

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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1st March 2019



This week started with us interviewing for new LSAs to join our team and we were delighted to have a very strong field of applicants which has enabled us to select two to join us after Easter. One will be deployed straight away to fill the gap left in Mr Purchase's class as Miss Summers is unwell. The other will be used across the school as this will be the LSA for the additional Year 3/4 class we will need in September. We are also taking on an apprentice in the near future to provide additional intervention support. Like every school, we are finding increasing levels of need in our pupils so hope these appointments will help where we really are struggling to meet the demands.

I can't believe that we were actually able to use the field this week. The children loved it and I am sorry about the muddy knees but it is so good for them to have all the space to run around in. Now it has returned to more normal February weather the problem will go away for a while.

Miss McDonald and I spent a very exhausting Friday before half term moving the soil donated into the new garden beds. We really were so thankful that Mr Goodman and Mr Nowlan joined to help and we all were delighted with how the garden area is now looking. We have one last soil delivery today and this needs to be moved into the last empty beds. We were all going to do this tomorrow morning but I think there is a terrible forecast so we might need to rethink. Hopefully though by next week the planting can start.

Thank you to those parents who raised their concerns over the Momo problem being faced by children. We did immediately speak to the children and reassured them that they must speak to adults whenever they are concerned as this was a malicious and fake threat. The national online safety guides which we posted on Facebook really are a brilliant support for parents and their website is so informative about anything connected to any questions you have about E safety or the internet. Thank you to the parents who commented so positively about how the school supported the children.

Can I just remind parents that parking at Pixieland to drop off or collect your children is not acceptable. They are running their business and find it very difficult when the car park is used by parents from here. I know the road is so difficult and I do have a meeting next week with Highways Cornwall and Hilary Frank of Cornwall Council to discuss any improvements that could be made to alleviate the situation. It is tricky because the issues are not just down to this school but because we are on the only access road to the Community school and others. I am trying to think creatively about what we can do so lets hope they listen.

World Book Day next week is not a dress up day for us. The decision was taken in a meeting with the teaching staff in our discussions about the coming half term. The school calendar is very busy and every event impacts on learning. We were all very disillusioned with World Book Day, as it has become more about costumes than reading. It isn't really promoting a love of books just a love of dressing up. We want to refocus and have a day focused on the point - enjoying books.

We also are all aware that there is increasing pressure for parents in providing costumes each year as I have had lots of contact with parents who find it very stressful having to spend money each year to ensure their child or children don't get left out. The final consideration was also the impact mufti days have on learning. We all know how excited the children become and this makes it a huge challenge to focus them on learning. Losing two learning days in two weeks would be a lot. I do understand this is disappointing to some parents but we do have Red Nose Day coming up on March 15th where the children can wear whatever they like to school and any book characters are welcome.

We are going to do an extreme reading challenge for this next few weeks to encourage reading and on World Book Day we have planned a variety of activities around the books children will bring in and where we can read them and we will make it a special day but based around reading.

Dates for your diary

5 March

Year 6 residential trip
parent information
session

3.30pm-4.30pm
St Piran's Day
Special Menu

7 March

World Book Day
Nursery and Foundation
Bedtime Hour
6pm-7pm

12-13 March

Years 1-6 Parent
Consultations
1.00pm-6.30pm

13 March

EYFS Parent
Consultations
1.30pm-6.30pm

15 March

Red Nose Day

22 March

Quiz Night

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

2 April

Open Art Afternoon
1.30pm-2.30pm

5 April

Last Day of Term
before Easter holidays



A huge thank you to Steve Hoskin Construction for his kind donation of topsoil for our garden area which is nearly finished. Thank you also to Thomas, Livie and Jacob's nannie who kindly donated seeds. We are very much looking forward to the garden area being finished so the children can get involved in planting and growing their own flowers and vegetables.

Here are the attendance figures for February. The whole school average for February was 95.5%. The expected percentage for attendance 96.5%.

The class attendance figures for February were:

5/6 VJ - 93.9% 1/2 CB - 96.4%

5/6 GP - 95.2% 1/2 NB - 95.7%

5/6 LM - 93.6% 1/2 SK - 96.7%

3/4 SH - 96.3% 1/2 AP - 95.6%

3/4 TB - 97.2% FAM - 91%

3/4 PH - 98.1% FCW - 95.4%

February winners: 1st 3/4 PH, 2nd 3/4 TB and 3rd 1/2 SK

As a reminder, please ensure that if your child is absent from school due to illness, please let us know as soon as possible on each day of the absence by calling the school and leaving a message on the absence line.

