



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;  
Celebrating Individuality.”

Friday 6th May 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this newsletter to you the sun is shining and we've had a lovely long bank holiday weekend. The children have come back refreshed and ready for an exciting Summer term. There are lots of things planned ; school trips, sponsored event with a visiting elite athlete to inspire self belief and resilience, residential for our Y5 and Y6 pupils, sports days ,drama workshops linked to saving our planet and plenty of outside Wild Tribe learning and sports opportunities. Dates will be given for your diary so you don't miss anything! If you are ever unsure please do contact the school office to check.

Dare I say that life is really beginning to feel like 'normal' again ? It even felt like a special day when we decided to re- open the glass screen in the main office so we can speak face to face again. That said please rest assured we are continuing with regular good practice throughout the school to maintain hygiene and ventilated classrooms. The children in Key Stage 1 (Year 2) have started their Standardised Assessment Tests (SATs) and Mrs Hooper is delighted at how well they are applying their knowledge and trying their very best. I know how hard the teachers and children have worked to get ready for these assessments, this never goes unnoticed.

Next week sees the start of the Key Stage 2 (Year 6) SATs and I know Ms Neale is busy doing the final preparations and revision with the class. We wish them all the very best of luck and we know they too will try their very best ...especially after their special early morning breakfasts being provided by our wonderful kitchen team.

Tests are just a small part of 'the whole' child .We know these tests are a legal requirement and we prepare them to achieve their personal best but we recognise the children are much more than just a test 'result' -we know you feel the same way .

I've been busy meeting the teachers this week to look at each pupil's progress from last term and identifying next steps and support to help them achieve the very best they can and to develop their confidence and self-belief. Its wonderful to see how our interventions and additional support has helped overcome barriers .

I hope you enjoy this weeks newsletter and that you have a relaxing weekend.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement

### Visible Learning

Last week we were visited by Mrs Saunders , one of the Trust Improvement Officers, to discuss our Visible Learning action plan and identify our strengths and next steps. Mrs Hooper (Visible Learning Coach) and I had a very positive discussion and we recognised how our 'Championing Children' curriculum is making a positive impact on stamina, resilience, independence and involvement upon the teaching and learning at St Stephens. I was delighted to lead a pupil discussion with some Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who very clearly identified what helps them to learn e.g. feedback, structure, collaboration and having the confidence to make mistakes and use this as a learning opportunity. I was incredibly proud to hear them speak so clearly and enthusiastically about their learning ,how they value it , that their voice is heard and the impact it will have in later years- much talk of good jobs! Our school environment and displays were also highlighted as showing our positive learning journey and the progression in skills and knowledge.

#### What is Visible Learning?

"Visible learning is teachers seeing learning through the eyes of their students, and students seeing themselves as their own teachers"



## A Fond Farewell

It was with real sadness that we said farewell to the lovely Mrs Blainey last week. The children sang to her beautifully and shared their special memories of her . Many said they would miss her smile, kindness and always being there to listen to them . Mrs Blainey has worked at the school for almost six years and has been a totally fabulous secretary.

She has now started her new job working for the National Trust @ Landhydrock House.



We presented her with gifts and hugs!

In the words of one child ...”Mrs Blainey is beautiful, wonderful, kind and intelligent and I wish her much luck in her new job.” We couldn’t agree more.

We will all miss you Mrs Blainey and we wish you much luck and laughter in your new adventures but remember once a member of Team St Stephens ALWAYS a member .

Come back and visit when you can.

## Volcanoes

We have been learning about volcanoes. We started by seeing lots of pictures and films and then made our own out of clay, mud and earth with a container in the middle. Ms. Walsh then put in a mixture of red paint, bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. It all bubbled over the top just like red hot lava. We learnt that lava is very hot melted rock from the inside of the planet Earth that is flowing out through the top a volcano.

We liked to see it bubble and fizz and wanted to make more and more 'lava' flow out.





