



An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"



Friday 13th January 2017



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to see everyone back into school this last fortnight. The Spring Term is a shorter term and its one where children have a number of learning projects to complete so they will be busy! For 2017 we are focusing on developing the roles of our children further and we are starting a ECO forum. As a school we really promote recycling and substantiality projects. We are continuing to review where we are in relation to UNICEF and are close to achieving our Level One Award soon. Pupil Forum continue to be active across the school and members of our pupil forum are joining an ADMAT pupil forum and attending the Youth Council monthly meetings at the Town Hall. Thank you to all parents and families who attended our lunches this week. It is always lovely to see families in our school. Please do come to our class assemblies coming up. We also have some other dates for parents to come in and see what our children have been learning. Should you have any questions or queries do let us know. If I have not already seen you, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year on behalf of everyone at St Stephens Community Academy. Regards, Miss Taylor

Academy School Improvement: Another term begins and we have started with a focused programme of monitoring across the school to review planning and learning books. We also have Mr Hermon and Mrs Green (Academy Improvement Officer) conducting a monitoring day for us on 17th February to review how the school is progressing. All the ADMAT schools are being monitored and we continued to work together as a team of schools.

Attendance

Wk Ending 6.1.17

CLASS F	96.0
CLASS 1	94.6
CLASS 2	94.0
CLASS 3	99.6
CLASS 4	92.9
CLASS 5	92.9
CLASS 6	99.0
CLASS 7	85.7

Important Dates:

Class Assemblies: Thursday 26th January Year Six, Tuesday 7th February Year Two and Thursday 9th February Year Four. These start from 2.45pm in the school hall.

Friday 20th January: Pupil Forum are hosting a Breakfast Bap Morning from 8am in the school Hall.

Friday 20th January: From 2.30pm come and join our pastoral team and governors over tea and biscuits.

Thursday 2nd February: Please come and join your child in their classroom for a reading morning until 9.30am.

Tuesday 7th February: All welcome to come and see children learning projects from 2.30pm.



www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk

01566 772170

Website

Take a look at our website. We continue to provide information and keep it updated. Please read the class pages and find out about their learning for the Spring term. Also look at our calendar of events on the front page.

Do you have?

If you have any story book CDs that you would like to donate to school please drop them into the school office for the attention of Mrs Bartlett.

UNICEF

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 13** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Every child must be free to say what they think and to see and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.'*

On the last day before the Christmas holidays we held our 'Christmas Jumper Day' in school which our steering group organised. A total of £123.68 was raised. A huge thank you to everyone for donating money for this event. This money has now been sent to the charity 'Save the Children'.

Our School Office

We are pleased to share that we have a new member of staff Mrs Claire Blaney who will be starting in the week of Monday 16th January. Please do bear with her as she gets to know all the school systems. Mrs Brent continues to work in the office. Please do ensure that all your contact details are up to date with us in the office as sometimes we try to contact or send you information as it does not get to you because the details we have are no longer correct.

Attendance Reminder

Please can we remind all parents that children's attendance in school and arrival on time is extremely important. If your child's attendance is below expectations then a letter will be sent out to you. If you have any concerns about attendance please do get in touch.

Pupil Voice

Pupil Forum and our UNICEF group continue to meet regularly. We are also starting a ECO group. Children will be invited to apply for the ECO leader for each class. Mrs Vasey will be holding these interviews very soon. For 2017 we hope to focus again on promoting the values of recycling and sustainability.

Healthy Eating

Did you know that the Change for life website has a wealth of materials. There is also a new APP that tells you all about food content. Take a look on <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/be-food-smart#mMSFLQHixoviJ5vM.97>

School Payments

Please can we ask that if you have any questions about payments for clubs, breakfast club, trips, and lunchtime that you do call or come and speak to the school office where they can help. The office hours are often 8.30am-3.30pm so please do come and speak to them. They are very happy to help. Please consider that other members of staff will not be able to help you so please contact the office directly.

Bad Weather?

Please can we remind all parents that information about bad weather can be found on the Cornwall County website as well as our own. If the weather is too bad a text with information will be sent out to you before school. We may decide to close breakfast club, open late or close the school. However, you will be informed by text. We always aim to remain open as we know bad weather can be an inconvenience.

Gifted and Able Science Workshop

A science gifted and able workshop took place at the end of the autumn term to provide intellectual challenges, to maximise the learning opportunities for a group of pupils, extending and developing their scientific investigative skills.

Kitchen Chemistry!

First we made saturated solutions of Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts). We used warm water, to speed up the dissolving. We then used cotton wool to paint images onto black card, using the solution. When we dried the images with the hairdryer, the water evaporated, leaving behind crystals of the Magnesium Sulphate. We then extend this to use the solutions to grow larger crystals in the classroom.

Soap Boats

Our next experiment was to investigate the effect of soap on water. We made a simple V-shaped 'boat' which floated on a tray of water. We dripped liquid soap into the V of the boat – the boat then moved forward. This was because the soap broke the skin of the water, pushing the card. We had great fun!!



Investigation to determine the best material to use to line a box for a hibernating mammal e.g. tortoise or hedgehog

This was an open ended investigation with pupils shown a range of materials e.g. shredded newspaper, bubble-wrap, fabric, leaves, and foil. Pupils had a container, small water bottle filled with warm water, a stop watch and digital thermometer to use to conduct the experiment. We discussed how we could find out which would be the best material, how we could keep the test fair and engaged in a frank discussion around the potential of the different materials to keep a mammal warm, making a simple hypothesis. Each pupil selected a material and wrapped it around their water bottle. The pupils decided to check the water temperature ever 5 minutes and recorded their result on the flip chart. At the end of the investigation, pupils were able to draw conclusions and report on their results. Each pupil was able to complete a simple investigation report using a range of investigative skills. The pupils demonstrated creativity, task-commitment and motivation throughout the activity and enjoyed the challenge.



What's happening next!

Once an area of the curriculum is identified for a gifted and able enrichment activity, teacher's select learners who are demonstrating performance or potential for higher ability performance in academic, creative, leadership or artistic domains when compared with their peers. We have identified 'Design Technology' as our focus for the spring term and details of a gifted and able workshop will be announced shortly.