



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



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

**Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher**



Dear Parents/Carers,

I could never in all my wildest dreams imagine that I would be writing this newsletter whilst in isolation ,with our wonderful school closed to the majority of the pupils and any future date when we can reopen beyond our control at the moment. Despite this sad and confusing time we find ourselves in I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and dedication shown by my team, others in our school community and the opportunities you as parents /carers are providing for your children whilst at home. Thank you also for all your amazing messages of support and kindness , the staff and I greatly appreciate this.

I think its really important to stress that spending time making special memories with your child, listening and talking to them, is more important during this time than academic skills for their future mental health .A colleague mentioned that ‘how they feel during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during these weeks at home is long gone.’ I couldn’t agree more. Its been wonderful that you have shared amazing home learning with us all via on line platforms and we’d love you to continue this but don’t worry about them forgetting things. Every child is in the same boat and we will ‘catch up’ when we return to school. We will do this together, our special school and home partnership, because we all want the very best opportunities for our children. Having fun and family time is more vital during these long days than always following a schedule or falling out over homework not completed or understood.

Thank you for your continued support and please know that all at ‘Team St Stephen’ greatly miss the opportunity to ‘borrow ’ your dear children for just a few hours a day and being with their ‘work family’ but, more importantly ,we want you to stay home and stay safe .Please know we are counting down the days until we can all be together again.

Please don’t hesitate to email me if I can be of any assistance -my text facility only allows 160 characters!

Long may the sun shine for you all.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement

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

I would like to use this ‘Improvement’ section to actually talk about ‘**Inspiration**’ this week. I would like to say an enormous thank you to Kate, our St Stephens’ Kitchen Manager from Chartwells, and all the kitchen teams across the AnDaras schools for working tirelessly to ensure well balanced, nutritional food packages are sourced, packed and ,in many cases, delivered personally to our pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). You are truly inspirational.

I am in touch with Kate most days either via email or telephone and I am humbled by the time and effort she goes to ensure no child in this group goes hungry-she goes above and beyond her work hours. I am delighted to inform you that the Trust has requested that Chartwells continues to provide food care packages for the PPG children after the Easter break. Not only does this recognise their hard work but also means the kitchen staff retain their jobs during this unprecedented time.

I will be sending a text to all parents concerned when the packages can be picked up.

**PLEASE can I ask that you organise for them to be picked up if you are unable to do so as I really can’t ask staff to continue to do this with the most recent self distancing advice.**



So to conclude -quite simply when I am clapping on a Thursday @ 8.p.m Kate and the kitchen team are right up there in my thoughts. From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all the families and children who Chartwells are supporting ...**THANK YOU .**



## Rainbow Challenge

Thank you to everyone who has been painting and creating rainbows to fill our community with a symbol of peace and hope as they often appear when the sun follows a heavy rainfall. They serve to remind us that there is hope and light to follow even after dark times.

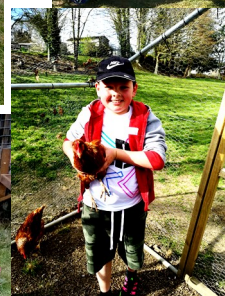
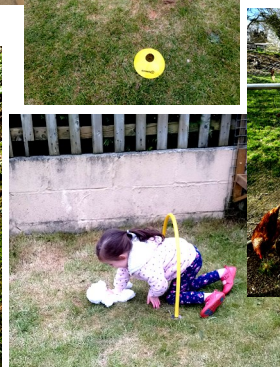
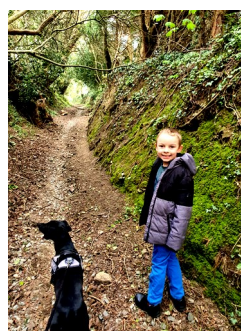
Great work St Stephens.



## A Healthy Body = A Healthy Mind

We have been so impressed by how many ways you and your families have found to keep fit and healthy during your time at home .

From bike rides , gymnastics, making obstacle courses, dancing with mum, running with dad , bouncing on a trampoline to nature walks, table tennis ,dog walking, chicken care and swimming.



Go Team St Stephens! **Inspiring Ambition**

**Transition letter for Year 6 pupils from Mrs Rash (Assistant Principal KS3) at Launceston College.**



**Launceston College**  
A Multi Academy Trust

March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to write to you to reassure you about your child's transition to College in September 2020. We are very much looking forward to them joining us and working with all of you. For now, the way we communicate with you will need to be online and I would urge you and your child to visit the College website where we will start to post transition information and updates to help you prepare.

This term we have been visiting Year 6 students at their primary schools but regrettably some of these visits did not happen due to the closure of the schools. A transcript of the talk I normally give to students is on the website. I hope that you can read this with your child so that they have received the same message as all other students. We will continue to liaise with your child's teachers so that we have all the information we need to be able to make the transition process as smooth as possible.

We will continue to follow our plan for transition as much as possible and should information change then we will ensure you are briefed via the website. Please can you read the key letters on the website and return your thumbprint recognition slip after Easter and complete the online admission form. This is important information that will help us be ready for your child to start in September.

