



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;”

Friday 18th November 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this newsletter I’m surrounded by spots! Thank you everyone for showing your respect for this wonderful event and for your generous donations for Children In Need. We know how tight things are for everyone at the moment. Huge thanks to you also for your generosity towards the Royal British Legion fundraising. The community support at St Stephens always overwhelms me –quite simply “Thank you”. Once totals are confirmed we will update you.

The children have had another busy two weeks as you’ll see from the newsletter and we’ve also been host to other teachers from a variety of schools in the county -See School Improvement below for more details.

Our wonderful PFTA have been in sorting through our ‘Pre-Loved’ uniform –we have a lot! I do think we have so many items of school uniform that aren’t named that never get collected or ‘found’ , despite us trying our best to match items with their owners. So we have agreed to have a sale of items –no set price –whatever donation you can afford. The PTFA will set the date soon and I will inform you when this will happen.

Letters regarding tickets for the **EYFS/KS1 Nativity** go out TODAY –so make sure you secure yours and save the date! (6th and 7th December @9.30) **Don’t forget the KS2 Carol Service is at St Stephens Church on Tuesday 13th December @ 1.30 p.m.**

Kind regards and thank you for your support as always.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement

Over the past few weeks we’ve been delighted to welcome teachers from other schools in Cornwall to receive professional development from Ms. Neale. Not only is Ms. Neale our School and Trust Math’s’ Lead , she is also a National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) Mastery Specialist Teacher and NCETM Accredited Professional Development Lead.



We are incredibly fortunate to have such a skilled teacher to support and lead our teachers at St Stephens with ongoing training and activities that both develop their classroom practice and improve math's teaching across the school .

Sharing this expertise with other teachers also confirms the strength of this subject at St Stephens and highlights the importance of this key area.



## Community Cohesion with the Police.

Year 6 have had an absolutely amazing time, working on the Devon and Cornwall Mini Police Community Scheme with PC Best and PC Reese over the last two weeks. Throughout the sessions, we learnt about the responsibilities of good citizens and covered the important areas of online safety, anti-social behaviour and discussed problems in the community.

We really enjoyed learning about the equipment which the Police use and the range of jobs and career opportunities within the Police force. At the end of the project, we were all presented with our certificates of achievement and a really cool 'mini police' cap.



## Armistice Day-We Will Remember

At the 11th hour of the 11th day on the 11th month St Stephens Community Academy stood together to reflect and show our respect. Using the poppy as our symbol Mrs Furber led the school with the following words:



"Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers. They remind us to give thanks for the lives of those who have died in war, remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends, and all the good things they did for their home and their country.

The red petals remind us of danger and harm. we think of those close to us who are still facing danger each day, to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.

Poppies are fragile flowers and need to be handled gently. We show our care for those who are hurting and those who are sad. For all who are grieving the loss of someone they love, we ask they find comfort.

Finally, the center of the poppy, it holds the flower together and that represents US. As a UNICEF Rights school we know we must help to play our part, our voices must be heard to work for peace in our world."

The school then held a two-minute silence after which The Last Post was played. The British Values were very much recognised and in action today.



Democracy  
Rule of Law  
Respect & Tolerance  
Individual Liberty.

Thank you to everyone who purchased an item from the British Legion merchandise. EVERYTHING was sold. Once we have confirmed how much the school has raised for this wonderful charity, we will inform you.



### Cornwall at War Museum Trip

Year 6 have had an amazing day at the Cornwall at War Museum at Davidstow. The trip has come at the end of our unit of work and has given us the opportunity to build upon our new knowledge of World War Two and broaden it into understanding the important role that our local area played during this era.

We were able to see and physically handle many original artefacts as well as experience what it was like to be in a blast shelter, a Morrison Shelter, an Anderson shelter and a bomb shelter.

Steve was absolutely full of information and made our tour very entertaining and enjoyable. We heard many stories of brave missions which took place out of the many airfields along the North Cornwall coast and understood the role that animals also played

during the war. Finally, we learned the commands and marched in a passing out parade where we received our certificate...we were awesome!

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and took home their own memories to share



### Time to Dance

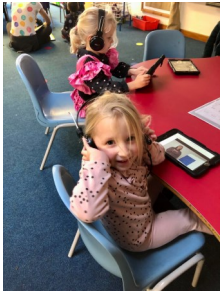
Year Five have had a fantastic time learning dance with Arena.

They have shown a great improvement in planning different moves built around a theme and choreographing the moves together as a group.

They have also shown great creativeness and teamwork.







### Children In Need Day

A HUGE thank you for your support today for Children In Need SPOTTY Day. The outfits and make up have been totally fantastic. Thank you so much for your generosity . We really appreciate how tight things are for everyone at the moment but together we will have made an incredible difference to a child and their family or a group of children across the UK . The total raised will be confirmed asap.



Yet again our school community has demonstrated the school value of Advocacy by supporting a charity that makes a positive impact on others.

