



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; ”

Friday 16th September 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a new school year –and what a historic start it has been with the sad news of “The Queen” as she is fondly called by many. The children have been very respectful and curious about the event and the next monarch. We all have lots of questions and so many new things to observe and learn about ; indeed for most of us Elizabeth II has been our only monarch. Next Monday 19th our school and pre-school will be closed ,a national bank holiday has been declared for the royal funeral. Again a royal event that many of us have never seen in our lifetime and time to reflect and talk about the ceremony, traditions and our new King. It would be wonderful if you could watch /listen to some of the events with your children.

As usual the children have come back positive, batteries recharged, full of news about their holidays and excited to see friends and staff. That said it can also be a tricky time for some children getting used to new teachers ,learning support assistants and different class routines. I know they will all settle and soon feel like they’ve ‘always done it like that.’ Clubs have also started with a fantastic uptake as usual. We do try very hard to consider our free offer of clubs so all ages can have access something and all can be included. We have also started our ‘wrap around ‘ care sessions– early morning breakfast from 8.00a.m and after school care from 3.15 –5.30. The numbers attending are slowly increasing so if this is something you need or are considering please contact the school office. The cost is very competitive and the sessions are run by staff well known by the children. Please check out our Facebook page [St Stephens Community Academy | Facebook](#) for more details or ring the school office.

I look forward to seeing you on the school gate in the mornings and remember I’m always happy to discuss any questions or concerns. Here’s to a wonderful and productive 2022-2023!

Maura Furber

School Improvement @Team St Stephens

This week I was delighted to attend a Governors support and network evening meeting led by our Trust Improvement Officer ,Neil Swait. Being a lead Ofsted Inspector Neil keeps all the Trust schools up to date on new legislation, key updates and the role of the leadership team to maintain and embed excellent provision for the children we are so lucky to have in our school each day.

This meeting focused on the new Academy Improvement Plans -our school one has been written and is currently awaiting approval from our CEO and Local Governing Board . Once this has happened it will be placed on the school website under the Key Information heading : Academy Improvement.

This link below will take you to the current 2021-2022 plan.

[Welcome to St Stephens Community Academy \(ststephenscornwall.co.uk\)](https://www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk)

The main priorities for 2022-23 will be

- Continue to improve writing progress and attainment across the school.
- Further develop subject leadership to embed good teaching and learning for all pupils with a focus on SEND provision .
- Developing a Climate Curriculum so pupils are more informed and prepared for future sustainable developments .
- Embed the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education changes into everyday school practices including recruitment, training and low-level concern management. Target attendance and embed good behaviour strategies across the school.
- Improve the effectiveness and sustainability of our Local Governing Body.



Going for Gold.

This year we are gathering evidence and preparing our proposal to apply for UNICEF Gold status. We have been immensely proud to be a Silver Children's Rights school but due to the CV19 lockdown we were unable to register our interest sooner before the closing date. This year we are ready!

This week the children in each class have fairly elected two representatives to join the 'Steering Committee'. Our School Values of Confidence, Advocacy and Leadership in action. This group of children will be responsible for sharing news and updates, leading and representing the voice of the child across the school. This role is also combining the Eco Councillors and Pupil Forum this year. It is such a huge responsibility that we agreed this committee should encompass all these aspects to link with our curriculum developments. One strong team to represent our wonderful school.

This means the House Captains will now take on the important responsibility of organising, planning and co-ordinating any charity event across the school.

The School Values and the 'Rights' of all children are discussed and displayed and practiced every day in our school. With this in mind we have decided to have a special "Going for Gold" lunch table every Friday. One child from each class will be chosen to share their lunch with Mrs Furber. They will be chosen because they demonstrate our School Values and school UNICEF expectations on a daily basis.

We recognise, notice and celebrate those children that demonstrate their best endeavours every day.

"This week was the first week we selected children to eat at the 'Going for Gold' table and it was an absolute privilege to share my lunch with them all." Mrs Furber



Welcome Back to Pre-School.

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays and the glorious weather we were given. The team have been busy throughout the holidays preparing the room ready for what we are sure will be a fantastic year. We have received some kind donations of handmade boot racks and drawstring bags, we think the children will be very impressed and will enjoy the opportunity of independence they bring.



Community and Inheritance – Who am I? is our theme this term so we have asked children to bring in photos of family, pets and things they enjoy doing, to share at group times and give us a chance to really get to know each other. The children have been independently choosing resources to complete self portraits.



