



An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

14th December 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well it's certainly beginning to feel a lot like Christmas at St. Stephens! We have all enjoyed the Nativity play "Hey Ewe" performed by the Foundation and Key Stage 1 classes this week and it was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school to celebrate your children's talents. A special thank you must go to our fantastic EYFS/KS1 team who have worked so tirelessly co-ordinating the two performances. I was also delighted that so many friends and family filled the church today for our KS2 carol concert, again many thanks to all the KS2 team for co-ordinating this beautiful and inspiring service. I also need to thank the PTFA for providing refreshments and mince pies after the event. Please make sure you keep checking out our website and Twitter pages for photos and updates of all the Christmas events. Amidst all of the festivities the children have continued to be focussed in their learning with end of term assessments in maths, reading, writing and grammar that enable them to demonstrate their progress and help us identify their next steps. We have also been reviewing our learning behaviours; Resilience, Reciprocity, Reflection and Resourcefulness and I am proud to see these 'powers' being demonstrated across the school from the Reception pupils tackling new challenges on a stage dressed as an angel to the Year 6's using tools to create Christmas sculptures and our wonderful driftwood tree in the entrance.

As this is our last newsletter before Christmas I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you the happiest of holidays with your loved ones. Enjoy time together making new memories for your children –much more important than any gift that costs money. The end of a term is always a good time to reflect on what has happened and look forward to the new exciting challenges ahead. So much has happened in my first term with you all at St Stephens that I could write a book! Thank you for all your support –together we can make such a difference for your child's learning experience at our wonderful school. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year on **Tuesday 8th January**.

Kindest regards *Maura Furber*

Attendance

Wk Ending 7th Dec

CLASS F	94.5%
CLASS 1	94.1%
CLASS 2	94.2%
CLASS 3	98.2%
CLASS 4	91.9%
CLASS 5	96.7%
CLASS 6	95.2%
CLASS 7	100%

School Improvement

As part of our School Improvement Plan we are focussing on improving standards of attainment and progress in writing across the school. In weekly staff meetings and during joint MAT moderation meetings termly we look through the children's books to check progress and to ensure they are using the new vocabulary we are learning alongside checking key spelling and punctuation. It is vital that each child has high expectations and develops their stamina for writing.

With this in mind I am setting a **Christmas Challenge**.

Over the holidays keep a diary –write about each day, pop in photos or draw pictures of special events. All entries must be handed into your class teacher or the office by Wednesday 9th January. There will be prizes!



If you wish to read more you can find the Improvement Plan on our school website under the Academy Improvement tab.



Launceston Youth Council

A huge thank you to three of our Pupil Forum who represented St Stephens Academy at the Launceston Youth Council on 6th December. Hosted by Councillor Margaret Young they discussed several local issues that effect children in the community. The future of Launceston Library was a key consideration. Our pupils drew posters of what they would like to see in the library and shared their ideas with other representatives from local schools.



They were accompanied by Mrs Bye who highly praised their good manners and responsible attitudes. We would also like to thank the council who have agreed to fund some new dictionaries for our school. The next meeting is on 17th January so watch this space...**democracy and mutual respect in action.**

This week Years F, 1 and 2 put on an amazing performance of 'Hey Ewe'. Year F entertained us with their fantastic singing and angel dancing, Year 1 were energetic shepherds and Year 2 did a superb job learning their lines.



A big thank you for all of the incredible donations for Launceston Foodbank, we managed to raise £111.23 which we will be presenting to them in assembly next week.

Congratulations to the winners of the **Extreme Reading Competition**: Skye in Year 1 and Aimee and Scott in Years 2 and 5 who have all won £5 Argos vouchers. Well done!



A massive well done to **St Stephen's Samba Band** for a wonderful performance at the Heart FM Christmas Market on Saturday 8th December. They did a great job playing with Warbstow and Windmill Hill Samba Bands. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Wild Tribe Explorers

Some of our Year 6 pupils have been lucky enough to work with Debbie Lambert from Arena. These Wild Tribe Explorers have been developing skills such as cooperation, clear communication and sensitivity. They have been given challenges that can only be achieved by recognising their own competence through problem solving and decision making. Debbie was delighted with the resilience and resourcefulness of the team across the term but she wrote to tell us that **"the last session was SO good with the children fully engaged with the whole session. They co-operated really well and helped one another"**

Great work Explorers we are so proud of your achievements.

