

# St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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14th February 2019



Half term next week does seem to have arrived very quickly. We hope that you all have a great holiday and that the beautiful crisp days continue so we can enjoy lots of outside family time. The staff are using the INSET day and the half term to write reports as it really is that time again. Reports will be sent home to families before parent consultations and we do really value the opportunity to meet with all parents at this stage of the year to discuss each child. If you need multiple copies of reports, do let the office know in the next few weeks.

The Year 3/4 children at Eden Project were so lucky to be able to experience this incredible attraction in such a unique way. The staff are exhausted but very proud of the way the children they took behaved. The Forest Rangers who remained with Mrs Arthur also had a very enjoyable two days with forest school and team building activities.

The staff have been discussing the renewed focus on curriculum which is a feature of the recently updated OFSTED framework. We have been checking our curriculum back against the National Curriculum so we can be sure we have everything included. It is actually quite a challenge as with nine subjects with completely different sets of objectives, there really is a lot to cover. Our themes are designed to exploit links so that where objectives can be taught together we can maximise time without losing any subjects. It is a strong feature of our school that we do not narrow the curriculum to just English and Maths but do ensure all nine subjects are given weight. Things in education never stand still and this area is an example of this. The expectation now seems to be moving back onto 'proving' impact of the curriculum which implies more paperwork, something we will not do. Teachers need time to teach and interact with children, not spend it compiling evidence or ticking mark sheets. We shall see how this debate goes and continue to focus on what makes a difference for children and their learning not providing for an external process. The squeeze on time means we use every minute we have your children in school, so please try to ensure they arrive at school in good time. We use the first half an hour of the day for interventions. Officially, our day starts at 8.45 but we start at 8.30 if children are here as our adults start at 8.30. This time makes such a difference in allowing us time to target misconceptions or accelerate progress for individuals.

Our Chair of Governors and I went to an information session about Cornwall and there is a lot happening. It seems that there are over 80% of children in Cornwall who are now taught in academies rather than maintained schools. This leaves us in a very small group which is mostly smaller schools. There really is very little left of the local authority structure to support schools which is very sad. We do have an informal collaboration with some local schools but we all agree that schools continually develop by sharing and challenging each other so we need to investigate all options. Cornwall is now the second most deprived area in Northern Europe. I found that a very stark figure. It seems that Cornwall, as one of the lowest funded areas therefore has one of the lowest education budgets. We all know that education is key to raising living standards so it seems so ridiculous to have allowed this situation to develop. There is a debate in Parliament about how education funding has fallen on March 3rd. Follow the link to sign the petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/232220>

**Eco-School Update** - Introducing the new 'Big Battery Hunt!' St Stephens School has now become a battery recycling drop off point. This means that you can now dispose of all of your batteries in an environmentally friendly way. Over 20,000 tonnes of batteries end up in landfill sites in the UK each year! That is as heavy as 4,000 elephants. This needs to change. We started the week with a whole school assembly introducing our new big battery box and the big hunt. Our Eco-warriors have been busy organising boxes for each child in the school. We ask that all parents and carers get involved and help fill each child's box full of old batteries that are no longer needed. The collection box will be located in the reception area. Miss Platts has set a target of 1,000 batteries to be collected by Thursday, 28 February. The results will be announced during the first Friday celebration assembly after half term. Can we do it? Here is Destiny C putting the first batteries in the recycling box.

## Dates for your diary

**15 February**

INSET Day

**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**

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

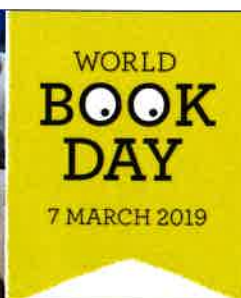
**28 March**

Year 3/4 Show

6.00pm-7.00pm

**5 April**

Last Day of Term



**World Book Day** - This year, we have decided to change the format and will not be asking children to dress up. Having spoken to some parents we realise that it is not easy providing costumes each year. Instead, we would like children to bring in their favourite book and we will be having activities and reading sessions throughout the day. Reading is so important and we want to encourage children to bring in a book from home to share with their friends and teachers.

**Maths Primary Challenge** - Four children from Year 6 - Eric W, Reece S, Chloe S and Katie H, took part in a mathematics primary challenge against other schools in Cornwall at saltash.net. There were four rounds: the speed round, group round, logic round and a relay round. Each round was really challenging, filled with tricky problems which the children had to work together and solve together using their knowledge and reasoning skills. Although we didn't place in the top 3, the children worked really hard in every activity and really they enjoyed the day.

