



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



Friday 16th October 2020

**“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;**

**Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher**



Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe this is the last newsletter before we break up for half term **next Friday** - where did that time go! Yet another fortnight of exciting learning and enjoyment across the school. So many personal achievements, I saw these first hand during my lesson observations and class celebrations; well done to Class 3 who have achieved 100% attendance two weeks in a row!

The staff are busy preparing your child's short update on progress and targets to work on –these will be given out on the last day of term. Thank you so much with all your on-going support with homework—we must make sure this is continued to ensure our children 'catch-up' those areas that have been missed and to maintain the expectations and stamina for learning that will support their life long development. We do appreciate that it has been hard for some to get back into full time schooling again after a 6 month break but its imperative that we 'drive full steam ahead'. Its wonderful that so many of our children have been attending our after school clubs. There will be a new club letter going out **next week for clubs after half term. Please make sure you sign your child up early to avoid disappointment.**

As part of our on-going development and supporting students in their professional goals we have continued to mentor and encourage student teachers to work with us— even during this unusual time. Ms Neale is our student co-ordinator and Lead. Over the past couple of weeks she has facilitated and led virtual meetings with 2 trainee teachers and their tutor (Plymouth University), who will be joining the Foundation class and Year 2 class in January for seven weeks. Mrs Hobbs and Mrs Hooper have already sent them lots of information and the students have sent video messages and stories to the class. Due to CV19 the normal introductory week looks slightly different but that hasn't stopped this excellent practice.

All that is left for me to say here is have a wonderful half term, when we get there, but don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries. Take care, stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement– Classroom Teaching Observations



It has been my absolute pleasure as well as my professional duty to visit all the classes over the past two weeks to observe the staff doing what they do best - providing first quality provision for your children. Using their Recovery Curriculum assessments and planning the teachers and Learning Support Assistants are targeting key skills in Maths and English alongside offering a broad and balanced curriculum –as is demonstrated in this newsletter and on the class blogs. My focus was how the key skills were being introduced, revisited and extended in lessons. Across the whole school there is a real drive for improvement, clear learning intentions and high expectations. This together with excellent attitudes to learning and positive behaviour exemplified why our school strap line is **“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”** I am very much looking forward to sharing my findings with our Trust Improvement Officer, Neil Swait next week. Neil is also a practicing Ofsted Inspector so his views and opinions are regarded highly. Our Chair of Governors, Ann Nicholson, will also be joining me at the meeting as her role is key to help steer the direction of St Stephens. This is a team effort to support our young people and offer them the very best provision so they can achieve the very best they can.



## Outside Learning at Pre-School

This half term the Pre-school children have been very excited going on Autumnal walks and coming back with 'treasures' to investigate. Thank you also to Theo for bringing in his Conker collection to share with us.

'This one is spiky'-Joseph  
'The shell is soft inside'-Charlie



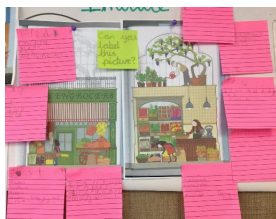
We found lots of helicopter seeds, we did some research on the Pad and discovered that the seeds come from Sycamore trees.

The sycamore seeds look like helicopters when you throw them up in the air.

'Look, it's spinning around!' Theo



## Communication and Language in Year 1.

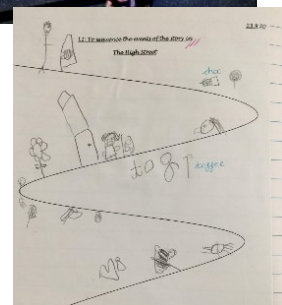


We have been busy learning our class text, 'The High Street'. The children came up with fabulous actions to demonstrate the text. They have been amazingly focused at creating their story maps and using pictures to help us

to remember the text. We've been using our phonics knowledge to create

labels for what we can see in the windows, written shopping lists for things we would purchase in different shops, and have innovated the text as a class.

Next, we will be making our own changes to the story.





A HUGE congratulations to Year 3 who have won the Attendance Cup now for the past two weeks with **100% attendance**. Outstanding effort Class 3!

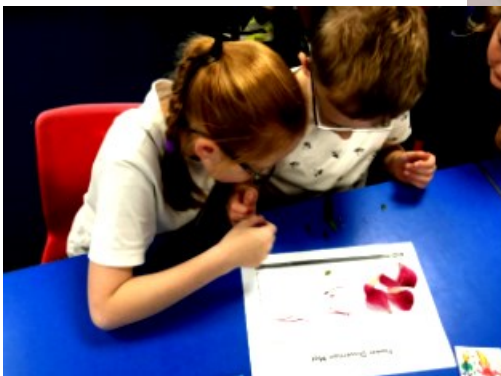
It is so important to be in school every day especially as we are busy learning in our Recovery Curriculum.



