



Mrs. Maura Furber - Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am writing this newsletter I am feeling immensely proud of the whole team at St Stephens. Not only have we managed to open safely for all our children, continually updating our risk assessments so they are fit for purpose, but we have been so fortunate that no member of staff or any child in the school has tested positive for Covid 19. In the world we currently find ourselves in we are continually prioritising what is really important to us -our school 'family' is high on the list.

This week our school value of Love is at the forefront of all our minds. We are all so thankful for the love and care of our school community and our own personal loved ones. I have watched and enjoyed all the 'virtual' Christmas productions -an enormous thank you to our wonderful staff for organising, filming and editing this online celebration. The staff were determined if you couldn't come to us we would come to you! I have to confess to shedding a few tears and holding my breath whilst normally shy children have stood up and sung solos, shared readings or played instruments. I do hope you enjoy watching your child and know we are immensely proud of them too. I also hope you enjoy this last newsletter of 2020, keep checking our school website and Twitter feed to see our amazing learning.

All that is left for me to say is have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones making new special memories together and I hope we all have a peaceful New Year. See you on January 5th 2021!

Maura Furber

School Improvement– Visit from the Education Welfare Officer

Last week we were delighted to meet our new Education Welfare Officer, Mr. Phil Dolbear. One of his key roles is to ensure all our pupils are attending school, identify reasons for lateness or persistence absences and check our Attendance Policy is up to date and the Trust policy is clear on holiday absence.

We are delighted to inform you that after a mini audit of the attendance management within our school the policy and protocols were all rated green. This means all areas are established and working robustly with no actions required at the moment.

We are also delighted to inform you that our current whole school attendance data is 95.9% since reopening in September. This is much higher than the National picture -which is currently 88% in the Primary school sector.

A HUGE thank you for your support ensuring your children are at school every day and on time. We greatly appreciate that in this current climate this hasn't always been possible for everyone but feel very fortunate that we have had no positive cases within the school. Long may that continue.



St Stephens Cooking Up A Storm in Food Technology

There could certainly be some future candidates for the Great British Menu or Bake Off competitions after observing three classes in action over the past two weeks. Our school has been smelling delicious.



As part of our design process in Year 3, we needed to research the history of the Cornish Pasty. We learned that to be called a Cornish pasty, a pasty must be made in Cornwall. We looked at the traditional ingredients and why a pasty was a popular lunch amongst miners.

We then tested three existing products. We tried a traditional steak, a cheese and onion and a chicken and mushroom pasty. We rated them based on appearance, taste, pastry, amount of filling and whether they would make a substantial lunch for a miner.

In Y6 our D.T. this term the topic was food - specifically bread making. The children tried a selection of breads to test which ones they preferred and assessed each of them against a set criteria and purpose. They then researched and designed their own recipe based on the product research they had done. Once they had completed their product research,



they then made their bread accordingly - which was enormous fun! In the afternoon, once the bread had baked and cooled, the children assessed and evaluated their own bread against the original design purpose...then they enjoyed eating it!!



Caribbean Cooking

Year 5 have been studying the Caribbean in Geography and the Windrush Generation in history. As part of this we have also looked at stories from another culture in Guided Reading and English. For DT we focused on cooking this term and had a day of Caribbean cooking. We cooked and then sampled the traditional Jamaican dishes of: rice and peas, fried plantain and Jamaica cake.



Inspiring Ambition and Embracing Learning

With Reading being one of the key priorities in our Recovery Curriculum we have been continuing to provide a wide variety of opportunities to inspire and support the childrens' love of books. One example is when the EYFS and KS1 pupils had the most amazing virtual author visit from Michelle Fitzsimmons. Michelle read her newest book 'Is It Christmas Now?' followed by a question and answer session. Not only did our children benefit greatly from the event but Michelle replied with the following

" I would like to say how wonderfully behaved and polite all of the children were whilst I shared my story. I loved answering their questions, such inquisitive minds. Thank you SSCA for your time today, it was a pleasure."



