

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"

Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone for your support over the last few years, I have enjoyed my time here at St Stephens. As the recent letter stated I am now moving into a MAT leadership role to work as the Academy Improvement Officer over all the Andaras schools. We have worked hard at St Stephens to

put into place a number of systems and processes and we now have a great team of teachers on board. We have worked hard to design curriculums and shape teaching and learning under the new curriculum and assessments. Thank you everyone for your parental feedback we had such lovely comments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff here who have really been excited with our journey.

Best Wishes, Mrs Saunders

Academy School Improvement:

The recent focus has been looking through learning evidence in books and a range of sources to ensure our assessments are accurate.

Attendance				
Wk Ending				
26th January 2018				
CLASS F	93.6%			
CLASS 1	89.6%			
CLASS 2	91.2%			
CLASS 3	96.2%			
CLASS 4	97.9%			
CLASS 5	97.9%			
CLASS 6	93.4%			
CLASS 7	82.9%			

Key Diary Dates				
Mon 12th-Fri16thFeb	Half Term			
Weds 21st February	Yr2 Parent mtg: end of KS1 Assessment			
Fri 23rd February	Yr6 Parent mtg: end of KS2 Assessment			
Mon 26/Tue27 March	Parent Meetings			
Fri 30 March-15 April	Easter Holidays			
Mon 16th April	Back to School			
Month of May	SATS Year 2			
Mon 14-Fri 18 May	SATS Year 6			
Mon 28 May-Fri 1 June	Half Term			
Mon 4th June	Summer Term Inset Day			
Tues 5th June	Back to school			
	Phonics Screening Week			
Tues 24th July	End of Year			















Art Gallery

Well done to all the children who entered art work for the Zebediah's Art Gallery exhibition in town. We were able to send off a fantastic and varied selection, which will be on display to the public from this weekend until the end of the month, at Zebediah's. Congratulations St Stephen's Artists!



https://zebediahs.wixsite.com/art-and-craft

Pre School

Good news, we have been awarded £1000.00 from the Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme. Thank you to everyone who voted for us.

TESCO

Our focus for learning until the end of half term is 'Nursery Rhymes', we have been practicing 'I'm a little teapot' this week. I'm sure the children would love you to sing along with them at home.

Our special awards this week go to Harley and Alice for being very polite and always using their manners and to Shannon for being a good and caring friend. Well done.



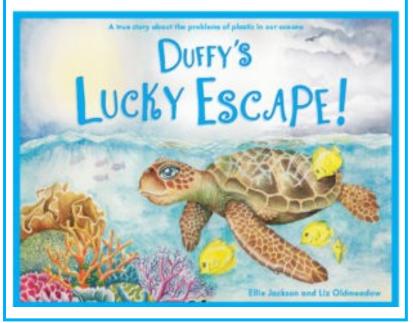
Dressed with digits

Pupils raised an amazing £133.40 for the NSPCC Number Day today! A big thank you to everyone.



Author Visit!

As part of whole school reading focus and linking with World Book Day, Children's Author Ellie Jackson will be reading her highly topical children's book, Duffy's Lucky Escape, to the whole school on Tuesday 27th February during assembly. The children are looking forward to hearing from Ellie and learning about the problems of plastic in our oceans. Ellie will also be available to sign copies of her book after the assembly. Should any parent wish to purchase a copy of the book, you can pre-order a book, with full payment of £8 per copy, from the school office after half term. For each sale a portion of the proceeds will be available to the school to put towards a new environmental project which will be chosen and lead by our Eco-Team.





Shanghai Teachers Visit

St Stephens had the privilege of welcoming Miss Du and Miss Xu, maths teachers from Shanghai, for two weeks (the only school in Cornwall to have secured this opportunity).

Their visit started with a fantastic Welcome Assembly, where each class, brilliantly performed a traditional song or poem.

For the rest of their visit Miss Du taught fractions to Year 6 and Miss Xu taught multiplication to Year 2. This was a fantastic experience, not only for the children, but also an excellent CPD opportunity for all staff.







On the final four days, there were open lessons, which were attended by over 300 educational professionals, some of their comments can be seen in the photos below.









RSC Partnership Project



We are really pleased to be taking part in a production of Macbeth, in conjunction with other local schools, Launceston College and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Workshops will be taking place in school, up until the performance in June – which we hope will be at Dingles near Lifton. Look out for more details.



