



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



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

**Thursday 22nd July
2021**

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

I genuinely cannot believe it is the end of the school year! With all the lockdowns it feels like we have only just got the whole school back together and now it is time to talk about new classes, new teachers, new adventures and also time to say farewell to those children and families moving onto new schools.

This week we have been reflecting as a school team, this was a year that no one could have ever imagined. Despite the obvious sadness and disruption to our normal lives we have also lots of positives to celebrate. Not only have we managed to communicate and work together throughout the pandemic but we've all learnt new skills and can recognise new strengths in each other-our core values have been held dear. I would be lying if I said it has been easy, as a team we are exhausted and ready to stop, relax and recharge our batteries. Fortunately humour, friendship and the shared drive to provide the very best for your children has helped us manage the complex situation we have had to coordinate and manage.

I would like to thank each and every member of the school staff and our governing body who I am so fortunate to work with. I cannot begin to imagine a better team to tackle this global situation with. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you- the support from our families has been amazing. We recognise how tough some days are for us all, but with your kindness and respect the St Stephens ethos has continued to shine brightly -quite simply thank you.

All that is left for me to say is have a wonderful, safe summer with your dear children, making new memories to cherish. For those returning we will see you on Tuesday 7th September and for those not returning we wish you much luck, love and laughter in the next stage of your learning journey. Remember once a member of Team St Stephens ALWAYS a member -pop back and see us when you can. We are missing you already!

Maura Furber

School Improvement

I'm finding it very hard to get excited by school heating in the current climate however I know that when autumn and winter come it will be a joy to have a system that works efficiently and keeps the school toasty warm! At the last meeting the contractors and building leads have informed us that the work is all on schedule and we hope for them all to be off site after the summer holidays.



This will then make room for exciting work being done outside in the playgrounds! We were very fortunate to secure Lottery Funding (£10,000) to build a permanent shelter in the KS1 area and erect a large sail for shelter in the KS2 area. The aim is to ensure there is somewhere to keep out of the rain or sun and to enable groups of people to meet during after school clubs or for people in the community to meet for different events. I know the children will make very good use of them during the school day also. The start day for the building works is 6th September 2021... so look out for more updates!



Our newly elected House Captains 2021-2022

Last week we demonstrated our school and British values by selecting our new House Captains for the next academic year. Nineteen Year 5 pupils confidently wrote and presented their manifestos to their class earlier in the term. From this point twelve candidates were elected by their classmates to 'run for the leadership' positions. These twelve candidates read out their well prepared speeches to the whole school via Teams this morning. After each 'house', all the children in the school were passed voting slips and these were collected and stored safely until they could be counted and verified. It was a very close result, with each candidate showing resilience, determination and sharing their ideas clearly with obvious passion.

I'm delighted to inform you that our children's voices have definitely been heard and the results are as follows :

Castle House Captain is Harry, Zig Zag House Captain is Sam, Priory House Captain is Amber and Roundhouse House Captain is Tyler.

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved in the election process in Year 5 and I'm looking forward very much to working with the new House Captains, who I know will represent our school brilliantly.



Thank you and Farewell



We would like to say a huge thank you to our Chair of Governors, Ann Nicholson and our Vice Chair, Peter Jones, both of whom are stepping down from their roles. Both these wonderful people have played such an important part in our school community, professionally as well as personally. They have indeed 'served their time' and have been a constant part of the school in one form or another. Peter was the Headteacher here once upon a time and Ann has taught and been involved in Education most of her life .

She will remain a Trust Member in An Daras.

We will miss them very much and hope they keep in touch with us. We know Peter is hoping to return with his weekly 'Open the Book' team to bring stories from the Bible alive to the KS1 children and Ann does enjoy listening to and supporting children read. You are both ALWAYS WELCOME to pop in when you can. As we say to the children"Once a member of St Stephens ALWAYS a member."

Our Leavers Service.

It is always an emotional day when we have to say goodbye to any of the children leaving our school- this year seems even more poignant. Many of the Year 6 'entitlements' and activities have not been able to go ahead but we have tried to be as creative as possible and provide as many 'normal' opportunities in the CV19 confines. We are incredibly proud of this group of young people leaving us today. Their



determination, resilience and kindness will support them through all the exciting new challenges we know they have ahead of them. A huge thank you to the wonderful Year 6 team of staff, who have gone above and beyond to ensure our children had the very best provision and fun during this very strange year. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate this with their parents /carers at our outside leavers service-something we didn't think would happen so it was even more special. Thank you to the kitchen staff for providing scones with cream and jam for the event and to the parents who together have bought a beautiful bench for the staff to relax on in the Year 6 area.



The Sports Project

Last Tuesday, The Sports Project came to school to work with each class. In Year 4, our session was focussed on MAP M-Mental wellbeing, A-Academic wellbeing and P-Physical wellbeing.

