



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

St Stephens Community Academy Fortnightly Family Newsletter



“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”

Friday 12th February 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Mrs. Maura Furber -Headteacher

Gosh where did that half term go? I know some days have felt longer than others for us all, but goodness I can't believe six weeks have passed since we closed the school for this current lockdown. That said, I know the staff and I are ready to stop, breathe and relax for a short time with our own families and a few duvet days with movies and hot chocolate are in order before our planning and preparations start again ready for the next half term. I'm sure you feel just the same! We are so aware that this lockdown has been very different to the first one. Not only has the weather not been so kind to us but the Government expectation on schools, parents and children has been incredibly different. We do appreciate how challenging this time is for so many of you, it is for us also. However as usual Team St Stephens is doing an amazing job - together we will ensure our wonderful children have the best provision we can provide. Thank you to all of you who filled in the online survey regarding our remote learning provision, please see section below for further details.

I hope you and your families have a safe and relaxing time together next week, making new special memories together. Once I know any further information regarding the whole school re-opening I will obviously be in touch. Thank you for your kindness and continued support during these very unusual times, the staff and I couldn't do it without you. Take care and stay safe.

Maura Furber

School Improvement- Home Learning Survey



Firstly, a huge thank you to all of you who managed to complete the online form and share your views and offer suggestions about what we can do to improve the home learning provision. All ideas and opinions are taken seriously by the team and we discuss them in our 'remote' staff meetings.

We are going to try and develop the provision that the majority have considered very beneficial and work on the areas that can be improved. I will address individual areas in a report to follow for the school governors and CEO.

What is good to report now though, is that the majority feel their child has been well supported, the school has been providing a good range of subjects, the teachers respond to queries within a reasonable timeframe and provide feedback to help your child make progress. Also the vast majority of you feel the school still expects the children to do their best and they receive the right amount of work.

We would also like to say we are very humbled by the amazingly positive feedback and support that has been given to the school, it is good for all of us to be appreciated especially when working in such a 'different' way. We would also like you to know we too find this 'new normal' tricky; juggling a family, work commitments, childcare, computer issues, external expectations and professional pressures before we even think about the daily news reports and the impact of this pandemic on our personal lives, is no mean feat.

We applaud you for everything you are doing to teach and support your child and family in this challenging time and our thanks is genuine.

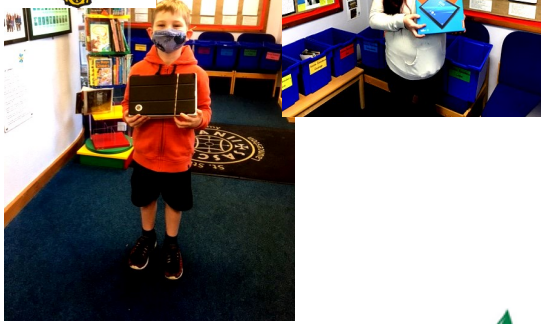
Please rest assured that we will keep refining and adapting our offer to ensure we do the very best for our pupils and you, whilst maintaining the work/life balance for us all. Everything crossed that soon all the children will be able to return to school -we will keep you informed as soon as we hear anything.

“ Embracing Learning; Inspiring Ambition; Celebrating Individuality.”





More



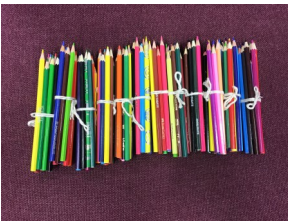
Community Support

happy faces as the Lions Club donate further devices for our school community to use to support their home learning. This wonderful project made the front page of the Cornish and Devon Post last week and has been taken on by Lions Clubs all over the world.

Kindness in Action.



A **HUGE** thank you also goes to our wonderful friends at **Launceston Foodbank**. They support us and our families throughout the year . I was delighted to meet with Yvonne King, Project Manager, last week and accept some stationary to share with families for home learning and some tea, coffee and biscuits to keep all the staff going! **MUCH** appreciated.



ALSO a very big thank you to the kind parent that donated colouring pencils for those children who need them to complete their art homework. Such a thoughtful and greatly appreciated gesture.

Science in Pre School

Our preschool garden was frozen today, we took the opportunity to explore how ice changes its form as it melts.

