



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



Friday 27th January 2023

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Another two weeks have flown by at St Stephens , even the icy, cold weather couldn't stop us! As normal our newsletter highlights just a small part of our daily life at St Stephens. Thanks as always for your support and to the amazing team who make this happen. From visitors who inspire our children with sport and music, teaching sequences where the children learn new ,exciting skills and knowledge to extra curricular clubs ; St Stephens is a busy and exciting place to be .

Look out for the next PTFA "DisGlow" event at the end of this half term. Letters are being sent home electronically or you to sign up to this fun event. Thanks in advance for your support with the PTFA events – all monies raised go straight back into our school to fund enrichment and resources for your child-it's a win-win situation! Thanks to our wonderful PTFA for their on going commitment to supporting the school and our families. This week members of our UNICEF Steering group and our House Captains have been very busy representing the pupils across the school in a variety of ways. This included discussing how we keep them safe in school during a safeguarding audit by Cornwall Council, Ms Gilbert and I have been making links with a school in South Africa and they spoke with some of the children to see how we could work together. They also joined a virtual hub in Devon thinking about sustainable solutions to support our planet. We really are creating citizens who will be responsible and prepared for the future roles they will play. We are incredibly proud of how our pupils represent our team . Have a great weekend everyone and re charge those batteries ready for the next two weeks before half term!!!

Maura Furber

School Improvement

Last week I met with two other Headteachers from across the Trust to discuss our curriculum offer. They asked many questions about our intent, how we implement our 'offer' and what the impact is . We discussed our next steps and what the strengths of the school are. Being part of a Trust gives us this opportunity to share expertise and support each other professionally-a bit like a positive unbiased friend.

If you would like to know more about the curriculum offer at St Stephens please check out our website using the Key Information tab; "Our Approach to Learning".

Curriculum Statement.

We are determined to deliver a high quality, engaging and inclusive curriculum- a safe environment where all pupils can flourish, develop their growth mindset and reach new personal and team goals.

We believe that all our pupils can and will achieve in all aspects of the curriculum.

We recognise and encourage different talents; social development and life skills are clear and ever-present priorities to support our pupils to be socially responsible citizens within the school and wider community now and in the future.



Sustainable Citizen Character Competition

Children's' Rights Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy.

A HUGE well done to everyone who has entered the competition set by our UNICEF Steering Group. We are delighted that children across all ages have submitted their ideas. As a school we recognise it is our responsibility to care for our planet and as a school community we are working hard to plan lessons into our curriculum offer and to identify ways we can make a real difference in a practical way.



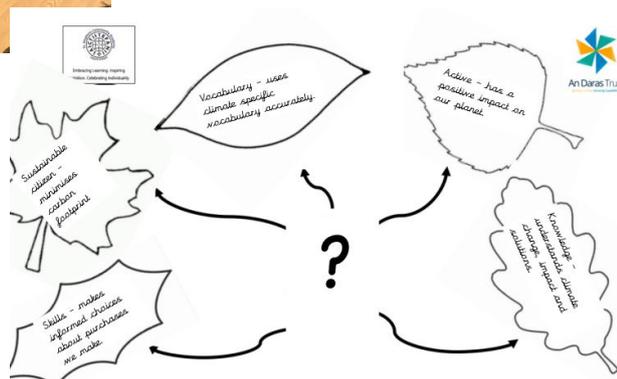
As a school, we are committed to reducing our waste of paper, food, plastics and energy. Incorporating intelligent heat usage and heat loss prevention, paper reduction and online communications and recycling. We already raise awareness of climate change within the school and local community through our weekly SMSC, assemblies and events.

As a school, we promote walking and cycling where possible to reduce excess pollution and energy usage.

With the help of the community, through the UNICEF steering committee and staff we are committed to research in order to improve and evolve our response to climate change.

This is an ongoing and continual process.

The winner was announced in our whole school assembly on Monday. A HUGE well done to Jessy. We agreed her eye catching image evoked the Sustainable Citizen' brilliantly and it will be used on all our displays and paperwork linked to this very important area of the curriculum. Thank you to everyone who entered.

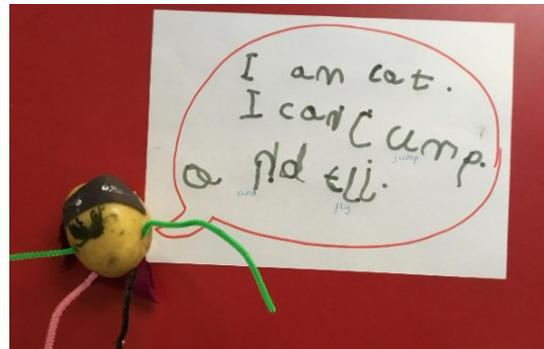
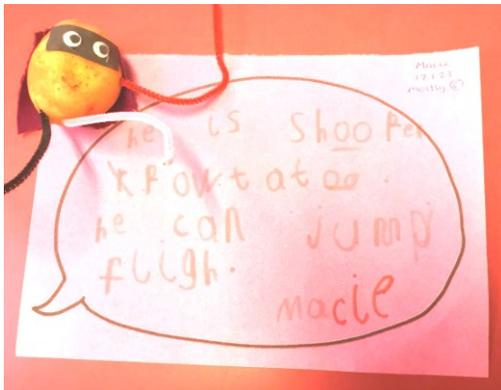


