

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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This week we spent Thursday interviewing for a new teacher to join our team in September. We did find it really hard as there were so many good candidates. However, we have appointed Miss Hardacre. I have to say it was a real pleasure to watch the teachers do their interviews and lessons, not because of the teachers but because of our children. They were so responsive and showed how much they can do. They really did demonstrate a high level of knowledge and achievement and all the candidates commented on how surprised they were at the outcomes our children produced. They also gave really insightful feedback on how they felt the lessons had gone, they were very accurate and the children's opinions matched the interview panel very closely. We also welcomed Mrs Cheney our new SENDCo into school and she will be back next week and will be getting to know systems and processes.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the staff from Burraton for a joint training session. I'm sure you have noticed the huge focus there is at present on children's mental health and so we were focusing on becoming a trauma informed school. Some of the facts and figures shared with staff were quite shocking, for instance, there are one million primary age children with mental health issues and that it takes 10 years from a concern being raised to actually getting a diagnosis. The focus then has to be on how we can make a difference before problems are too late to change. The message was so clear that as we see children for 190 days a year we can make a difference to their mental wellbeing through being a positive influence. As part of this training, we watched a clip of the footballer Ian Wright, talking about how his life was changed by a teacher he met in primary school. If you are interested, watch the clip. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYNWGI6JvnI> This clip is so emotional and had a real impact on us all. It is difficult to sometimes remember why we all work so hard and get so involved with the children as individuals when the job is so busy and demanding but this training does make you remember. I do still think it is wrong that schools are increasingly picking up the pieces left by the lack of social and medical services. We can really make a difference but can never forget that our core is to educate, so as well as meeting mental health and emotional needs for our children, we need to push their academic standards as well. If there is an increasing need to support mental health, then we need to be funded to deliver this.

The teachers have been looking at reading support at home. I have to say it is wonderful how so many parents do read with their children regularly but there are some classes where over 90% of the class did not read even once at home last week. As a parent, I loved reading with my children as it gave us time together. Everyone is busy but we all want the best for our children so we need to try to make time to complete this vital task. If anyone needs convincing of the difference reading makes then just look at any of the research. Children who read succeed. The extreme reading linked to World Book Day has been won by Lizzie P and Emily P - Well done! We also have a growing number of word Millionaires. Harvey has 4 million, Theo 3 and there are quite a few at a million which is Amazing!

Miss Platts and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who is busy collecting batteries. Chloe and Lily-May P actually came to school with a trolley full of batteries they had collected from Lidl. Amazing girls and huge thanks. Alison and Robun C had collected batteries from everywhere they have been. It is so great that the children are thinking about securing their futures by making a contribution to environmental awareness. Well done to all and keep collecting.

Here are our nursery children enjoying making cookies. They had a brilliant time mixing the ingredients, rolling it out and using the cutter shapes. They all got very messy too!



Read With a Child It's the Most Important 20 Minutes of Your Day

Child "A"	Child "B"	Child "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 3 minutes each day
3,600 minutes in a school year.	900 minutes in a school year.	180 minutes in a school year.



By the end of 6th grade, Child "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Child "B" will have read only 12 school days.
Which child would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
Which child would you expect to be a proficient reader?
Make the commitment today to read with a child; it makes a difference.

Source: Nagy & Herman, 1987

A few parents have mentioned the clash with the saltash.net date for their Year 4/5 evening and the Year 3/4 show. I am very sorry about this and it is very unfortunate. We put the date in the school calendar and have been advertising it since before Christmas. Unfortunately, we were only given the date for the information evening last week. We did ring to see if they had an alternative and they don't. They did say that they will possibly do another event later in the year and parents are welcome to go to any of the evenings they run so could go to a Year 6 event instead.

Dates for your diary

- 22 March**
QUIZ NIGHT TONIGHT!
Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start
Bring your own glass!
- 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
- 29 March**
Mother's Day Assembly for Years 1 and 2
9.15am
- 2 April**
Open Art Afternoon
1.30pm-2.30pm
- 4 April**
Easter Magic Show
- 5 April**
Last Day of Term before Easter holidays
- 23 April (Tuesday)**
First day back for all
- 26 April**
Nursery and Foundation trip to the Aquarium
- 1 May**
New intake September 2019 parent information session
5.30pm-6.30pm
- 6 May**
Bank Holiday
- 8 May**
New intake September 2019 - child session
12.00pm-12.30pm
- 13 May**
Year 6 SATs Week
- 15 May**
New intake September 2019 - child session
12.00pm-12.30pm
- 22 May**
Sports Day
- New intake September 2019 - child session**
12.00pm-12.30pm
- 27 May**
Half term
- 3 June**
Back to school for all
- 5 June**
New intake September 2019 - child session
12.00pm-12.30pm
- 5-7 June**
Year 6 residential trip to Porthpean