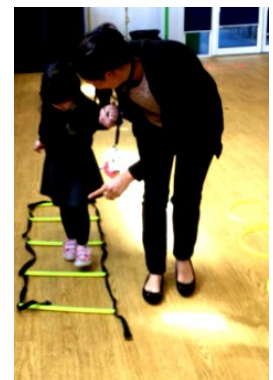
We completed circuits of activities and spoke about how we felt after exercise and how it made a difference to our body and mind. We all managed to beat at least one of our targets.

All the children in Class 7 had so much fun with the activities set up in the hall. We ran, jumped, stepped and hopped. It was really good for our fitness and we could feel our heart beating in our chest.



The coach leading the sessions, Reece Adams, also enjoyed the day. He wrote the following in our comments book..."**Amazing school to have had the pleasure to work in!**

Fantastic engagement and very polite."



Tesco Community Grant

We were delighted to welcome Shelly Vanstone, from the Tesco store in Launceston, to our 'Early' Breakfast Club. Tesco decided to donate £1000 to our school 'Breakfast 4 All' application; our pledge that all children will have a morning bagel to help get them set for learning. This money was funded through the Community Grant scheme and will really support our provision. Shelly also kindly donated some delicious items for our Early breakfast club - again this is very much appreciated. Such community kindness means so much to us all at St Stephens - thank you to Tesco.



Master Bakers

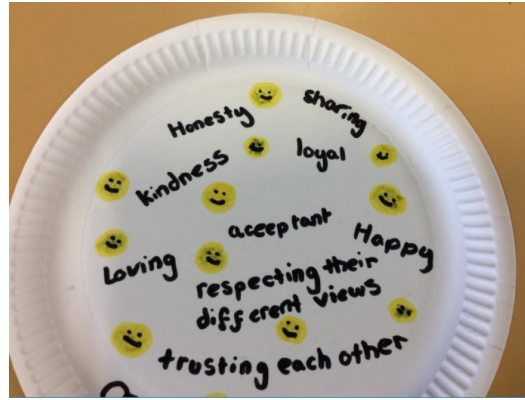
Year 1 had the best morning, making bread roll with Year 2 last week. A huge thank you to Mrs. Bannellick in the kitchen for making this possible! We learnt about the importance of stretching and kneading the bread to help with activating the yeast and enable the dough to rise. We had great fun shaping and creating our bread dough masterpieces!



Barnados Transition Workshop

Year 6 were fortunate to have a special workshop led by from Barnados. Here are a few of the areas covered in the workshop.

Healthy Relationship Wheel : after a discussion on healthy and unhealthy relationships we created a Healthy Relationship Wheel using words and pictures to represent this.



Power and Control: an activity to discuss different points of views and the importance of respecting those of others- Whose opinion is correct ?



Online bullying or harassment: What happens when you post something online? Using a tube of toothpaste, where the toothpaste has been pushed out, some pupils were challenged to put the toothpaste back in to the tube- this demonstrated how



difficult it is to take some thing back from being online.

An amazing information packed day with all children involved.

The comment left in our book by Andy was..."**Lovely school with amazing children who are great to work with.**" Ms Neale has already booked him for next year!

Day of Dance

This week Year 4 joined in a session within our school Day of Dance! We warmed up with a game of 'Splat...flip...pop!', followed by a game of 'Sicky lccy'. During This game, when instructed or the music stopped, the children must join together using either Sicky lccy elbows or knees, tummies, toes, etc. This was great fun and the children loved it. They worked with each other and in combinations that they may not usually have chosen. Once warmed up and thinking creatively, the children used their imaginations to move in creative ways.



The dance lead, Rob Mennear, left the following in our school Comments Book...

"Everyone's energy was fantastic! Only matched by each individual's creativity! A real pleasure!"

