



An Daras
Multi Academy Trust

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"

Issue 10 — Friday 6th October 2017



Dear Parents,

Its amazing we are in October already! We have been so very busy. We had such a great monitoring visit on Friday 29th September . The improvement officer really recognised all the work that we have been doing to improve progress and attainment provision in Key Stage Two. Key Stage One remains a very positive start to school life. I would like to thank all the staff for their commitment and hard work this term. We have had a number of enrichment opportunities, Mrs Gilbert is leading creative and outdoor subjects across the school, we have new chickens already laying eggs, we have had classes out on visits and a STEM ambassador into school. We also continue to have our musical opportunities— keyboard teaching for the whole class! A huge congratulations to poetry completion winners in Year Five. A final congratulations goes to our Foundation stage who have achieved 100% in one of their first weeks in school. The competition for the class with the best attendance is on! Do sign up for parents meetings.

Regards, Mrs Saunders

Academy Improvement

We had a visit from an external school improvement partner on Friday 29th September. It was a very positive visit. He spent time with Mrs Saunders in every class across the school. We had very positive feedback on our teaching and learning provision. Mr Herman will be visiting us for a monitoring visit on Monday 8th October with a particular focus on our Key Stage Two classes.

Attendance

Wk Ending

CLASS F	97.9%
CLASS 1	97.6%
CLASS 2	92.7%
CLASS 3	97.1%
CLASS 4	97.9%
CLASS 5	86.4%
CLASS 6	97.9%
CLASS 7	86.0%

Key Diary Dates

Tues 10th October	Tempest photos
Weds 11th October AM	Year F Baking with Chartwells
Weds 11th October PM	Foodbank visiting—Year F and Assembly
Thurs 12th October	Whole School Harvest Assembly
Mon 16th October	Year F Trip to Bakery
Mon 16th October	Parents Meetings
Tues 17th October	Parents Meetings

If you haven't already signed up for Parent Meetings please come to the school office where the remaining available time slots are displayed on the boards.

Tues 17th October	Year 1 visit to St Stephens church
Thurs 19th October	Whole School Outdoor Learning Day
Fri 20th October 2-3.30pm	Parent drop in
Mon 23 Oct– Fri 27th	Half Term



Holiday Request

Holiday authorisation cannot be made. We can only grant it in very limited exceptional circumstances for which there is a very tight criteria such as the day of the family wedding. We cannot grant for longer extended periods. We ask kindly that parents do not discuss this with



each other as individual cases are personal and comparisons cannot be made. We further ask that this information is not shared on any social networking site. Data shows that poor attendance has a large impact of children academic performance in school and their ability to make stable friendships.

Website

Ever wondered where your child's homework sheet is?

Our website has so much information. Ever lost your child's homework? Ever not seen your child's homework sheet? Fear not it will be on the website. We would suggest bookmarking it on your phone and you can access information and events rather than phoning us as we know our phone line gets busy. It's much quicker!

Attendance

You may have received a letter to your child's class about attendance. We track attendance on a weekly basis and we report this on our tracking systems. We celebrate attendance success in our weekly assembly and make this very visible to our children. It is vital that your child attends school regularly. If your child's attendance is below 95% then we will be in touch. We offer a breakfast club from 8am and this often helps parents with children's attendance. We do notice patterns in attendance days and children will tell us if they have been on holiday! Help your child's success at school by ensuring they have 100% attendance and are in school on time ready to learn.

Your child will now be marked as "late" if arriving after 9am and before 9.15am. Any children arriving after this time will be marked as "unauthorised". We would also like to remind you that if your child is absent from school you are to inform the school office by 9.30am on the first day of absence.

If the school is not informed, your child's absence will be marked as "unauthorised".



Congratulations to our website

In our recent monitoring visit our website was praised for the wealth of information that we provide for parents and families. It was recommended as a website for other schools to learn from. We work hard with our website to ensure it's up to date and keep our twitter feed active. Thank you to Mrs Spence who uploads all the many documents.

Swimming

Swimming is an important skill that children benefit from having. We ask parents to support us with swimming through payments, providing a swimming kit and sometimes helping with us. Parents however are asked to not join us in the changing rooms and the pool for many safety reasons. We welcome your support though in the travel of the children as this is an important part of our risk assessment. We always welcome kind help to support our children's learning experiences.

Swimming Schedule

- Year 5 — After October half term
- Year 4 — After Christmas holiday
- Year 3 — After February half term
- Year 2 — After Easter holiday
- Year 1 — After May half term

Safety

Please can we remind parents to not stand around by the train at the end of the day as this is the area for teachers to safely dismiss children. Also we have noticed children running through our car park. Please ensure children walk to school safely with you along the paths. You may have seen Mrs Saunders and Mr Wilson blocking the car park. This is because the car park can be a dangerous place and is only for staff and permitted vehicles. Future checks will be taking place.