'Supertato' adventures in Class F

Over the past two weeks, our 'Talk Through Stories' text has been 'Supertato'. We have been exploring the story, looking at the characters and their thoughts and feelings before moving onto look at the vocabulary in the story



We have enjoyed taking our English into our busy learning sessions. Lots of us have made Supertatos and some of us have also made Supercarrots! I'm sure you'll agree that they look great. The children then thought about what their new character might be saying and wrote a speech bubble really focusing on their use of Fred Fingers, sound mats and red word cards. All skills linked to our Read Write Inc daily phonics sessions.



Who's been on the Gold Table this time?

Congratulations to our 'Going for Gold' pupils over the past two weeks. Yet again its been such a privilege to share my lunch with amazing children every Friday.

The children have been chosen for demonstrating excellent learning behaviours and our school values.



Remember
"We see you, We hear you, We celebrate you".



Taiko Drumming in Class 4



Over the past few weeks our music sessions have involved using the amazing Taiko drums that the school have borrowed from the Cornwall Music Hub. Taiko drum performances feature dancing and an assortment of differently sized drums to create a loud, powerful, and visually striking experience that is unique to Japan. While learning to play a taiko drum may seem easy, it takes a lot of practice to do it well.



Mrs. Gilbert has taught us about the drums and we learnt how to count to 10 in Japanese. We have great fun learning to play and practised drumming to the pulse of eight.



Personal Development in Pre-School.

What a busy time our Pre-school children have had.

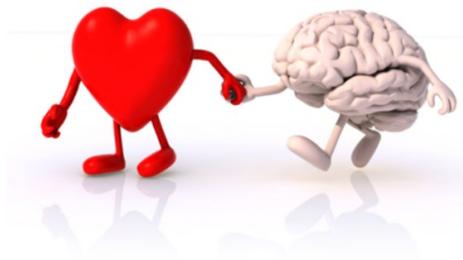
Last week we celebrated Chinese New Year together. Developing positive attitudes about other cultures and new experiences is such an important part of our curriculum. The children loved sharing stories, trying new food and discussing how they celebrate New Year and looking at how others celebrate in their families.



The 'Wild Tribe' sessions over the past few weeks have involved building bird houses, talking about environmentally friendly resources, recycling and caring for nature. All amazing aspects of being a sustainable citizen, protecting and caring for our environment and taking positive actions.

The children demonstrated the school values of Communication, Planning and Problem Solving, Creativity, Relationships and Determination. Great job everyone. We are now looking forward to using the binocular we made to see what birds use our specially created homes.





Healthy Hearts / Healthy Minds

Healthy Hearts and Healthy Minds

This week our Year 2 children have been working with Arena coaches on exercises which help them with their thoughts and feelings.

The children have take part in mindfulness sessions and relaxation session through Yoga and Pilates.

They have also have some fun taking part in Zumba sessions.

The aim of the day was to enable the pupils to learn to relax and with an increased awareness of how they are feeling.

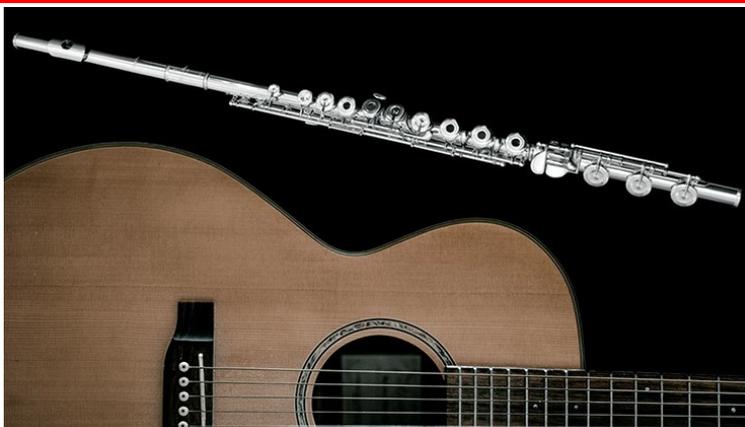
It is hoped that our children should experience less emotional reactivity and a greater ability to listen and communicate more thoughtfully and effectively.



Music Lessons at St Stephens.

Music teachers Jan Mann (flute) and Tom Lintel (guitar) have some spaces in their sessions they hold at St Stephens during the school day.

If your child is interested in lessons please sign up via <https://cmst.co.uk/signup>



The website also gives you information on the cost and how to borrow an instrument .

Number
Day 2023

Friday 3rd February is NUMBER DAY.

