



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition;”

Friday 2nd December 2022

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers,

December is here and so the word Christmas is officially allowed!!! The KS1 and Foundation children are getting very excited about their Nativity play “Dear Ewe” next week (6th and 7th December @9.30) The KS2 children are also starting to write their readings and practice their Christmas songs .**Don’t forget the KS2 Carol Service is at St Stephens Church on Tuesday 13th December @ 1.30 p.m. Everyone welcome –the more the merrier– and then the PTFA**

invite you to join them in the school hall for mince pies and a cuppa. Thank you in advance to the Governors who are also able to help at this event. Another date for your diary is **Christmas Jumper Day this will be held on Wednesday 14th December** to coincide with our **Christmas Lunch day. All donations will be made towards our PTFA who are funding a ‘Magic Martin’ day on the 15th December that ALL the children will attend.** Thank you in advance for anything you can afford to give.

As you will see from the newsletter lots of things have happened in the last few weeks; sporting events , celebrations in class, visits from other teachers to watch quality first teaching and learning alongside our full curriculum.

The next newsletter will be on the last day of the Autumn term Friday 16th December.

Kind regards and thank you for your support as always.

Maura Furber

School Improvement



We have recently had our early reading and phonics teaching monitored by the Trust and an information gathering session with our Curriculum Governor, Martin Cornish. We are incredibly proud of this aspect of our curriculum and believe it is a strength in the school .

We follow a phonics programme called Read Write Inc (RWInc). We cannot over emphasise the importance of your support with reading at home and enjoying books together. Thank

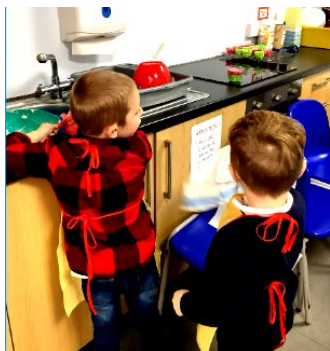
you for your ongoing support with this key life skill. If you have any questions about ways to help or if you have some time to spare to come in and share books/ help read with the children please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher. **Some main points from our monitoring visit were:**

- ◆ Staff have received RWInc training, and ongoing professional development/ coaching, so they are up to date with the programme. As a result, group leaders are highly skilled reading teachers.
- ◆ The pace of all lessons visited was very efficient. All staff knew the programme well and children were clear of expectations, which were consistent throughout.
- ◆ The RWInc portal plays an important role in the teaching of phonics in the school. The children were seen to be accessing the virtual classroom. Leaders report that this resource is playing a key role in the teaching of reading.
- ◆ Following the RWInc programme ensures that children are learning to read decodable books which match the sounds that they have been taught.
- ◆ Leaders have ensured consistency throughout the school through the phonics resources available in each classroom. Teachers use RWInc strategies with the children to support other areas of the curriculum.



Ben the Bear's Birthday

We had a note from the 'Message Monster' last week to let us know that it was his friend 'Ben's' birthday today. We have been busy preparing for a party ever since!

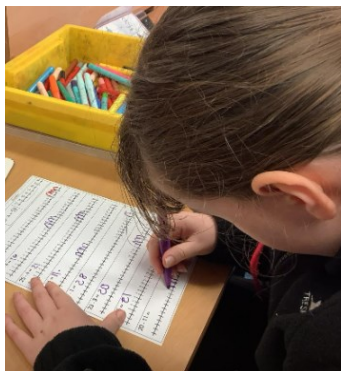


This week we baked and decorated party cakes, opened all the cards we had written, played pass the parcel (which Ben had gifted to us) and sang happy birthday to Ben before all sitting together and eating the cakes we had made.



We LOVE Numbers

In class 7 we like to count. We love to find numbers and learn about them. We have lots of favourite number songs that we like to sing. We can order numbers, we can use different objects to help us show numbers in different ways. We are learning how to find numbers that are bigger or smaller. We are making number puzzles and matching amounts with digits. We are also learning how to write numbers.



Going for Gold Lunchtime

As mentioned previously one child from each class will be chosen to share their lunch with Mrs Furber on a Friday. They will be chosen because they demonstrate our School Values and school UNICEF expectations on a daily basis. We recognise, notice and celebrate those children that demonstrate their best endeavours every day.



"Here are some photos of the most recent pupils from across the school who I have had the delight and privilege to share my lunch with." Mrs. Furber

Investigating Friction in Science

Year 5 have been investigating friction between surfaces.

We used force meters to measure the difference in force (in Newtons) needed to move a 500 gram mass across different surfaces.



Arena AnDaras Football Tournament

This week we were delighted to host a football tournament for some of the AnDaras schools. With the World Cup the topic on so many lips at the moment it was fantastic to offer the children across the Trust this opportunity to try and replicate their heroes and heroines.

Both our Boys football team and our St Stephens' Lionesses had the opportunity to practice and hone their skills in some very close matches.

