



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; ”

Friday 16th December 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe we are at the end of the Autumn Term! The last two weeks have been full of festive celebrations; Christmas 'Lights On' evening, Nativity plays, a carol service, Christmas dinner, Christmas jumper day, Magic Martin and a Christmas Tree festival. What a fabulous time we've had. Thank you for all your support, its been so lovely to share these special occasions with you – your children certainly make Christmas so special for all the staff here at St Stephens.

Thank you also for your generosity—we all really appreciate the cost of living at the moment so we are very grateful for your kindness. We have raised £175 in our Christmas collection for Launceston Foodbank and Christmas Jumper Day raised £ 35 for our PTFA funds. The Food Bank supports so many families in our community and the PTFA use their funds towards resources and activities for the children. A HUGE thank you to them for our new Buddy Benches in both playgrounds and for funding the entertainer 'Magic Martin' for the day –ALL the children had such fun during his shows.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very “Happy Christmas” and I hope you enjoy creating new memories with your loved ones over the Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year –the children return on Tuesday 4th January 2023– refreshed and ready for the Spring term!

Best wishes

*Maura Furber*

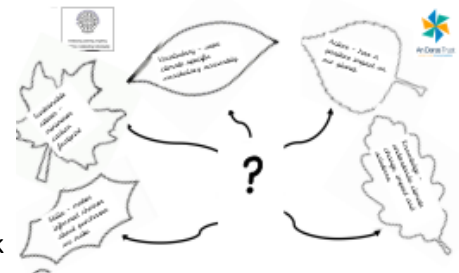


## School Improvement

Last week Mrs. Hobbs and Mrs. Furber held a working lunch with the school UNICEF Steering committee. The committee is made up from two representatives from each year group who were voted in by their peers. The committee discussed their roles in establishing our sustainability curriculum. They made a list of all the things we can do in school to make a difference and many of these things are already in place which is fantastic. The list included recycling many items e.g. pens, paper, cardboard, plastics and batteries. Each pair has been given the job to check recycling bins in each class are labelled. The group also discussed turning off lights and electrics when leaving rooms and closing doors when going outside to keep the building warm and save electricity and

money. Each pair has been asked to make posters to remind their class to do this.

Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Morris are the school Sustainability Leads and they have created the 'End Point' for a 'Sustainable Citizen'. This is what we aim a child leaving us in Y6 to 'look like'. The Steering committee will be holding a school competition in the New Year-asking the children to create an image of a 'Sustainable Citizen' to go where the question mark is. This will then become our Eco logo across the school.





**Launceston Christmas Lights Switch on.**

What a wonderful evening. Our community came together to sing, dance, celebrate and enjoy being together. A HUGE well done to our fabulous St Stephens Community Academy Samba Band brilliantly led by Ms Gilbert. Well done also to the children that performed on the Central stage - we are immensely proud of you. Thank you to friends and family who came along to support the children ... it's certainly beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!



**Reader Prize Draw.**

Well done to our two lucky winners of the half termly Reading Prize draw. Children place a raffle ticket into their class reading box when they achieve 100% in their Accelerated Reader quizzes (Y2-Y6) or if their teacher feels they have given 100% effort in their reading (YF-Y1).

Both children Leighton and Imogen received a fabulous Christmas reading and Craft pack donated by Launceston Tesco.

A HUGE thank you to Shirley Vanstone from Tesco for organising this very generous prize.

Thanks also to Tesco for providing our Pre-School with a super Christmas hamper ...well done to Martin George who had the lucky number. We raised £100 for Pre-school resources with this Christmas raffle.



THANK YOU to everyone who supported this and enjoy the treats Martin.





### A Beautiful Christmas Carol Service.

On Tuesday we were joined by family and friends at The Church of St Stephen the Martyr for an afternoon of traditional carols, beautiful original songs, music soloists and readings that told the First Christmas Story. James Wonnacott warmly welcomed us all into the church. It was truly wonderful to be together as a community in this fantastic building again-it's been three years since we were last able to hold our service there. A huge well done to all the children involved. We are so incredibly proud of your performances, excellent manners and respectful attitudes. Many thanks must also go to all the staff for coordinating this beautiful event and Carol Baker for kindly playing the organ for us.

Earlier in the day our youngest pupils in Pre-school sang and danced to Christmas songs for their families. Well done to them all and to the fantastic Preschool team . It was wonderful to also welcome so many of our school community back to school after the church service for refreshments and mince pies organised by the PTFA and supported by our school Governors. Its definitely beginning to feel a lot like Christmas at St Stephens Community Academy!



### **Hey Ewe!**

Last week Classes F, 1, 2 and 7 shared their Nativity story with lots of parents, family and friends in our community. The story was based around the two smallest, youngest ewes who were the most inquisitive. One night while all the other sheep are trying to sleep, some extraordinary events unfold that excite their curiosity more than ever before! The children sang and performed the story wonderfully. Class 2 took on the acting roles whilst the other classes were our wonderful choir. Class F were the amazing angels, Class 1 the sensational shepherds and Class 7 were the vivacious villagers. A HUGE thanks to the staff for all their hard work and enthusiasm to put this show together.



### Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day.



What a fantastic lunch we all shared together today and the children looked fabulous in their festive jumpers. A HUGE thank you to our wonderful PTFA who came in and set the tables beautifully, provided jokes and a special Santa hat for each child to keep and wear next year . What a very sustainable idea indeed and they brought such joy to the children. They also helped serve the children along with all the staff and cleared away! What stars they are. Many thanks to our kitchen team for a totally delicious Christmas lunch and to you for your donations to the PTFA Christmas Jumper day . Once we have the total amount raised we will let you know.



