



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well another two weeks have flown by with lots going on as usual at St Stephens!

From music lessons with brass, wind and percussion instruments, dance sessions, gymnastics and ten pin bowling to litter collections, wild tribe, bikeability sessions and after school clubs. It was also wonderful to welcome some old friends back to our school this week. The Open the Book team and Mother Alison came and led our school assemblies on Thursday. Another step back to

normality.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the classes over the past few weeks to observe the children learning. Our school improvement focus is writing. I have been so impressed with their positive attitudes and their ability to discuss what they need to improve to be successful. Real 'Visible Learners' in action. As a team we have reviewed our feedback and marking practice to ensure that we are supporting the children to achieve the best they can. **We are hoping to hold face to face parent/carer meetings on 22nd & 23rd November after school** so we can share your child's learning this term, more details to follow and fingers crossed the CV 19 restrictions will enable them to go ahead.

The weather has certainly become colder and wetter over the past week. Thank goodness our new heating system works! With this said we do try to get outside as much as possible so it is vital that your child has a warm waterproof coat, school shoes and hats/gloves if necessary. **PLEASE can I remind you all to label your child's clothes**. Every day we have a bundle of sweatshirts, jumpers and PE kits left in the classroom or cloakrooms with no names in; the result being the children cannot recognise their own uniform.

Many thanks for all your support following the health and safety guidelines regarding taking PCR tests. The main message is ...if you are concerned and your child is showing the known symptoms of Covid PLEASE book a PCR test rather than relying solely on lateral flows.

Thank you as always for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement- Cyber Security Audit

This week myself, our Chair of Governors, Joan Heaton, our Safeguarding Manager, Claire Paul, and school Secretary, Claire Blaney, took part in a Cyber Security Audit. This has been organised by the An Daras Trust to ensure all the schools within the Trust have robust and consistent policies and practices in place.

Cyber security is about protecting the devices we all use and the services we access online  
- both at home and at school - from theft or damage.

It's also about preventing unauthorised access to the vast amounts of personal information we store on these devices and online.

This was a very positive process and will lead to a clearer understanding of processes and new legal requirements necessary.

**Cyber security in schools:**  
Practical tips for everyone  
working in education



### The Great British Beach Clean

On Tuesday 21st September, Years Four and Five joined the Great British Beach Clean week, by cleaning up litter found in our local area. We were accompanied by Jules Agate from the Marine Conservation Society, and she helped us to learn that much of the litter found in the sea, was actually dropped in our towns and cities. Children also completed an activity that showed us, how a piece of litter washed into the street drain outside our school, eventually surfaces in .... Saltash!

The most commonly found items of litter, were cigarette butts and snack bar wrappers. Children were concerned about what this means for our health, as well as for the environment.

Whilst Year Five were busy on the roads, Year Four were busy around the school grounds. Between the two year groups, 5kgs of litter was collected.



**Well done Years Four and Five!**



### Class 7 go Bowling at Trethorne

We are so proud of our children taking part in our first ever Tenpin bowls competition with Arena Sports and Panathlon Challenge at Trethorne this week. There were lots of teams from other schools that we were playing against and our children were AMAZING!



We had a fabulous time and got some great scores knocking down the pins. Each child was presented with a beautiful medal to take home.



### **A Fond Farewell and Good Luck**

It was with real sadness that we said goodbye to the wonderful Mrs. Val Steele this week. Mrs. Steele has volunteered and worked in the Area Resource Base (Class 7) for the past 17 years. She has worked with and supported so many children, including her own son, during this time as part of the special team of staff in Class 7.

Always a larger than life character with a constant smile, ready laugh and kind word to say about everyone - she will be sorely missed.



The children presented her with cards and gifts - a small memento of her time with us here at St Stephens - during our Celebration Assembly. We wish her much luck and happiness in her new job as a Teaching Assistant at ACE Academy but she knows ...once a member of Team St Stephens ALWAYS a member of Team St Stephens. Thank you Mrs. Steele.



### **Writing to Rescue our Mini Characters!**

This week in the Foundation Class we were visited by the message monster! He is a sneaky character who gets up to mischief when we aren't looking. This week he took our 'mini me's' and left us a message. If we wanted to get the mini me's back, we all had to write messages to him.

This got us all really engaged with our mark making, and we all wrote letters back to him either using pen and paper, chalks, paint or foam! Luckily, our messages did the trick, and we got the mini me's back again!