Celebrating Individuality

We have also been restocking and auditing our library and identifying areas that need addressing. So we are absolutely delighted to be one of 100 schools and nurseries in the UK that have received 100 books for our library from the [#ChangeTheStory](#) campaign, fronted by TV personality and singer Rochelle Humes in the Summer. The books show diversity in race, culture and family setup, as well as disrupt stereotypes about gender roles and disability. We were delighted to read their response on our Twitter page



Little Box of Books
@littlebobooks

...

This is WONDERFUL to see, happy reading to you all!



Scrumptious Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to our wonderful kitchen team (Lorraine and Sharon) who managed to prepare, cook and serve 140 Christmas meals for the children and 30 meals for the adults on



Wednesday . All hands were on deck with the children in their bubbles being served by the adults. One child exclaimed ... "I feel like a Queen being served by you all!".



Also thanks to our PTFA who provided the plates, bowls and extra cutlery so we could cut down on the washing -up .

As



you can see from the photos it was an event enjoyed by all.



Class 7 -The True Meaning of Christmas.

As part of our learning about how we celebrate Christmas, we recreated the nativity story. We dressed up and learnt the story through songs. It was a lot of fun.



Dora Maar Inspired Art

As part of our art curriculum Year 1 have been exploring and developing their own line drawings. We have been looking at the work of a range of artists, including Picasso. The children loved the 'Dora Maar' painting and created some of their own Picasso inspired self-portraits.



I think you'll agree,
they
look amazing.

The children paid such attention to detail to the different and distorted facial features. We have some incredibly talented artists in Year 1.

Competition Winner

A very big well done to Ruby for winning the Plymouth Argyle 'Say No to Bullying' poster competition. The coaches came to award Ruby her goodie bag and were so impressed with her design.



Christmas Gifts from Community Groups.

This week you will have received two special Christmas gifts from members of our local community. Thank you to the President of the Rotary Club, Sandra Maizel and The Bridge Kids Church Group.

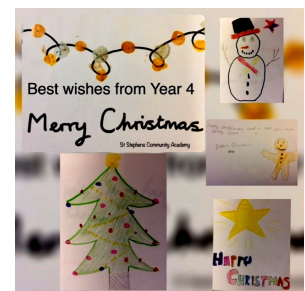
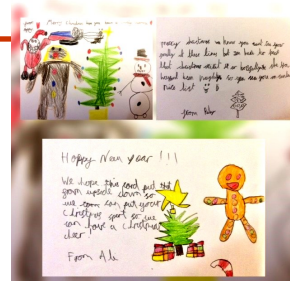


Community Cohesion

We were delighted to be contacted by Fiona Davey at Launceston Town Hall regarding a community Christmas project that she wondered if we'd be interested in. The council informed us that Launceston Library had been approached by a local care company asking if they could have as many children as possible make a Christmas card for their clients with a little message in them. They would then be able to deliver the cards to their clients when they visit them.

We agreed this would be a really lovely way to spread some cheer and let our community know the younger generation are thinking of them at this special time of year.

Our Year 2 and Year 4 pupils set to work and we were thrilled to hear that they were so impressed with the cards sent that they have been displayed in the Town Hall and a special letter was sent to us by the Mayor of Launceston.



Parents 4 Parents Cornwall

Are you a parent/carer of a child with additional needs or disabilities?

Do you attend meetings with schools, health services and organisations?

Do you lack confidence in attending these on your own and wish you had someone who could go with you?

Parents 4 Parents Cornwall will accompany you to important meetings, empowering you to ask the questions about your child's needs whether at schools, health, care providers, short breaks, etc.

Parents are trained in

- Understanding and supporting your needs
- Developing Education, Health and Care Plans
- Signposting

They are part of the Parent Carer Council for Cornwall, an independent organisation that enables parent carer voices to be heard through parent participation.

You can access Parents 4 Parents Cornwall and book a trained parent to accompany you to a meeting by calling **07591 019548**

Please try to give at least 10 days notice of a meeting taking place where you require support. You must have all of the details of the meeting to hand.

You will receive a confirmation of who will be accompanying you and they will meet you at the location of your meeting.

Please note trained parent supporters cannot take you to the meetings and you will need to organise your own transport.

To book support contact **07591 019548**
infoparentcarercornwall@gmail.com