# 'Excellence is in Everyone'



**Samuel B.** of Nursery for keeping a beat really well in phonics.  
**Henry H-D.** of Nursery for perseverance and determination making his 5 duck puppets.  
**Poppy N.** of F AM for constant enthusiasm towards her learning.  
**Erin G.** of F AM for amazing perseverance with her number recognition.  
**Jessica L.** of F CW for excellent contribution to class discussions.  
**Amelia H.** of F CW for creating a great sentence in our shared writing.  
**Marna T.** of 1/2 AP for amazing effort displayed during her story writing.  
**Amy L.** of 1/2 AP her superb focussing skills across all subjects.  
**Erin H.** of 1/2 NB for writing a lovely narrative story.  
**Teddie L.** of 1/2 NB for persevering and growing in confidence in his Maths learning.  
**Charlotte I.** of 1/2 CB for writing a super dinosaur adventure story in English.  
**Charlie M.** of 1/2 CB persevering when forming his letters.  
**Faith E.** of 1/2 SK for writing a super adventure story full of amazing descriptions and action!  
**Lilly C.** of 1/2 SK for writing an amazing adventure story with super descriptions and action!  
**Tallulah S-D.** of Forest School for being patient and helpful in cookery.  
**Ellis S.** of Forest School for being kind and sharing.  
**Amy J.** of Forest School for always being ready to learn, excellent focus and good manners.  
**Lucy H.** of 5/6 LM for excellent use of the bar model in Maths!  
**Emily B.** of 5/6 LM for making fantastic progress in reading.  
**Sophie L-J.** of 5/6 GP for focusing and working very hard at her Maths.  
**Jacob N.** of 5/6 GP for being resilient during English and producing an excellent piece of writing.  
**Chloe S.** of 5/6 VJ for an exceptional opening to her 'Inspirational Person' writing.  
**Katie S.** of 5/6 VJ for applying her writing skills, with great effect, to her School Council poster.

**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

Help be a 'Fun-raiser' for **Red Nose Day** this year (Friday, 15th March). Wear your school uniform with something **red** for a £1 donation and we will paint **red** noses on the children. Chloe P and the Eco warriors, pointed out that as our school is (single use) plastic free, we should find an alternative to the usual plastic red noses. Well done for thinking about our world.



Here are some pictures of our Year 1 children enjoying their day at Torquay's Dinosaur World.

Thank you so much to a community project funded by the Police who gave us a fantastic £500 donation towards our MUGA.

We wouldn't have got as far as we have with the MUGA, if it wasn't for all your wonderful support and contributions.  
**THANK YOU**



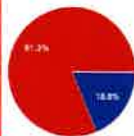
A massive well done to our fabulous **X country team** who took part in a very challenging run at Lanhydrock last Friday. Despite an ominous weather forecast, our intrepid athletes were not put off for a second and performed admirably. Many of our children achieved personal bests and although far too many to mention, Roxanne E did particularly well, despite being extremely nervous and Jess M is growing in confidence and moving up the field with each race. Well done to all of you! In addition, we are extremely proud of Jago W and Merryn H, who finished in 12th and 10th place respectively and who have been selected to represent Caradon at the Cornwall Games. This is a huge achievement and a very well deserved accolade for these two very committed runners.



A big thank you to Henry's dad for coming in to talk to the children in Early Years on his day off. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit and seeing the police car!



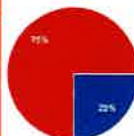
18.8% of the children in KS2 said that they had posted a video of themselves online. That's nearly 1 in 5!



Worryingly, 14.1% said that they had spoken to someone online that they didn't know. This is an extremely worrying figure as talking to strangers online leaves children vulnerable to many dangers.



One quarter of KS2 said that they have experienced negativity or bullying online which is staggering!



**E-safety Update!** During E-safety week last week, the children in KS2 completed a questionnaire about their use of the internet. We were trying to gain a deeper insight into how the children use the internet outside of school and gauge an understanding of their knowledge of the dangers online and what to do when faced with them. The results were extremely interesting and the information that we have gained will help us to refine and improve our e-safety teaching and learning to ensure that our children always remain aware and safe from the dangers of using the internet. We would like to share some of the data received and encourage you to continue our conversations at home, encouraging the children to always use the internet safely. If you would like any E-safety support, please do not hesitate to contact Miss McKenna and please follow our FaceBook page as we are always posting E-safety guidance.

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