### Bikeability in Year 4

Determination , Confidence and Problem Solving were definitely school values in action this week in Year 4. The first group of children took part in their Bikeability Level 1 training with our coach from Arena. The children worked brilliantly together learning key skills, listened carefully to instructions and took great pride in their achievements.



## Thank you to our outgoing PTFA Chairperson

We said a fond farewell and thanked Laura Osborne in our Friday assembly last week. Laura has been the PTFA Chairperson for the past 7 years and has worked tirelessly to fundraise and support the children at St Stephens during this time. With her children no longer at the school the time was right to pass the reigns to another.

Our sincere thanks also go to Gareth Lancaster and Katy Pidgeon who also stepped down after many years of service to the committee. We would like to say a HUGE

thank you to the whole PTFA committee who support us amazingly and help provide fantastic enrichment opportunities for all.



St Stephens PTFA would like to thank all parents that attended our AGM without your support at these vital meetings we couldn't continue all the fundraising efforts we do for the school Big changes were made at the AGM we said goodbye to three long time committee members, our Chair Laura Osborne, Treasurer Gareth Lancaster & committee member Katie Pidgeon, we thank them tremendously for their tireless fundraising over the years they will be very missed. Our Secretary Katy Lacey also stepped down, however she will remain on the committee.

## The full list of PTFA Committee members for 2022/2023 are;

- ◆ Lindsey Tape – Penny Class 3 (Co Chair)
- ◆ Tamara Walker- Alice Class 3 (Co Chair)
- ◆ Sam Clark – Sofia Class 3 (Secretary)
- ◆ Mel Stone – Eleanor Class 3 & Amelia Class 5 (Treasurer)
- ◆ Laura Parrin – Jacob Class 5
- ◆ Katy Lacey – Amber Class F & Megan Class 5
- ◆ Helen McGinnes – Ayla Class 6
- ◆ Tamsyn Hairs – Samson Pre-school, Joseph Class 1 & Dylan Class 7



Our next big purchase will be a new shed for all the PTFA supplies. The current shed has been on site for a long time and is unfit for purpose so we hope to have a new wooden shed installed over the coming months. We would also like to say thank you to everyone that has added an events suggestion to the box in reception, there has been some fantastic ideas; More Discos, Sponsored events, Quiz nights, Bingo, Cake Sales, Petting Zoo, Laser Tag and Roller Disco are just a few.

Of course we can't do every suggestion, (we would need a lot more weeks of school to fit them all in!) But we will give them all consideration.

**We are looking forward to a year full of amazing fundraising and will have a list of future events coming soon so keep an eye here on the newsletter and on our notice board for updates.**



To promote reading for pleasure and to encourage our pupils to read more broadly, we are delighted to welcome you to our Usborne School Book Fair, taking place on **Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December 2:45pm-3:45pm in the school hall.**

This will give you a chance to browse with and without the children before you pick them up - perfect for Christmas shopping!

There will be a wide range of gift ideas, stocking fillers and a £1 lucky dip - every purchase that you do, our school will receive a percentage to spend on extra books, so thank you ever so much for your support.

If you'd like to browse beforehand, are after something specific or would like to place an order to collect on the day - please feel free to email Jemma at

[jemsbooks@outlook.com](mailto:jemsbooks@outlook.com)

and she can give you any details that you may need.

This is a great opportunity to further support your child in their reading journey.



## Reading For Pleasure Assemblies

In last week's KS2 assembly Mrs Hunt read 'The Whale Who Wanted More' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field.

This is a stunning undersea tale of friendship, community and discovery. Humphrey the whale roams far and wide, searching for the ultimate treasure. Yet, no matter how many goodies he gathers, Humphrey never feels quite complete. Could it be friendship, not things that will really make his heart sing?

The children discussed how having material objects doesn't always make us happy. How friendship and sharing with others can give us more fulfilment.



Mrs Morris shared 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield with KS1 this week. This is the first book in the trilogy: 'The Bear and the Piano' and won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Best Illustrated Book Category in 2016

It is the story of a young bear cub who stumbles across a strange thing in the forest, but nothing can prepare him for where his talent takes him in this wonderful tale of music, friendship and adventure.

Year 2 enjoyed making links with another David Litchfield story 'Lights on Cotton Rock' that they studied during English at the beginning of the term.

## **Coffee Morning**

with

## **Children's Christmas Craft Activities**

**26th November - 10am - 12noon**

**St Stephens Community Hall**

**£2 per child**

Including drink & biscuits  
(up to 10yrs old)

Children must be accompanied by adult

Raffle  
Coffee & Cake

Raising funds for Sea Scouts going to the  
25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea 2023

For more information contact Mel 07967790458



the  
national  
**sleep**  
helpline

## Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

**03303 530 541**  
Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
Wednesday 9am - 11am

the  
national **sleep**  
helpline



**Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point\***

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

### HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

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POWERED BY  
the  
**sleep**  
charity

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Furniture  
Village