'Excellence is in Everyone'



Lucas H. of Nursery for trying really hard when sitting on the carpet!
Sacha J. of F AM for his super sounding out and effort with writing.
Jackson C. of F AM for his increased confidence particularly in Maths.
Lola H. of F CW for excellent independent writing for her progress task.
Adam M. of F CW for excellent independent writing for his progress task.
Milo Z-M. of 1/2 AP for always being ready to learn.
Emma S. of 1/2 AP for working above and beyond in her home learning book.
Jack S. of 1/2 NB for using his phonics to blend longer words in his writing.
Isabelle K. of 1/2 NB for gaining confidence in her reading.
Lilly-May P. of 1/2 CB for showing wonderful perseverance when writing her sentences.
James P. of 1/2 CB for collaboratively classifying animals in Science.
Scarlett W. of 1/2 SK for excellent learning and perseverance in our fractions lessons.
Erica G. of 1/2 SK for an amazing dinosaur information text full of facts!
Holly-Rose M. of 3/4 SH for an amazing attitude to all of her learning but especially her description in English.
Aimee O. of 3/4 SH for excellent effort in every rehearsal of 'Rumpus in the Rainforest'.
Daisy T. of 3/4 PH for being a resilient learner when learning about fractions this week.
Rylee W. of 3/4 PH for being an absorbed learner and managing his distractions.
Zach B. of 3/4 TB for managing his distractions.
Lily B. of 3/4 TB for great enthusiasm when singing songs for our show.
Lily G. of 3/4 TB for great attention to detail in her Rainforest art.
Daisy P. of 5/6 LM for using her noticing skills to create a Mayan drawing.
Maisie T. of 5/6 LM for using spectacular vocabulary in English.
Liam A. of 5/6 GP for persevering with his English writing this week.
Maddie J. of 5/6 GP for writing a well constructed argument in English.
Charlie T. of 5/6 VJ for his super Mayan story writing.
Connor W. of 5/6 VJ for an exceptional poetic start to his Mayan Folk Tale.

Tax Free Childcare - Did you know....?

Parents can save up to **£2,000 per child, per year** using Tax-Free Childcare, which can be used towards everything from fees for childminders and nurseries to breakfast, after school and holiday club charges. Parents of nursery children who are using the 30 hour free childcare entitlement can also use Tax-Free Childcare to save money on additional childcare costs above their 30 hour entitlement. You can find more information at childcarechoices.gov.uk

We had a wonderful first session at Forest Tots. We made our very own 'forest friend' using natural materials and fabric to make clothes for them. After this, we made them their very own den made from grass, bricks, stones and twigs. We even had a pillow made of flowers. Thank you all for coming. Please book your place for next week through the school office.

Are any of our wonderful parents/carers able to assist us with donations towards a Mini First Aid course for the Early Years children? We desperately want to run this course for our young children as they would benefit hugely from learning such valuable skills. Please talk to Mrs Crowley if you are able to help us.



Forest Tots

At
St Stephens CP School

Mondays 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm
(Starting Monday, 12th March)

For Parent/Carers and their children aged 2 – 4 years



Come and explore in our woodland area. Learn, discover and play outdoors, while building confidence and having an adventure.

We have excellent facilities and a brand new Teacher Led Nursery. A perfect time to visit and have a look around!

Phone 01762 843661 to book a place.

On Wednesday, the Year 5/6 boys football team played against Burraton. After an intense first 10 minutes of the game, St Stephens had several great chances but could not score. The boys continued to press hard throughout the game, however, unfortunately conceded a goal in the second half. Despite the loss, all the boys played extremely well and we are once again really proud of their efforts.

Reminder.....tonight is **QUIZ NIGHT!** Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your own glass! Huge thanks to the PTFA for organising, this is a brilliant fundraiser for the school.



The plaque which we had to have taken out of the entrance area when the new larger electricity cupboard was constructed is now reinstated at the rear entrance of the school. The sign commemorates the opening by David Bellamy and is in Cornish so is definitely worth noting.

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