



An Daras Trust  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

# St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;”

Friday 13th January 2023

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a new year ! Its been great to catch up with so many of you at the gate in the mornings or via emails and telephone conversations over the past two weeks. The children have come back to school with great positivity and I believe 2023 promises to be a productive and exciting one. During the INSET day /non pupil day the teachers had a very informative and interesting day led by a Geography and History specialist. This has given us lots to think about; we shall be working as a team to review our curriculum offer and we'll be trialling some of the ideas. It's so exciting to learn new things and find different ways to share information and teach key skills. We are always looking for new ways to inspire the children –one day they may be a famous historian or geographer –anything is possible and that's what makes our job and partnership with you so worthwhile. Many of the Learning Support Assistants and Pre-School team took part in a First Aid refresher course on the INSET day and several have been undertaking a second day this week to ensure we have the correct ratio of trained paediatric first aiders on the staff . This is mandatory for all those working in an early years setting. I know the teachers have been planning lots of enrichment activities, visits and visitors , for this term and you should all have received the terms Curriculum Overview and Learning Organisers by now. Please keep checking the class blogs and information pages on the website for what the children are doing and don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

*Maura Furber*

## School Improvement

As a school we are constantly striving to ensure diversity, inclusion and equality are an essential part of our daily school life. We are excited that the new books that arrive termly from 'Reading Rocks' promote these key aspects. Its vital our children understand and learn to respect The 9 'Protected Characteristics' . These areas are also covered weekly in our Picture News class sessions that link to the British Values and our UNICEF children's Rights. We shall also be highlighting these characteristics through our weekly whole school assemblies and linking them to our school values.

## The 9 Protected Characteristics

As defined within the Equality Act (2010)



<b>Age</b> This refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds). 	<b>Belief and Non-Belief</b> Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief or Atheism. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition. 	<b>Disability</b> A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. 
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> The process of transitioning from one gender to another. 	<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b> In England and Wales marriage is a union between same sex or opposite sex couples. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act). 	<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding. 
<b>Race</b> Refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, nationality (including citizenship) and ethnic or national origins. 	<b>Sex (Gender)</b> A man or a woman. 	<b>Sexual Orientation</b> A person's attraction towards their own gender, the opposite gender or more than one gender 

For more equalities advice, please get in touch: 029 2036 8888 info@diverseymru.org.uk www.diverseymru.org.uk



### History Brought Back to Life!

In Year 2 we have been learning about The Great Fire of London. In history we learnt all about how the fire started and how it was put out.

In DT we designed, made and evaluated replica houses from 1666.

To end out theme just before Christmas we set them up to made a mini pudding lane and relived the first moments of that fateful night.

The children sang 'London's Burning' as the houses burnt and then commented about how they felt as they watched the fire spread and burn down their houses.



### Watch this 'Space'!!!

Its all about space this half term in Year Five.

We are going to be looking at Earth and the Solar System for science, the space race in guided reading and in these pictures you can see us examining classified documents as the new intake of employees for NASA and the NACA, which is the introduction to our new book for English.

All of this seems quite timely as the first space launch from the UK, which is happening in Cornwall, was attempted on Monday 9th January



### Themed Learning –Stick Man

Year 1 have had a very busy first two weeks back to school! For the first two weeks of the new year, Year 1 have been reading Stick Man for our class story. We have been discussing some of the wonderful vocabulary, 'freezing' our own facial expressions for Stick Man at various points in the story and practising our own, very best, 'story tellers' voices. The children have been experimenting with some brilliant expressions!



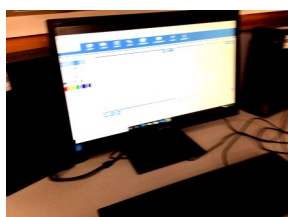
Our current learning theme is 'materials' and we very much enjoyed exploring our school grounds as an introduction to our science based topic. The children were able to describe properties of different materials they could see and feel outside. We were fortunate to find some of the trees which had recently been taken down which meant we could count the rings inside to see how old the trees were. We did some excellent counting! Thirty seven was the highest number of rings we could see. We were also able to discuss the differences in the textures between the outer bark on the tree, the inside of the logs which had been chopped, and the little piece of wood which had been through the chipper. All before selecting our own materials to create our very own stick person!

### Year 3 Computing Skills.

In our computing lessons this term we are focusing on the skills linked to 'Coding' and 'Digital Art'

Coding is the set of instructions we create to communicate with computers. Through coding we're able to make computers perform tasks. Computer coding empowers us to not only consume digital media and technology, but also to create it.

This week we've been creating different shapes, changing icons and the colours of the lines. We have had to really use our school values of Creativity, Problem solving and Communication to solve new challenges.



## UNICEF Rights and Responsibilities

This week in our Key Stage 2 UNICEF Collective Worship all the children sat in their class groups and discussed their 'Rights'. They then had to agree which rights they felt were the most important in their class. Each class has nominated two class member to be part of the 'UNICEF Steering Group'; the Steering Group make sure that the pupils' voice is heard and respected across the school. As you can see from the photographs it was a lively and positive experience with the children confidently involved and willing to have their voice heard. Well done to the Steering Group members who recorded and shared their class' decisions. The chosen 'rights' go alongside the class charters and our whole school 'Rights' Charter. We felt the new year was a perfect opportunity to reconsider what is important to us and what our responsibilities are. The children in our school have the responsibility of being the 'Rights Holders' and all the staff have the responsibility to be the 'Duty Bearers'. The staff are proud to respect, protect and fulfil our children's rights.



