



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”

Friday 29th January 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Another very busy two weeks here at St Stephens whether in school or working remotely from home. A HUGE thank you for your wonderful support -it is a privilege to look at all the wonderful learning you have been doing with your children. We now hope that the majority of our families have an electronic device at home to enable the children to access the remote learning provision. If you are struggling please do get in touch -we have been very fortunate and secured laptops from the government and the local community, via the Lions Club, have donated devices to the school.

This week also sees the start of the staff taking Covid ‘Lateral Flow’ tests twice a week. This will enable us to keep a check on the health of all the staff and identify if any of them are asymptomatic, which in turn will help to keep your children safer.

Don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries. We like you are awaiting Government guidance regarding school re-opening however we have had confirmation that it won’t be before 8th March and schools will not be expected to offer half term provision for key workers and vulnerable groups.

Take care and stay safe.

Maura Furber

School Improvement

As you would expect, the Trust priority for school Improvement is currently Remote Learning. Thank you so much for all your support, engagement and co-operation with this. We do appreciate how challenging and exhausting it can be, especially when you have more than one child at home and /or if you are trying to work also. Our main message is to follow what the teachers set but don’t panic if you don't complete everything - we don’t always manage it at school and we are trained for the job! Keep messaging the teachers or myself if you need any guidance or advice, or if something needs explaining further -we are here to work as a team together with you. We do take all your ideas and queries into consideration- we greatly appreciate your feedback.

We have been working hard to deliver live learning sessions alongside the clips, videos and work uploaded onto the internet platforms you are using, as well as providing paper packs for those that prefer this format or as a combination of ways to engage your child. We have had some wonderful comments from you and are doing our utmost to support your queries alongside marking, planning and teaching the children who are also in school.

Each week I present a review to our Governors and I also have a weekly meeting with Neil Swait , our Trust Improvement Officer and practicing Ofsted Inspector. This enables us to evaluate the impact of the remote learning and consider ways forward.

Please rest assured that we will keep refining and adapting our offer to ensure we do the very best for our pupils and you, whilst maintaining the work/life balance for us all.

“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”



Community Support

I was delighted to meet Peter and Christine Rowe from the local Launceston Lions Club last week. I was overwhelmed with their passion and drive to support the children in the community and thanks must also go to those people supporting their appeal. We have been given five devices to share with our families and have been promised more will follow. This week I have been contacting parents who currently are borrowing our school iPads to replace them with one of these devices that will be theirs to keep. The pictures below show how delighted the pupils and their families are. This act of tremendous kindness just illustrates how wonderful our community is and how there is always something positive to be celebrated when we may feel disheartened.



Healthy snacks in Year 3 and Year 4



As part of our theme learning we have been researching, designing and making our own healthy snacks. In school we decided to make granola balls. We chose which fruit we wanted to add and chopped or grated it. We added it to the oats and added some chocolate. We then mixed in honey and rolled our granola balls. We are very much looking forward to taking them home and tasting them!



Did you make these at home too?



Science Learning in Year 6

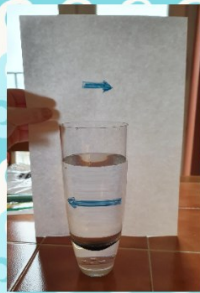
Amazing knowledge and skills being demonstrated at home and at school -investigating reflection and refraction.



Refraction



The pen looks split because refraction has occurred; this means that the light has changed direction when it travelled through two transparent materials.



The arrow looks like it has changed direction because of refraction.

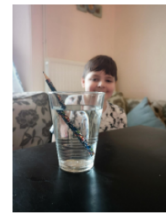


Refraction has made the ruler look enlarged in the water.

Refraction

Refraction is when light changes direction because it travels through two transparent objects for example, water in a glass.