We used spoons to break it up.



We observed how the ice pieces got smaller as they transformed back into water. Lola- 'Its disappearing, we only have water'.

What will your skeleton key unlock?

Great story writing by Hayden and James and
book reviews by Zac and Leo

As I stepped into the open door, my whole body was pulled up, I tried to put my feet on the ground but I couldn't. I kept being pulled in every direction, my body felt calm but my mind was blown away by the unimaginable world before me, a world with no gravity.

As I looked around I could see a variety of uniquely sized objects, nothing was as it should be: a pizza the size of a blanket, a cup of tea made for a mouse, a Rubix cube dauntingly swooshing above my head.

The Rubix cube hit a wall and launched straight towards me so I clung onto the groove in between the squares and flew higher towards some dense, deep fog. The fog blinded me, so I pushed off the Rubix cube to try to escape but I failed. In the distance I could see something red so I pushed my hand out to try and grab it. As I got closer I saw a huge red button and I decided to push it. I put all my body into it and after some time, I managed to activate it. As soon as I did the fog cleared and everything dropped.

I saw the ground growing closer and started to panic and then I saw the giant pizza flying towards me. I landed on it and it flew me away like a magic carpet, until I hit the ground. I managed to survive.

I took sigh of relief and dashed towards the door and used the pizza as a ramp to escape. As I left I realise I haven't eaten in days so I grabbed the pizza and took it with me.



What fabulous English work has been happening in school and at home by our Year 6 children. Here are just a few examples.



Last night, while Jack was digging in the very dirty vegetable garden he found a dirty, metal object. Jack was intrigued to find out what he had found so he went straight inside to give it a clean. He cleaned the object carefully and found that he had found a small silver key. One end was round and smooth and the other end was very long and bumpy. He knew straight away what this key was for. The basement door that he had not been able to open since moving into the house.

This morning, Jack woke up extremely, excited. He ran to the basement door - a big brown carved wooden door. Circular in shape with a golden lock. Jack put the key in the door and the door flung open so quickly it scared him. As he walked through the door he was excited to see golden sand and the sun beaming down at him, in the distance surrounded by a haze from the heat he could see small, black buildings. He was startled as a cold hand touched his shoulder, he slowly looked behind him and was surprised as a big, black machine was behind him with small people controlling it. He trembled in fear sweat dripped from his forehead, his hand began to shake.

In a very quiet voice he said hello my name is Jack! The cold hand slowly moved off his shoulder and the front of the machine slowly squeaked open. He could see 3 people in the machine sat in bright red chairs. 2 boys and one girl. The boy with short white hair began to speak. In a deep voice he said Hello welcome to **Robotville**.



BOOK REVIEW

HOROWITZ HORROR SHORT STORIES A CAREER IN COMPUTER GAMES

Author: Anthony Horowitz

Kevin has just left school (with no qualifications); he is a 16 year old boy, who has no interest in life apart from gaming. He doesn't have much to do with his family and he steals money and things to sell so he can play arcade games. While out walking, he glimpses an advert that is offering lots of money and a bonus in a career of gaming. What more could he want in a job? Although the interview was held in a strange looking building, that made him feel uncomfortable, he still was determined to go in for the interview. Having been given the job, Kevin was walking back to his Dad's house in happy mood when a suited man approached him pulling out a gun and shooting at him. What trouble had Kevin found himself in?...

The pace of the writing made my heart beat faster while I thought about what might happen next to Kevin. The author described the scenes well so I could imagine where Kevin was.

I think this book is suitable for children 12 years and older because many children might be frightened of men shooting at them. However the story is exciting and intriguing, as the author has written it in a way to make you want to keep turning the pages and find out what happens next. I would rate this book 7/10.

Here is a link to find out more about Horowitz Horror stories.
[link](#)

My book review on A Career in Computer games

(Zachary Perrin)
(Age 10)

I've given the book 4 stars because I loved it. I didn't give the book 5 because I haven't finished reading it.

AUTHOR: Anthony Horowitz

Genre: Horror!!...

A short story in a book of 9 different stories. A boy named Kevin. Main character has left school without any qualifications because he hated school and was obsessed with his computer games. He sees a job interview and wonders "is this the job for me?"

