



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



**“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;
Celebrating Individuality.”**

**Friday 12th November
2021**

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term and what a busy one it is already proving to be. All the clubs, before and after school, are busy and filled with large smiles and enthusiasm. When I pop into classes throughout the day the children are always very keen to talk about their learning and I'm always delighted when they come to find me and share achievements they are so proud of. We are very happy that we can share your child's progress face to face this term -it seems such a long time since we have been able to do that! Don't forget to sign up in the main entrance for the parent/carer meetings scheduled for **22nd & 23rd November (3.30-6.00)** .Please can I ask you to re read the email sent on the 8th November regarding how the meetings will run to ensure we minimise any CV19 risks. If possible please can you limit one meeting time per child as we are trying very hard to limit the footfall in the building and the teachers have only been allotted 30 time zones.

I am always incredibly proud of all our school achievements and so was delighted to have some of these acknowledged and rewarded by the Marine Conservation Society and Picture News. Please read the newsletter to find out more information regarding both awards. It is also so wonderful to have our whole school values recognised and over the past few weeks we have had visitors in for music lessons, PE sessions , curriculum enrichment , assemblies, clubs and in -class projects ,who have commended the behaviour, good manners and positive attitude to learning the children have demonstrated. I love sharing what they write in our Comments Book with the children. Our latest one says..."A fantastic class and supportive teacher. A real pleasure to work with all of Year 6." (P.C. Phil Rees)

I know some of you will have received letters regarding our Christmas play and costumes, please keep a look out for details in the near future regarding this and other festive events e.g. KS2 carol service. Fingers crossed all can go ahead in some form and we will confirm dates asap.

Thank you as always for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and let's do it all again next week!

Maura Furber

School Improvement

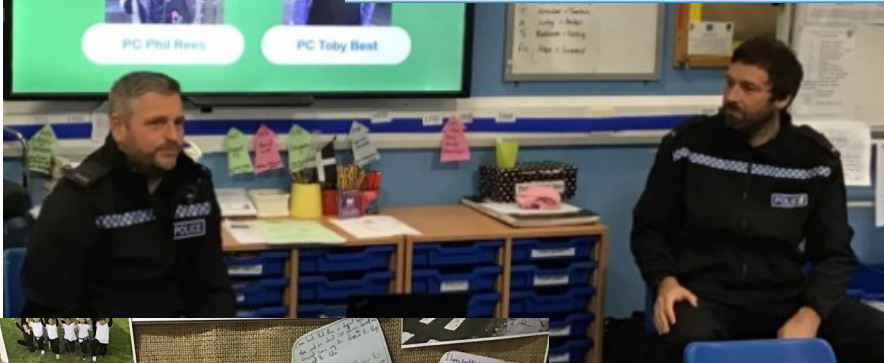
Writing is a key priority to target for improvement across all the Trust schools .This week we have met remotely with our colleagues from the other AnDaras schools to review and analyse the impact of CV19 lockdowns on writing progress and attainment across the schools. We discussed areas that need specific support and shared strategies we currently use to make a positive impact. The key areas we are targeting at St Stephens are spelling, punctuation and grammar.

During the forthcoming parent meetings
(Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd November)
please do ask us for ways to help support your child at home
with these important writing skills.



Year 6 Mini Police Community Project

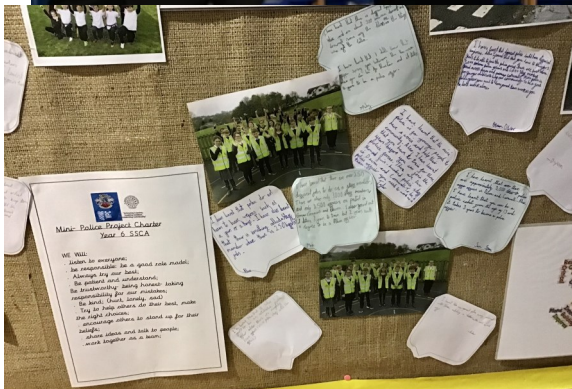
We have been delighted to welcome two police officers into St Stephens several times this week to lead our community project work with the Year 6 children.



The children have been given the task to identify a community issue and plan how they can improve and tackle the situation in a peaceful and effective manner.

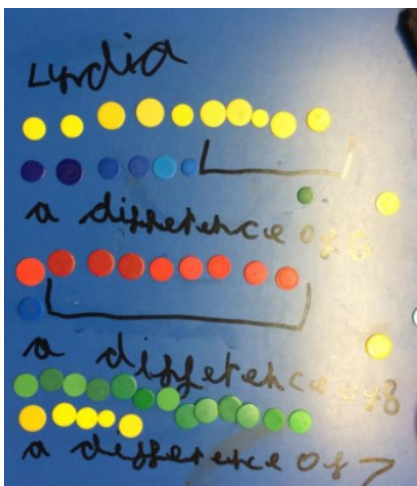
They have created a Police Class Charter and are looking forward to the return visits next week to share their plans and ideas.

Community Cohesion well and truly in action at St Stephens.



Subtraction as difference

This week Year 2 have been learning about subtraction as difference. To begin the unit we have been understanding how difference compares the number of objects in one set with the number of objects in another set; or the difference between two measures.

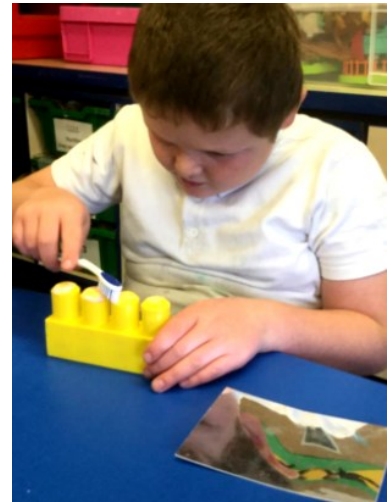




Cleaning Teeth

Today we learnt about looking after our teeth. We learnt that some food is not good for our teeth- like sugary food and drink. We know we should brush our teeth at least twice a day for 2 minutes.

