



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; ”

Friday 15th October 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Another busy and exciting two weeks at St Stephens , I hope this newsletter conveys what amazing opportunities and enrichment activities your children are immersed in on a daily basis. A HUGE well done to all of St Stephens Samba Band –led brilliantly by Ms Gilbert– who represented our school at Launceston Carnival last Saturday. A fantastic community event . Thank you to all the parents and PTFA members who also gave their time to support the children. The band achieved second place overall –a wonderful achievement. We were also so proud of Holly (Y5) who was chosen to be the Carnival Queen– a real honour that she carried out perfectly. We have published some photographs on our website, Facebook page and in this newsletter. **Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that we only allow children on these platforms who have parental consent. If you take photos for any social media site e.g. Tik Tok these can only be of your own children and not others in the school without their permission. This applies to in school and out of school for obvious safeguarding reasons. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.**

My last request this week is regarding lost property. It is overwhelming how many children seem to lose items and how much uniform we find around the school. If it isn't claimed via your child's class it gets sent to the office . We store it there for up to three weeks. Unfortunately the majority of items found are not named. PLEASE can you ensure all your child's belongings are clearly named. Pen does wash off over time so its worth checking regularly. If your item is pre loved and has another child's name on please can we ask you to change so if lost we can take to the correct owner.

Have a relaxing weekend –one more week and then we can all recharge our batteries over half term. We break up on Friday 21st October and return on Monday 31st October. Many thanks for your continued support. I look forward to meeting you next week at Parent meetings, to celebrate your children's success'.

Best wishes

*Maura Furber*

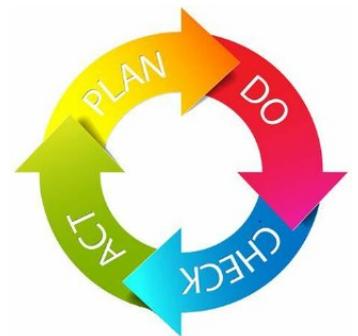
## School Improvement

This week we were delighted to host a Trust Governors network meeting. It is so good to share ideas, discuss strategies that support the Trust schools to provide the very best they can for the children .Together we identified areas that need a particular focus.

We split into three groups and discussed the school curriculum , SEND, equality ,inclusion , behaviour and safeguarding. All key aspects that must be prioritised and managed as a team.

Our new school Academy Action Plan is now available on the school website under the Key Information tab and Academy Improvement if you would like to look.

I am also delighted to inform you that we have another parent interested in becoming a governor at the school . This means we will now have a full local governing body at St Stephens to support and strategically lead our wonderful school.



### Survival Skills and our Climate Curriculum



Last week Class 3 had their first of three days at the Woodland Skills Centre. Our learning in these sessions is based on survival skills.

One of the activities that we took part in was a 'taste test'. We learned about different foods that could be foraged on Dartmoor.

Most of class 3 tried whortleberries, which were sweet and very similar to blueberries. Seven daring children volunteered to taste a cricket! One child said they tasted salty and like meat, another said they were disgusting!



On our return to school, Class 3 were asked what they learned. Here are some of their responses:

We learned that humans need food, water, shelter and warmth to survive.

We learned how to signal to a rescue helper that we need help.

We learned about how a compass works and how we can use this for navigation.

We learned how to make nettle syrup using water, baby nettle leaves and sugar.

Check out our blog to see this week's session where we learnt about water purification and shelter building.



### Outside Learning –Life skills in Action



September went by so fast, I think it's because we've been having so much fun in Preschool!

Every week the children are invited to join in with our Wild tribe sessions.

These sessions are fantastic at promoting self-esteem, creativity, confidence and independence.

We are so lucky to be able to use the vast school grounds to plan sessions that build on the needs and development of the children.

It offers the children a safe and secure space to explore and play and enables supported risk-taking and child-centered learning





### Reading for Pleasure Weekly Assemblies

Last week, with KS2, Ms Neale shared the text 'The Promise' written by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Laura Carlin.

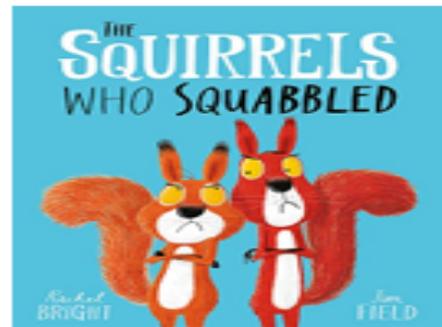
'On a mean street in a mean city, a thief tries to snatch an old woman's bag. But she finds she can't have it without promising something in return – to "plant them all". When it turns out the bag is full of acorns, the young thief

embarks on a journey that changes her own life and the lives of others for generations to come. Inspired by the belief that a relationship with nature is essential to every human being, and that now, more than ever, we need to renew that relationship, *The Promise* is the story of a magical discovery.' Ms Neale chose this book because it links with the schools' learning about the environment and climate change, with strong links to our climate curriculum.

