

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Friday 29th November 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Is there ever a ‘normal’ day at St Stephens? What another amazing couple of weeks we’ve had. There has been a wealth of enrichment activities **in school** from making bread with Chartwells, a bagpiper playing in class, a visit from our local police force to circuit training with Paralympian footballers; **out of school** from visits to Shelter Box HQ to being ‘live’ on BBC Radio Cornwall with Pudsey Bear! Sport has been high on the agenda again with a friendly football tournament against the other Launceston town schools, school netball, boxing and Zumba clubs, and swimming sessions. Our Samba band has also been practicing ready to perform at the Launceston Christmas Lights turn –on, tonight at 6pm. Please do go and support them and visit the tree festival at St Mary Magdalene’s church where our Foundation class have created beautiful decorations for a Christmas tree to represent our school.

As we move into December I know that Christmas events will start to dominate our thoughts-do check out our on line calendar to make sure you don’t miss any events. If in doubt please come and ask in the main office.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone for their patience and perseverance whilst we have been installing the new on-line payment system for school dinners. This is a Trust initiative to enable all our schools to be cashless. As always thank you for your continued support.

Maura Furber

Attendance

Week Ending

22nd November 2019

CLASS F	98.8%
CLASS 1	98.3%
CLASS 2	99.3%
CLASS 3	92.8%
CLASS 4	96.7%
CLASS 5	96.0%
CLASS 6	98.6%
CLASS 7	100%

School Improvement

“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”

Last week I met with the full Local Governing Body to discuss the strengths of our school and the next steps to ensure we provide the very best education for our pupils at St Stephens– they are always our number one priority. The four key areas that we are addressing as a school are:

1. To continue to raise standards of attainment and progress in reading, including phonics, for all pupils and embed current good practice.
2. To continue to ensure equality of provision and opportunity for the Pupil Premium Group and SEND pupils compared with all other pupils nationally.
3. Embed Trauma Informed School (TIS) strategies across the school to make impact upon pupils’ self-belief, well-being and progress for the ‘whole child’.
4. To continue to raise standards of attainment and progress in spelling for all pupils.

We were also delighted to welcome Terry Cawsey onto our Governing Body and Kathy Walsh is our new teacher representative. If you would like to make contact with any of our school Governors please do not hesitate to inform the school office and we can organise this.

Children in Need Pudsey Visit



On Friday 15th November, we were delighted to have been invited to be part of Radio Cornwall's live broadcast for Children in Need. Presenter Debbie Mc Crory and her team, along with Pudsey Bear, came to St Stephens because they were so amazed with the creative ideas that the Pupil Forum had come up with for raising money for Children in Need. During the week they co-ordinated, advertised and organised a non school uniform day, staff car wash and 'upgrade' your morning bagel to raise funds



for Children in Need. A huge well done to the pupils who spoke live on radio –you were confident and articulate— an absolute credit to our school.

Thanks to your amazing generosity this year we have raised a staggering total of £234.58!!

Bread making with Chartwells



As part of Year2's History learning about The Great Fire of London and their Science learning about materials, they explored bread making with the help of Chartwells.

Computing

Following on from writing their own fireworks acrostic poems, the children in Year 1 have been developing their word processing skills and typing up their fantastic poems. Last week was the first time the children had used our newly installed computers and writing programme. Working in pairs, they displayed amazing listening skills and resilience in order to locate the programme, log in and type up their poetry.



Football Friendly Matches



St Stephens were delighted to host a friendly football tournament with the 'Town' schools last week. We welcomed two teams from St Catherine's

Academy and a team from Windmill Hill Academy. The four teams all played each other and were supported by family and friends. Great sportsmanship, mutual respect and team work were well and truly showcased by all.

A very big well done to Team St Stephens who worked brilliantly together and won all of their matches- all that hard work and practice does make a difference.

Christmas Tree Festival

Well done to Class F for creating such amazing decorations for our school tree at St Mary Magdalene's Church. Please pop along to the church to see not only our contribution but also all the other fabulous trees on display. The festival runs from tonight until next Sunday.



Shelter Box and the Museum

Year 4 went to Shelter Box HQ to find out how our local community help those who have their homes damaged by earthquakes. They had a fantastic time packing boxes and finding out what is sent out to families in need.

They then went to The Royal Cornwall Museum to look at artefacts related to Early Christianity in Cornwall which linked to their current learning in R.E and found objects linked with the Romans and Ancient China in preparation for future learning.



They all had a brilliant day and this enrichment visit consolidated classroom knowledge and learning skills.

GB Paralympic footballers inspire us at St Stephens

This week we were delighted and privileged to welcome Jack Rutter and Jonathan Paterson to St Stephens Community Academy as part of the "Sports for Schools" programme. The strap line is 'GB athletes who inspire kids' -this was well and truly the case. Jack had an amazing story to tell -after recovering from a life changing incident which left him with brain damage that severely affected his balance and hearing, his dreams of a professional football career were put on hold but his spirit and determination were stronger than ever. Both he and Jonathan played for the England Cerebral Palsy Football Team in the Paralympic games in Rio along with many other sporting achievements. Our school vision of "Embracing Learning. Inspiring Ambition. Celebrating Individuality." was well and truly brought to life. All the classes were led through a fast pace circuit training session with encouragement, positivity and passion. Thank you to everyone who is collecting sponsor money for this event- half of the money raised goes to support such amazing experiences and the other half is going to be used to fund sports equipment for our school.

Please follow Jack and Jonathan's Twitter feeds to see us all in action. <https://twitter.com/jackrutter2>

<https://twitter.com/JonnyPaterson10>



When asked to write a comment in our school Comment Book the following was left...

"Unbelievable school! Lovely staff, energetic and talented students. We loved it. Best school in Cornwall! "

I have to say we agree! THANK YOU Jack and JP- come back and visit us again soon.

You have inspired all of us.

St Stephen's Church Christmas Events

- Carol service, traditional carols, Saturday 7th Dec 7.30pm
- Crib service Christmas Eve, especially for children and families, at 3pm with Open the Book members and the opportunity for children to dress as a character.
- Messy Church in St Stephen's Church Hall on Tuesday 17th Dec, 3.30pm-4.45pm with free activities and tea, based on the Christmas story.

Super Gymnast

Year Five's very own Emily has been awarded the North Devon Display Gymnastic Club Satellite Effort and Enthusiasm Shield. A huge well done from Year Five and the rest of the school. Emily along with some of her classmates are dedicated gymnasts outside of school and we wish them every success!



PCSO Visit

Class F enjoyed a visit from our local PCSO this week. She told us all about the role of the police in our community and about their job. She brought in different pieces of police uniform for us all to try on and took us out to see her police van. We found that we could get most of Class F in the cage at the back and how loud the siren is!



Time for Tea!

A huge thank you to one of our school governors, Sue Tierney, who is also a member of the Lions Club in Launceston, for providing us with four brand new fast boiling kettles for the staffroom. After our kitchen water boiler broke we had to borrow the PTFA urn but now we can have a cuppa made using our new 'additions'. Many thanks to the Lions Club for their generosity and Sue for organising the purchase- it is greatly appreciated by all the staff.



ARB Wild Tribe

We had a fantastic outdoor learning afternoon on Wednesday in Wild Tribe. We visited and fed the ducks and hens in their new home. There were dens in the willow hut for us to explore and we had races across the grass. We were also very excited to find a hedgehog in the grass by the trim trail!