An update will be released about the Summer School in due course, we still hope to be able to run one as it is so useful in helping students to become familiar with the College, meet new friends and key staff.

I sincerely wish you all the very best at this difficult and unprecedented time. Do keep yourself and your child(ren) safe.

Yours sincerely

**M. Rash**  
Assistant Principal KS3 and SENCO

**Jenn Burn**  
Launceston College Principal

**Claire Penfold**  
MAT CEO

**Launceston College**  
Hurdon Road, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 9JR  
Telephone: 01566 772468 Facsimile: 01566 771859  
Email: [enquiries@launcestoncollege.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@launcestoncollege.org.uk)  
Website: [www.launcestoncollege.org.uk](http://www.launcestoncollege.org.uk)

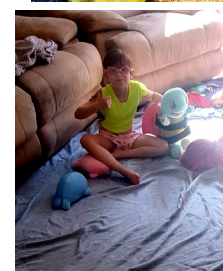
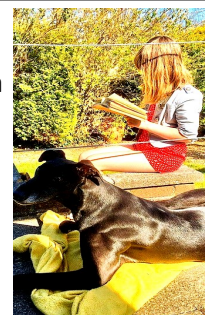
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**Den building**

Lots of photos of great dens being built –such a great place to chill and share a story or read a favourite book. Think about all the books you have read in your life. What is your favourite?

**Reading Challenge:**

**Put your top ten books in order and write a review of your top three. Send your list and reviews in and we will display them in the school library.**



### Royal Academy Art Exhibition

**The Royal Academy of the Arts Young Artists' Summer Show** is still going ahead and they are inviting submissions from all of you until 24 April.

If you are stuck for inspiration, there are some online resources to help get those creative juices flowing. They look forward to receiving your entries. A challenge for all of you... let's see how many entries we can get from St Stephens' children!

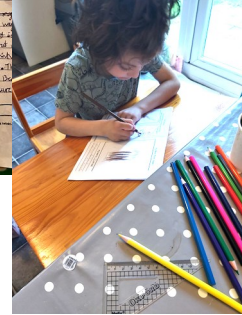
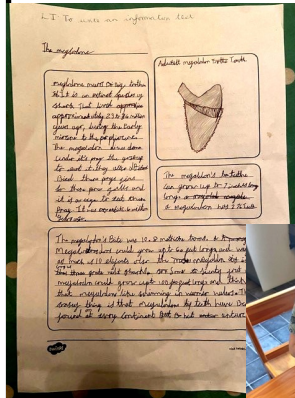
Looking at all the photos of your creative skills I think there could be lots of you out there who would love this.

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



### Love our World we Live In-Embracing Learning

Great to see so much science happening out there everyone. I hope all your beans and sunflowers are growing well. Keep us updated.



### Creativity In Action-Celebrating Individuality

Wow what an amazingly imaginative and creative bunch you are! We have been overwhelmed and overjoyed to see all your amazing talents.

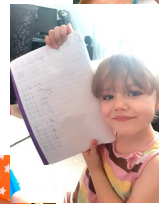
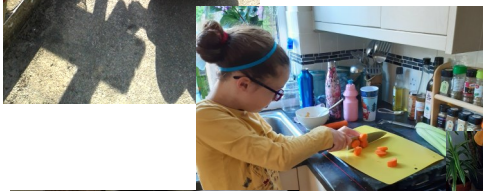
There are definitely some great DIY skills to be seen, some future candidates for the Great British Bake-off, mathematicians, future hairdressers and designers amongst you.

Some of you might be interested in the following link...

**Lego Challenge:** Visit the site and take on a Lego Challenge to test your creative skills over the coming month.

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/lego-challenge-calendar-ideas-kids/>

Why not make a Lego model of your teacher? I'd love to share that on a future newsletter!!



## Life Skills in the ARB



The last remaining pupils in the ARB got busy last week with cooking skills. They started with making banana milkshake, mashing bananas and learning how to use the blender. Later they made chocolate crispy cakes for Easter. They poured cornflakes into melted chocolate and stirred them in. Then they spooned the mixture into cake cases ready to take home for Easter.

I hope they taste as delicious as they look!



### Physical Learning

Before Easter we were incredibly fortunate to have the support from



**Plymouth Argyle and Arena Sports**. Bobby and Michelle organised members of their teams to come and work with the last few remaining children of Critical Key Workers.

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone involved and we hope to be working with you again soon because our children's physical well-being is a key priority to us at St Stephens. **Your support and kindness was very much appreciated by us all.**



Parent Zone has pulled together approved activities that parents and carers can enjoy with their children as they prepare to spend lots of time at home with their families. **'10 ways to safely entertain your children at home' includes:**

- Become an Internet Legend—online activities for the whole family
- Get creative in Minecraft—expert guide for parents/ carers
- Spend some time in Digiworld—interactive curriculum for 5 to 16 year olds and in 13 languages
- Train your kids to spot fake news—parent's guide
- Watch some movie and TV classics— everything you need to know about Netflix and parent 's guide to Amazon Prime

**I suggest you check out their website !**