



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



"Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality."

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Friday 27th September 19



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well the Autumn term is certainly in full swing and I have greatly enjoyed speaking with the pupils about their new learning themes. I have been impressed with the growing knowledge that they are always keen to share and I have been delighted to have had so many visitors to the office to showcase their work - and by the number of texts and postcards we have sent home already. I know from conversations at the school gate in the morning that you as parents have also enjoyed the Knowledge Organisers and new Termly Overviews. Thank you for this feedback. Your positive partnership with us is crucial to ensure we provide the very best education for your children, we do listen to your ideas and ways to move our school offer forward. With this in mind we are changing how we offer the Parent/Carer consultations each term. Many of you have requested longer sessions, with more time to discuss achievements, look through work and set targets together. Please see the section on **NEW STYLE Parent –Teacher Consultations in this newsletter**.

The children's pride in their work and school values were demonstrated brilliantly last week by our Pupil Forum who organised our first charity fundraiser of the year– many thanks for your wonderful support. Our Pupil Voice is strong at St Stephens-alongside our House Captains, Pupil Forum, Playground Sports Leaders, Librarians and Breakfast Monitors our Eco Councillors met for the first time this week and already have lots of great ideas to challenge how we protect and respond to the very real issues affecting our world.

Finally, I know several children have asked for information about music tuition –please come to the main office if your child is interested in guitar, keyboard, drum or string lessons. We have such amazingly talented teachers available to nurture your budding musicians.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maura Furber

Attendance

Week Ending

20th September 2019

CLASS F	94.3%
CLASS 1	97.3%
CLASS 2	96.4%
CLASS 3	98.5%
CLASS 4	94.6%
CLASS 5	100%
CLASS 6	99.3%
CLASS 7	100%

School Improvement



Last week St Stephens Governors and the Senior Leadership Team attended Curriculum training and updates on the **New Ofsted Framework** that came into effect from this September. This was led by Neil Swaite, our Academy Improvement Officer, who is a practicing Ofsted Inspector. The strength of our school strategic vision is supported by a strong working relationship with our school Governing Board.

Our new 'Capabilities Curriculum' is designed and planned to meet all the new expectations in the '**Quality of Education**' section. For further information please look on our website tab '**Our Approach to Learning**'. If you would like to discuss any of the information please do not hesitate to contact me. This week I have also met with one of our Business Managers and undertaken a health and safety audit of our school premises. The physical safety of your children is always a priority. I have also met with our Chair of Governors, Mrs Ann Nicholson, to analyse our end of year results in the Standardised Assessment Tests. The '**School Outcome Report**' can be found on our website under the '**Achievement-Attainment and Progress**' tab.



Launceston Castle visit.

Year Five visited the ruins of the Priory and then Launceston Castle last week as part of their History study of Launceston, linked to our Community and



Inheritance theme for the Autumn term. Originally built by the Normans as a Motte and Bailey castle, Year Five looked



around the remains of the castle as well as looking at how you might attack or defend it.

They all went to the top of the keep! They could see where the school is from there and had a local geography lesson about the shape of the land and why the castle was built where it was.



NEW STYLE Parent –Teacher Consultations

After speaking with the majority of you who attended the meetings last year, it quickly became apparent that you would like longer sessions to discuss your child's progress and actually look through their books to celebrate achievements and identify ways to help at home. With that in mind we would like to trial longer sessions once a year for each class alongside the shorter consultations.

Week beginning 14th October we shall be offering **20 minute meetings for Y1, Y3, and Y5 parent/carers. Letters will be sent home to tell you the day and to find a time convenient for you in the near future.**

15th /16th October 10mins slots as usual for YF, Y2,Y4, Y6 classes. Signing up sheets will now be at each classroom door.

This will be 'reversed' in the Spring term e.g. Twenty minute meetings for YF,Y2, Y4 and Y6 and 10mins slots for other classes. **It goes without saying that we have an open door policy and you do not have to wait until these dates if you have any concerns or questions for the teachers or myself.**

Jeans for Genes Day

Wow what a fantastic response from everyone last Friday. As a school we have raised a brilliant £128.00 for this amazing charity that is very close to our hearts.