Parental Survey

We had 56 responses back from parents from our recent survey. We have some very positive feedback. On the next page we have shared some of the opposite views that we have had. This makes it very difficult for us to plan provision. However the overwhelming feedback is positive and we will continue our focus on our provision. Thank you to all those parents and families who continue to support our school.

Our positive comments—Thank you.

'the importance of reading'

'great teaching in Year Six. The adults are preparing children well for further transition into college'

'good teaching/my child likes their teachers'

'good liaison with Launceston College'

'my child has come along well so I feel like she is getting all the help and more'

'setting homework at a good pace- neither too much or too hard'

'supporting children with Special Education Needs'

'using fair discipline'

'having friendly staff including lovely receptionists'

'my child has come on leaps and bounds with her learning and speech. She enjoys schools and making new friends'

'great interesting lessons and activities for the children, makes going to school fun but at the same time they are learning'

'there is the offer of a range of after school clubs'

'my daughter enjoys creative/ hands on activities in class and extra-curricular activities such as Samba. Being an Eco leader is also a very positive experience for her'

'mixing with other children in the academy. Visiting college and having special days e.g. Maths Day etc'

'keeps parents informed'

'teaching my children'

'the academy is very good at helping our child to be independent and believe in himself"

'the encouragement and support staff give to the pupils is above and beyond'

'the academy teaches my daughter very well'

'good communication, friendly and welcoming to all my children. Knowledgeable of their individual needs strengths and weaknesses. Always on hand for help and advice'

'staff are amazing and great to talk to and are really supportive of the pupils'

'my child has made amazing progress since being at St. Stephens. I love the opportunity for learning outside and I am impressed with my child's reading skills'

'teaches my children well'

'provides out of school opportunities e.g. after school clubs. Homework and communication on topic work and ideas through curriculum letters'

'my child enjoys her lessons and work set. Teachers are all very approachable'

'the teaching of Year One is 1st Class. Thank you so much'

'so far my child's time at St Stephen's has been wonderful for helping him improve areas where he was struggling and is now on target'

'encouraging my child to do their best and making clear next steps in learning'

'developing resilience in children and various praise awards'

Parental Feedback: The full survey response can be found on our website.

Communication

'good communication, friendly and welcoming to all my children. Knowledgeable of their individual needs strengths and weaknesses. Always on hand for help and advice'

and

'communication with parents and teachers' 'newsletters are poorly written'

Academy reply:

We have found our parents like communication in conflicting ways so we provide communication through all these methods to help:

Text messages

Newsletters

Website

Paper letters

Dairy date letters from the office

Twitter

The School Office

Please choose the communication method you prefer.

After School Clubs

'my daughter enjoys creative/ hands on activities in class and extra-curricular activities such as Samba. Being an Eco leader is also a very positive experience for her'

'there is the offer of a range of after school clubs'

and

'we do not agree that you should pay for clubs'

'lack of clubs'

Academy reply:

The charge for clubs was introduced due to budget cuts from the government. The school does not have money to run after schools clubs. Our MAT asked the school to charge for clubs to cover the cost of the adult running the club. Teachers are recommended to not run clubs due to work load reduction which has been an academy focus since 2015. The academy is exploring other options for clubs to be offered after school.

Lunchtime Clarification:

'lunchtimes. Children to play with their friends and not to be told what to do at lunchtimes' 'playtimes are not happy ones'

'sports leaders role means there is no time to talk to friends and everything in school is organised for them'

'I think the House teams are unhelpful'

Academy reply:

House Teams were set up last year to help lunchtime organisation and to help develop our school as a wider community. All children get to play and socialise with their friends at playtime and lunchtime. Some children have chosen to sign themselves up to be sports leaders. They are in role for 30 minutes each day for one week out of three. Activities are set up at lunchtime to encourage lots of different activities to broaden experiences and encourage more fun. Children choose where they want to play. The behaviour and number of incidents at lunchtime has significantly improved since this was introduced last year.

Homework

'provides out of school opportunities e.g. after school clubs. Homework and communication on topic work and ideas through curriculum letters'

'setting homework at a good pace- neither too much or too hard'

and

'offer more sports after school, more homework to support learning'

'homework should be more structured. More support for struggling pupils'

Academy reply:

As an academy we provide homework that suits different parent views e.g. 'we need structured homework/ we need less homework'. The homework menu provides you with as little and as much as you would like to access. We encourage weekly homework.

RSC at Launceston College!

