Pupils from the different schools discussed what they could do to support change including planting trees and trying to work a day without electricity - watch this space to see what St Stephens come up with!

### SATS Meetings

Forthcoming SATS information meetings for parents/carers will be as follows:

**Year 2 - March 6th**

**Year 6 - March 5th**

### Sugar Smart

In response to a significant increase in the rise of both obesity and diabetes in children, Arena schools have developed a range of programmes which are all aimed at encouraging children to become Sugar Smart. Year 2 were lucky enough to take part in Sugarsmart minis.

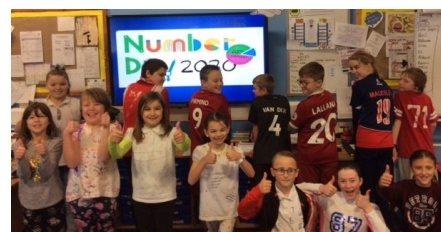


### NSPCC Number Day 2020



Today we celebrated the Annual Number Day in support of the NSPCC.

Thanks to your generosity we have raised £88 for this charity that is close to our hearts. Yet again we have seen some fantastic and creative costumes - well done everyone! #maths is fun





### Making a dinosaur enclosure –Busy Learning in the Foundation Class



What great Language and Communication skills were being embedded in this wonderful outside learning last week. Vocabulary acquisition is key for good reading and writing development and progress.

'I made a bed for the dinosaurs to sleep in.' Ruby

'I gave them some water to drink.' Gabriel

'I made them food by getting leaves and putting them in a tray.' Eleanor

'I made some food for them.' Rory

'I made some bedding for the dinosaurs using leaves. I used leaves because they're nice and soft.' Alice



'I made something for them to balance on. I used rocks so they could jump on and off of them. And I got toys for them.' Sasha

'I made a drink for them in case they got thirsty.'  
Freddie

'We had to do some bits together when we couldn't do it by ourselves. We helped each other.' Lilly W

'We worked as a team.' Leighton

'We made it for the dinosaurs.' Lilly C



### Coding in Computers

This half term in computing, the children in Year 1 are exploring coding using a programme on J2E. Already, the children are making great progress in their computing skills and independence with many now being able to search for, login and locate the programme they need.



This week we have been discussing algorithms, computer code and debugging! The children have been independently deciding when they feel confident to challenge



themselves and move to the advance mode and enter the code without the sprite moving; then playing and altering (debugging) the code if necessary to correct the positioning.

### Year 3/4

#### Tag Rugby Festival

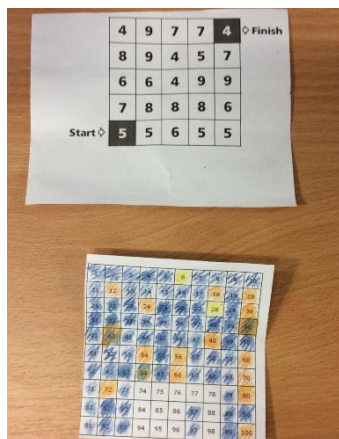
On Tuesday some of our Year 4 pupils attended a tag Rugby Festival organised by Arena with other local schools. Great team work and co-operation was demonstrated during warm ups, circle games, matches and even during a massive conga to keep them warm! Everyone loved the activities and joined in everything with enthusiasm, good manners and demonstrated great sportsmanship.

Well done  
Team St  
Stephens.



### Privacy Notices

Reminder: both the parent/carers and student privacy notices are available to view on our website under the Parent Information section.



### Maths Enrichment Day

A group from Year 6 had a fantastic (challenging) Maths Enrichment Day at Launceston College where they learnt how to identify Perfect, Abundant and Deficient Numbers using their prior knowledge of finding factors.

#priorlearning #mathsfun

### School Lunches - Online System

A big thank you to everyone for booking your children's lunches online. It would be useful if parents could discuss lunch options with the children to ensure they are happy to eat the meal chosen for them.

**Please note that soon it will not be possible for children to book lunches in class - therefore all meals must be booked online at home (inc. packed lunches).**

If you are experiencing problems booking your child's lunches at home, please do pop into the school office and we will endeavour to assist you.

### Parent Meetings

These will be held the 2nd week after half term - week commencing 2nd March 2020. This time YF, Y2, Y4 and Y6 will be having the longer sessions. Sign-up sheets will be available at the classroom doors from Tuesday 11th February.



Last week was so cold, there was ice everywhere! Class 7 explored ice cubes and ice 'hands' in the classroom. They noticed the ice was cold. When it got warmer, it started to melt and became water.

Outside, they went on an ice hunt and found so much.



There were lots of different shapes, thickness and lots of things had got stuck in the ice like leaves and utensils! The children liked breaking the ice on the floor.



### Solids, liquids and gases



The theme in Year 4 this term is States of Matter. Through this they have been investigating materials and sorting them into solids, liquids and gases. They had quite a debate about whether cream was a solid or liquid!

They have used their prior knowledge to plan an investigation into who can keep their ice-lolly frozen the longest. We await the results!

### Parents Phonics Meeting

If you missed it, please have a look at the PowerPoint on our website to see how we are teaching phonics and reading in Key Stage One and Foundation Stage. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended our phonics information session this week.

