



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;
Celebrating Individuality.”

Friday 11th March
2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe we've been back for two weeks now but the lighter mornings and evenings are a welcome reminder that Spring is definitely on the way...despite the cold weather! As usual we've managed to fit a lot of exciting learning opportunities into the past couple of weeks as you'll see from this small snapshot. I know we have more enrichment opportunities planned with National Science week NEXT week. A huge thank you to Mrs Walsh who has been busy co-ordinating "Sciencedipity Workshops" for each class in the school. Keep checking out the class blogs for photos and details of what we get up to!

Next week also brings Comic Relief on **Friday 18th March**. As mentioned in my earlier text this week, we would like to take the opportunity to show our humanitarian kindness towards the Ukrainian refugees. As a UNICEF rights school we have decided to send all money donations to their Ukraine support work. Please see later in the newsletter for a link that shows some of the amazing work they are doing to support families and young children during this tragic time. Children can come to school in the Ukrainian colours (blue and yellow) in any way they wish e.g. clothes, face paint, hair dye. Any way that visually shows their kindness and support.

A few polite requests :

If you could wear a face mask on the school grounds we would greatly appreciate this . I know that legally you are not obliged to do so however Covid has not disappeared overnight and this small act can help to support our most vulnerable pupils and staff on site.

Several of the residents who live near the school have become very upset that their driveways and entrances/exits to their properties are being blocked by our families parking their cars there. As a community please can you ensure where you park is considerate of others and if possible walk to school to avoid congestion. With rising fuel costs this may well be a necessity soon for us all.

Many thanks as always for your wonderful support.

Maura Furber

School Improvement

Information Meetings

This week we have been delighted to welcome parents of children in Year 1, 2, 4 and 6 into information meetings after school. This is because these year groups take part in yearly assessments and tests and its important to know what these involve and how best to support your child during that time. In Year 1 the children have a national phonics screening, in Year 4 they have a national multiplication check and in Years 2 and 6 they have the end of year Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs). During Covid SAT's did not take place even though we still used sample papers to help us with our in school judgements. This year the results will not be published but will be used to monitor the impact of Covid and lockdowns on our children.

Parent/Carer Meetings

If you were unable to attend the meetings please look on our website for more information or ask at the parent /carer meetings that are coming up soon. They are on **Monday March 28th and Tuesday March 29th after school**. Sign up sheets are in the main entrance so please make sure you book a time to meet your child's teacher and discuss their progress and targets. Its vital to work together to ensure the very best provision we can offer for your children.



St Piran's Day March



Year 5 proudly represented St Stephens at Launceston's St Piran's Day march today. All were in good voice for the songs (Trelawny was our favourite) and really enjoyed the traditional dancing. It was great to come together as a community to celebrate our local history and traditions #Cornwall.



Developing our Woodland



A huge thank you to both the Woodland Trust and the Tree Council, who donated beautiful native tree species to our school.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been very busy out in the rain, digging holes and carefully planting the saplings. We are hoping that these will help to create greater biodiversity in the area, which is otherwise largely grass. We also want to create hedgehog highways, help to absorb CO2 and of course, learn about the life cycle of plants.

You are welcome to visit our trees if you happen to be in the school grounds, but please respect their space as they are young and delicate!

Thank you



World Book Day



What an amazing day last Friday was celebrating 25 years of World Book Day. Every class took part in live

digital author events, including with Michael Rosen and Catherine Rayner, as well as different activities within school. Michael Rosen certainly made us giggle. His use of vocabulary and the inspiration for his ideas was brilliant



A huge well done to our most recent Accelerated Reader half termly prize winners. Molly and Holly have won a free drumming lesson from our drum teacher! The draw was made on World Book Day which seemed most fitting! A huge thank you to our community for their support. We can't wait to hear them playing next Tuesday afternoon.

We love reading!



Hockey

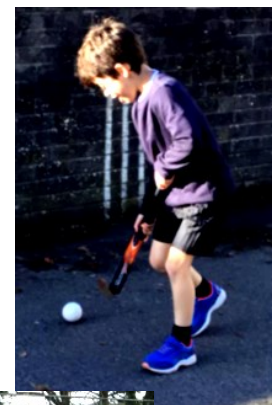
In our outdoor PE in Year 2 we have been focusing on learning different game's skills.

Some of these have included - throwing, catching, striking, kicking and rolling.

This week we were learning how to use a hockey stick to strike the ball and keep it under control.

To begin with one of us had a go at dribbling whilst the other was the coach, helping us to keep our hands in the right position and use the correct side of the stick.

Great resilience, determination and challenge in action.



Creativity and Leadership in Action

We would like to recognise the wonderful venture that one of our Y6 pupils has researched, financed and created over the half term break. After watching a YouTube video Megan taught herself to make these gorgeous crocheted hair scrunchies! This then led to designing her own logo and brochure advertising her work. She hopes to raise some money for a charity close to her heart (See advert below) and support her friend's brother as well as making some pocket money. Lord Sugar's new apprentice in the making and all for a kind and thoughtful cause. We are all immensely proud of you young lady. We do hope this mention brings in more sales for you.