We started the first week off with a favourite book of ours, Owl Babies, a story about three owlets that wake up one night to find their mother gone, worry about her absence, but are then elated when she returns. We get very excited about books and have created a super area to relax and read together.

We're also working on building up our strength in our fine motor skills and developing those 'funky fingers!'



House Captains officially take up new Position.

It seems it's the time in history for new starts: a new Monarch , a new Prime Minister and at school level new House Captains. We are delighted that these four individuals have been elected by the school community to represent our team both within school and in the wider community.

Democracy in action!

Please see their message to the children they are proud to lead.



Dear Team St Stephens

Hi! As most of you already know we are your new House Captains.

We will always listen to your questions and put forward your ideas. We promise to respect everyone's views equally and continue to make this a fun and enjoyable place to learn and grow. We will do our best to encourage and support you through everything; we aim to bring happiness , mutual respect and inclusion for all. We plan to organise amazing events and are proud to represent our school in the community.



Thank you for the opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Chloe (Castle), Poppy(Roundhouse), Ayla (Zig Zag) and Charlie (Priory)

How do things move? Exploring forces- pushing and pulling



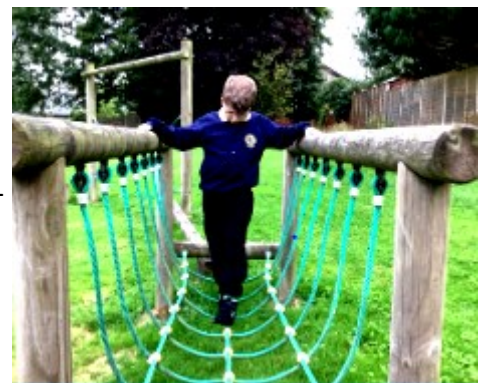
This week in Science Class 7 have had fun discovering how things move. We discovered that if we put a car down on the floor it stayed still but we could make it move by pushing it. To make it go further we found we could push it harder or let the car go down a ramp. We also found that the higher the ramp, the further the car went.



Outside we had fun finding out different ways to make things move. The scooter boards moved down a slope easily but we had to push with our legs quite hard to get up the slope. When we used a rope we could pull ourselves up the slope quite easily.



We discovered we could use push or pull to make lots of things move- tyres, cable drums and even ourselves across the trim train.





St Stephens Lionesses

#LIONESSES



We are delighted that so many KS2 girls (Y3-Y6) have joined Plymouth Argyle coaches on a Friday lunchtime in our new girls football club we are proud to offer. We have 26 pupils who have attended to date and who knows if one day we may see some or even all of them representing their country in world sporting events. It has to start somewhere!

This club is free to join -simply come with some kit and football boots/trainers every Friday. Shin pads are also recommended but not essential- your enthusiasm and team-work is.



Climate Curriculum



This year one of our key priorities is further developing the curriculum we offer at St Stephens .The Department for Education believe every school should be committed to sustainable development to prepare

pupils for the future

By next year it will be a statutory requirement to have Climate Change taught as part of published school curriculum. At St Stephens we have always prided ourselves on our outside learning and keeping the children up to date with current events-climate change has been in the news for many years now. The curriculum will link particularly to our science and geography knowledge and skills.



Year Five are very excited to be the first class chosen to trial the new Climate Curriculum that Ms. Gilbert is coordinating . This week, in our first lesson, we examined the floods in Pakistan. We then looked at what can cause flooding. Flooding can be caused by both rising sea levels and increasingly extreme

weather events. Then, we looked at boat building and using scientific methods to create, test and improve rafts that we made out of Lego.



Our long term aims are:

- Children can demonstrate a better understanding of the human impact on our planet and their place and responsibility within it.
- To broaden pupils' knowledge and life skills to support capability assured individuals with a shared ethos.
- To save resources such as energy and water to save our schools significant sums of money.
- Pupils are more informed and prepared for future sustainable developments
- To engage our pupils in their learning, thereby improving motivation and behaviour, and also promote a healthy school environment and lifestyles.

Ground Force Team

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the group of parents who were able to join Mr. Gilbert this week to clear our garden area around the



raised beds and polytunnels. As you are probably aware we were unfortunately the victims of senseless vandalism during the summer holidays and many things were



vic-

damaged and broken. We are currently awaiting further communication with our insurance company who were equally saddened by these incidents.

