

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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I would like to say how proud of the X Country children we are. The conditions in which they ran last week were dreadful and yet they all returned smiling and enjoying the layers of mud in which they were covered! Mrs Rowe and Mrs Nowlan were so proud of how they ran and their team spirit in helping each other. Well done X Country runners and thanks to the parents who help by transporting. We also welcomed the donkeys from Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary into school on Thursday. As the school have sponsored some donkeys - or rather Mrs B Jones has sponsored two donkeys for the school, we were allowed a visit to meet Pooh and Eeyore and for the children to learn about how to care for them. The children loved meeting them and they settled well on to the playground, so much so, the donkeys didn't want to leave! Thank you Mrs Jones for giving the school such a lovely gift. Some of our pupils will take part in a six week donkey therapy program over the next few terms. I spent a fascinating morning at Saltash Community School on Wednesday. As part of the ongoing collaboration with our partner primaries we are working closely with the secondary to ensure transition is the best it can be and that children who move into Year 7 are continuing to make progress from the standards they reach in Year 6. I was impressed with how much work has already been done to ensure the school takes account of the enhanced primary curriculum and how willing the school are to ensure pupils are getting the best they can. The children we met were behaving well and spoke very eloquently about their learning. I very much look forward to the collaboration continuing. One of the things the Year 7 children suggested was that in the summer term in Year 6 we start using the Saltash Community School classroom behaviour system so they don't have to worry they will make a mistake. They also wanted more time to get to know children from other schools locally so the Heads we collaborate with (Burraton and Sir Robert Geffery), have agreed to sort some joint days in the summer term for children from our three schools. It really was very useful for all of us. I am so delighted that at last the MUGA is completed! I cannot believe how long it has taken to overcome all the obstacles and am left very disillusioned with the construction profession but we can now use this space as we intended. From next week, wet lunchtimes and cancelled PE lessons will no longer be such a big problem for our school. Once I have recovered from the stress of this project, I will look at the planning appeal and how we can extend the use to the community. Thank you to the parents who have supported us in not coming into school in the mornings. It really has made a difference to the teachers. They really do want to be able to communicate with parents but the mornings are just so time precious that it is impossible. Teachers are available at the end of the day or via email or through the office at any time. They do respond to emails or calls as quickly as they can. It really does help us all to keep the buildings clear in the mornings. Also please note the dates for parent consultations and reports which do go out this term; hopefully just after half term so you will have a clear picture of where your child is and a time to catch up with the teachers. Lastly, a very warm welcome to the student teachers who have joined us in KS1 - we hope they enjoy their placement with us and we are delighted that they are here.



We are hugely proud of our X Country team, who last Friday completed in absolutely atrocious conditions at Cotehele. Despite battling through an ocean of mud, they all arrived at the finish still smiling, but very wet and muddy. The children achieved some impressive placings, with Merryn H and Jago W finishing in 14th and 10th place respectively to name but two. A huge well done to all of them, we are extremely proud of you. For your information, letters have gone out for the next race on the calendar, to be held at Lanhydrock next Friday, 1st February.

Dates for your diary

- 30 January**
London Trip to Houses of Parliament
- 4 February**
Year 2 Trip to Torquay's Dinosaur World
- 5 February**
Year 5/6 Trip to Dartmoor Zoo
- 6 February**
EYFS Brighter Smiles information session
2.45pm-3.30pm
- 8 February**
Year 1 Trip to Torquay's Dinosaur World
Infants School Disco
5.30pm-6.30pm
Juniors School Disco
7.00pm-8.00pm
- 13-14 February**
Year 3/4 Residential Trip to Eden Project
- 14 February**
First fluoride application for EYFS children
- 15 February**
INSET Day
(No school for pupils)
- 18 - 22 February**
Half Term
- 25 February**
First day back for all
- 26 February**
EYFS Open Morning
9.00am-10.00am
- 7 March**
World Book Day
- 12-13 March**
Years 1-6 Parent Consultations
1.00pm-6.30pm
- 13 March**
EYFS Parent Consultations
1.30pm-6.30pm
- 15 March**
Wear something red for Red Nose Day
- 22 March**
Quiz Night (TBC)
- 25 March**
Year 3/4 Show Dress Rehearsal
1.30pm-2.30pm
- 27 March**
Year 3/4 Show
2.00pm-3.00pm
- 28 March**
Year 3/4 Show
6.00pm-7.00pm
- 5 April**
Last Day of Term before Easter Holidays

'Excellence is in Everyone'



William M. of Nursery for his brilliant name writing!

