



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



**“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;
Celebrating Individuality.”**

Friday 10th February 2023

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Its been a short half term but goodness we’ve certainly filled it to the brim! I think everyone is ready for the half term for time to relax and recharge . That said the teachers are already planning visits and visitors to enhance the curriculum next half term, the new after school clubs have been organised and whole school events are in the diary !

Thanks to our wonderful PTFA , even on this last day of term they are organising fundraising opportunities for the children- the DisGlow has been the talk of the dinner hall and playground all week! We’ll update you asap with the amount raised from this after school event. I’d like to also take this moment to thank you once again for your support with our NSPCC fundraising event . The House Captains have confirmed that we raised £80. 66 for this wonderful charity that we support every year.

Fingers crossed that the weather becomes warmer and you have a wonderful week with your family and friends. Thank you as always for all your support and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 20th February.

Maura Furber

School Improvement—Safeguarding Audit .

Last week we were delighted to welcome Helen Trelease, a Quality Assurer for Cornwall County Council.. The audit was to review our current safeguarding policy and practice and to identify further recommendations to enhance the daily life of our school. The audit included meetings with the school Safeguarding Leads, our school Chair and Vice Chair of Governors, members of staff and of course our most valuable assets to keep safethe children!



The whole experience was very positive and supportive and we look forward to receiving the findings in the audit report . We will action any suggestions to further protect the team at St Stephens.

If you would like to find out a little bit more about our Academy safeguarding policy and practice please follow the link below to our school website;

[Welcome to St Stephens Community Academy \(ststephenscornwall.co.uk\)](https://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk)





Cross Country Event

We are so immensely proud of the pupils from Y3-Y6 who represented St Stephens Community Academy @ the Arena Cross Country event today held at St Catherine's Academy. In rather cold and drizzly weather they showed determination, resilience and great team spirit.



The Year 3's and 4's had to run 4 times around the circuit and the Y5's and 6's ran 5 . A HUGE 'Well Done' to everyone for entering the event with real sportsmanship and congratulations to medal winners Maisy (1st), Daisy (2nd) Adela (2nd) ,Holly (3rd) and Noah (2nd) in their year groups. Thank you also to all the parents who came along to cheer, run alongside and encourage the children.

Great job Team St Stephens.

After half term we will be running a cross country running club at lunch time for everyone-we have got such extensive grounds to use and what a wonderful way to keep your body and heart healthy.



National Storytelling Week

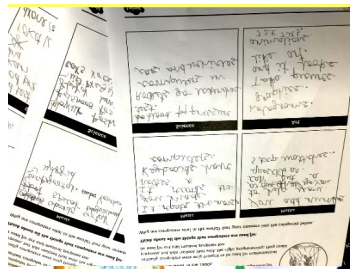
For National Storytelling Week, Year 1 and 2 chose some of their favourite stories to share in pairs or in small groups. It was great to see the children reading using their 'storyteller voices', reading with fluency and expression. Reading books aloud can help children develop key literacy skills and help them develop a love of reading for life.



Year 3 and 4 Rocking their Numbers!

We celebrated **NSPCC Number Day** by coming dressed in numbers or as someone who uses numbers in their job

Class 3 have been looking at the life of Ada Lovelace who was born in 1815. She was the first person to write an algorithm for a computer and is recognised for her mathematical brilliance and logical thinking across the world. Ada recognised that a computer was not only useful for 'crunching numbers' but also for supporting other areas of life like music, art and science. We have thought about areas of our lives in which computers play a vital role.



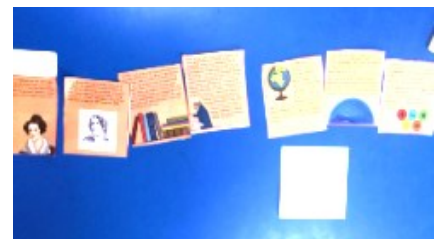
In the second part of Number Day we went on a shape hunt around our school. We kept a tally of all the shapes we found and then used that information to create a bar graph. This graph showed us the most and the least common shapes found in our school environment.



In Class 4 we learnt about a famous Mathematician - Mary Somerville and how against the odds she learnt about Maths and Science. She predicted that there was an eighth planet in our solar system and then Neptune was discovered!

We also recapped our learning about Roman Numerals linked to our theme and set each other calculations written in Roman Numerals.

Finally, we had great fun competing in the NSPCC TT Rockstars challenge!