One area targeted was the garden ;polytunnels the outside sail and equipment in sheds were broken. Originally the parents were going to come and help Mr. Gilbert to dismantle the polytunnel cover and replace with a new one but we have been advised that contractors will be provided to do this for us via the insurance company.

They have done a fantastic job and it's now ready for the children to start using again during their outside learning and once DEFRA lift the avian prevention zone we will be able to have chickens back on site ASAP. Their 'home' is cleared and waiting for them. THANK YOU Helen, David and BingBing for giving your time.-its very much appreciated by us all.

The grounds are an enormous on going project and we would love to invite you and community members in half termly to help maintain them and work with our children to plant and grow vegetables and flowers and care for our beautiful environment. We'll be in touch when the next morning is planned.

We would also like to say the most ENORMOUS thanks to Launceston Rotary Club . Once again their kindness and support has been overwhelming. Within minutes of the Facebook page sharing the sad news of the vandalism they got in touch with us and offered help. They have donated £500 to St Stephens to support repair work , develop our gardens and ,when the time is right, buy new school chickens. To date we have invested in two new wheelbarrows , replacement covers and are costing new raised beds. THANK YOU to our dear friends at Rotary.



We have also been visited this week by John Ellison from Launceston In Bloom who is very keen to bring his team to St Stephens to support us– amazing news indeed. What a wonderful community we have.

Head Lice Are Not Nice....but anyone can get them!

Please can you check and treat your children's hair if necessary this bank holiday weekend . We have had reports from several families across the school that head lice are doing the rounds! If left untreated they really do become a bigger issue .

Thank you for your support in this itchy matter!



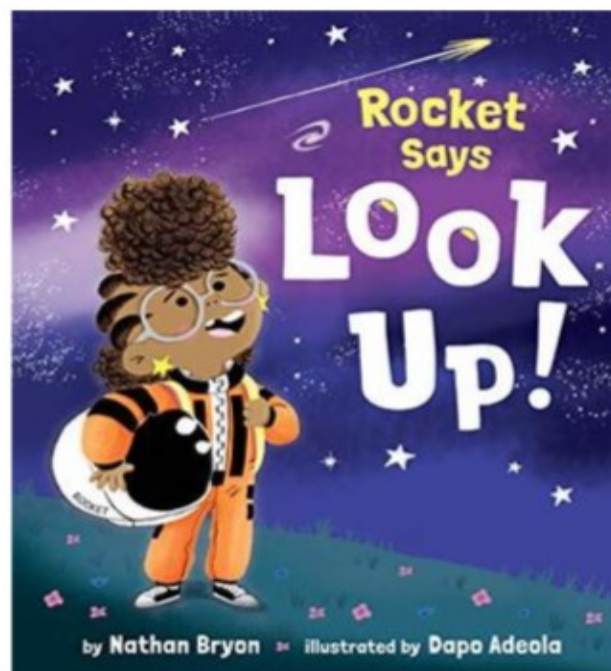
Reading For Pleasure

Each week we will be holding a reading for pleasure assembly, alternating between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. It is an opportunity to introduce the children to new texts and authors that they might not have seen before. To share texts, discuss what we can learn from them and encourage reading for pleasure.

For this week's KS1 assembly, Mrs Hooper shared the text *Rocket Says Look Up!* By Nathan Bryon and illustrated by Dapo Adeola. The main character is hilarious, science-mad chatterbox, Rocket - who's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived!

But... can she convince her big brother to stop looking down at his phone and start LOOKING UP at the stars?

Bursting with energy and passion about science and space, this heart-warming, inspirational picture book will have readers turning off their screens and switching on to the outside world.



Physical Education in Year 2

This half term Year 2 are working with Arena to learn and improve our fundamental skills. These are locomotor skills such as running, skipping, jumping and hopping and manipulative skills such as catching, kicking and throwing. Great Communication and Determination Values in action at the beginning of a new term .



Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019?**

If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2023 for that child by the deadline of **15 January 2023**.

Please note: you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system

Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**

The deadline for applications is **15 January 2023**



www.cornwall.gov.uk

Self-Care September 2022

MONDAY



5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes

TUESDAY



6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time

WEDNESDAY



7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'

THURSDAY

1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential

FRIDAY

2 Notice the things you do well, however small

SATURDAY

3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly

SUNDAY

4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it

12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost

13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one

14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break

15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low

16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly

17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself

18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you

19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement

20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories

21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside

22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still

23 Let go of other people's expectations of you

24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love

25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing

26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents

27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans

28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn

29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself

30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are