Some of the rights that the children discussed which link to the UNICEF Articles are:

Article 28: We have the right to learn and have an education.

Article 12: We have the right to be heard and listened to with respect.

Article 6: We have the right to be treated with kindness.

Article 17: We have the right to get information in lots of ways so long as it is safe (e.g. online)

Article 29: We have the right to use resources that the adults think will help us learn and develop our personalities in the school environment.

Great team work and advocacy Team St Stephens.



# Dates for your



- Half term: 13th –17th February
- Parent/ Carers Meetings: Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th March
- Easter holiday : 3rd April –14th April .
- Start of Summer Term: 17th April.
- Bank Holiday for King's Coronation: 8th May
- KS2 SATs: 9th-12th May
- KS1 SATs: Completed at some point between 1 May 2023 and 31 May 2023.

## Community involvement - Safety First!

This week Year F and Class 7 were visited by PSCO Sarah Ross.

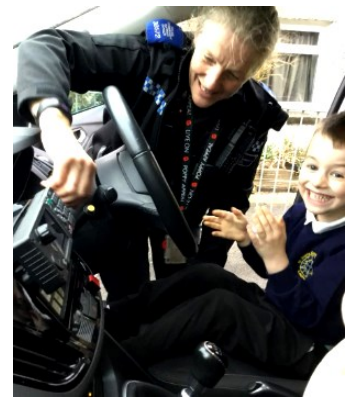
We talked about:

- how to keep ourselves safe when out and about in Launceston
- who a stranger is, but then also who are strangers we can trust (e.g. police officers, fire fighters, adults who work in shops such as Tesco).
- what to do if we get lost when in town
- how to walk by roads safety
- how to cross roads safety
- how to make a 999 call, and the importance of knowing our address



We also got to see what is kept in the boot of a police car and were excited to have a chance to sit in the police car and press the buttons to make the lights and sirens work.

Many thanks for PSCO Sarah Ross for coming in and talking to us about keeping ourselves safe.



## Collaborative Outside Learning in Year 6



In our outdoor learning we had to work collaboratively and communicate clearly with each other to form a circle: we used our learning on the properties of a circle to help us to ensure that the radius was the same.



We then investigated some polygons : quadrilaterals and triangles working in our groups. We were able to revise our learning on internal angles, measuring angles with a protractor and the vocabulary of 2d shape.

## Real Superheroes

Our new topic this term in Pre-School s Real Superheroes. We will be learning about people who can help us in an emergency and each day.

We started by drawing a picture of our favourite Superheroes- some are real, some are from stories.

We talked about why they were important to us.

"He is kind."

"She makes me feel better"

"He goes to work"

He is "fast" and "climbs"

"...looks after me"

"Mummy helps people get better"



## Going for Gold



What a perfect way to end the first couple of weeks back, sharing my lunch with an amazing group of children on the 'Going for Gold ' table. Last week the children were selected by the staff for showing our school value of 'Determination' and to acknowledge that they continually demonstrate our 4 school 'Learning Powers'; Resilience, Reciprocity, Reflectiveness and Resourcefulness. This week we have been thinking about our school value of 'Advocacy' and being kind ,treating everyone equally and speaking up for what we believe is right.



We are so proud of their achievements and we know they are very proud of themselves too. Great job everyone.

There are also some photographs of the 'gold table' children before Christmas .



### Why was Boudica a threat to the Romans?

This term we are learning about the Romans in Year 4. This week we discussed why Boudica was a threat to the Romans. We read historical facts about Boudica and what happened to make her dislike the Romans. We then looked at pictures of the Roman Army and the Celtic Army and decided who we thought would win and why. We then stood next to the Army we thought would win. Most of Year 4 thought that the Celts would win because they had 200,000 in their army whereas the Romans had 10,000.



At the end of the lesson we discovered that actually the Romans won and stayed in Britain for another 350 years!

We have also enjoyed being creative for our homework and have created our own shields.



the orchard centre  
**PRESENTS**  
**ORCHARD YOUTH.**

**WE ARE STARTING A NEW  
YEAR 6 YOUTH CLUB WHICH  
WILL BE ON A WEDNESDAY  
4.30-6.00 AND ARE  
HAVING AN OPEN DAY.  
MEET THE TEAM, TELL US  
WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
DO.....**

**COME AND SEE US ON SATURDAY  
28TH JANUARY 10-12**

## The Progression Centre– Plymouth Argyle Community Trust

The sessions are a brilliant starting point for children who are interested in getting involved in the world of football and with the help of our experienced coaches we will help them to learn lots of new skills while making sure its a fun and engaging environment to learn in!

Booking Link: [Book ECND3 - Launceston Progression Centre from Argyle Community Trust \(officialsoccerschools.co.uk\)](https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk)



ARGYLE  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST

# PROGRESSION CENTRES

### **Launceston Community College 3G**

Mondays (term time only)  
Ages 4 to 11 17:00 - 18:00  
Jacob.Fahy@pafc.co.uk

### **Saltmill Park 3G , Saltash**

Fridays (term time only)  
Girls Only 17:00 - 18:00  
Joshua.Chalk@pafc.co.uk  
Progression 17:00 - 18:00  
Jacob.Fahy@pafc.co.uk



[argylecommunitytrust.co.uk](https://argylecommunitytrust.co.uk)

# LEARN. PLAY. SUCCEED