

# St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

secretary@ssscp.org.uk

8th February 2019



A continuing factor this week has been illness. It feels like a particularly bad year for both staff and children to be struggling with colds, viruses and sickness. So far the children have managed to escape the worst of the flu but the staff are really hard hit! Getting everyone the inoculation next year is a must. We have had some cases of sickness but really appreciate parents acting by taking children quickly and keeping them off for the 48 hours. We have started insisting on the hand sanitiser more frequently again with the children as it does seem to help. Fingers crossed we can still maintain the good attendance levels we have at present.

E-safety week has been very interesting. The Internet Legends started the week with a great assembly and the children's responses to the survey are very interesting. It is so challenging to parent children with so much social media and gaming available. Keeping up with the changes on guidance in school is very hard and as a parent it is so difficult. It is vital that parents monitor what children are doing online. All the headlines this week have shown how vital it is that children's access is controlled. I was reading of a school in the Midlands where the Headteacher banned parents from having phones on the playground. I am not going to do that but I do think it is sad to see children run out to a parent full of interesting things to say about their day and the parent is on the phone. It is so amazing how fast the years pass when they are small and full of enthusiasm.

Mrs Bowers, who was a TA in Foundation last year and working in Mrs Burts' class this year has left as her family need her at present. We are sad to see her go and wish her well.

There are lots of trips going ahead this term and I wanted to explain why we ask for contributions. I had several conversations this week which showed that we have a bit of a misunderstanding. It is not the case that the school is not funding trips because we see it as a way of getting money from parents. Trips are not compulsory for schools to run. We can choose if we put on any trips. As a school, we feel that children benefit hugely from trips, not just educationally but as a social event and you can see this in the pictures below. They learn new skills in a different way. The children themselves asked for more trips in the last children's voice survey. I had stopped the teachers from organising trips as last year we had to fund those that were organised to such an extent that it was thousands of pounds across the year. I began teaching when it was that only those who paid went on a trip. This is no longer allowed. We have to take everyone or no-one. If we get below 75% of contributions, I cancel trips. So those parents who don't contribute are right, it is voluntary. It really impacts on the school which impacts every child if we were to fund all the trips, swimming and competitions. It really isn't a case of trying to make money out of you but if it is weighing the benefits of trips against the many other priorities in school, then the trips will be close to the bottom of the list for additional funds. We have reinstated the ambition to do a trip most terms for each year group at present but will review again at the end of the year.

Huge thanks to Taylor-Rose's mum for organising a generous donation of soil for the new garden. Next Friday, some of us will be getting dirty sorting the planting beds.

Year 5 and 6 spent the day at Dartmoor Zoo on Tuesday. The visit was to tie in with their theme this term, Evolution. Although it was a very wet day, we had a wonderful time watching the many animals that seemed to enjoy the weather, including a stunning, enormous tiger and some very playful otters. Our workshop gave us all an opportunity to see some incredible creatures and how they have evolved over millions of years to be able to survive in their habitat. I think Dylan the gecko was a favourite of all the children as they got to hold him. Miss McKenna now wants a gecko for her class!



The Year 2 children visited Dinosaur World in Torquay on Monday and had exclusive use of the museum! They all had a fantastic time exploring the amazing displays, including, interactive hands on activities. The children were able to immerse themselves becoming Paleontologists for the day as they dug for fossils, finding the remains of dinosaurs and reptiles. We all had a very busy time and we were amazed at how much the children have absorbed from the visit. We look forward to learning more about dinosaurs as our theme continues.

