



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”

Friday 18th September 2020



Mrs. Maura Furber - Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

A HUGE welcome back to you all –at last we have been able to open our school doors to every child once more. We are absolutely delighted by the positive attitude, good manners, confidence and resilience the children have demonstrated over the past two weeks. They have come back ready to learn and share their knowledge. An enormous thank you for your on going support and kindness whilst we have ‘tweaked ‘ the entry and exit times to ensure your safety and the smooth transition for classes. This will soon become our ‘new normal’! Thank you also for socially distancing and wearing a face covering on the school site-such simple measures help everyone to feel safer and unite us in our approach to overcoming this unusual period in our lives.

Also a huge thank you for your patience with our ‘School Money ‘system for booking lunches. During the holiday we had a new server installed and we are definitely having some technical issues –no phone line or internet currently! Please bear with us and pop into the front office if you continue to have difficulties—we are trying very hard to resolve them with our ICT team.

We have noticed a little bit of a drop in pupil attendance in the second week and know that several of you have expressed concerns over coughs and colds. Please rest assured that this is the time of year when children and adults tend to catch a cold and all the side effects –this is not CV19 symptoms. These still remain a continuous new cough, a high temperature and a loss of smell and taste. Also for many children this is the first time they’ve mixed with a wider group of friends for 6 months— children do spread germs naturally and so this will also make a difference. Please rest assured If we are in ANY WAY CONCERNED we will ask you to come and collect your child and will follow the governments guidelines. So the simple message is –they’ve missed so much school already PLEASE send them in unless they are very unwell. We do obviously appreciate your concerns-your children’s health and well- being is of paramount importance to us always.

I will endeavour to update you as soon as possible if there are any other changes that will affect our school and your child. Don’t forget to keep checking out our school website and look at the opportunities and ideas available on the class blogs and information pages and via our online platforms and texts. <https://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk/web> @ADMAT_SSCA Here’s to a fantastic new school year at St Stephens.

Maura Furber

School Improvement– Our Recovery Curriculum

Over the past two weeks your child’s Teacher and Learning Support Assistants have been identifying learning priorities within the classes. Through well planned daily assessments , a robust review of prior learning , home learning and observations they have been able to discuss, plan and organise the catch-up provision that will enable your child to get back on track with their learning and support any gaps that we have found. To enable us to do this there will be a big focus on Key English and Maths skills alongside the wider curriculum offer. Support pathways of provision will be put into place , these may be different in type and regularity for different groups depending on their needs. To help support us with this I will be using the Government CV19 Catch Up funding. I have employed additional Learning Tutors to support the class teachers and enhance the provision. We will be using familiar faces so the children feel comfortable and secure and with teachers who are aware of our high expectations and methods of working. So don’t be surprised to see Mrs. Gilbert , Miss Calcutt and Miss Vincent in and around school more often than usual. As a team and with our Governors support we shall be continually renewing and adapting our provision to offer the very best for your children. Results will not happen overnight but this will be highly targeted support. We will be holding remote parent/carer meetings sooner rather than later –more Information to follow-as we are very aware you want to support us to help your child. Thank you.



Music Lessons

This half term Year 5 are learning keyboards with Mrs Gilbert on Thursdays.



They are very enthusiastic and excited for the next session!

Who will be our new House Captains?

Election Day in Y6 : each House Team candidate presented their manifesto before the voting took place: some future politicians! Watch this space for the overall school results.



KS1 have had a great first orienteering and trail following session with @ARENASCHOOLS .



"My child is under the weather"

Do they have any of the following?

New persistent, dry cough

Fever of 38 degrees plus

Complete loss/change of smell/taste

YES

STAY AT HOME

Call 119 or visit

www.gov.uk/coronavirus to

arrange a test as soon as possible

Your complete household
MUST self-isolate until you
have a test result

NO

**Normal school attendance
expectations still in place**

We will call you if their
condition worsens

Your child can still access
learning in school if they
have a runny nose, sore
throat or the winter sniffles

First Week Back!



What a busy week back we have had in the Year 1 class! I am so impressed with all of the children's hard work and attitude towards their learning during their first few days back at school and how quickly they are settling in to new routines. This week, our learning has been based around the book 'The Colour Monster'. We have been talking about different feelings and emotions; what makes us feel happy or sad, calm and grumpy! We have also been discussing how to recognise when we feel a bit muddled and confused and what we can do to work through these feelings and to help others to do the same.



Some of our learning this week has included: displaying our feelings using a variety of facial expressions in the mirror and trying to replicate these with play doh, creating water colour art work based around the 'muddled up' colour monster, discussing speech at various parts of the story, exploring the outdoor area and making journey sticks using a range of coloured natural materials.



Science Knowledge



To start our theme of Plants in Year 4 we have been exploring our school grounds and identifying what plants we can find.

We have used checklists to identify a range of native trees and used magnifying glasses to really examine the different leaves carefully.



Our New Reception Class

Last week we were delighted to welcome our new children in for their Transition Week.

It was so sad that this couldn't have happened in the Summer Term but Class F had a great time exploring the classroom, outside areas and school grounds .



We are all very proud of the way they came into school and are settling in during their first full week.



A fun first couple of weeks in Year 6 ...

this has included keyboards with Mrs. Gilbert, bike ability training, active maths , football club and running a mile!