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

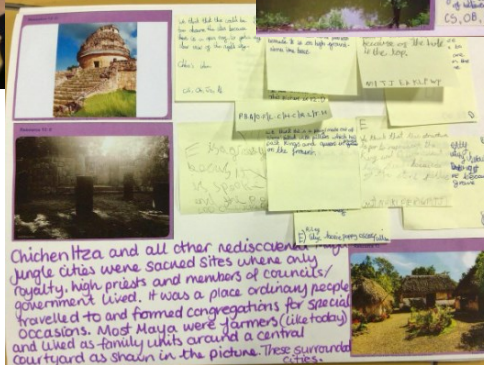
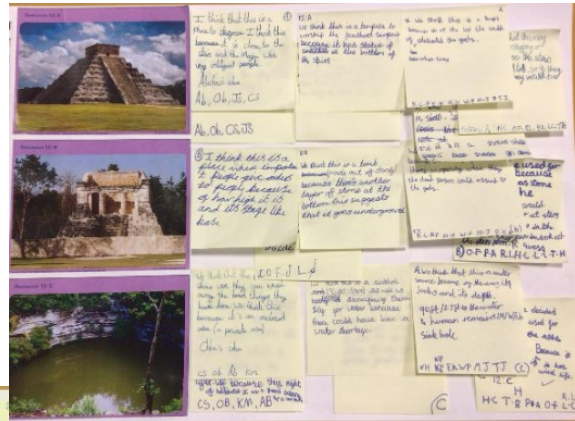
After discussions with the House Captains, for World Book Day on 2nd March we will NOT be asking children to dress up as a book character. Instead we would like children to snuggle up with a book and wear pyjamas to school. NO Money Contributions needed. More info will follow in an email in the next couple of weeks. Many thanks

What do the ruins of Chichen Itza tell us about the lives of ancient Maya?

In Year 6 we have been building on our previous knowledge and using our historical skills to find out about lives of people in the past.

Using photographic evidence - and pictures created by Frederick Catherwood - we have tried to understand what different buildings rediscovered at Chichen Itza were used for. This has given us insight into the lives of the Ancient Maya. We have learned that they had an observatory which gave them an

amazing knowledge of the stars and moon and were therefore able to create a number of different calendars. They were talented architects that could use their knowledge of the sky to create special visual effects on buildings. Being very religious, they preyed to gods for their survival during times of drought or famine by making offerings...sometimes human!! Unsurprisingly, they were also able to create steam rooms - much like a sauna today- to cleanse themselves!

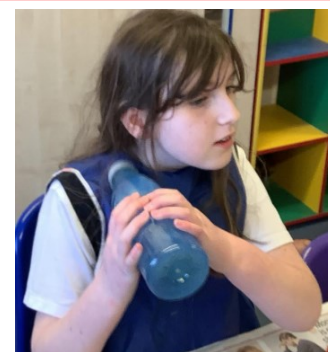


Musical Science

In Class 7 we were each given a bottle and had to pour in different amounts of water. Our first job was to see what sound we could make. Some of us liked shaking them.

Then we discovered he could hit them to make a sound. When we lined them up, we found each bottle made a different sound and we could make tunes.

The smaller the amount of water, the lower the sound, the higher the water, the higher the sound. We practised making tunes- we think we sounded pretty good!



We enjoyed making bottle xylophones.



Reading Prize Draw



A HUGE well done to our half termly reading prize winners Clara and Lucki.

Their raffle tickets were pulled out of the box in our final celebration assembly of the half term. You earn a ticket for the draw by showing 100% effort and engagement in your reading or by achieving 100% on the Accelerated Reader reading quizzes. It was a very full box indeed so congratulations to our lucky winners this time. They have both won a drumming lesson from our drum teacher Pete. We will organise a time during the school day after half term when these sessions can happen! MANY thanks Pete for this fantastic opportunity and your time.

Computer Workshop

A group of our Year 1 and Year 5 children were fortunate to be chosen to attend a Computer workshop at the town hall this week led by Ryan Arthurs from South West Coding. The photographs show how curious, engaged and excited the children were during the sessions. Some comments from our Y1 children included...



“We had flat pieces and we had to keep moving a character , one piece at a time, and take a photo every time to make a movie.”

“”We had to use iPads to make our cars move. It was so much fun”



A huge thank you to St Joseph’s for the mini bus ride there and back and to Mrs. Pollard and Mr. Houghton for accompanying the groups.

The children demonstrated our school values of Creativity, Planning and Problem solving , communication and Determination by the bucket load today!

Mr. Hunt , our school Computing Lead, is in touch with the company as we would dearly love to run an after school computer club in the future.





JUNIOR BAKE OFF



...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S
BEST YOUNG BAKERS
AGED 9 - 12



WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 12th MARCH 2023**

Enquiries:
applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk



Family Fun Morning

Tuesday
14th
February
10am - 12noon

**LAUNCESTON COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

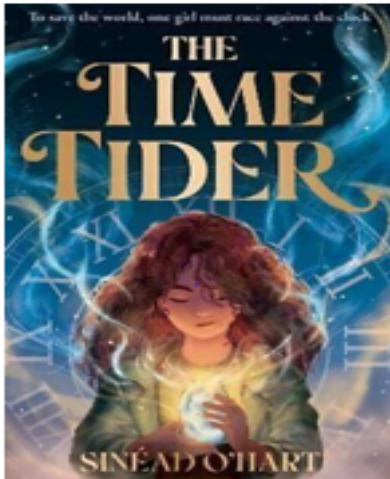
(NEXT TO THE FOODBANK CHARITY SHOP, NEWPORT)