Mrs Lumby chose to read the book 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field in this week's KS1 assembly.

This is a laugh-out-loud tale about friendship and learning to share, as two squirrels squabble over one nut but ultimately put their differences aside and co-operate.

Mrs Lumby chose this book because it is all about sharing and friendship. It is also full of fantastic vocabulary, such as: squabbling, towering, squealed, gathered, convinced, sprinted, hollered and scurried.



### Reading Rocks

A very big well done to the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge at Launceston Library this summer. We presented their special 'Gadgeteers' certificates this week in our whole school assembly. In this assembly we were also talking about our school value of 'Creativity' and sharing poems from the Children's Poet Laureate Joseph Coelho because it was World Poetry Day on the 6th October .

This week we were also very excited to receive our very first delivery from **Reading Rocks**. Every 2 months we will receive 4 carefully curated book packages (EYFS, Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Year 5/6) . The books are absolutely captivating. A huge thank you to the PTFA

brand new or even pre-release, culturally diverse and who are funding this subscription.





### PTFA Sponsored Mile

WOW -what amazing effort, stamina, determination, kindness and teamwork has been demonstrated this afternoon by all the classes. The sun shone for us and our wonderful PTFA members came and cheered us on, presented stickers and each child had a special certificate for taking part. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity.



To date this event has raised £1,460.02. A huge Thank you on behalf of the children. Check out the class blogs for more photos.

Great job Team St Stephens.



### A VERY LARGE VISITOR!!!

Class F are learning about farming and harvest.

This week Alan, from Rundle & Co Agri, visited us with his Massey tractor. We all had a go at sitting in the cab and had a chance to ask our questions we had prepared. We found out that a trailer is attached to the hitch at the back of the tractor and why the tyres have big treads.

A HUGE thank you to Alan for bringing our learning alive and answering our many questions!



## Launceston Carnival

St Stephens Samba Band totally rocked the night and came away with 2nd prize-what a fantastic achievement. A HUGE thank you to Ms. Gilbert for coordinating and organising the group to represent St Stephens at this community event -many weeks of after school club and a pre warm up on Saturday afternoon have led to this wonderful achievement. Also, a very big thank you to members of



the PTFA and parents who came along to support their samba drummers! It was also wonderful that so many ex-St Stephens' pupils wanted to join in too.



The costumes, lights and decorations were fantastic, thank you for all your efforts to make the night so special for the children.

We are also very proud that this year the Launceston Carnival Queen is Holly from St Stephens. She and her attendants looked absolutely beautiful, and we know they will represent the town brilliantly.



Great job "Team St Stephens"



# Optimistic October 2022

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month

2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)

3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you

4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list

5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good

6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better

7 Look for the good in people around you today

8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding

9 Share an important goal with someone you trust

10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently

11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward

12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today

13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing

14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation

15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted

16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting

17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society

18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead

19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future

20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time

21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you

22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague

23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise

24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently

25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?

26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face

27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time

28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?

29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to

30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future

31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

## Parent Meetings

Don't forget to sign up to meet with your child's teacher next week. Find out how your child is getting on and the next steps to support them .

Appointment boards are in the Reception area for you to select a convenient time. If you cannot make the dates given please speak with the teacher to organise another date. It's so important to work together –we all want the very best for our most important stakeholders –the children.

Thank you.





St Stephens PTFA

# HALLOWEEN DISCO



**On Friday 21st October 2022**

**In St Stephens Community Academy School hall**

**Classes: F. 1. 2 & 7 – 4:30pm–5:45pm**

**Classes: 3. 4. 5 & 6 – 6pm – 7:15pm**

All children wishing to attend must return a fully FULLY COMPLETED permission slip along with payment of £3.50 per child by Wednesday 19th October. We will NOT be accepting payment on the door.

Drinks, sweets & crisps on sale throughout the disco. Plus Halloween themed lucky games

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES A DRINK OF SQUASH & A PACK OF SWEETS



## PTFA Annual General Meeting



**The PTFA Committee invite all parents/carers to our AGM on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 at 2.40pm in the KS1 playground**  
(to be finished by 3.10pm at the latest)

Your dedicated PTFA committee are ready to fund raise for another year, all we need is you to attend our AGM for the official vote. We must meet our minimum requirement of guests in order to continue. There is no obligation to offer help going forward, although volunteers are always welcome.

The PTFA's aim is to fund valuable resources and opportunities for your children during their time in school and we would really appreciate your support at our AGM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Agenda to include...

- \*Voting of committee members and named roles
- \*A brief report on finances and recent spends
- \*Fund raising plans for 2022/2023
- \*Committee responsibilities and tasks