



Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that this is the last newsletter before our half term break (**Monday 25th -Friday 29th October**) and what a half term it has been! So many opportunities to celebrate including a tag rugby festival, creating a music message for politicians and leaders attending an environmental summit to children making progress in their daily learning, as observed by visitors, and the simple acts of kindness I witness every day.

This week we have been thinking about our mental health and what it actually means to us. We've discussed it's not what you can see on the outside but your feelings, thoughts and emotions . We've considered ways we can support each other and show kindness to help our friends when we feel 'brittle'. At St Stephens we work together to ensure you will never be 'lost ', we will always 'see you', 'recognise' your struggles and 'find you.' The power of celebrating individuality within a safe school structure cannot be underestimated, the whole person rather than just the external image being recognised. This is for all stakeholders in the team.

It must also be acknowledged that this has not been an easy start to the new school year. I know many colleagues in other schools who feel exactly the same. We have been missing several wonderful members of our staff team for different reasons and CV19 /PCR tests have become a conversation and reality that impacts tremendously on our day to day life. I would like to thank you all for your consideration when things have to change at short notice and I'd like to thank the amazing group of people I am so lucky to work alongside every day. Their commitment and resilience to provide the very best education for your children every day, irrespective of their own personal lives, is a testament to the drive and passion they have for the job. Thank you as always for your continued support and have a lovely half term when we get there! I know the staff are ready to rest and recover so they are ready for the run up to Christmas and I'm sure you are too!

Take care and stay safe.

Maura Furber

School Improvement - Year 3 Writers

Last week we were delighted to welcome our Trust Improvement Officer and practicing Lead Ofsted Inspector, Neil Swait. The main purpose of the visit was to review the teaching and learning of writing in Year 3. This is the transition year between KS1 and KS2 .The AnDaras Trust has made this important year a real focus in all the Trust schools. We all recognise that writing outcomes have been affected by COVID-19 over the last two academic years in all year groups.

During his visit Mr Swait spoke with the children and we are delighted with their responses:

- Pupils speak very positively about their experiences of writing at school. They particularly like writing sentences about their favourite things.
- Pupils agree that they get to practise their writing every day.
- Pupils say that they do find some aspects of writing more difficult. These include spelling, forming and positioning their letters correctly on the line, and remembering to use capital letters and full stops .
- All pupils agree that adults are very good at helping them with their writing. They say that adults help them when they are struggling to spell a word; notice any mistakes they have made; show them how to write in complete sentences; and encourage them to talk about their ideas before setting them down on paper.
- Pupils agree that they get to write for lots of different purposes across the curriculum. They say that the vocab books and displays really help them with their learning.
- Pupils feel well supported in class.

The areas they find difficult are obviously being addressed through first quality teaching to support their progress.



Helpful Micro-organisms: The Yeast Race

In Science Year 6 have been learning about Micro-organisms (Very small living things). We investigated whether the yeast (a fungi) solution with sugar would grow faster than the yeast solution without sugar. Most of us predicted that the solution with the sugar would grow the fastest since we knew that all living things need food to survive and the sugar was acting as a food source for the yeast.

Throughout the investigation we used our science skills of measuring accurately, observing, presenting and interpreting our results.



We were correct with our prediction! We also noticed that after 90 minutes the solution with the sugar deflated as the food source had been depleted.



Music Awards

A HUGE congratulations to Bella and Chloe for their wonderful music achievements. Both girls have been working with Mrs Gilbert to prepare for their copper music medal on the keyboard. Their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm has certainly paid off. The Associated Board of the Royal School of Music have awarded them a pass.

The girls have said that they had to practice lots but are very proud of themselves and they now are busy working towards the next grade with their wonderful teacher.

A fantastic achievement girls and I know you are going to play for us in assembly when we can all meet together again.





Harvest Celebrations.

Our Harvest Assembly was held today and it was wonderful to hear all the different poems, songs and readings along with some great dance moves. Due to CV19 we held two celebrations this year in each Key stage bubble and we were delighted that Mother Alison joined both celebrations and shared her thoughts and prayers about the importance of harvest time.



Many thanks for your generous donations of tinned goods and fresh produce. The Pupil Forum and House Captains kindness organised the sale of the items and we are delighted to inform you that we raised £115 for the wonderful Foodbank Charity. Again thank you for sending in donations for this sale to happen. The Foodbank is a wonderful organisation that is very close to our hearts as it supports so many families in our community, especially during this tricky time that we find ourselves in. Many thanks to Tesco who also donated produce to sell today- your kindness is always very much appreciated.

Tag Rugby Festival

What a fantastic day we had- a squad of 12 pupils from Year 5 and 6 spent the day at Launceston College Playing Fields in the sun, learning and practicing key rugby skills, before applying them in a Round Robin Tag Rugby Festival in the afternoon with other schools from the local area. Teamwork, collaboration, resilience, enthusiasm and enjoyment all employed to great effect: in our first festival since the pandemic we came 2nd overall.



They were great ambassadors for Team St Stephens -
Well done everyone

Our Personal History and life skills.



In Class 7 we have been thinking about how much we have changed since we were a baby. We are learning about the different things we can do at different ages.