### History in the 'Making'!

This week in Year 2 we took our Theme learning outside.

We were set a challenge to make a replica Stone Age home using natural resources that we could find in the Wild Tribe Area. We used our knowledge learnt and worked collaboratively to support each other in 'the build'.



Here are some of our Palaeolithic homes.  
Would you like to live in one?

### Making Music with 'Mr Brass'

As part of the first access music for schools our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are currently learning to play brass instruments, which is amazing! The aims of music teaching are to enable children to:



Know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;

Know how music is made through a variety of instruments ;

Know how music is composed and written down;

Know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;

Develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.

And to obviously have great fun when you are involved- I think the photos show this!



### Year 1 Gymnastic Skills.

Year 1 have been practicing their jumps and balances in their gymnastics sessions for P.E this week.

Here are some of the things that the children have said:

I made a tuck shape!

We were jumping on to mats from the benches!

I like jumping. My favourite jump was a star jump.

We made tuck shapes.

We had to do a straddle shape and try to hold our shapes too. It was tricky!

We had to land on two feet when we did our jumps and bend our knees when we landed.



### Bringing cakes and sweets into school

As you will be aware during CV19 lockdowns we followed the national guidance to **not allow food from home to be brought into school to share with other children**. We know that many of you are now asking if you can bring in birthday cakes or sweets to share. We know that this is a very kind gesture, and we do not wish to offend your generosity whatsoever, but we have decided to continue following the CV 19 advice going forward. This is due to the following reasons:



- ◆ Firstly as a school we promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle and although we do recognise that a treat is lovely, and everything can be eaten in moderation, we do not allow 'sweets and chocolate' during school time unless it is part of a planned Design Technology session. Most food used in school activities is sourced by our school catering team or is grown in our school grounds ....including fresh eggs!
  - ◆ Secondly from a medical perspective we must be so cautious when sharing foodstuff with anyone. Coincidentally, there is a new allergen labelling rule that will come into effect from 1 October 2021. This new legislation was developed in 2019, thanks to the actions of a lobbying group led by the parents of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse: the teenager who died after suffering an allergic reaction to sesame seeds, which was an undeclared ingredient in a pre-packed baguette. This occurred as there was no specific allergen information on the sandwich packaging; therefore, Natasha assumed it was safe for her to eat. The lobbying group challenged the lack of legislation regarding this issue and, due to their efforts, the government has confirmed that Natasha's Law will be implemented from the 1 October 2021 to protect those with food allergies, providing them with greater confidence in the food they buy.
  - ◆ We do have several children with complex allergies in our school and there may be new allergies diagnosed in the future. Our duty of care and the clear health and safety risks are another important factor that has led us to this decision.
- We really appreciate your support with this matter.**





## Dance Classes with SJS Dance Academy in Launceston!

Location: St Thomas Church Hall, Riverside.



Established in 1993, SJS Dance Academy is a local school that runs classes in Tavistock, St Ann's Chapel and Stoke Climsland. Also offering summer schools, workshops and shows.

We offer high-quality fun dance classes delivered by fully qualified teachers trained at the **Royal Academy of Dance**.

### Classes Available:

**Ballet Classes** ages 2+

**Jazz Classes** ages 5+



**Contact us now to sign up for a trial class!**

Contact us on our Facebook page: [SJS Dance Academy](#)

Website: [www.sjsdance.co.uk](http://www.sjsdance.co.uk)

Email: [charlotteannewatts@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteannewatts@gmail.com)

Whether you or your child has never danced before or wants to get back into the swing of it, our classes have something for everyone!



### Gymnastics skills.

This term Year 2 have been taking part in gymnastics sessions with Arena. We have been focusing on balancing, making different body shapes and how to carefully hold these positions.



Physical exercise helps to build our core strength and flexibility as well as being amazing for our physical and mental well-being.



## Our Harvest Assembly



Our Harvest Assembly will be held on **Friday 15th October**. *This is just for the children to attend in school time.* As in previous years **we are requesting that each child brings in a donation (tinned foods and fresh produce).**

This will then be sold by the Year 6 children in the afternoon to raise funds for a chosen charity (yet to be selected by our Pupil Forum). **We recommend your child brings in up to £1.00 in change if possible** in a named envelope/purse/wallet to spend in the food sale.

We will put photos on our website (class blogs and latest news) for you to enjoy.

Many thanks for your kindness in advance.

## Optimistic October 2021

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



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

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

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 week 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 this week?

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

