



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;”

Friday 30th April 2021

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderfully sunny and positive start to our summer term here at St Stephens. All our pupils are now able to return safely after some had to shield a little bit longer at home. I was delighted that this new term got off to an exciting and unusual start. We were fortunate in securing Arts Council England funding that has enabled our KS2 pupils to receive six weeks of free Circus Skills workshops. The focus of the workshops is on physical well being and good mental health whilst learning new skills and having fun.

Check out the class blogs on the website and photos in this newsletter to see the joy these sessions are bringing.

I am also delighted to inform you that one of our Tesco funding bids has been successful and we have secured £1000 towards our breakfast bagel provision for all pupils.

May I just remind you that the children are expected to wear school uniform every day UNLESS they have PE during or after school or Wild Tribe outside learning. Children may wear their own football kits on Friday if attending Plymouth Argyle football sessions after school, however, please ensure that the correct PE kit is worn to school at other times.

Here's to a sunny, fun packed term together. Remember it's a Bank Holiday next Monday (3rd May) so I'll see you all again on Tuesday 4th!

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement



This week we have been doing some written assessments and tests from Y2 onwards to check progress and attainment in reading, maths, grammar and spelling. The expectations of our Trust are that summative/formal assessments should be undertaken in these year groups in the summer term. We shall also redo these tests towards the end of the school year to help us establish areas of strength and areas to support for the children moving into new classes in September. This information will help support transitions and give the staff a clearer picture of provision required.

There are **NO national tests** this academic year so our in-school results will not be reported but they will help to support our teacher assessment.

Across the school one of our key priorities for improvement is writing. Our school and Trust English Lead, Mrs. Hooper, has led staff training on shared and guided writing -strategies to promote excellent practice. When the children first returned to school after the latest lockdown the majority found writing at length tricky- their stamina and ability to work independently needed a whole school focus. In a few weeks time our Academy Improvement Officer, Neil Swait, will be joining us to moderate/ check our teacher judgements of writing across the school to support our provision.

Another key priority is reading -little and often every day. I know you understand the importance -reading really does unlock so many doors and opportunities.

This week in assembly we watched a video in which authors and celebrities discussed their favourite childhood books. This also helps to inspire our future writers- they do say everyone has a book waiting inside them to write. Perhaps one day we might be selecting one written by your child as our favourite!



## Circus Berzercus!

Year 3 and 4 were lucky enough to start the summer term with the first of six circus skills lessons with Steve from Circus Berzercus. Each week will focus on a different skill, on the first week Year 3 learned the art of plate spinning. This was a scary prospect at first but within minutes every child was able to confidently spin a plate on a stick! This quickly developed into practicing different tricks, skills and building a performance.



This week Year 4 loved perfecting their hula-hooping skills and then learning how to do other tricks. There was a particularly strong effort from the boys, who won both competitions: Hula Gladiator Charlie and Hula Twister Riley.



## Plants- Flowers and Leaves

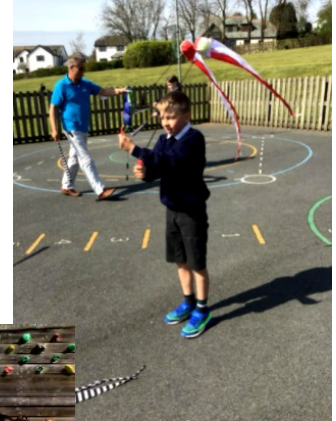
In Class 7 we have been thinking about plants and how they grow. We went on a flower hunt around the school grounds and took photos of flowers that we found. Then we collected some flowers and made our own flower out of real flowers. We looked carefully at the shape and colour of the petals and also had a go at making leaf rubbings. We noticed leaves are lots of different shapes and colours.





## Mental Health and Physical Well-being

Year Five are really enjoying the circus skills course every Monday this summer term. It is amazing for mental health, confidence and coordination. It's outside in the sun and we are learning skills you wouldn't learn anywhere else and who knows maybe there is a budding clown among us!



## Learning new skills and working collaboratively

We have been extremely active in the wonderful Spring sunshine over the past two weeks learning new skills in our circus workshop, cricket skills and diamond cricket with Mr Worth and football skills with PAFC. A fantastic start to the Summer Term in Year 6



## Making Music

This term Year 4 are learning music with our Music Lead, Mrs Gilbert.

We are hoping to link our learning with another school from Nigeria. We enjoyed the sunny weather whilst learning about rhythm and tempo.

