

**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter

*"Together towards a bright, positive and successful future"*



Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Friday 30th November 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

I genuinely cannot believe what we can 'pack into' two weeks at St Stephens! Alongside our constant focus on reading, writing and maths I am thrilled to see the knowledge and concepts from these core subjects being developed and used in real life contexts and the wider curriculum. We really do offer an exciting range of opportunities where our children can practice and remember important information that will be useful long after they leave us. I have loved learning about different art skills and techniques from Year 4 and Year 6 pupils, impressed with the wild tribe skills (and resilience to the weather!) shown by the key stage 1 classes and fascinated by the facts the Foundation pupils can tell me about how to run a garage workshop after their trip. I've also learnt new historical facts about The Spanish Armada from Year 3 and, after learning about the Bayeux Tapestry, Year 5 have decided to create their own version. As if this wasn't enough we were delighted to welcome medical students from Plymouth University into school on Wednesday who shared their knowledge with every class in practical, hands on experiments and workshops. There are a lot of pupils who have now decided to be doctors, nurses and surgeons in the future. A huge thank you to Mrs Morris who organised this fantastic enrichment day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the family who donated our beautiful Christmas tree in the entrance hall. They would like to remain anonymous but we assured them that all the pupils and staff will be so grateful for this kind gesture. No decorations allowed until December though! I already know the next two weeks will be action packed so keep checking out our website and Twitter pages for updates.

Thank you for your continued support and don't hesitate to get in touch if I can help in any way .

*Maura Furber*

## Attendance

Wk Ending 23.11.18

CLASS F	91.4%
CLASS 1	96.4%
CLASS 2	95.8%
CLASS 3	95.9%
CLASS 4	99.2%
CLASS 5	98.7%
CLASS 6	99.3%
CLASS 7	95%

As part of our School Improvement Plan we are focussing on **Vocabulary**. Research shows us that by learning new words, finding out what they mean and using them everyday your child's reading and writing progress will improve. We plan a curriculum that enables all our pupils to build their vocabulary 'bank' so they can utilise their understanding in a range of experiences, inside and outside of school. Every week each class selects a 'word of the week' -this may link to their topic or English learning. Find out what new words your child knows. What word are they learning this week and can you teach them new ones to share in class?



## Dinner Money

As you know our online payment system is now up and running—please can we ask that any dinner money owing is cleared as soon as possible. If you are struggling to log-on then please speak to the office staff, who will be happy to help.



## An ARB Christmas!

The children and staff have been very busy out and about on sensory walks collecting items from nature to make Christmas decorations. Using willow, leaves, conkers, dried fruits and hessian they have created decorations for a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church Launceston, which opens on Friday 30th November, with late night shopping. The tree will be on display for a week until Sunday 9th December 10am till 4pm. Please pop along and see the display.



Congratulations to the ARB children who have been working hard, collecting items on nature walks and making them into decorations.



## **Pet Therapy!**

The ARB are delighted that Ziggy, a PAT (Pets as Therapy) dog and his owner, Julie, are visiting each week. Ziggy is a Bassett Hound and the children (and staff) are loving getting to know him.



Don't forget to come and support our ADMAT **Samba Band** in Launceston town centre on Friday 30th at 8.00p.m. We will be playing to celebrate the turning on of the Christmas lights.



## **CHRISTMAS OPEN DAY**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018  
11am - 3pm

Cornwall Air Ambulance

Santa's Grotto • Story telling  
Christmas activities • The Singing Seagulls  
See the current helicopter • Refreshments  
Meet the crew • Pop-up charity shop  
Annual Draw tickets