In my opinion this book would be suitable for ages 11 to 15 because there are weapons and in some parts it's scary.

Dear Diary,

Yesterday I was rummaging through a scrapyard for a few hours not finding anything until a dark, wooden box caught my eye. I went over and from a glance at it I knew it was something amazing. I brought it home, put it in my room then had dinner. Eating as fast as I could, I thought what the mysterious box could be. When I finished my meal, I brushed my teeth and ran upstairs as fast as I could to unleash the secrets of the box. When I saw it, a chill went down my spine but there was no backing out now. As I opened it I held my breath hoping there wasn't something like a spider in there. When it opened, I jumped back and almost screamed... A mask looking object was in there so I took it out and put it on. Nothing happened but then I saw 3 black shiny disks that could fit perfectly on the contraption. I put 1 on and clicked a button on the side then right in front of my eyes I could see a sunset that looked like the sky was pouring with blood, a bolt of lightning stabbing the deep, black sea. I put it down and fell into a dark, scary sleep. When I woke up I thought there was another presence in the room. I could not stop thinking about it so I decided to put it back where I found it (in the scrapyard) until I found it on by my bed staring at me...



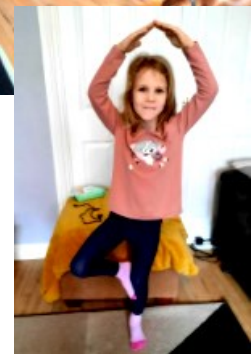
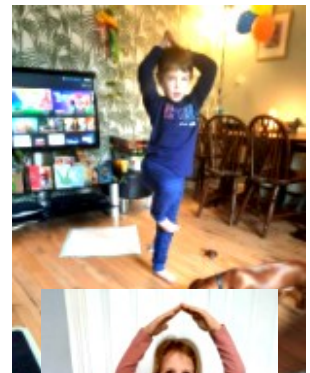
Class 7 -People Who Help Us Becoming Builders

This week we have been learning about all the important things that builders can do and make and how this helps us.



We designed our own houses and built buildings with different materials, testing to see which were strongest and the best way to fix bricks together. We also tried to build with wet and dry sand. Wet sand worked much better, the dry sand wouldn't stay where we put it!

Children's Mental Health Week



Last week, Year 1's learning has been based around a variety of stories to promote Children's Mental Health Week. Our books have included; 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llamas, 'Ruby's Worry' by Tom Percival, 'I am Yoga' by Susan Verde and 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds.

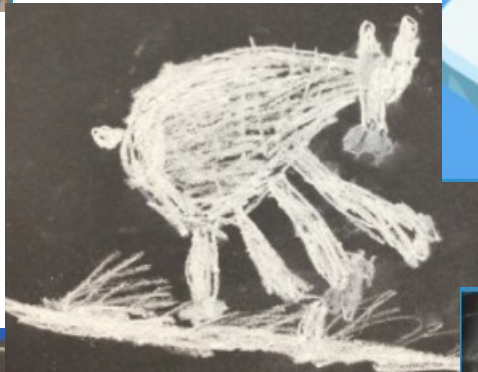


Here is some of our amazing dot inspired artwork that we produced during one of our live lessons and a selection of our favourite yoga balances.



Our Living World

In Year 3 and Year 4 we have been looking at the poem 'Polar Bear'. We have used this poem across our learning, exploring the language in English, creating pictures using chalk in art and creating posters to raise awareness of the polar bear as an endangered species.



Year 5 - A selection of wonderful Home Learning .

1. To plan and write the second part of an enquiry report

Phrase - Group of words without a verb
Clause - Group of words that contain a verb

1. phrase ✓
 2. clause ✓
 3. phrase ✓
 4. clause ✓

Simple - One main clause
Compound - two main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction - **FANBOYS**
Complex - One subordinate clause & one main clause

1. compound ✓
 2. complex ✓
 3. simple ✓



Pinter, Teddy lion and rose, violet.

All about pinter



Pinter is one of the Male rabbits out of the 3 of them also known as a Buck. He is an orange butterfly minnie top right now he is 4 months old he is the same age as teddy as well he has 1 brother and were hoping to breed him with rose. He loves a cuddle with us he stays very still never go to far from us he prefers to be close to me and my brothers so he doesn't get hurt. Pinter's owners are Joseph and my mum.