A huge thank you to our newly elected Pupil Forum who organised, advertised and co-ordinated the event. What a great start to their new roles in our school-We can't wait for their next event! Many thanks also to Mrs Lumby for leading this important group within our school community.



Wear Grey for a Day—Monday 1st October

We are delighted to support the Brain Trust Charity on Monday 1st October by asking your children to wear something grey for the day (**voluntary donations please**). This could be something as simple as a t shirt, trousers, skirt or hat. This charity event has come about due to one of our parents, Emma Johnson, celebrating her daughter going into Year 1 at school. This is a momentous occasion as Emma was diagnosed with a brain tumour in pregnancy 5 years ago. The money raised will go to fund research and support families just like Emma's. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Settlements through Time.

To kick off our 'Settlements through Time' - Stone Age to Iron Age' theme, class 3 had a morning of outdoor learning last week. Firstly, we went fossil hunting after receiving a letter from an archaeologist from the University of Bristol! We armed ourselves with paintbrushes, rulers and trowels and set to work - we found a huge variety of Stone Age tools and other items. We brushed the fossils off very carefully before measuring them with rulers. After break, we started thinking about when the Stone Age was and how early humans would have lived whilst sat around a campfire. We talked about BC and AD as well as about how the discovery of fire would have changed life for the better, as it would have provided warmth, light, the



ability to cook meat and protection from predators. We had a lovely morning and are excited to get stuck in to our first theme.



Inheritance Theme: All About Me!

We love to learn in Class 7. We learn at our workstations inside. We start with our tray tasks in the morning and then we will take part in learning activities with an adult. In the afternoon we are outside as much as possible exploring different ways of moving things, water and mud play, making sounds. Lots of sensory activities, independent exploration and social skill development e.g. learning to share or play alongside each other.



This week we have been learning more about our bodies. We have enjoyed learning songs like 'Hokey Cokey' and 'If You are Happy'. We have been following instructions with Mr Potato Head and Fuzzy Felt Faces to see if we can get it right. We had fun drawing around our bodies, exploring sounds made by instruments, investigated touch and feel of different mixtures. On Thursday we did a Barefoot Trail around the grounds.



We're Going On A Bear Hunt!

On Tuesday 24th September, Year F went on a trip to the bakery and Charlie Bears Museum.

First, we got on the buses and went into town. We all had our money to buy our teddy bear biscuit. We then got back on the bus and went to the museum. When we got there we ate our biscuits with the bears!



Once we had finished our biscuits we explored the museum and looked at all the bears. Before we left we retold our class story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' for all of the bears to hear.

"We went upstairs with the bears to eat our biscuits." Axl

"We saw lots of bears." Rory

"We retold 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.'" Eleanor.

Dates for your Diary.

Please see Parent/Teacher consultation information above.

Harvest Festival Celebration: 10th October .We would really appreciate a food donation for this so the Y6 pupils can sell the produce to raise funds for the Food Bank charity. More information nearer the time.

Parent /Carer consultations: Week beginning 14th October

Half term is from 19th to 27th October

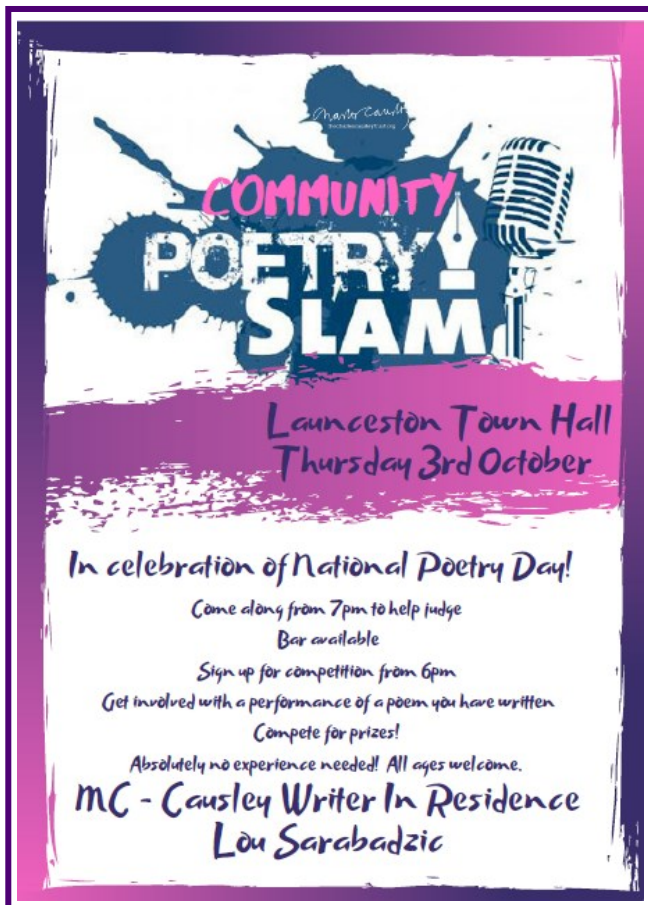
September Intake 2020 Intake Tour: 30th October 10.00a.m. start.