## Dates for your diary

### 8 February

Infants School Disco  
5.30pm-6.30pm

Juniors School Disco

7.00pm-8.00pm

Buy tickets on the door

### 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

Nursery and Foundation

Open Morning

9.00am-10.00am

### 27 February

Foundation Vision

Screening

### 5 March

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

Wear something red for

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

### 5 April

Last Day of Term  
before Easter Holidays



# 'Excellence is in Everyone'



Arabella T. of Nursery for being really brave!  
 Poppy R. of Nursery for great discussion and drawing after the fire station visit.  
 Jasper W. of F AM for his amazing ideas when playing a game and turn taking.  
 Oscar C. of F AM for his understanding of lower case and capital letters.  
 Toby A. of F CW for great pirate role play!  
 James R. of F CW for excellent Maths language!  
 Livie B. of 1/2 AP for her enthusiasm towards her theme learning and contribution to Eco Warriors.  
 Spencer T. of 1/2 AP for a fantastic attitude and being ready to learn in our whole class discussions.  
 Evie M. of 1/2 NB for fantastic Maths learning with Mrs Squance using ppw to show numbers to 10.  
 Louie D. of 1/2 NB for persevering in his RE learning when writing a sequence of events from the story.  
 Summer R. of 1/2 CB for her fantastic writing in English when creating her own narrative.  
 Barney P. of 1/2 CB for his resilient attitude in Maths when adding two numbers on a number line.  
 Louie T. of 1/2 SK for amazing and imaginative ideas when planning his story!  
 Charlie B. of 1/2 SK for a superb build up of tension in his dinosaur story.  
 Olivia H. of 3/4 SH for her fantastic discussion when learning about palm oil.  
 Ella D. of 3/4 SH for an amazing attitude towards her peers and any challenge given to her.  
 Maisie C. of 3/4 PH for having confidence in herself in Maths this week.  
 Imogen S-O. of 3/4 PH for being a mature, reflective learner across all subjects.  
 Roxanne E. of 3/4 TB for showing determination and resilience in her learning.  
 Alexia G. of 3/4 TB for taking risks to offer her opinions during P4C discussions.  
 Freddie A. of 5/6 LM for demonstrating outstanding knowledge about evolution and adaptation on our school trip.  
 Lily B. of 5/6 LM for taking risks while on our trip to Dartmoor Zoo and handling lots of weird and wonderful animals and insects.  
 Andrew W. of 5/6 GP for being engaged, enthusiastic and inquisitive to Dartmoor Zoo.  
 Leila T. of 5/6 GP for an excellent descriptive paragraph in English.  
 Reece S. of 5/6 VJ for exceptional answers to questions asked at Dartmoor Zoo.  
 Emma L. of 5/6 VJ for being really supportive with other peoples learning in the class.

**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](mailto: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

### DEBT POLICY REMINDER

All bookings for Friendship Time and lunch must be paid for in advance or the booking will be cancelled.  
 ParentPay issues are now resolved, please ensure ALL accounts are in credit.

Argyle Community Trust  
 Learn. Play. Succeed.

Plymouth Argyle FC  
**BIRTHDAY PARTIES**  
 Bring a football theme to your special day

**Two hours of football / multi-sports**  
**Your party includes:**  
 Coaching Session... Goody Bags for all partygoers... sports quiz...  
 Birthday bag for the special day... competitions... fun and games

Open to children aged from 4 - 14 years  
 Booking / hire of facility is responsibility of parent  
 Food not included **£100 INC VENUE**

**High Five** - This week, our Year 5/6 children and one Year 4 child took part in the second round of the High Five league. The girls braved the weather on the outdoor courts before being brought inside due to rain. They played excellently as a team and showed great sportsmanship. Well done girls, we are very proud of you.

### Clubs update:

Activity Club is cancelled on 12 February.  
 Mindful Colouring Club is cancelled on 14 February.  
 Pokemon Club is cancelled on 14 February.  
 Basketball Club is cancelled on 14 February.  
 Our Student Teachers are starting a Drama Club for KS2 on a Thursday after school until 4pm. Please ask at the office for a joining letter.

**Uniform:** Just to remind you of the various options for purchasing school uniform:  
 Westcountry Embroidery, Fore Street, Saltash stock our embroidered items.  
 My Clothing which has taken over from Tesco ([www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)) also stock our embroidered uniform.  
 Marilyn Grose sells clothing via her website [www.saltashschooluniforms.co.uk](http://www.saltashschooluniforms.co.uk).  
 The PTFA will be selling second hand uniform, details to follow once confirmed.

**School Menu** - On Thursday Week One the menu states Pork Ragu with Rice, however, Mrs Connors has changed this to Beef Bolognese which the children prefer. This meal swap will occur until Easter. Thank you

**Friendship Time** - Polite reminder - if you are cancelling your child's place at Friendship Time, please give a minimum of 24 hours notice or you will be charged for the booking. Thank you

Argyle Soccer Roadshows  
**FEBRUARY**  
 HALF TERM 2019  
[www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk](http://www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk)

Book our courses online  
[www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk](http://www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk)

Additional sports and activities available

Reduced rates available by booking online for all courses over £10  
 \*Child 16 weeks. Full price for additional siblings  
[www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk](http://www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk)

Prices from £5 - £30  
 Registration opens at 2.00am  
 All courses for boys and girls of all abilities aged 5-15 years  
 New member only reward cards available  
 Couriers collect from 6.30pm with the exception of Tues. 10th & 17th Feb

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