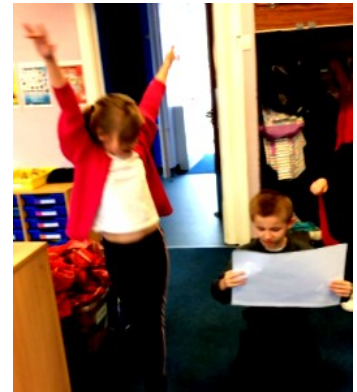


## Reading and Role Play

### Stomp Dinosaur Stomp

In guided reading Year 2 have been reading 'Stomp Dinosaur Stomp' by Margaret Mayo and Alex Ayliffe.

To practice their fluency and embed the story they read sections from the story and acted it out in pairs.





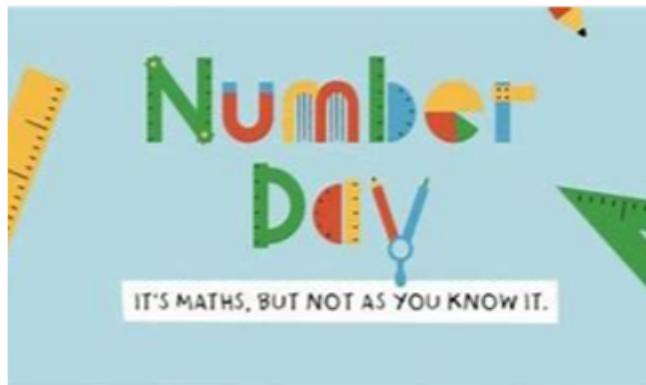
## Brilliant Bonnets

Well done to all of those children who entered the Pre-School Easter bonnet competition. What a creative group you are and a huge thank you to the mums and dads for all their support.



Congratulations to the winners of our Easter bonnet competition in Pre-School .  
What an 'Eggcellent' effort!

## NSPCC



Friday 7th May is...  
NUMBER DAY!

Dress as a  
Digit

*On Friday 7th May, pupils are invited to Dress as a Digit with a voluntary contribution of £1, for our annual fundraising event to support the work of the NSPCC. Throughout the day | pupils will participate in a range of activities incorporating numbers.*

*Remember to look at the school website and your child's class blog to see the fabulous costumes and fun activities.*





### Mini Pilgrims Football Roadshow.

May Bank Holiday. Monday 3rd May 2021.

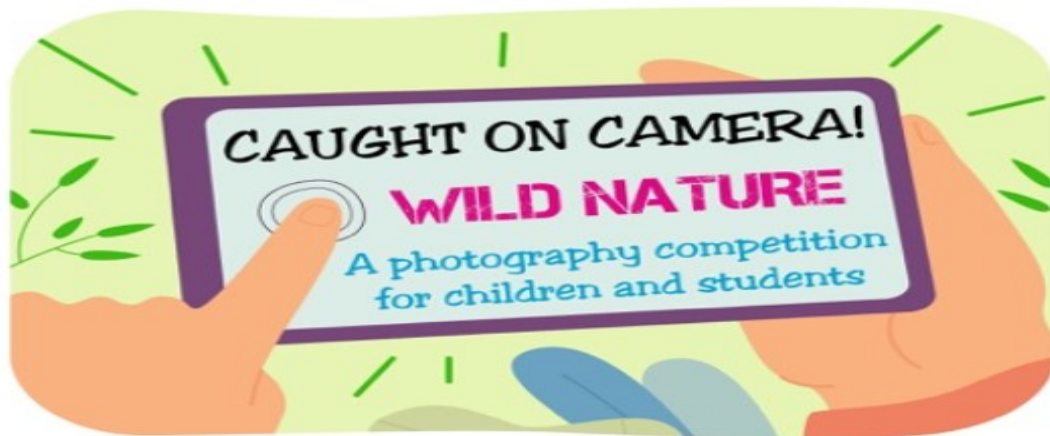
St Joseph's School, Launceston. 09:00 - 12:00.

Ages 4 - 6. Snack + Drink required.

Mini Pilgrims is a morning only option for children aged 4-6 years old at one of our roadshow venues, these will be run separately to our main roadshows & instead will cater to the needs of our Mini Pilgrims. This is perfect for parents who feel their child might want to "try" our roadshow for half a day before potentially booking them onto a full day at a future date.

If this is something that would interest you & your child, please follow the link below to secure their place

<https://argylecommunitytrust.co.uk/soccer-roadshows/in-north-devon-east-cornwall/>



Free to enter  
BIG prizes up to £100

3 photos of wild nature  
but NO people or pets



Closing date May 21st 2021  
Full details and entry form on  
[www.launcestonrotaryuk.org](http://www.launcestonrotaryuk.org)