Fitness circuits fundraiser led by Paralympic Footballers: 20th November 9-12.00p.m.

Christmas KS1/EYFS Performance: 11th /12th December @ 9.30 a.m. Tickets will be made available nearer the time.

KS2 Church Carol Service: 18th December 2-3p.m.

We break for Christmas holidays on 20th December.



Inheritance and Community; Outside Learning



In Year 1's wild tribe sessions they have been exploring the forest area. The children participated in scavenger hunts - identifying leaves and mini beasts. They loved hunting through the grass, under sticks and through leaves for their creatures. They found spiders, stag beetles, caterpillars, millipedes, woodlice and ants! Great skills demonstrated identifying the creatures using their fact finder sheets.



Teachers Learning from Teachers.



delighted that Mrs. Hooper's passion and expertise has been recognised by the AnDaras MAT; at the end of the Summer Term she was interviewed and given the post of English Lead across all the MAT schools. A huge congratulation to Mrs Hooper and how lucky we are to have her at Team St Stephens.

Last week we were delighted to welcome two Year 2 teachers from 'across the border' in Devon to St Stephens Academy. They had asked for professional guidance and the opportunity to observe excellent practice and their Headteacher, a Primary Advisor, requested our assistance. Mrs Hooper and her fantastic team of LSA's; Mrs Duckworth and Mr Gilbert, fit the spec perfectly! We are also



GUITAR LESSONS

Are you aged 7 or above?

Would you like to learn to play an instrument in a fun and friendly group? (individual lessons also available)

Then come and join us at St Stephens Guitar Hub and begin your musical journey!

Where: St Stephens Community Academy

When: Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm

For more info contact Tom Lintell
tlintell@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org
or to view group options, fees and sign up for lessons visit
www.cornwallmusicservicetrust.org

Pre School

This week the children have been very excited to welcome the first visitors to our bug hotel! We are learning to be kind and gentle to our insect friends. The children were carefully choosing leaves and plants that they thought the bugs would like to eat.



European Day of Languages

On Thursday we celebrated the variety of European languages (including English) which are spoken at St Stephens. Some of the languages that the children learnt to say simple phrases in were: Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian, Czech and Spanish!



LAUNCESTON



Refugee Support Group

**Would you be able to support the
LAUNCESTON REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP?**
<http://lrsg.org.uk>

We are an open group, as well as a registered charity.
Charity no: 1178812

We welcomed a Syrian refugee family to Launceston in June 2019.

We would be very happy to have your support in whatever way you can; here are a few examples:

- Volunteers at our market stall every month in Launceston Town Square
- Volunteer drivers, especially female, to take members of 'our family' to important appointments.
- Volunteers to collect useful items to send on to refugees in Europe.

If YOU would like to become involved, please contact us via this e-mail: info@lrsg.org.uk and/or come along to one of our regular meetings; details on our FB page.

If you would like to contribute financially, please consider sending to, or setting up a regular donation to: Bank Account name: Launceston Refugee Support Group
Account number: 24335460 Sort Code: 30-94-91

Our aims are:

- to build local networks, and contribute to the work being done to collect, sort and dispatch useful items for stranded refugees
- to work towards welcoming two refugee families to Launceston, as part of the government's pledge to resettle some of the most vulnerable refugees in the UK