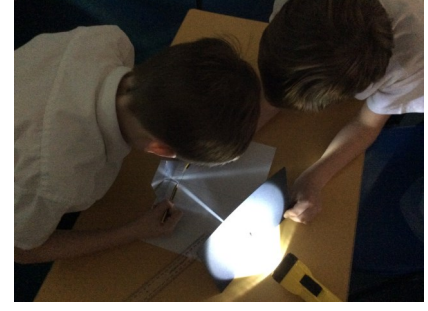
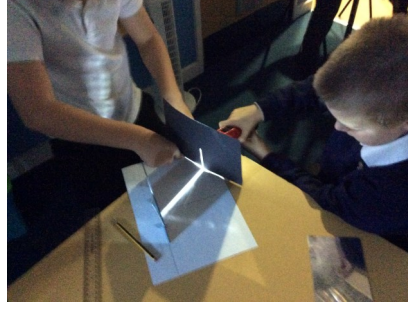
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**Year F Trip** On Tuesday 20th November, Year F visited Vanstone's Garage in Newport Industrial Estate as their class topic is 'Cars'. The children had the opportunity to have a tour of the various areas of the garage including the reception area, the parts department, the main garage, the paint mixing and spraying room and MOT testing space. They learnt about the different jobs involved in being a mechanic including how to change a tyre, how brakes are tested during an M.O.T and how a vehicle is spray painted. The pupils had the opportunity to ask the questions they had thought of as well as sitting in Vanstone's tow truck and learning about how the garage help members of the public who have broken down! A **huge** thank you to Vanstone's garage for allowing Year F to visit and taking the time out of their very busy day to talk to us. The children learnt lots and listened and behaved beautifully. Finally, a big thank you to our parent helpers for coming on the trip with us.



**Year 6's Angle learning**-The Right Angled Hoe Down and proving the Law of Reflection in Science this week where we used our skills of measuring angles accurately using a protractor.



### Trainee Doctors



On Wednesday 28th November, SSCA had a visit from a group of trainee doctors. They arranged a workshop of activities for each class including a skeleton station where we learned about bones, a lung station where we experimented with a peak flow device, a heart station where we listened to our heartbeats and many more! KS1 also had a teddy bears hospital where the doctors wrote 'pawscriptions' and bandaged our stuffed toys! We all had a great day and hope they visit us again soon! A big thank you to all of the medical students from Plymouth University who participated.



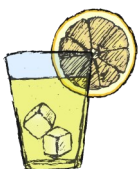
### St Stephens Community Academy PTFA

The PTFA would like to thank everyone for their donations of cakes and buns for our recent cake sale, we raised an impressive **£83.21**. PTFA funds enhance our children's experiences and we are pleased to be able to support the whole school with their Christmas treat, by funding the coaches for the cinema trip and helping with the cost of Magic Martin's visit.



We have an exciting plan of events for our year ahead, which will be shared in the New Year, please see below for our plans for December and continue to support us where possible...

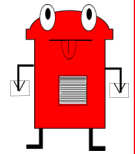
- Nov/Dec – Create and sell a whole school tea towel, information to follow with details of how to buy
- Fri 7th Dec – Woodland themed non uniform day (donation of £1), raising funds for outdoor learning
- Fri 14th Dec – Selling teas, coffees, biscuits and mince pies in the school hall after the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert (proceeds being donated to the church)
- Wed 19th Dec – Supply Christmas crackers and squash for school's Christmas dinner
- Thurs 20th Dec – Christmas Disco (after school - times to be confirmed)



Also, watch out for information from the 'PTFA Minis!' (the committee member's children) who are showing great dedication and initiative by raising funds independently at their own Lemonade Stall on Friday 7th Dec (non uniform day). Well done and thank you to all involved. Thank you, The PTFA.

### Children's Christmas Cards

Post Boxes will be in KS1 and KS2 areas from Weds 5th December. Please make sure that the child's name and class are clear. Year 6's will deliver cards at the end of each day.



You are warmly invited to the **Annual Crib Service** Please come on **Christmas Eve at 3pm** **St Stephen's Church** dressed as your favourite Nativity character (and that includes mums and dads and grandparents) A wonderful way to begin to celebrate Christmas as a family.