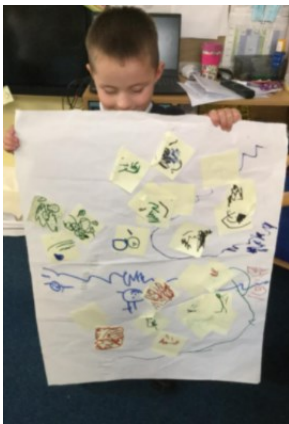


Babies need help to be looked after carefully and we had a go at looking after our 'babies' by giving them a bath, taking them for a walk and putting them to bed. We had to be very gentle and careful with them.



Learning Through Stories

Our class story last week in Year F was 'The Three Little Pigs.' We enjoyed retelling the story and using it in our daily drawing club.



We have been enjoying working together with our friends to build some famous structures from around the world, such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Eiffel Tower.



Climate Warriors

As some of you may be aware, there is an important environmental conference taking place in Glasgow from 31st October – 12th November : the COP26 Climate Summit



We have been asked by an organisation called Global Jamming, to make a short song and film, which will become Cornwall's message to the politicians and leaders attending the summit. As part of our Wild Tribe and Music learning we are writing our own song for the world leaders to ask them to take notice of climate change.



The song is based on a sea shanty that Global Jamming wrote for the G7 Summit in St Ives, which took place this summer. On that occasion, they invited people (through Radio Cornwall), to write verses for the song – which was then sung from St Ives Island on the weekend of the conference.

Class 4 and 5 have done an amazing job of writing lines and messages to the world leaders, thinking about some really complex and challenging issues. Hopefully they will be able to tell you about the kinds of things we have been discussing!

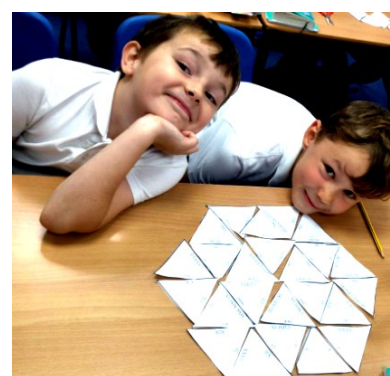
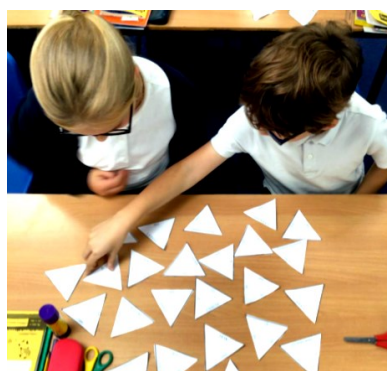


We have written messages on leaves to create a virtual tree of what we want to happen. We are hoping to record our song in a couple of weeks.



Roman Numerals challenge

As well as learning our Roman Numerals as part of number and place value in Year 5 we have also been testing our determination, perseverance and teamwork. Together we have been attempting a challenging puzzle that tests resilience but is incredibly satisfying when you succeed!



PTFA Annual General Meeting



The PTFA Committee invite all parents/carers to our AGM on **Wednesday 3rd Nov 2021** at **2.40pm** in the KS1 playground
(to be finished by 3.10pm at the latest)

Your dedicated PTFA committee are ready to fund raise for another year, all we need is you to attend our AGM for the official vote. We **must** meet our minimum requirement of guests in order to continue.

Agenda to include...

- *Voting of committee members and named roles
- *A brief report on finances and recent spends
- *Fund raising plans for 2021/2022
- *Committee responsibilities and tasks

There is **no obligation** to offer help going forward, although volunteers are always welcome.

The PTFA's aim is to fund valuable resources and opportunities for your children during their time in school and we would really appreciate your support at our AGM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

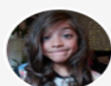
<https://www.justgiving.com/>

This is some information about one of our pupils that his family would like to share with you all. A few weeks ago Rudy's wonderful Bop (grandad) was suddenly taken poorly and was diagnosed with a number of brain tumours. His family has had a tough few weeks coming to terms with this news and whilst they have been scared, they have also been brave, loving and strong. Dave (Bop) is about to start his treatment and to honour him Rudy has decided to have his long curly hair cut off to raise money to help people who are going through similar. If you would like to donate to give him the courage to chop off those beautiful curls please click on the following link.

Rudy Butler is fundraising for The Brain Tumour Charity (justgiving.com)

Rudy's family are yet to finalise the date of the big cut but will keep you posted as soon as its all organised! Rudy will also be donating his gorgeous hair to the Princess Trust.

The Brain Tumour Charity is the world's leading brain tumour charity and the largest dedicated funder of research into brain tumours globally. Committed to saving and improving lives, we're moving further, faster to help every single person affected by a brain tumour. We're set on finding new treatments, offering the highest level of support and driving urgent change. And we're doing it right now. Because we understand that when you, or someone you love, is diagnosed with a brain tumour a cure really can't wait.



Rudy Butler

Rudy's Big Hair Cut

I am raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity because I want to help people



KIDS GO FREE



- Great game day experience
- Fantastic interactive school trip
- Speaker announcement at game for school / college
- Extras available on request

Contact info@plymouthcitypatriots.com to book

Minimum of 10 children for game required
Each child must be accompanied by a full paying adult @ £17