## Sports for Champions.

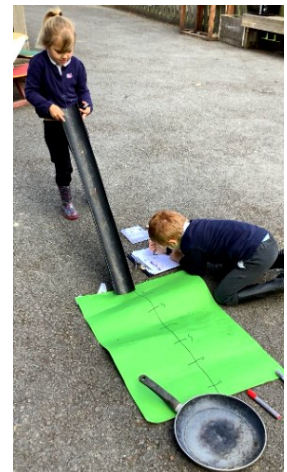
Just to remind you that the elite high jump athlete , Robert Mitchell , will be coming to school on Tuesday 24th May to inspire the children and put them through a circuit training experience! We hope you have been able to collect sponsors for this event- 40% of the money raised goes to help support future athletes and 60% is given to the school to spend on PE resources. You can either pay online via our school Crowd Funder page

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ststephensacademy>  
or by bringing in collected sponsor money into the school office.  
**PLEASE CAN ALL MONEY BE IN SCHOOL BY TUESDAY 17TH MAY.**

Thank you in advance.



## Transport



In Year F we have started looking at different ways of travelling. We started the week by making a mind map together as a class with all the different ways of travelling we could think of. In our busy learning, we have been making vehicles with both large and small scale construction, rolling cars down guttering to see how far they travel as well as much, much more.

We have all been super busy!



## Sound Investigations in Year 4



This term in Science we are learning about sound. We planned an experiment as a class to find out what happened to the pitch of a sound when a straw was cut shorter.



We enjoyed problem solving how to create the sound first and then testing. We found out that the shorter the straw the higher the pitch.



## Easter Kindness

This week we were delighted to welcome Richard Sampson from the Moorland Motorcycle Club who arrived with a bike laden with Easter eggs for the pupils in Class 7.

This is the 25th year of the Moorland Egg Run and, as you can see from the faces in the picture, the delivery was VERY much appreciated.





### Dates for your Diary

**16th-20th May:** Queens Platinum Jubilee Week. Children to wear Red/White /Blue to school - buffet Jubilee celebration lunch on **MONDAY 16th May.**

**Tuesday 17th May:** All Sports for Champions' Sponsorship money in by today please.

**Wednesday 18th May:** Day of Dance (Y1,2,3,4) Remember your PE kit.

**Thursday 19th May:** Y6 to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**Friday 20th May:** Y5 .to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**23rd -27th May :** Year 6 swimming week.

**Tuesday 24th May:** Sports for Champions event

**Wednesday 25th May:** YF to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**Friday 27th May :** Y1 to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**30th May-3rd June: HALF TERM. 6th June Non-pupil day. Children return on Tuesday 7th June.**

**Tuesday 7th June:** West End in School "Our World, Our Future" drama workshops (Y1-Y6)

**Wednesday 8th June:**Y4 to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**Thursday 9th June:**Y3 to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**Friday 10th June:** Y2 to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard and Y4 Bikeability

**Monday 13th-Tuesday 14th June:** Y5 Residential to London

**Monday 20th June :** Class 7 to Woodland Skills Centre @ Lewtrenchard

**Monday 27th -Wednesday 29th June:** Y6 Residential to Camp Kernow.

**Tuesday 5th July :**KS2 Sports afternoon. **Wednesday 6th July:** KS1/EYFS Sports afternoon.



**COMMUNITY**  
**Larder**  
tackling food waste together

**Every Thursday from 12th May 2pm-4pm  
at The Orchard Centre, Blind Hole, Market  
Street, Launceston PL15 8AU**

Open to all. Reducing food waste and providing  
nutritious food for local people

Contact: 01566 701828 or  
[suzanne.pennells@vlearningnet.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.pennells@vlearningnet.org.uk)

## Picture News Advocate School

We are delighted to let you know that we have been officially recognised as a Picture News Advocate school. Our testimonial is now live on their Advocate page and can be found here:

[www.picture-news.co.uk/blog/advocates/](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/blog/advocates/)



This fantastic resource is used weekly throughout the whole school to discuss relevant current news items, Children's rights (UNICEF) and British values. This supports our teaching and learning linked to the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural curriculum (SMSC).

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful PTFA for continuing to purchase this on-line resource for the children.

**Meaningful May 2022**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Do something kind for someone you really care about	2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do	3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small	4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together	5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why	6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful	7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why
8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today	9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today	10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times	11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder	12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you	13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture	14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature
15 Do something to contribute to your local community	16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better	17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful	18 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about	19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful	20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable	21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger
22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about	23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of	24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today	25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why	26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful	27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others	28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight
29 Today do something to care for the natural world	30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost	31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future				

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**      **Happier · Kinder · Together**