This year we are focusing on the World of Maths around us and we are asking pupils to either come dressed as a person who would use numbers/maths in their jobs (e.g., chefs, builders etc) or to come dressed in number themed clothing with a voluntary contribution of £1, for our annual fundraising event to support the important work of the NSPCC.

Throughout the day pupils will participate in a range of activities including: maths in the world around us; learning about famous mathematicians and the history of number; participating in multiplication and number fact competitions and learning about staying safe online.

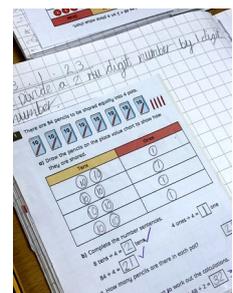
Remember to look at the school website and your child's class blog to see the fabulous costumes and fun activities.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Using different methods to solve a problem

This week Class 3 have been using place value frames and 'part-whole' models to help them solve different calculation problems. The main focus has been on dividing a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number. By using different strategies the children were able to explain their understanding, check their answers and become more fluent in their number skills.

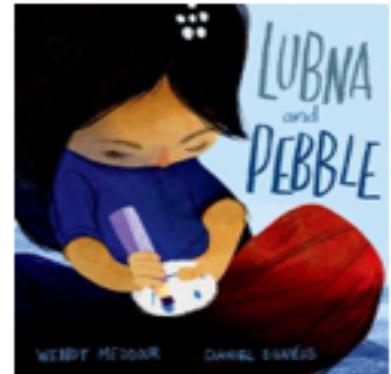
Great job Class 3



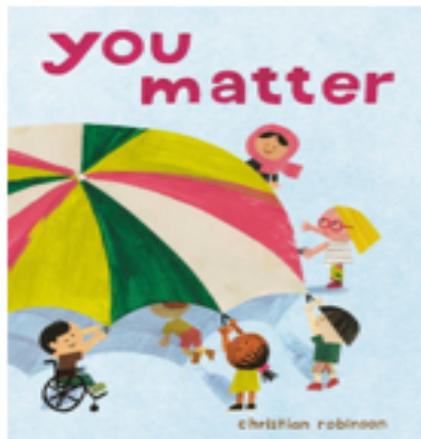
Reading for Pleasure Assemblies

Mrs Hooper shared the picture book 'Lubna and the Pebble', written by Wendy Meddour and illustrated by Daniel Egneus, last week with Key Stage 2.

This is an unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis. A young girl must decide if friendship means giving up the one item that gives her comfort during a time of utter uncertainty. Lubna's best friend is a pebble. She found it on the beach when they arrived in the night. Lubna tells Pebble everything. About home. About her brothers. About the war. Pebble always listens to her stories and smiles when she feels afraid. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna understands that he needs Pebble even more than she does ...



Mrs Hooper chose this book because it is a warm and touching picturebook, about a child's kindness to another, that helps us to see into the life and experience of someone else during a refugee crisis.



With Key Stage 1 Mrs Morris shared the book 'You matter' by Christian Robinson. It was a great opportunity to discuss how everyone in the world matters, and how important each and every one of us are.

The small stuff too small to see.

Those who swim with the tide and those who don't.

The first to go and the last.

You matter.

In this bright and beautiful picture book, many different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored - from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding, from the hugest dinosaur to the tiniest fly.



DIS'GLOW'

Friday 10th February 2023



In St Stephens Academy school hall

KS1 - Classes: F, 1, 2 & 7 - 4:30pm - 5:45pm

KS2 - Classes: 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 6pm - 7:15pm

**Wear your
brightest
clothes!**

£3 a ticket

(Ticket price includes a drink of squash & a pack of sweets)

**Plus games
to play so
bring some
change!**

Positive Parenting Bitesize (formerly Behaviours that Challenge) Virtual/online Support Group

Do you find your child's behaviour sometimes challenging?
Would some friendly support and advice be helpful?
If you would like to be able to talk in confidence and meet other parents/carers experiencing similar challenges, then do come along on

Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 12:30-2:30pm
Healthy Lifestyle and Preparing for Pregnancy & Parenthood - Interactive session including up to date information, questions and much more.

Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 12:30-2:30pm – Healthy Lifestyle and Preparing for Pregnancy & Parenthood

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 337 286 305

Passcode: kFeeRe

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Phone Conference ID: 631 655 044#

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Please note for the link to function you need install the free Microsoft Teams app from the relevant store

For further information please contact Julie Attwell Email: julie.attwell@cornwall.gov.uk



North Cornwall Family Worker Drop In

Family Worker drop-in sessions at Bodmin Family Hub on 2nd Thursday of the month between 09:30 – 11:30.

Thursday 12th January 2023

Thursday 9th February 2023

Thursday 9th March 2023

Thursday 13th April 2023

Family Worker drop-in sessions at Launceston Family Hub on 3rd Thursday of the month between 09.30-11.30.

Thursday 19th January 2023

Thursday 16th February 2023

Thursday 16th March 2023

Thursday 20th April 2023

To book a 30-minute slot call 01872 326592 or email: northcornwall.familyhubs@cornwall.gov.uk