

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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18th January 2019



I was astonished this week as I received so many messages from parents and staff as the Cornwall Live school pages were updated and our school was ranked as 5th in Cornwall! This was amazing and we are very pleased. It is a lot to live up to but as usual, we shall continue to do our best in ensuring every child has their learning personalised and we recognise every individual for their special talents academic or otherwise.

We have been hit quite hard this week with a flu like illness. The children seem fine but the staff are struggling and we have had several people who have been off. I do wonder if it is because the staff didn't have flu inoculations and maybe next year we will pay for them to have the injections. Please bear with staff where they are covering absence as it means normal processes such as changing reading books are a little slower than normal.

We will say goodbye this week to Mrs Aston, who works in our kitchen. She has worked in the school for six years but is now changing roles by working in Derriford. We wish her well and Mrs Connors has already recruited new staff to cover the hours. We also need to let you know that Miss Swallow, who was an LSA in Key Stage 1, has now left us as has Miss Hill. We wish them well in whatever their next steps are.

Financial benchmarking reports were published this week and I thought you would be interested to see how the school is fairing compared to both Cornwall and national. The data also compares us to similar sized schools elsewhere in the country. I think it illustrates the increasing challenges very well. Our school per pupil funding is decreasing and we are significantly poorer funded in all comparisons. This graph is for our direct grant from the LA. We are coping with this as our self generated income is increasing but mainly as we have had additional pupil growth funding. This ends next year so we do need the government to take action to make funding fair. I just dream of what we could achieve if we had the same funds as schools elsewhere in the country.

NB: We are noticing an increasing number of parents coming into the building in the mornings.

This is not workable for the teachers and we need to remind you that children should be dropped off as they come into the building from the playground or at the gates. If there is an urgent message Mrs B Jones, myself or a staff member from EYFS are on the gates to take messages. Otherwise you can go to the office. The mornings are very important to staff as they are preparing lessons and they really find it difficult to converse with parents. They need to prepare for the whole day in the morning as timetables are very tightly packed so they really need to focus. We cannot have parents in the building as we are registering children and starting the day so please support us in this. We also start interventions with children from 8.30am for those that arrive. There are few reasons why children cannot be independent in coming into school.

Last year, St Stephens (Saltash) C P School received £1,173,658 or £3,412 per pupil from direct grants. This is a decrease of 2% from 2016/2017 and a decrease of 11% from 2015/2016.



As a reminder, we are able to offer holiday care on Friday, 15th February when the school is closed to pupils for an INSET day. Please email the school if you wish to reserve a place. Further details will follow once final arrangements have been made. We are thinking of having a core day which covers just school hours and then having an extended day which would include breakfast and after school time care. These will be charged at different rates. Please let us know what you prefer.

Gardens - It is nearly the time of year when we need to start thinking about our gardens. If anyone has spare plants for us to use then feel free to donate them. We have ordered the soil and an awful lot of trees so will be ready when planting out is necessary. We really want to grow some vegetables for Mrs Connors to cook. After half term, we will start a gardening club and if anyone would like to help either after school or during afternoon times, Miss McDonald would be very grateful.

Dates for your diary

22 January

Year 3/4 Parents Information Session regarding Eden Trip 5.30pm-6.30pm

24 January

Donkey Roadshow Assembly

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 School Discos (TBC)

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

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'



Josh T. of Forces Club for his mature attitude.
Jacob N. of Forces club for his willingness to help.
Esme L. of Nursery for her excellent name writing practise.
Thea M. of Nursery for her knowledge of rhyming.
Libby W. of F AM for settling in so well to our school.
Charlie B. of F AM for his super letter formation.
Jackson C. of F AM for his creative model designs.
Oscar J. of F CW for doctor's role play.
Elsie W. of F CW for her excellent Maths learning.
Max M. of 1/2 AP for her superb imaginative writing and can do attitude.
Faith B. of 1/2 AP for her amazing enthusiasm towards our dinosaur theme.
Archie M. of 1/2 NB for focusing on his learning.
Grace A. of 1/2 NB for gaining confidence in her learning and always being willing to give it a go.
Leo F. of 1/2 CB for always being a good friend to others.
Arthur H. of 1/2 CB for making links when using his counting strategy in Maths.
Emily P. of 1/2 SK for amazing thinking skills and independent learning during Maths.
AJ P. of 1/2 SK for an excellent attitude to learning and a massive improvement in his handwriting.
Amy J. of 3/4 SH for fantastic contributions to class discussions and having a positive attitude.
Tallulah S. of 3/4 SH for confidently taking risks in her learning and always trying her best.
Lowenna W. of 3/4 PH for being an absorbed and enthusiastic learner all week.
Ruby W. of 3/4 PH for her insightful contributions to our class discussion in science.
Abigail B. of 3/4 TB for excellent focus and willingness to take a risk.
Bailey C. of 3/4 TB for excellent focus and effort across his learning this week.
Holly N. of 5/6 LM for being an amazing role model and applying herself to all her learning.
William C. of 5/6 LM for distilling and improving his writing about Charles Darwin.
Joshua T. of 5/6 GP for his improved attitude towards his learning.
Lizzie P. of 5/6 GP for excellent fraction learning.
Ethan B. of 5/6 VJ for excellent biography writing.
Thomas E-W of 5/6 VJ for working hard on his Maths revision book home learning.



Our Football team played a match against Burraton CP School on Wednesday. The result was a draw 2-2. A brilliant game and the boys played really well. We are very proud of them all.

Lost Property - Once again, our lost property area is overflowing! Coats, jumpers, shoes, PE kit etc. If you are missing any items, please ensure you come and take a look to see if any belong to your child. Thank you



PE Kit - don't forget to bring in your child's PE kit if not in school already. As the weather has turned colder, you should bring in tracksuit bottoms, long sleeved top etc., as on dry days, PE will be outside. Please remember to clearly label all items.

Thank you to everyone who brought in clear and white plastic to support the Plymouth National Marine Aquarium. This weekend they will be using the plastic to create a polar bear sculpture which will be on display in the aquarium itself in March. In order to increase the awareness of the effect of plastic in our oceans, the NMA have scattered 20 polar bears with 20 facts around the waterfront of Plymouth. Why not spend the weekend discovering more about this important subject on the Polar Bear Explorer Trail. Will you find them all?



DEBT POLICY REMINDER

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

To all of you sporty children and adults out there! There is now a new way to make a little money whilst recycling your own sports footwear! Over five million pairs of good football boots go into landfills every year in the UK alone. Let's all reuse where possible. Just like eBay, KitsNboots.com are offering you the opportunity to sell your unwanted and used sports footwear on their sports only site. Setting your account up is easy and all payments are made to your own PayPal accounts. Of course, you can also buy the great quality footwear advertised already by many others on their website. If you are interested in this recycling scheme please follow the link below:

<https://www.kitsnboots.com>



African Children's Choir at the China Fleet Club
Saturday, 26th January
2pm - 7pm
Tickets now on sale!
Tel: Marilyn on 07715 557757

Healthy Snack - We are noticing an increasing number of children bringing snacks to school that are unhealthy. Please take time to read the Healthy Eating Policy on our school website for guidance. We will be talking to children and starting checks at breaktime to ensure children are eating a healthy snack and if necessary, I will be contacting parents if unhealthy snacks are continually being brought to school. Healthy eating is vitally important.

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