### Season Detectives in Year F

Today, we enjoyed playing out in the snow on the field. Whilst we were playing we were also looking for signs that we are now in Winter.

- 'We cuddled like penguins to warm up.' Amber
- 'There are no leaves on the trees.' Harley
- 'We had to wear hats and coats - it was cold!' Noah
- 'I was a snow angel.' Macie
- 'I rolled down the hill.' Charlie
- 'My hands hurt they were so cold!' Amelia
- 'It was freezing.' Jessica
- 'It was snowy.' Mia
- 'The sky was white.' Issac



# Christmas JUMPER DAY



## Community Kindness

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Jumper PTFA event. The children looked amazing in their festive jumpers – a perfect dress code for a scrumptious Christmas Lunch at school with friends. Your kind donations will be used towards fantastic resources for the children.

Together **we also raised a fantastic £175.11 for our local foodbank**. Thank you for your very generous donations at the Nativity plays and church carol service.



## Design Technology –bridge building.

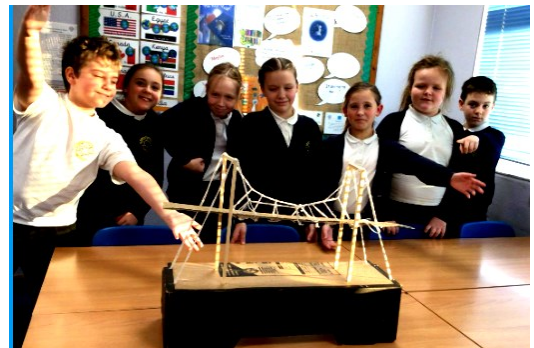
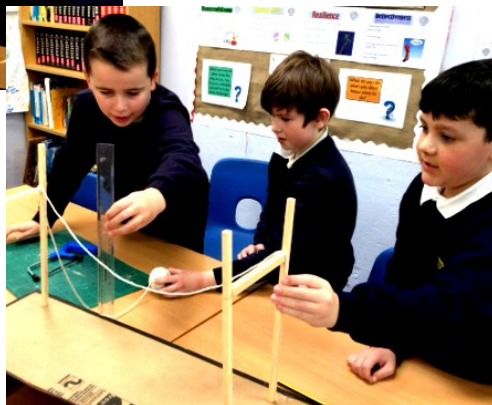
In the Autumn term in Year 5 we look at forces in science and particularly simple mechanisms like levers and pulleys.

Suspension bridges are a wonderful way to understand how force can be moved from one place to another.

The children also learn how to research, work together to a common goal and design, measure accurately and use tools to construct.



We were very impressed with both the way they worked together and also their fantastic constructions.



## PTFA Updates

**Hello!** We have been busy over these last few weeks. Here's a quick update of things that have been happening.

We ran a 'Spot the Ball' competition for two weeks raising £109! The winner of the Tablet and Plymouth Argyle shirt was Lewis Baxter in Class 4. Well done Lewis!

You may have seen our new shed in the corner of the KS2 playground, which replaces the old one previously on site. This new shed means we can

safely store items needed for our events. We'd like to say a big thank you to parent Darren Keen for giving up a day to assemble it for us.

Also, in the playground are two new Buddy Benches funded by the PTFA. These are something the children had been asking for, they are a great idea and a lovely show of inclusiveness from the children so we were happy to



be able to purchase them.

We were delighted to fund Magic Martin again this year, for a whole day of magical fun and games. These things would not have been possible without you supporting our events, so THANK YOU.

The two days of second-hand uniform sales for donations went well and raised £23.96. We still have lots in stock, so if you are needing anything please email us at: [Ststephensp.t.f.a@outlook.com](mailto:Ststephensp.t.f.a@outlook.com) and we always appreciate

donations of good condition clean school logo jumpers, cardigans and hoodies that your children have grown out of (no other items are needed at present).

We all really enjoyed the KS2 Carol Service and after serving warm mince pies and hot drinks. Many thanks for all donations.

On Wednesday we were able to come into school and help serve the children their Christmas lunch and provide jokes and Santa hats for every child to keep.

Fun touches like these is what we believe the PTFA is all about and we really enjoyed helping out.

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We're looking forward to 2023 full of great fund-raising events.

**From your PTFA Committee.**



## Christmas Time 2 Move– Plymouth Argyle

A reminder that Plymouth Argyle are running a Time to Move Club next week - this is free for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, £20 a day for all other pupils.

This is open to all children across Launceston.

**Where:** St Catherine's Launceston      **Activity:** Multisport and Activities

**Date:** Monday, 19 December 2022 – Thursday 22nd December      **Time:** 10:00 - 15:00

Plymouth Argyle Community Trust will be holding four action packed activity days at St. Catharine's Primary School in Launceston.

Lunch is provided daily. On arrival please report to reception door at the school near main car park.

**Please bring:** - Suitable sports clothing - Foot wear for indoors - Drink /Snacks - Warm clothes

For more information please contact -[gary.jeffery@pafc.co.uk](mailto:gary.jeffery@pafc.co.uk)

**How to Book :**

<https://playwaze.com/plymouth-argyle-community-trust---carn-brea-a/7g176v82ic3o/session-display?eventid=PhysicalEventSeries/67777-B>