'Excellence is in Everyone'



Ronnie E. of Nursery for perseverance on the adventure playground poles.

Sacha J. of F AM for his perseverance with ordering his numbers.

Rose S. of F AM for her super effort with sentence writing.

All children of F CW for excellent manners - always! Star Award from Mrs Connors and team.

Marlena G-T. of F CW for excellent participation in class discussions.

Oscar G. of F CW for excellent independent writing in his home learning.

Ryan H. of 1/2 AP for his amazing pride and enthusiasm towards his learning across school.

Harley A. of 1/2 AP for his superb developing fluency in his number facts.

Jess W. of 1/2 NB for focusing on her learning and taking on a challenge.

Amelia B. of 1/2 NB for excellent knowledge during carpet time in her theme learning.

Tegen W. of 1/2 CB for her wonderful sentences about dinosaurs using 'and'.

Thomas O. of 1/2 CB counting up to 20.

Jude P. of 1/2 CB for being so absorbed in his learning and listening carefully to instructions.

Reesa B. of 1/2 SK for amazing progress with her reading and phonics.

Natasha J. of 1/2 SK for taking on challenges in Maths and succeeding.

Leon M. of 3/4 SH for fantastic resilience and perseverance with the formal written method for division.

Kyle M. of 3/4 SH for superb effort with his reading and comprehension of text.

Maisie N. of 3/4 PH for taking pride in her learning and working on her handwriting.

Elizabeth A. of 3/4 PH for having an impeccable attitude towards learning at all times.

Beth H. of 3/4 PH for being a mature and independent learner.

Alfie S. of 3/4 TB for writing clear sentences about the layers of the rainforest.

Tylor T. of 3/4 TB for settling in well to St Stephens.

Jessica P. of 5/6 LM for focusing and managing her distractions in order to complete her theme learning.

Dominic F. of 5/6 LM for excellent use of the bar model to support his learning of fractions.

Freddie C. of 5/6 GP for good focusing and resilience during Maths.

Daniel M. of 5/6 GP for writing a good short summary of a text.

Brandon S. of 5/6 VJ for super 'inspirational' writing for a competition.

Emilia N. of 5/6 VJ for super 'inspirational' writing for a competition.

Puppy training - We are delighted that Mrs Parkin will be starting puppy training classes on a Wednesday evening with the first session being on Wednesday, 6 March. The classes will take place in our school hall. Mrs Parkin's puppy training company is called KAT'S K9'S and to book a place, please email katsk9s121@gmail.com or contact Mrs Parkin by calling 07500 116139. Puppy training will be at 6.15pm and beginners obedience at 7.30pm. Thank you

This week, we arranged for a local tennis coach to come in and hold taster sessions for our Year 3/4 and 5/6 classes. The children learned how to hold the racquets properly and progressed through a series of drills that helped to develop their coordination and confidence with striking the ball accurately. They all had beaming smiles throughout and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We aim to extend to parents the opportunity to pay for your child to receive tennis coaching in an after school club. Letters will be going out soon for you to be able to express your interest in this.



Thursday, 7th March is **World Book Day** and we are focusing on reading. On the day, there will be lots of reading activities so please could your child bring in their favourite book. We are also running a competition (there is a prize!) to have your photo taken reading in the most unusual place. Please bring the pictures in by Thursday, 14th March.

Don't forget to look out for your child's World Book Day voucher in their bag. It entitles you to £1 off a book, and there are also £1 books printed especially for World Book Day.



UPDATE! Before half term our Big Battery Hunt began. The children of St Stephens have been busy searching for batteries everywhere. We have had boxes of all different sizes filled with batteries being delivered to our teachers daily. Miss Platts gave the school a challenge of 1,000 batteries collected over seven school days. We absolutely smashed it...collecting over 1,500 batteries and completely filling our first battery tub ready for collection. Mr Davy had the difficult task of trying to empty the tub ready to be filled again. Miss Platts would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has taken part so far. But, we are not going to stop there. Our Eco-Warriors have set a new challenge of collecting 3,000 batteries by Easter. So, get searching. Ask your family, ask your neighbours, ask your friends or, even spread the word to local companies which could recycle their batteries with us. It is important that we make a difference and keep trying to be as Eco-friendly as possible. Keep up the good work team!

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


Mrs Heather Lenders
Headteacher