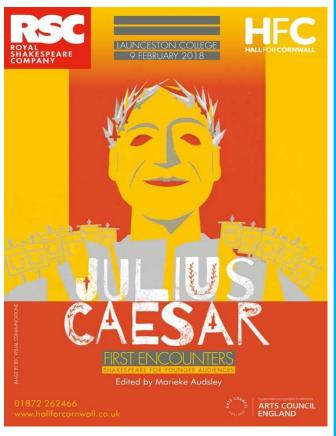
We are very excited that the Royal Shakespeare Company will be performing at Launceston College on Friday 9th February at 7pm.

They will be performing Julius Caesar as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's 'Rome' season, a play which explores betrayal, the responsibility of national leaders, and the lengths people will go to in order to achieve power – all relevant concerns in modern society.

This is an interactive 'First Encounters' performance, which means it is designed for ages 7 upwards, and will last approximately 90 minutes.

Tickets are on sale to the public only through the Launceston College website. Book now to ensure that you see this special performance!

http://www.launceston-college.cornwall.sch.uk/





oys and Girls aged 5-15 years - Courses run from 10am - 3pm - Registration will not open until 9.30am at the earliest Membership reward cards will continue - www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk

VENUE	DATE	COST	THEME	NO.
Plymouth Argyle FC - Home Park (2 Days)	Mon 12th & Tues 13th Feb	£30	Soccer Roadshow	1
St Josephs School, Launceston	Monday 12th February	£16	Search for a Star	2
Bodmin Dragon Leisure Centre (2 Days)	Mon 12th & Tues 13th Feb	£30	Soccer Roadshow	3
Carbeile School, Torpoint	Monday 12th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	- 4
Pool Academy, Redruth	Monday 12th February	£8	Soccer Roadshow	5
Penair School, Truro	Tuesday 13th February	£16	Soccer Readshow	6
Week St Mary Football Club	Tuesday 13th February	£16	Search for a Star	7
PAFC - Home Park - Activities Day	Wednesday 14th February	£10	Activities Day	8
PAFC - Home Park - Tiny Tots - 10am-12pm	Wednesday 14th February	£5	Tiny Tots	9
Bude Football Club	Wednesday 14th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	10
Saltash.Net Community School	Wednesday 14th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	11
Cam Brea Leisure Centre, Camborne	Wednesday 14th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	12
Ivybridge Community College	Thursday 15th February	£16	Strikers & Goalkeepers	13
Brickfields Leisure Centre, Plymouth	Thursday 15th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	14
St Teath Football Club	Thursday 15th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	15
Lux Park Leisure Centre, Liskeard	Thursday 15th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	16
Poltair School, St Austell	Thursday 15th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	17
PAFC - Home Park - PAN Disability	Thursday 15th February	£16	Soccer Roadshow	18
PAFC - Home Park - Special	Friday 16th February	£18	Roadshow Special (Fee Git)	19
St Josephs School, Launceston	Friday 16th February	£18	Roadshow Special (Fee Git)	20
Carbeile School, Torpoint - Special	Friday 16th February	£18	Roadshow Special (Fee Git)	21
St. Stephens School, Saltash - Special	Friday 16th February	£18	Roadshow Special (Free Git)	22
Falmouth School - Special	Friday 16th February	£18	Roadshow Special (Free Git)	23

Soccer Roadshow — Our Footbal Roadshows are age and football specific with the emphasis on fun, enjoyment and development. Sessions include skills, technique, competitions and small sided games.

Activities Day — Come and join us for a fur-filled day at Plymouth Angyle FC, Home Park where you will have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities including football, table tennis, golf, X-box, art and crafts and lots more all based at the football club.

Tiny Tots — Try Tots football sessions are aimed at three — six year olds, who are experiencing their first taste of a structured coaching session. The sessions are statistical a ratio of 4 coaches to 16 children. The emphasia is to improve the children's isteming and concentration skills whilst working on balance and colorification. The children can develop in a safe and fun environment over the duration of the sessions.

PAN Disability - Football/Activity day. A fun-filled day packed with football games in an inclusive and confortable environment. The day is tailored for children with a: physical impairment, learning disability or mental health condition.

Easter Holidays

May Half Term





Outdoor Holiday Club, located in a woodland, for Children



Qualified Forest School Leader

To Book Call: 01566 772134

Tiny Tots, Sheers Barton, Launceston, PL15 9NJ

enquiries@tinytotsltd.com

PosterMyWall.com