



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;”

Friday 10th June 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the last half of the summer 2022 term. I hope you had a wonderful Jubilee break ,the children have come back full of news about picnics, meeting family and lots of cream teas! What a historic event that the majority of us will never see in our lifetime again. It's a shame the sun didn't shine all week but fingers crossed for this half term as we have so many things planned. These include sports afternoons, visits to the beach and the Trust Woodland Skills Centre , a West End drama workshop, residential to London and Camp Kernow and of course a Leaver's services for our Year 6 pupils. Please make sure your child wears/brings in appropriate clothing to school each day ,at the moment that might be waterproofs in the morning and sun cream in the afternoon. May I also request that all items are named. We have once again a 'mountain' of sweatshirts, jumpers and coats that get left in school or in the school grounds and please rest assured we do try very hard to get them back to their rightful owners. Most clubs start next week and a couple have already started -once again lots of choice and opportunities for your children to learn new skills and make new friendships

This week you will have received via email and a paper copy of the Trust Parent Survey form to fill in . This really doesn't take more than 10 minutes and we're so appreciative of your ideas and views. Together we are all working towards the same result ; the very best education and provision we can offer for your children. Please hand in or email forms when completed by Friday 14th June. We shall also be doing pupil surveys this week.

Many thanks in anticipation for your support with this.

Maura Furber

School Improvement @Team St Stephens

On the last Monday before half term we were delighted to welcome our CEO; Will Herman and our two Trust Improvement Officers; Neil Swait and Deborah Saunders to undertake an Ofsted Audit visit. They spoke with myself and the staff, many of the pupils and our Chair of Governors; Joan Heaton. They looked around our wonderful school, visited lessons, went out into the playground and enjoyed sharing some very positive findings with us and obviously gave clear direction for our next steps. Some comments on our report include:



- **Leaders set high expectations for pupils' behaviour and conduct. Relationships amongst pupils and staff reflect the school's positive learning culture.**
- **Pupils behave very well in lessons. They focus intently on their learning, demonstrating positive attitudes to their education. No low-level disruption was observed in any lessons visited.**
- **Pupils move around the school site in a calm and orderly way. They are polite and well-mannered.**
- **Leaders are clear about pupil expectation, aspiration and rights - the schools learning environment successfully reflects these school beliefs.**
- **Leaders have created a school environment where pupils feel happy, safe and well looked after. Pupils say that they have a trusted adult that they can go to with a worry or a concern.**
- **Pupils talk confidently about the school values and how these are lived out in their day-to-day life. They readily identify key traits in a good friend such as loyalty, kindness, trust, honesty and mutual respect.**
- **Pupils are confident that the caring and nurturing environment ensures that all pupils, including those with disabilities, are looked after and made to feel valued. They would strongly recommend this school to a new pupil.**
- **Subject leaders speak knowledgeably about their roles and responsibilities. They have undertaken a range of monitoring and evaluation activities to ensure that they have an accurate grasp of subject implementation. They are very well supported by senior leaders.**



Woodland Skills



Class F went on their first class trip before half term. It was very exciting!

First, we were picked up by a huge bus. We sat next to our friends and enjoyed chatting to each other and looking out of the window to see what we could see - we were so high we could see lots!



Once we got there, we were met by Claire our Woodland Skills leader.

We did lots of fun activities, including:

playing games

lighting a big fire and making popcorn on it

building mini fires in small teams

making story sticks



making mini medallions using wooden disks and hand held drills

den building

toasting marshmallows



We all had a wonderful 'wild' time.



Jubilee Celebrations-A Special Visitor.

As part of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Year 3 and 4 were lucky enough to have a special visit from Lewis' parents, who shared his Dad's experience of working at one of the Queen's residences. Lewis' Dad was part of a team who completed renovation work on Windsor Castle after the building was tragically damaged by a fire in 1992. The fire started in Queen Victoria's Private Chapel, where a faulty spotlight ignited a curtain next to the altar. Within minutes the blaze was unstoppable and had spread to St George's Hall next door. The fire itself was first spotted around 11:30 on 20th November 1992. Three hours later, 225 firemen from seven counties were battling the flames. At the peak of the operation they were using 36 pumps, discharging 1½ million gallons of water. The fire was finally extinguished at 02:30 on Saturday, 21 November. It had burned for 15 hours. Next came the huge restoration task which was carried out by skilled workers. It took 5 years for the restoration works to be completed.



Lewis' Dad brought in a letter that he'd been given - which was signed by the Queen herself! We all felt incredibly lucky to have seen and hold such a special letter from the Queen. The children had so many questions that they wanted to ask - everything from 'What colour did you paint the walls?' to 'Was there lots of security?'. Lewis' parents were very patient and happily answered all of our questions.

After the visit, we went back into class to research Windsor Castle to help us imagine what it must have been like to work in there. We also thought about what it must be like for the Queen and her family to live in such a lavish castle.