GAMES, CRAFTS, STORYTELLING,
TODDLER ZONE
SNACKS, DRINKS
AND LOADS OF FUN

FREE TO ATTEND



Reading for Pleasure Collective Worship

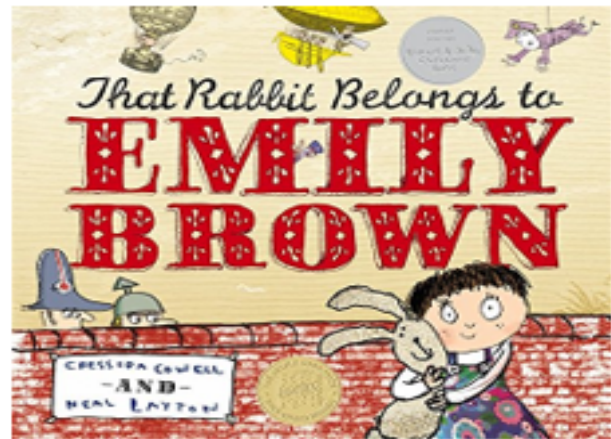


Last week Mrs Hunt chose to read the first chapter of *The Time Tider* by Sinéad O'Hart, to Key Stage 2. It is the brand-new book for Year 4 from Reading Rocks, so a huge thank you to the PTFA for purchasing it. It was only released for sale last week!

In the story we meet a girl called Mara who is collecting food and hides in a 'soft place' where time seems to not run as normal and she feels safe.

Mrs Hunt chose it because she thought that it would be the start of an adventure and the children could imagine what would happen next. We discussed the clues on the front cover and then from the blurb before diving into the story.

Mrs Lumby chose to read 'That Rabbit belongs to Emily Brown' by Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton to Key Stage 1 this week because it's a personal favourite. She bought it when she was doing her teacher training 13 years ago and first read it to a class back then. It's now a firm favourite of her 2 boys at home and is often read at bedtime. It also won a Nestle Book Prize Gold Award many years ago. It's a lovely book about a young girl, Emily Brown, her grey rabbit called Stanley and Queen Gloriana the Third who tries to steal Stanley so she had a toy to love.



Going for Gold



Congratulations to our most recent 'Gold Table' members –all recognised for demonstrating our school values, and being resourceful and resilient learners. We are so proud of you all – Great job Team St Stephens.



Online Safety Newsletter February 2023

How old is your child online?

Has your child (or you on their behalf) signed up to access social media/or a game online but have said that they are older than they are so they can have an account? For example, did your 8 year old join TikTok and put their age as 13 or did you create their account and put your own age? If so, please read some of the implications outlined below that you should think about.

If TikTok thinks your child is 13 when they join but they are in fact 8, then by the time your child reaches 13, the app will think they are 18. This puts your child at risk of viewing content that is not age appropriate and may mean your child will view adverts aimed at adults.

In addition, now the app thinks your child is an adult, they will have access to all functionalities (whereas some apps place restrictions on access to under 18s for example to direct messaging).

The following news article from Ofcom explains this in further detail as well as providing tips to help keep your child safe online:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2022/risks-of-children-using-false-ages-on-social-media>

Age ratings

Parent Zone provide some advice on age ratings and why they matter in this blog:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

PUBG (PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds)

PUBG is available on multiple platforms and is rated 16+ by PEGI, therefore it is not suitable for persons below 16 years of age. PEGI state that this game has been rated PEGI 16 "due to frequent, moderate violence towards human characters and encouragement of drug use" (<https://pegi.info/>).



PUBG is an online multiplayer game, in which a group of players play against each other until they are the only remaining player. One hundred players are dropped on to an island and they need to search for items, such as backpacks, body armour and guns.

What do I need to be aware of?

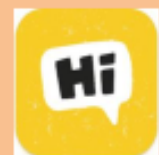
Parents need to be aware that this can be an addictive game, in game purchases are available and due to the live chat, inappropriate or offensive language may be heard/seen.

If your child is playing this game, then make sure they know how to use the reporting and blocking facilities within the game and they know to speak to a trusted adult should they need to.

Further information

Bark provides further information on PUBG as well as how to apply settings: <https://www.bark.us/guides/gaming-pubg/>

HiPal – Walkie Talkie



HiPal – Walkie Talkie is a social media app and rated 12+ on the App store and for 'Teens' on Google Play.

When first accessing HiPal, it asks you if you are under or over 12 years of age. The area available to under 12 year olds states that no stranger interaction can take place. Users with this account type invite friends by sharing a code/QR code. As with all messaging apps, there can be instances of cyberbullying, so it is important to monitor who your child is interacting with.

If a user selects that they are over 12 years of age, then there is the risk of communication from strangers. HiPal features a public square where you can message strangers as well as an explore tab where you can view people's images and videos from around the world. There is a risk of viewing content that is not suitable or inappropriate. There are reporting and blocking features within the app. You can find out more from Safer Schools NI here: <https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/hipal-walkie-talkie-and-wizz-social-apps/>