



Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the second part of the Autumn term. I do hope you've had a relaxing and lovely time with your children over the half term break and have had time to stop and recharge those batteries ...this is always a busy half term!

The weather is really starting to change now so please can I politely remind you to send your child in with a waterproof coat , warm layers and suitable footwear. Its also worth popping in some black/dark blue joggers into the PE bags as it can be quite cold when doing PE outside.

Please can I also remind you to name all your child's clothing items .I know how expensive things are and named clothes are more likely to get back to the right child.

This half term the teachers have planned more visits, visitors and enrichment activities for the children as we complete our “Community and Inheritance” theme. Please do check out the class information pages so you know what they are focussing on and if you have any expertise or can offer any help please do let us know.

This is also the term when the EYFS and KS1 children perform their **Christmas Nativity –this will be on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th December @ 9. 30 in our school hall—tickets and more information to follow.**

The KS2 children will also hold their **carol service and we are delighted that this can be in St Stephens church again this year. It really is the perfect setting for this event on Tuesday 13th December @1.30 p.m.** We do hope as many of our families and friends can join us to celebrate this year for this event.

I do hope you enjoy the first newsletter of the Autumn Term#2 and here's to a productive and exciting half term for us all.

Kind regards and thank you for your support in advance.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement

As you will all be aware by now we have changed the time the school day for the pupils in YF –Y2 ends. Now ALL the children (apart from the Pre-school and ARB) finish school @ **3.15.p.m.**

This is now in line with the other Trust schools.

There is new information from the Department for Education on the expectation that all mainstream state-funded schools should provide a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. After school clubs and breakfast clubs do not count in these hours.

[Length of the school week: minimum expectation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))



At St Stephens we do these hours already however we officially close the register @ 9.00 a.m. every morning even though the majority of children are in school @ 8.45 a.m. This will not make us compliant with the new guidance .

So **AFTER EASTER BREAK** we will be starting to officially register @ 8.45 not at 9.00 a.m.

**This means we will open the school gate @8.30 and class doors from 8.40 to enable the register to be taken straight away. The main gate will be closed from 8.50 and pupils arriving later will have to access school via the office. This will come into affect **FROM APRIL 17th 2023.****

## Harvest Festival



What a wonderful way to end the first half term. The children sang songs and performed poems beautifully in our harvest service on the last day of the half term. We were delighted Mother Alison and Rev Nikki could join us to bless the food that was generously donated and tell a harvest story.



The children really enjoyed buying something different to bring home to you! Well done to our

Year 6 pupils who organised the sale. Thank you for all your

support. We have raised £87.75 for our wonderful local Food Bank.

This is such a fantastic charity

that supports so many people in our community.

We also said a very fond farewell to our wonderful cook and Kitchen Manager Mrs Bennelick. It seemed very appropriate to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the school and thank her for all the amazing school lunches she has provided. Her smile, laughter and kindness will be greatly missed by us all.



## Halloween PTFA Disco

Wow what a fantastic turn out we had for the Halloween Disco. The children's costumes and make up were utterly brilliant. A HUGE thank you to our wonderful PTFA, parents and staff who stayed to help the children enjoy our first disco since CV19 lockdowns with activities, snacks, drinks and our very own DJ on the decks playing great music to dance to. The children looked like they were having an amazing time and asked when we'll be holding the next one!

We are also delighted to let you know that this event organised by our wonderful PTFA has raised £672.57.

What a fantastic amount and this will all be used towards future resources and enrichment activities for your children.



## Reading Rocks



Reading is a huge part of our school and this week we were delighted to receive our first Reading Rocks delivery.

<https://wherereadingrocks.com/>

This is a book subscription where we will receive 4 boxes of books per half term. 1 box

for Foundation, 1 box for Years 1 and 2, 1 box for Years 3 and 4 and 1 box for Years 5 and 6.



We are going to be using these books in lots of different ways as the books are such

high quality texts, including a high level of vocabulary. They may be used for our reading lessons, where we learn about texts for a week/ number of weeks depending on the year group. They might also be used as our class read to share with children every day. This is to promote reading for pleasure and the enjoyment of listening to and sharing a story. We are also holding regular



'Reading for Pleasure' assemblies with the children and these books might form part of these assemblies.

## Year 5 –Geography in Action



We have started our new English sequence based on the wonderful text

“ The Dam “by David Almond.

We created rivers out of tin foil and then, in groups, built dams to stop the flow of water and create reservoirs. All the groups worked well together to combine their ideas and then got to test their dam building abilities by releasing the river after heavy rainfall. This gave the children a better understanding of what makes dams effective and what a reservoir is. This will make the learning more meaningful and help them put the text into context.



### Music session with Ukuleles.

Year 1 are really excited to have the fabulous Mrs. Gilbert on a Friday afternoon to teach us music. We are currently exploring how to strum using ukuleles, how to count different beats and listen to different note sounds.

We are really enjoying our music lessons so far!



### Design Technology in Year 4

As part of their theme work linked to Cornwall class 4 have been researching scones.

We started by tasting plain and fruit scones, which was delicious!

Then we researched different types of scones and looked at recipes. Next we made our scones with the help from the lovely kitchen staff and finally ....

we got to taste them!

The big question is ....jam first or cream!!!!