Megan's crocheted scrunchies

Scrunchie Brochure

Scrunchie Overview

My scrunchies are handmade, are available in 10 different colours and 3 different sizes: bobble, scrunchie and large scrunchie. They all cost £1.50 each but not all the money goes to me; when you buy a scrunchie I get £1 and I give 50p to an amazing charity.

About the Charity

I will be giving 50p of each scrunchie to a charity called Shine. Shine supports people, and families, with conditions like Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. If you want to learn more about these conditions you can find information on <https://www.shinecharity.org.uk>

Details

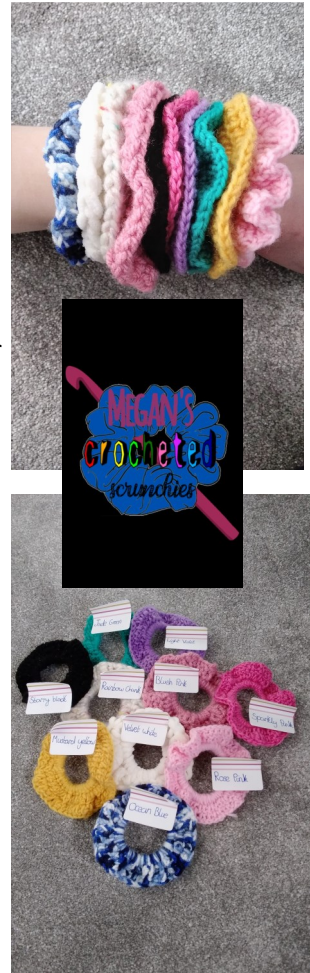
If you would like to purchase a scrunchie you can contact my advisor @Nyree Rose Laugharne on facebook. Just comment your specific scrunchie from the following list and I will make up your order and send it out as soon as possible.

Size

Bobble
Regular Scrunchie
Large Scrunchie

Colour

Ocean blue	Rainbow chunks	Blush pink
Starry black	Rose pink	Jade green
Sparkly pink	Light violet	



Acts of Kindness

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has so kindly donated essential items for the Ukraine refugees following our request last week. All items have now been collected or dropped off by Ms Neale and Mrs Cornish and are on a lorry heading to children and families in need at this sad time. Our values of determination, love and kindness have been demonstrated brilliantly. **We are not accepting any more donations currently.**

As a Silver UNICEF Rights school we have shared information, watched and listened to stories and humanitarian reports. We know that it is every child's right to live in a world that is safe, without war and to have love, food, shelter and protection. We have decided to show how much we care and on **Comic Relief Day (FRIDAY 18th MARCH) we will be sending all money donations brought into school to UNICEF. We kindly request that the children wear the colours of the Ukrainian flag (blue and yellow) in any form (e.g. clothes, face paints, hair dye) to show our peaceful support for the families that**

have had to leave their homes and make journeys to safe and new places in the world. Even the youngest children in our school recognise how upsetting and hard this would be.

We thank you in advance for any financial support you can offer at this time. If you would like to find out more about UNICEF's work please follow the link

[UNICEF Ukraine](#)



A Fond Farewell

This week we have said an incredibly heartfelt goodbye to Miss Coole , one of our wonderful Learning Support Assistants, Lunchtime supervisor and Breakfast Club assistants.

Miss Coole has been part of the St Stephens team for twelve years and has made such a positive impact on so many children during that time. The children fondly spoke about her care and kindness, support in their learning, sense of fun and humour and patience. In the words of one year 6 pupil..

“Pun intended, she is VERY cool!

Team St Stephens wish her much luck and laughter in her new adventures working in her family business. She will be greatly missed by us all but we know she will pop in and see us whenever she can because ...

”once a Team St Stephens member ALWAYS
a Team St Stephens member.



Art Lessons

This term we have been focused on observational drawings in Art in Year 3

We have been using line, pattern and tone in our drawings to add detail, such as light and dark and patterns such as brickwork and tiles.



Here are some pictures of us creating imaginary rooflines based on the final set design of The Firebird by Natalia Gontcharova. We assess our work based on the learning intentions of the session and then consider our next steps to improve or enhance our work.



Understanding the World in Year F

For the past couple of weeks, we have been looking at animals and pets. We have been looking at the life cycle of a frog, playing with animals in small world play, looking at different patterns on animals and trying to copy them, and making penguin traps to catch Mrs Lumby's missing penguin. And this is just some of our learning! We will be continuing with this theme next week, and we may even have some furry visitors...



Mrs Hobbs brought in some frog spawn from her friends pond. We are looking forward to seeing it grow into tadpoles, froglets and then frogs.



Mindful March 2022

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

19 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today
dayofhappiness.net

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together





**St Stephens is having a non-uniform day
on:**

Friday 18th March

**Please come to school wearing blue and/or
yellow to show compassionate support for
children in Ukraine.**



**Any donations will be forwarded to
UNICEF as a humanitarian gesture to help
protect children in Ukraine.**

This event is being held instead of Red Nose Day this year