### Science Led Learning

Our first Community and Inheritance theme in Year 4 has been "Plants".

We have learnt about what plants need to grow and identified different trees in our school grounds, including deciding whether they were evergreen or deciduous. We have begun to grow our own bean plants and are enjoying watching them sprout away. We have dissected flowers to label the different parts and find out how important bees are in pollinating plants.



### Keyboard Music Lessons in Year 3



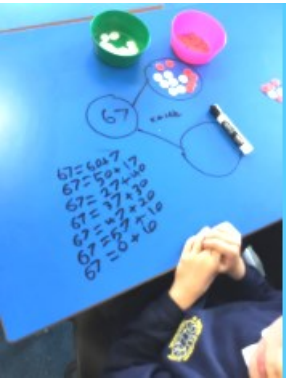
This half term we are learning to play the keyboard with Mrs Gilbert.

So far we have learned the notes A, E and C.

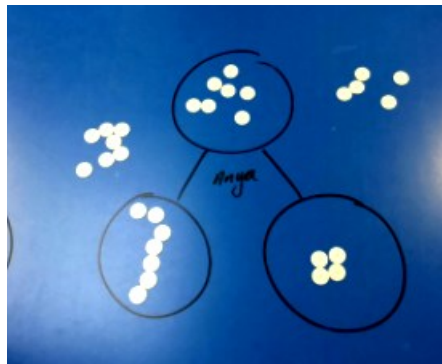
We have been making sure our hands and fingers are positioned correctly.



### Maths - Using the part whole model in Year 2

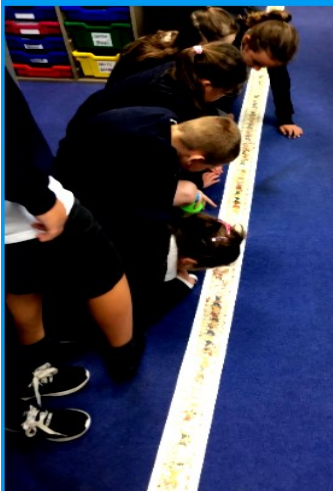


We have been learning about how to **effectively** use the part whole model to support our knowledge of number facts and place value (tens and ones).





### History in Y5



As part of our study of the Launceston settlement we are studying the Norman conquest. This is us looking at the Bayeux Tapestry. Our school has a fold out book of the **whole tapestry** which is the length of the whole of Year 5 classroom!



### Y6 Cricket and Science



Due to the weather conditions being very wet and slippery under foot, we practised our ball throwing skills in the hall. We had to be very accurate with both our underarm and overarm throws and work as a team.



### Amazing Microbes

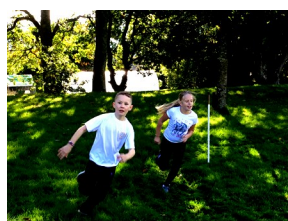


Year 6 have been investigating the helpful effect of yeast in a scientific yeast race. The majority of the class predicted that the yeast solution with sugar would grow faster because as the yeast is a living organism it is using the sugar as a food source. There was a lot of excitement once the yeast started to grow-it looked as if it was breathing with the amount of bubbles!

### An Daras Trust Virtual Cross Country Competition – Wednesday 14th October 2020

This week the Key Stage 2 children took part in a virtual cross country competition against the other schools in the Trust. The Y3 and Y4 pupils had to be timed running half a mile and the Y5 and Y6 pupils were timed running a whole mile! Once these scores were confirmed Miss Kempton (PE Lead) sent them off to be checked and ranked against the other pupils in the other schools. The winning school will be the one with the most points overall. There will also be certificates for participation.

We await the results but great fun was had by all –fitness and being outside is definitely good for our health and well being.



### **GIRLS NEEDED!**

After half term Argyle Community Trust are looking for keen, enthusiastic girls who show an interest in football within the local community. Argyle Community Trust are a non-profit organisation looking to provide young people within the community opportunities within our great sport.

The details & bookings process for this center are:

Launceston Girls LTPD  
Launceston College 3G - PL15 9HH  
Monday Evenings, Term Time  
18:00 - 19:00  
Ages, 5-15

Centre Manager, Josh Chalk - [Joshua.Chalk@pafc.co.uk](mailto:Joshua.Chalk@pafc.co.uk)

\*\* £3.50 per session, sibling discount available\*\*

<https://argylecommunitytrust.co.uk/our-regions/regional-course-bookings/north-devon-booking/>