### Inspiring Ambition

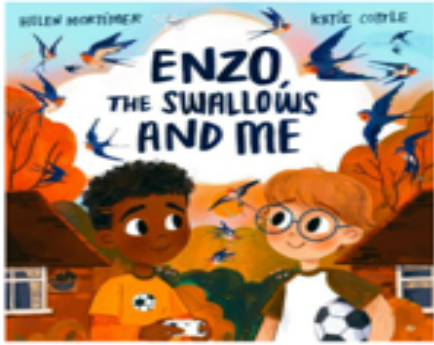
We have been thinking about Harvest in Class 7 and how food is grown by farmers. We were really lucky to have a visit by a tractor and we were very excited that we were allowed to sit in it.

It was very big and we had to climb very carefully on the steep steps, holding on to keep us safe. The drivers seat was so high up, we could see a long way.

We thought being a farmer in a tractor would be a great job to have.



### Reading for Pleasure Assemblies



Mrs Hooper shared 'Enzo, the swallows and me' by Helen Mortimer with our KS1 children this week. This was a book that we received as part of our first Reading Rocks delivery and was only released this year in September 2022.

This is a story about a blossoming friendship connected by a love of nature. When Jack meets new neighbour, Enzo, from South Africa, they soon discover they love pizza, drones and also have a passion for using technology in birdwatching! As the time comes for their favourite swallows to migrate, Jack discovers that Enzo has to return home. The boys must find a way to support each other and make their friendship work against the odds. This book highlights the importance of boys sharing their feelings and supporting each other emotionally.

'What Wesley Wore' by Samuel Langley-Swain is a story encouraging readers to embrace difference and develop empathy with adorable Wesley; who although charming and vivacious, is ostracised by the other weasels of Westburrow Wood. Wesley wears clothes and none of the other weasels do and so plot against him. He eventually leaves and the rest of the weasels realise they miss him.



Mr Hunt chose to share this book with KS2 so that they could discuss embracing a diverse community and look at how we are all different. They also discussed what Wesley's clothes could be a metaphor for - children came up with great examples including "all the weasels could be one colour and Wesley could be another colour."

### Science Investigations in Year Six

During our investigation into the growth of microorganisms ( in this experiment yeast which is a fungi) we used our scientific skills of accurate measuring, interpreting and presenting our results and drawing conclusions.

The Yeast Race was great fun.

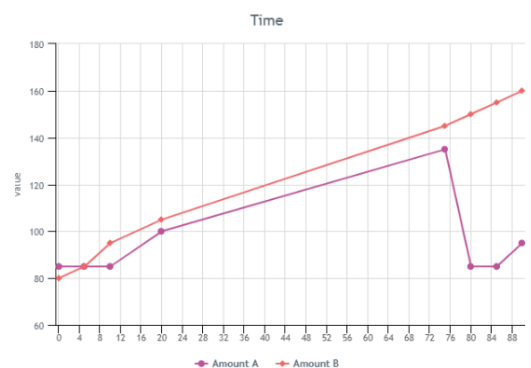
At the start.



After 20 minutes.



Our results presented in a line graph



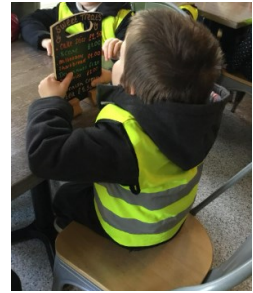
### Our Fabulous Foundation Class Out and About in Launceston.



Today, we visited The Coffee Pot Cafe in town for a real-life experience. We all sat down, looked at menus, ordered our food and then sat patiently until it arrived. We then enjoyed our yummy fruit and drink with our friends. Great manners everyone and you all demonstrated our school values of Confidence, Relationships and Communication. We also managed a quick trip to the library for a



story. We do LOVE a good book. A huge thank you to St Joseph's for the use of their mini-bus, "The Coffee Pot Cafe" and the Town Library for enabling this trip to happen for free! A lovely experience for the children to take back to school to use in their role play. Being able to have 'real' activities to base our playful learning on is crucial to help develop life skills and understanding.



### Half Term Reading Prize Draw.



A HUGE congratulations to Clara and Gabriel who had their lucky raffle ticket pulled out of the Reading Box on the last day of the half term. We value reading so much at St Stephens and it's wonderful to see the children wanting to read and being excited by books.

This half termly draw is just a little something to reward their positivity and enthusiasm.

An enormous thank you goes to our local community for supporting our reading drive. This time the prizes were 2 x family tickets for Trethorne Leisure Centre. Clara has already been over the half term with her family and said she had a FANTASTIC time.

I wonder who will have the lucky tickets this half term?

## Remembrance Day @ St Stephens Community Academy

NEXT WEEK we will be selling poppies and items produced by the Royal British Legion. The Royal British Legion (RBL), formerly the British Legion, is a British charity providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents, as well as all others in need. If you are interested in your child purchasing an item in support of this charity, please send them in with some loose change any day next week. The House Captains will be taking the box of items (prices on the photograph) and paper poppies (any donation) to the classes during the day.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Paper poppy –Any donation.

Wrist bands £1.00

Bands 50p

Zip poppy 50p

Thank you.



# PTFA Annual General Meeting



**The PTFA Committee invite all parents/carers to our AGM on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 at 2.40pm in the KS1 playground (to be finished by 3.10pm at the latest)**

Your dedicated PTFA committee are ready to fund raise for another year, all we need is you to attend our AGM for the official vote. We **must** meet our minimum requirement of guests in order to continue. There is **no obligation** to offer help going forward, although volunteers are always welcome.

The PTFA's aim is to fund valuable resources and opportunities for your children during their time in school and we would really appreciate your support at our AGM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Agenda to include...

- \*Voting of committee members and named roles
- \*A brief report on finances and recent spends
- \*Fund raising plans for 2022/2023
- \*Committee responsibilities and tasks