Oscar M. of Nursery for his excellent counting in to a tens frame!

Layla-Lou P. of F AM for persevering with her letter formation.

Amelie D. of F AM for writing excellent sentences.

Finley C. of F CW for his excellent story map.

Ted H. of F CW for excellent fred talk fingers!

Henry C. of 1/2 AP for hard work in Maths, using his arrays to support his answers.

Megan W. of 1/2 AP for hard work in Phonics.

George C. of 1/2 NB for improving his letter formation and presentation in his learning.

Freya C. of 1/2 NB for persevering with her writing and being proud of her learning.

James C. of 1/2 CB for writing super sentences in RE when writing about Jesus's Disciples.

Arthur H. of 1/2 CB for making links in his learning when using his number bonds to 10 and 20.

Noah H. of 1/2 SK for being an excellent role model when listening to others and sharing ideas.

Poppy J. of 1/2 SK for excellent progress in Maths and having a go at more challenges.

Jake H. of 3/4 SH for amazing perseverance and resilience in all of his learning, especially with his handwriting.

Daisy J. of 3/4 SH for a fantastic attitude to all of her learning.

Henry F. of 3/4 PH for his incredibly thorough theme learning this week.

Chloe C. of 3/4 PH for her excellent reasoning and problem-solving in Maths this week.

Eli B. of 3/4 TB for great collaborative learning leading to super progress.

Jack L. of 3/4 TB for great collaborative learning and a super attitude to his learning.

Leon B. of 5/6 LM for a lovely piece of writing about the person who inspires him - his mum.

Liam W. of 5/6 LM for excellent improvement in reading.

Adam B. of 5/6 GP for always concentrating and focusing on his learning.

Poppy W. of 5/6 GP for working really hard at her Maths.

Ella G. of 5/6 VJ for being an excellent teacher of computing skills.

Bethany M. of 5/6 VJ for persevering when learning gets hard and detailed home learning.

Foundation and Nursery were very lucky to have a lovely visit from Katherine the nurse. She told us all about her job and even showed us how to do a bandage properly! The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing about her job and having their questions answered. The role play doctors surgery in Foundation has been fully booked ever since!

The children were very chilled out at Yoga Club this week and were practising some amazing poses. They are all developing excellent stamina with their poses and control over their breathing! Well done everybody!

DEBT POLICY REMINDER

All bookings for Friendship Time and lunch must be paid for in advance or the booking(s) will be cancelled.



I received a lovely email from Kate Mitchell at Asheborough House, as follows - "I am writing to express our appreciation for the children from St Stephens choir visiting Asheborough House Care Centre just before Christmas and singing to our residents. They sang beautifully and all showed great maturity in how they interacted with a large group of people with advanced dementia. I am very aware that this must have been intimidating to some children and out of the comfort zone of most of them, however, their behaviour was faultless. They were a credit to Miss Hall and, I believe, a great reflection of the culture set at St Stephens School. We very much look forward to further visits from the Choir."

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Nursery. We have been overwhelmed by the donations of toys, books, clothes and furniture. The children are having a fabulous time with all of their resources. If you have a child who is three and you would like them to join the Nursery, please contact Mrs Crowley and come along for a visit.

Monty is getting very big and needs a new crate for school. If anyone has one that we can borrow, please see Mrs Crowley or leave your details at the school office. Many thanks!

Help be a 'Fun-raiser' with **Red Nose Day** this year, on Friday, 15th March. Wear something **red** for a £1 donation.



We are advertising for LSAs at present. The expanding pupil numbers mean we will need additional staff for next year. If you know of any excellent LSAs, please do tell them to get in touch with us.

Glennie, our school crossing patrol is continuing to do a phased return, so please be extra careful if there is no person covering the walk to and from school. Thank you

There have been a few cases of chicken pox in the school. Advice states that children should be absent until well enough to return. If unsure, please see your child's class teacher.

If you require this information in a different language or format, please contact the school office.