All about Teddy

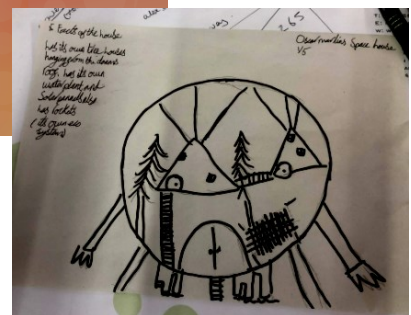
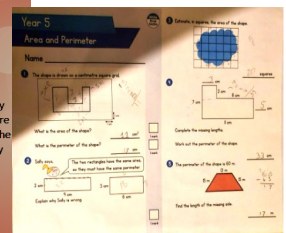


Teddy is a black hairly quene he is 4 months old and the Brother of Pinter. He is a Male rabbit as known as a Buck. A Minnie top he has 1 brother and we hoping to breed him with Violet .he has cuddles but not to much or he may bite or scratch you. He never will go because he pears to watch the girls. Now he is humping the girls but mostly Violet we have had one exempted we did not have a exempt from her. We now have had 13 baby.

All about lion



Lion is are Linohead minitop he is a white point. Lino



Early Help Newsletter | Spring 2021

Parenting Update

Online Parenting Support

We are continuing to support parents and carers and offer interactive parenting courses online. We are reviewing all groups continually within the guidance to ensure we are offering a full service to parents in the safest way.

Service requests are made through the Early Help Hub.

www.cornwall.gov.uk/earlyhelphub

The courses available are:

- Being Passionate About Parenting - Early Years 1 - 3 years
- Being Passionate About Parenting 4 -11 years
- Being Passionate About Parenting with a basic introduction and an awareness to ADHD 5 – 11 years
- Being Passionate About Parenting with a basic introduction and awareness about the "Spectrum" 5 – 11 years
- Being Passionate About Parenting – The Teenage Brain 12 -17 years
- Take 3 – Supporting Teenagers 12 – 17 years
- Incredible Years – sessions include Understanding behaviour and discussing positive strategies, promoting self-esteem, developing routines, problem solving, looking at communication and strengthening parent /child interactions. At present Incredible Years is delivered for Parents/ Carers of children 3 to 5 years and 6 to 11 years.

Family Work

Early Help Family Workers provide support for families with children aged pre-birth - 12 years with their consent.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/early-help/parents/>

Home-Start Kernow Groups

With the new lockdown, we understand that families might be under further stress at home and have expanded our groups to include Under 8's now at home due to the restrictions.

We continue to offer a Baby, Toddler and Twins and Multiples group, as well as a Parent-to-Parent support groups for families in Cornwall.

The sessions are usually 1 hour each and run for 6 weeks, using Zoom.

If you would like a referral form and any further details, please get in touch or visit our website -

<http://homestartkernow.org.uk>

Parent Advice Line

Do you need some support and advice to understand your child's needs and behaviour?

- Advice on positive parenting
- To understand the importance of routines for your family

Follow the below link to find the relevant contact details for your local area.

<https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/service.page?id=IVXuaOkj1Mg>



Youth Work

Early Help Targeted Youth Workers provide support for young people (aged 13-18 years) with their consent.

For more information please see below:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/early-help/parents/>

Family Information Service and Parenting Podcasts

For useful parenting information please access the Family Information Service website (search understanding feelings and emotions) and Parenting Podcasts – (search Podcasts)

www.supportincornwall.org.uk

Solihull Parenting

As well as a range of free courses The Solihull Approach have released a NEW online course for TEENS: 'Understanding your brain' (this programme is for teenager's) We think they will find it fascinating!

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/childrens-community-health/free-online-parenting-courses-the-solihull-approach/>



Bump to Baby

An ante-natal course – all presentations are available to watch here

<https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/advice.page?id=3eUP45FLH3I>

Parent Support Pages

[Emotional Resilience for Parents and Carers - Cornwall Council](https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/advice.page?id=3eUP45FLH3I)

The page is updated weekly to include relevant content to help Parents/carers and child/ren. It is full of ideas and resources and links to many useful websites, blogs and podcasts.