We practised brushing our teeth- starting with the flat surface, brush from the back to front, top and bottom, round and round. Rinse with water and spit.



We started by looking at our teeth in a mirror. Then had a go on some big lego bricks! That was funny but it made us think about how much brushing we have to do.



Finally, we had a go at cleaning our own teeth. There were lots of very sparkly clean teeth in class 7 this afternoon.



Celebrating Diwali

The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops and public places are decorated with small earthenware oil lamps called diyas. The children in Pre-school had lots of fun making their own candle holders. They enjoyed rolling the clay into a ball in the palms of their hands and using their thumbs to push and shape a hole in the middle for a nightlight candle.

We are loving our 'Celebrations' topic.



Creating Leaf Skewers in Year F.



To help us with our understanding of the world, we went on a leaf hunt. We were asked to find lots of different shape and colour leaves...which isn't hard to do on our beautiful field. Once we had collected lots of leaves, we had to choose a selection to make our own leaf skewers.



We discussed the different seasons, and about all the different colours of the leaves we collected during our session on this glorious autumnal day.



IMPACT AWARD 2021

We are incredibly proud to have been awarded an Impact Award by the Picture News publication that we use to teach British Values, current affairs and UNICEF Children's Rights. As a Silver Level UNICEF award school we always value pupil voice and respect what they have to say. It is fantastic that Classes 4 and 5 have secured this award for our school. The application highlighted their learning on their beach tribe day in the summer term and how it influenced them to take part in the Great Beach Clean .

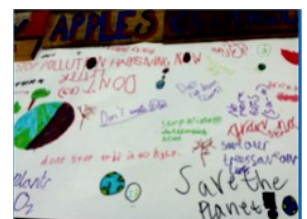


The Marine Conservation Society have also been in touch to thank the children for taking part in this year's event and cleaning up our local area. They spotted our Tweet about the pupils completing a Source to Sea Litter Quest, and are sending a bundle of the Little Inventors books (aimed at upper primary) including their latest release Little Inventors: Mission Oceans, as a thank you.

This work impacted their decision to introduce Eco Councillors and identify key roles in the school, providing opportunities for the school community to reduce pollution and increase recycling e.g. compost collectors and pen/glue stick collections.

Continuing under the careful guidance of Mrs Gilbert , the classes recently secured bee bombs from the local Rotary Club. Several have been 'thrown' in front of the school for all the community (and bees) to enjoy. A huge thank you to Rotary for this wonderful gift.

Eco Champions at St Stephens lead the way.



Health and Safety Reminder about our School Car Park.

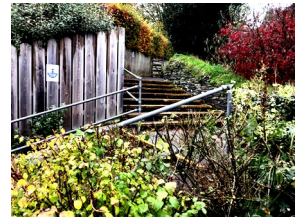
Further to our text earlier this week we would like to thank you for remembering to use the paved walkways and pavement behind the railings when entering and exiting the school premises. We do appreciate that it is slightly quicker to walk through the car park but we have had a few 'near misses' with the taxis that drop off and collect pupils at our school, particularly when reversing and turning. Please can we also ask you to remind any Year 5 and Y6 pupils in your family who walk to and from school independently to be very careful around the area in question.

We are putting in a bid through the County Inclusion Fund for new security fencing and gates - so fingers crossed we are successful.

Please can we also remind you that the car park is only for the use of employed staff and for organised registered taxis dropping off/collecting pupils from the school. We do appreciate that there is not a lot of space outside the school and that often you have to park up the hill and walk down.

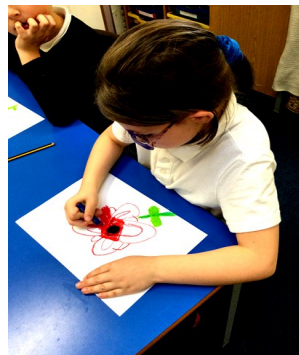
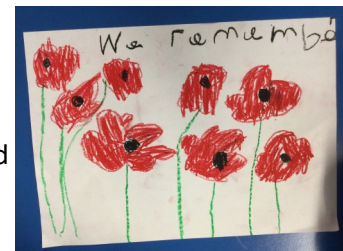
Unfortunately this is beyond our control .

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Lest We Forget-British Values in Action

An enormous thank you for your generosity to the Royal British Legion. The children are so thrilled and proud to be wearing their Remembrance poppies and wrist bands. Once we have the total raised confirmed we will let you know. The whole school honored the two minute silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Children and staff across the building met in the school playgrounds and took the time to reflect on the sacrifice of others to ensure peace and individual liberty in our world. In class the children have been learning facts, sharing stories, watching film clips and learning poems linked to Remembrance Day. We know that 100 men from St Stephens lost their lives in WW1 so many families in our community will be effected by this day. We also discussed this important day in our whole school assembly on Monday and spoke about our school value of the week: Forgiveness, which links to the event.



Once again "Thank you"



Experienced, haven't played for a while
or an absolute beginner, Launceston
Town Band welcomes everyone!

Whether 8 or
88, we invite you
to come along.
We provide
instruments and
lessons to suit
your needs.



Training Band

Tuesday 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Main Band

Thursday 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

LAUNCESTON TOWN BAND WANTS

YOU