Accelerated Reader
end of Year Prize Draw

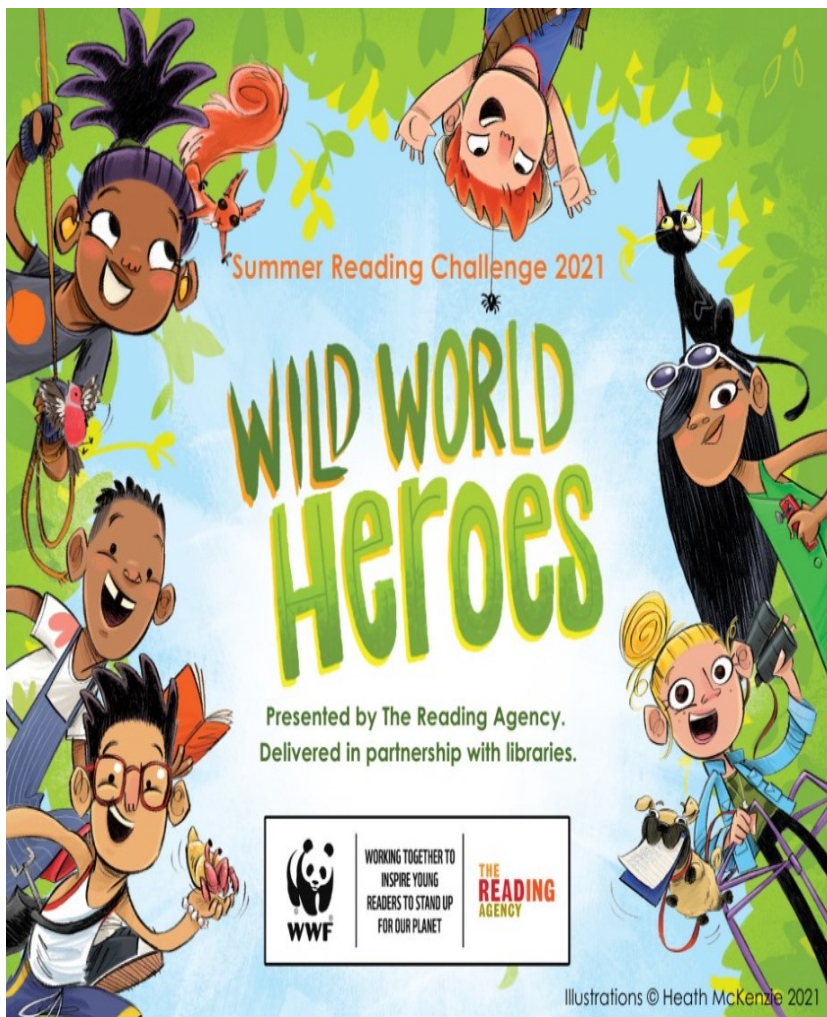
It was with great excitement that we drew a winning ticket from each class 100% box at our WHOLE SCHOOL final assembly on the last day-all together as a team in our school grounds.

Congratulations to the very lucky winners and a HUGE thanks again to the Lions Club of Launceston for providing these brand new android devices for our children.



Rotary Prize winner

We are delighted to say that Eloise in Year 6 has come 2nd in her age group in the 'Wild Nature.' photography competition run by Rotary. She has won herself a £40 Amazon Voucher for her amazingly beautiful photos. Great work Eloise we are very proud of your wonderful achievement.



THANK YOU FROM CLASS 7

We have been really lucky this week and have had an amazing picnic, making the sandwiches ourselves. Thank you so much to Launceston Foodbank and to our wonderful school chefs Lorraine and Sharon for donating so much delicious food for us to eat.

We have also been given this wonderful soft play set from The Bridge Community Church which is now in pride of place in our sensory room.



Pre- School Fun

We have had a fantastic week celebrating with our Pre school leavers. Each day has provided us with a new opportunity to celebrate being together, having fun and making new memories. Days have been filled with messy play in the beautiful sunshine, parachute games and we all enjoyed the teddy bears picnic. We would like to say a huge thank you for all our amazing gifts and messages. We wish our leavers all the luck in the world on the next stage of their learning journey and we will be popping into school to see how you are all getting along.



Wild Tribe Outdoor Summer Programme

Following the recent success of our Wild Tribe Spring Nature Explorers sessions check out our [YouTube channel](#). We are delighted to announce that during the Summer holidays we will be delivering our Wild Tribe Outdoor Learning Camps. Junior Rangers - during your Wild Tribe adventure, your main aim is to have fun and enjoy yourself through learning about nature and your environment. You will learn to manage risks through use of tools, work together through team work challenges and become more confident with raised self esteem. Being outside will improve your physical and mental wellbeing. Our Wild Tribe Rangers will give you the opportunities to build on your leadership and life skills by guiding and supporting you in: fire lighting, cooking outdoors, building shelters, bug hunting, physical activities

Venue

STARTS outdoor Theatre, Upton Cross, Liskeard

Age Range

5 to 11 year olds

£15 per person or FREE to FSM pupils please speak to your school secretary for your unique code. Lunch provided

Starting at 10am and Finish at 2pm



Dates and Timings

Monday 26th July
Tuesday 27th July
Wednesday 28th July
Thursday 29th July
Monday 2nd August
Tuesday 3rd August
Wednesday 4th August
Thursday 5th August

You can join us everyday or on your chosen day/s

BOOK NOW!

The Wild Tribe Outdoor learning programme is delivered by Arena Sports Partnership based in East Cornwall part of the WestCountry Schools Trust. Further information about our programmes can be found on our [website](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)



Issys Cuddlie Creatures



One of our parents has made the most of her creative skills during the lockdown months and is now making these beautiful toys and items. If you would be interested in finding out more please pop into the school office where we have her business card with contact details.