All the children worked brilliantly together and were a real credit to their schools.

A HUGE thank you to Mr. Houghton for warming up both teams and 'managing' the boys and Mrs.

Furber for cheering on the Lionesses. Thank you also to those who were able to come along and support the teams. We are immensely proud of your teamwork, sportsmanship and ability to kick a ball in the dark!



Launceston College Football Training and Tournament

We were delighted to send a football squad to a football tournament held last week at Launceston College. In the morning the team joined eight other teams from the local area for football skills and training. In the afternoon matches were held. Thank you to Mrs. Bye for accompanying the team. She said they all demonstrated great sportsmanship, team work and determination. After several close matches Team St Stephens came 6th overall. A great effort by everyone and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Mrs. Bye has requested a special mention for Lucas in goal, who made many great saves.

Great job everyone.



SPOT THE BALL

The PTFA are running a 'Spot the Ball' competition from Monday 21st November until Thursday 1st December

Come find us in the playground at pick up time and choose the square where you think the ball is £1 a go.

The winning square wins a XGODY TABLET!

Winner will be announced on Friday 2nd December during assembly.

World Music Workshops.

What an exciting opportunity Ms. Gilbert is organising. Once we know how many people are interested in joining the music workshops, she will confirm the dates and times.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU!

STARTING SOON ...

WORLD MUSIC WORKSHOPS :

2 Saturday mornings out of 4

At Stephens Family Hub 10am – 1pm

- Free
- All ages
- Food and drink
- Create art and music – suitable for beginners to experienced
- Learn about cultures around the world

Text Kari : 07526-230-293

or email : kgilbert@andaras.org

or contact the school office.

Ms Gilbert will confirm the start date once we have an idea of numbers.

Healthy Movers Family Workshop

Our Pre-school children are lucky to have a P.E. session planned twice a week following the Healthy Movers program. We were delighted to welcome Mel today to lead a 'stay and play' session and talk to parents about the program and why it's so important.

The Healthy Movers program is designed to support two to five-year-old's physical literacy, development and wellbeing, helping them gain a better start in life. The program is delivered through resources and training for practitioners in early years settings.



Our children received a free back-pack and resources so that families can continue the activities at home. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us today it was great to see you all having fun keeping fit with the children.

Year 1 Climate Curriculum—what is the impact ?

For part of our climate curriculum, we have been learning about the difference between temperature and climate. To learn about the earth getting warmer, Year 1 had to wrap each other in blankets so we could feel the effects.

Here are some of the things that the children have said:

'We were learning about the earth getting warmer.'

'The ice will melt if it is too warm.'

'We wrapped up in lots of blankets to feel ourselves getting warmer like the earth.'



'It is getting hotter and hotter from the sun.'

'There should be snow and ice in the South Pole - we don't want it all to melt!'



Our Reading for Pleasure Assemblies

Mrs Lumby read 'Oh me, oh my, a pie!' By Jan Fearnley to KS1 this week. She chose this book after accidentally coming across it in the school library when one of the Year F children chose it on library visit. It has superb language throughout (greedy eyes, devour, his red tail flowing, tumbled down, scurried, scampered, snatched, haste, bickered) and it has rhyming couplets. It has a great moral to the story about sharing. It is about a nice old grandma who baked a pie. 'It smelled so good – oh me, oh my! But, dear oh dear, I have to say...that pie was stolen clean away.

Everyone wants Grandma's pie all to themselves – what a greedy lot! Will they ever learn to share?'



Last week Miss Callcutt read 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. This is currently the class read for Year 6. Miss Callcutt knew how much Year 6 are enthralled by the book and wanted to share it with the rest of KS2. It is an absorbing animal adventure with the theme of climate change and the plight of endangered species running through it. This links really well with our whole school focus on our 'Climate Curriculum'. The Last Bear revolves around April, the daughter of an Arctic researcher, and her chance encounter with a lone polar bear. What could be more exciting than galloping on a polar bear!?

STEM - Suitability of Materials

In Science, Year 2 have been focusing on the objectives -

- ◆ To identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.
- ◆ To find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

To support this learning they undertook a STEM investigation. They had to create a boat that floated using a select number of materials that they were given. There were also house points up for grabs for the children who made the boat that held the most weight.

This also helped the children to work on their learning powers of reciprocity and resourcefulness, as well as the capabilities of communication and teamwork.



Christmas JUMPER DAY



Christmas Jumper day will take place on Wednesday 14th December– this is the same day as our school Christmas Lunch .

We ask for a donation of anything you can afford. All money raised will go to our PTFA for enrichment activities for the children in our school.

Thank you in advance

ST MARY'S CHURCH



LAUNCESTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

December 3rd to 11th

10am - 4pm

THE FESTIVAL WILL BE OPENED
BY THE MAYOR ON FRIDAY 2ND DEC AT 7pm
WITH ST MARY'S CHOIR SINGING CAROLS



Refreshments

Free Entry