It was a fantastic experience for all of the children and we were very grateful to Lewis' parents for coming into school to share this unique experience with us.



Accelerated Reader Prize Draw



A very big well done to our two lucky half term Accelerated Prize winners . Noah and Tyler have won family tickets to visit Trethorne Leisure Park.

Noah has won a full day pass and Tyler has won 2 sessions of ten pin bowling . What a fantastic treat .

A huge thank you to our local community and businesses for supporting our reading drive.

Sports for Champions UK

We were delighted to be joined by the elite High Jump Champion Robert Mitcham. Robert is part of the Sports for Champions UK programme that visits schools to inspire, motivate and celebrate well-being and life's journey.

As you can see from the photographs the children were enthralled by his motivational talk and with him sharing how he became an elite athlete after realising at the age of 7 he could jump high! His dedication, hard work and resilience has led to him achieving many awards including Welsh national record holder with a 2.25 meter jump, a Commonwealth Games finalist in 2002 and 2006 as well as representing GB from 1998-

2014.

The children and staff loved being put through the circuit training session and this wonderful event was well supported by many families in the school community.

We have now raised just under £200 for Wild Tribe resources.



The visit certainly put into context our school vision :
Embrace Learning. Inspire Ambition. Celebrate Individuality."

Robert also seemed to enjoy his visit because he left the following in our Comment Book...
"What an amazing day!! Thank you for the warm welcome. The Headteacher and all staff are a credit to the school. Hope to see you again another time. "

What a FANTASTIC week we had celebrating the Platinum Jubilee and all things British.



Science Enrichment in Year 2



Year 2 were full of awe and wonder when we had a visit from Mark's Ark Animal Encounters.

The theme of the visit was animal classification.

The children learnt many fascinating facts and had the opportunity to hold and stroke the different animals.



Maths Hub Meeting

We were delighted to be joined by professional colleagues from around the county this week. This was for a maths session being led by our school and Trust Maths Lead, Ms Sharon Neale.

The focus of the meeting was curriculum planning and lesson design .



It's so valuable to have this dialogue and share best practice with colleagues outside of our Trust.

Maintaining our high expectations means we can offer the very best teaching and learning provision at St Stephens.

<https://twitter.com/CODEMathsHub>

#sustaining



Learning about Parliament UK

This week Class 5 had a special enrichment opportunity with Tomas Williams, who is the Senior Parliamentary Education and Engagement Officer for the South West of England. This was a fantastic opportunity to find out information, ask questions and hear the most up to date news prior to their class residential to London next week. During the residential the children will be visiting the Houses of Parliament and listening to a debate. Our British Values in Action.



We'll keep you updated with pictures during their exciting upcoming residential!

Breakfast Club Request

A polite request has been made by Mrs Baxter who runs our early morning breakfast club. If your child is registered to attend an early breakfast session and is unable to come in PLEASE can you let us know.

We totally understand that sometimes things happen in the morning or your child may become unwell and you cannot make the session.

If however your child is booked in and they have decided not to attend or you no longer want the 'space' its crucial you tell us.

This is for the following reasons;

1. We have a waiting list of pupils who would like to attend.
2. We buy items to cater for the numbers we have booked in-if less attend fresh items are wasted and with food prices rising steadily this is not something we can afford to do on a regular basis.
3. You may well be billed for missed sessions.

Thank you for your support in this matter.





Joyful June 2022

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



- 1 Decide to look for what's good every day this month
- 2 Say positive things in your conversations with others
- 3 Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it
- 4 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it
- 5 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down
- 6 Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings
- 7 Do something healthy which makes you feel good
- 8 Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share
- 9 Ask a friend what made them happy recently
- 10 Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them
- 11 Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it
- 12 Write a gratitude letter to thank someone
- 13 Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side
- 14 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you
- 15 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it
- 16 Speak to others in a warm and friendly way
- 17 Take time to notice things that you find beautiful
- 18 Look for something good in a difficult situation
- 19 Get outside and find the joy in being active
- 20 Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity
- 21 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement
- 22 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh
- 23 Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to
- 24 Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for
- 25 Show your appreciation to people who are helping others
- 26 Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it
- 27 Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy
- 28 Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people
- 29 Share a friendly smile with people you see today
- 30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

**St Stephens Community
Academy PTFA**



CRAZY HAIR DAY

Friday 17th June 2022

Suggested donation of £1



**No theme, so go as crazy
as you can imagine!**

**St Stephens Community
Academy PTFA**

SUMMER RAFFLE

**To be drawn at St Stephens
Community Academy
On Friday 15th July 2022
At 3:30pm**

**1st Prize - £200 cash!
2nd Prize - £100 cash
3rd Prize - £50 cash
and many more
exciting prizes!**

A vibrant summer-themed graphic featuring a beach ball, sunglasses, and various flowers.