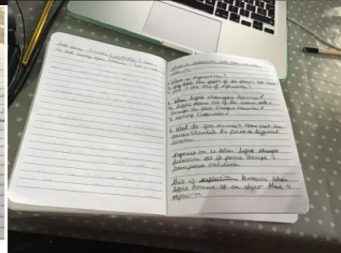
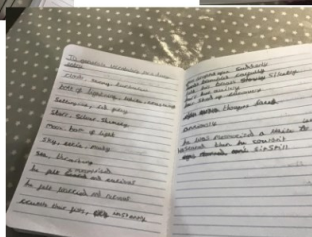
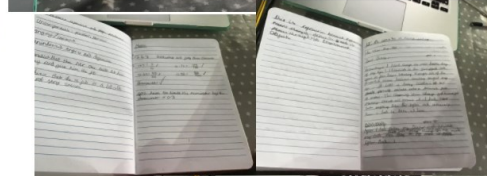
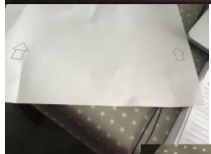
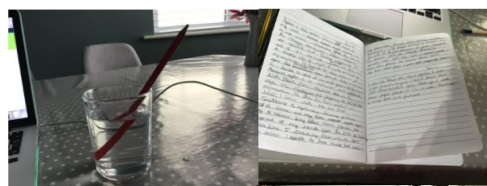
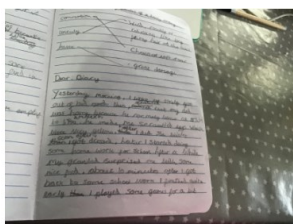
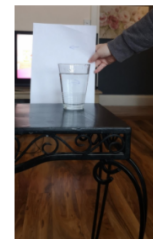
The light made the pencil look bent and snapped in half because of refraction.



Another Example of refraction is using a magnifying glass and the sun.



I drew two arrows facing the same direction on a piece of paper and put it behind the glass of water. When I did that it changed the direction of the arrow the opposite way. This happened because the light travelled through the glass and water (two transparent objects) and changed direction



This is my refraction experiment. Refraction is when light passes through 2 transparent objects then the light bends. By Lillie Bowen 21.01.2021

This is my transparent glass of water supply.



This is my metal straw supply.



This is my refraction to the right.



This is my refraction to the left.



This is an upright refraction.



Class 7 -People Who Help Us

Class 7's new theme this Spring term is finding out about 'People Who Help Us'. They will be finding out about what their jobs involve and dressing up and consolidating the information through role play.

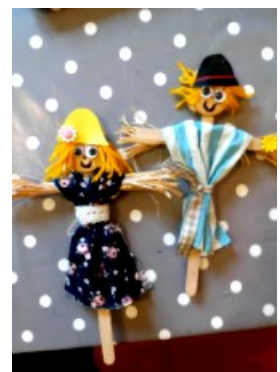
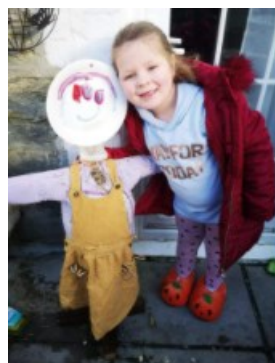
As you can see the children have already had lots of fun dressing up as different people who help us as- an exciting start to the new learning.



Design Technology in Year 1



For our materials learning, Year 1 have been exploring the book, 'The Scarecrows Wedding'. As part of our DT, we have been designing and making our own scarecrows using a variety of man-made and natural materials. We first had to design our scarecrows, labelling the materials we would need before making our creations come to life! This week we will be evaluating our scarecrows; thinking about what worked well and what challenges we faced along the way. I think you'll agree that these scarecrows are amazing! See more on our Class Blog!



Scholastic Books Donated

A HUGE thank you to one of our parents, Alison Bensallia, who has donated this beautiful collection of brand new books to our school. Alison is a Scholastics Book representative and has kindly offered these for our school library. Some may also find their way to being prizes for children and indeed some will make the parent/carer lending library in the main entrance.

DON'T FORGET ...

If you need to exchange your child's school reading books please come up to the Main Reception of the school. You can do this any day at any time during school opening hours, convenient for you. Drop off your old books into a 'Returned Box' that will be left for a week before returning the books to the shelves, and choose some new ones. One adult only to select please.

Reading is such an important life skill and its nice to have new books to share regularly to maintain your child's enthusiasm and love of reading.



ALSO don't forget to download your **FREE BORROWBOX app** so you can borrow books from Cornwall Schools Library Service as mentioned in the email this week. The teachers have sent you your virtual login card number. This is an AMAZING offer and will give your child access to thousands of great texts.

Message from Launceston Foodbank

We know that this new lockdown is going to make a big impact on so many families in our community. We have been supported brilliantly by the people in Launceston and have a good supply of items currently in our foodbank ready to be shared. Please get in touch if we can help you- no one needs to struggle. We are here to help.

01566 779550

manager@launceston.foodbank.org.uk



Unit 13D Newport Industrial Estate
Launceston
Cornwall
PL15 8EX

During these difficult times we have changed our working practices to keep staff, volunteers and clients safe. Our revised opening times are at present Monday to Wednesday 10am to 1pm.

You can also contact Mrs Sharon Baxter through our school office if you require support.