Outdoor Learning

We now have six very friendly hens, who are currently laying about four eggs a day – hopefully, soon to be six! We are going to hold our first egg sale on Friday 13th



October from the YF steps area at 3:15pm. Six eggs will cost £1 and this will go towards the cost of their food.

So far the chickens have played a part in terms of children learning about their care, observing what they do, and in art sessions. We have lots of work still to come, relating to maths (for instance costs and cage dimensions) and writing (for example story characters and poetry). All children will be visiting the hens on our next outdoor learning day which is Thursday 19th October.

Wild Tribe

Thank you to all children who come ready for outdoor learning, with their waterproofs and wellies!

Years 1 and 2 – kit is needed on Wednesdays.

Years 3 and 4 – kit is needed on Thursdays.

Opportunities for Outdoor Learning are also given in Friday Golden Time sessions for KS2 - wellies would be useful for this as well, if your child is intending to join that session.

Date for the diary : Outdoor Learning Day, Thursday 19th October.

Remember your waterproofs and wellies ready for Outdoor Learning day – come to school in old clothes.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Cowling who donated to the school, a brand new trolley / clothes rail, for hanging up our over-trousers and coats! Now we can wheel our waterproofs from class to class when getting ready for Wild Tribe!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Well done to Year One for a fantastic trip to the Bodmin Recycling Centre this week. Staff there, were very pleased to hear how St Stephen's recycles its lunchtime plastics and paper bags.



UNICEF

This week in school we have been focusing on **Article 27** of the Convention on the Rights of a Child: *'Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs.'*

Our 'Peer Mediators' are those pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 who have volunteered to help in the infant playground every lunchtime to support children with their learning and play. 'Peer Mediators' are present to create games for younger pupils, to ensure no pupil is left playing alone, as well as to help solve any friendship disagreements. Our 'Peer Mediators' volunteer on a rota basis and they are currently writing a short information piece about themselves to display on our 'Peer Mediator' display in the school hall.

The 'Rights Child of the Week' over the past two weeks has been:

Layla (Year 1) for showing resilience and managing her distractions when learning.

Seb (Year 5) for using his class trip as an opportunity to further his learning.

Well done to Layla and Seb and all the children who were nominated by their class over the past two weeks!

Pre School

A big thank you to the Tesco community team who spent their free time painting the pre-school during the summer holiday, its lovely to see the rooms looking fresh and bright for the new term, Thanks again to Shelley Vanstone for her continued support.

REMINDER

As from Monday 30th October our session times will be 9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm, All children that attend for the afternoon session only and the all day session will need to bring a healthy packed lunch, we will be planning exciting learning opportunities to take place during the lunch session that will support self help skills and other areas of the curriculum.

Please return your acknowledgement slip asap if you haven't already done so.

The children will access our outside area in all weathers, please ensure that your child has a full change of clothes in their tray for when they get wet and muddy.

HARVEST CELEBRATION Thursday 12th October

This year we will be raising money for the Launceston Foodbank. As in previous years, we kindly ask that pupils bring in a donation of food which will form the centre piece of our Harvest Celebration. There will then be an opportunity for everyone to buy some of the donated items in the afternoon, during our Harvest Sale. The proceeds of which will go to Launceston Foodbank <https://launceston.foodbank.org.uk/>



Visible Learning

We have been working hard on sharing our learning dispositions with the children– in fact we talk about a new one during every Monday assembly. We have also displayed them in classrooms. Have you talked to your children about our learning dispositions?

Follow our twitter feed as there are recent updates about our visible learning displays.

FUN PALACE'S Saturday 7th October

Dark Skies Bright Stars

A celebration of science, art and creativity inspired by John Couch Adams and his contribution to astronomy.



FREE Art activity, Biscuit Decorating and LEGO model building looking at stars and planets for inspiration.

Launceston Library!



KS2 STEM afternoon

Key Stage Two had a visitor from the Institute of Engineering Technology on Wednesday. Andy Millar spoke to each class about engineering projects he had been involved in and explained how he had adapted musical instruments to enable disabled people to play them. The children also learnt about how he had been part of the team who created the channel tunnel. "That was mind-blowing!" reported Oscar, Year Four. Andy linked his skills back to when he was a child and enjoyed playing with Lego and Knex which has really inspired some children to think about a career in engineering. We are looking forward to having more visitors linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Who knows what our children will invent in the future!

Andy sent very positive feedback regarding his visit:

"Thanks ever so much - what a lovely school! I remembered when I went in that I had done an engineering event of some type there before, but probably about ten years ago now."

"Thanks to all the staff and children, they were really fun to work with."

Did you know that St Stephens are now STEM Ambassadors?



Recognising the commitment of staff at

ST STEPHENS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

for encouraging and inspiring young people in STEM subjects through the use of STEM Ambassadors

Brown & Cambridge
The Business School of Cambridge - Chair STEM Learning

Yvonne Baker
Yvonne Baker - Chair Business, STEM Learning