

# St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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30th November 2018



The lead up to Christmas seems to have begun in earnest this week. We have recorded a CD, practised nativities and sung a variety of carols as well making craft and holding a craft fair. It was really lovely to welcome so many parents into school on Tuesday afternoon to help in the art activities. We hope you all enjoyed it and will ensure the Spring term afternoon is a little less glittery. The Friends and Mrs Connors did an amazing job with the Christmas craft sale on Thursday afternoon. It was lovely to see so many parents and I am sure the crafts you took away will help to make Christmas special. We will make sure that if we do this next year we will ensure that names are clearly on items as this did cause some confusion. Thank you for being patient finding your child's creation.

The book fair was a great success again this year. I think the children's enthusiasm for the huge range of books on display showed that they really are developing a love for reading. We were delighted to be able to select books for Nursery, Foundation and Year 1/2 for free as a result of money you all spent buying the books. We can never have too many books and the developing love of reading is vital for future success for every child. Thank you to the PTFA for helping out with the book fair and the craft sale. This group of parents really are doing an amazing job at present and we do appreciate their efforts as they are benefitting the whole school.

We are looking to introduce a school dog in the next few months. There is so much focus on children's mental and emotional health at present as the pressures of family life seem to be getting more and more tricky. We are increasingly supporting more and more children with complex emotional problems and a large number who just need a bit extra. We are constantly looking for ways to help children understand the world around them and research is showing strong evidence that the presence of animals really can help children. Evidence indicates that benefits include:

- Cognitive - companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game-playing
- Social - a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others
- Emotional - a school dog improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts mood, often provoking laughter and fun. Dogs can also teach compassion and respect for other living things as well as relieving anxiety.
- Physical - interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists with pain management, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulates the senses
- Environmental - a dog in a school increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over.

With this in mind, Mrs Crowley has just acquired a very beautiful puppy labrador who will begin to be trained to be used as our school dog. He will be visiting school regularly to start to become familiar with the environment and as his training with Mrs Crowley continues, he will hopefully become a part of school life. We will use him as a reading dog and for children who need additional support but also just for those who enjoy looking after animals. The number of guinea pig monitors is huge as children are so keen and a dog is easier to cuddle so I am sure he will be a successful addition to our school family.

I wanted to say thank you to Mrs Thorn who has recently redone the logo we have on our front door. It became very warped in last summer's heat and so she has provided us with a much better quality design and spent ages attaching it to the door. Thank you Mrs Thorn it looks great.

The annual Christmas Lantern Parade is this Saturday on Fore street. The forecast is not for rain so hopefully it will be a success and the children who made lanterns will enjoy parading them.

A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents of the children in Foundation stage for attending our **Wedding** on Monday. The children were very well behaved and were all dressed to impress! We hope you all enjoyed the experience as much as we did. Here are a few photos of the special day.

## Dates for your diary

### 1st December

Christmas Lantern Parade  
Fore Street, Saltash

### 10th December

KS1 Show Dress Rehearsal

### 11th December

KS1 Show

1.30pm - 2.30pm

### 12th December

KS1 Show

10.00am - 11.00am

### 13th December

Christmas Dinner

KS1 Show

6.00pm - 7.00pm

### 14th December

Christmas Jumper Day

£1.00 donation for Save the Children

EYFS Trip to Theatre Royal

Year 5/6 Christmas Party

1.00pm - 3.00pm

### 17th December

EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal (am)

EYFS Christmas Party

1.30pm - 2.30pm

### 18th December

EYFS Nativity

1.30pm - 2.30pm

Year 1/2 Christmas Party

1.30pm - 2.30pm

Year 3/4 Christmas Party

1.30pm - 2.30pm

### 19th December

EYFS Nativity

9.30am - 10.30am

Christmas Carol Service at St Stephens Church

1.30pm - 2.30pm

### 20th December

Last day of term

### 7th January

First day back for all



Lantern Parade - We will be meeting at 5.15pm at the Drill Hall/Air Cadets building where you can pick up your lantern. Please remember, you will need to stay with your child. The parade starts at 5.45pm.

Book Fair - We are very happy to announce that the school has received £975 of new books following this weeks book fair. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and bought a book and also to all the volunteers who helped run it.

# 'Excellence is in Everyone'



**Jack J.** of F AM for his super sentence writing.  
**Erin G.** of F AM for her excellent effort with all of her learning.  
**Scarlett A.** of F CW for gained confidence in class.  
**Lola H.** of F CW for fantastic Nativity singing.  
**Max M.** of 1/2 AP for his impressive understanding of our explorers Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake.  
**Jack G.** of 1/2 AP for his superstar writing using clear finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.  
**Freya C.** of 1/2 NB for focusing on her learning and gaining confidence in all areas.  
**Amelia G.** of 1/2 NB for persevering in all learning and being an exceptional role model.  
**Arwen T.** of 1/2 CB for showing great resilience in Maths when writing addition number sentences.  
**Deanna T.** of 1/2 CB for persevering with her letter sounds in phonics.  
**Oscar S.** of 1/2 CB for sharing great facts about the British astronaut - Tim Peake in Theme.  
**Emily P.** of 1/2 SK for making excellent progress with her reading and writing.  
**Lilly C.** of 1/2 SK for writing a very detailed and imaginative set of instructions.  
**AJ P.** of 1/2 SK for making an amazing effort to improve his handwriting.  
**Isla T.** of 3/4 SH for super use of vocabulary when describing a character.  
**Ellis S.** of 3/4 SH for amazing perseverance with subtraction using the column method.  
**Lily-May P.** of 3/4 PH for being an absorbed learner during Maths this week.  
**Milana J.** of 3/4 PH for explaining her Maths learning clearly this week.  
**Maisie C.** of 3/4 PH for being resilient and engaged in Maths this week.  
**Florence H.** of 3/4 TB for super investigative skills in science when investigating shadows.  
**Ekco H.** of 3/4 TB for using super descriptive language when describing a character.  
**Roxy S.** of 5/6 LM for always applying herself to all of her learning and always giving 100%.  
**Caylin R.** of 5/6 LM for writing fantastic compound sentences using coordinating conjunctions and conjunctive adverbials.  
**Archie W.** of 5/6 GP for good attention to detail when making his puppet.  
**Freddie G.** of 5/6 GP for a creative puppet design.  
**Cody S.** of 5/6 VJ for being an amazing helper at Friendship Club.  
**Natalie P.** of 5/6 VJ for excellent use of vocabulary in her leaflet.

**Don't forget, Year 3 swimming starts next week and will be on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday so please remember to send your child to school with swimwear and a towel.**

## Singing CDs are now available

**They are £5.00 each and if you wish to purchase one or more CDs, please do so via your ParentPay account. Once you have lodged the minimum £5.00, the CD(s) will be issued to you. All monies raised go to the MUGA fund - thank you for your continued support.**

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - END DATES & START DATES

**Next week (week commencing 3rd December 2018) will be the last week for: Forces, Yoga, Netball, Coding, KS1 Homework, KS2 Homework, Forest School, Pokemon, Mindful Colouring, Chrome Book and French.**

**The following week (week commencing 10th December 2018) will be the last week for: Choir, Steel Drums, Basketball, X Country, Boys Football and Hockey.**

**All Clubs will resume week commencing 14th January 2019 with the exception of X Country who will start back on 8th January 2019.**

**Children will automatically re-enrol for all Clubs unless parents/carers inform us otherwise with the exception of Yoga as this Club is so popular. Please pick up a letter from the office during week commencing 10th December if you wish your child to attend as places are limited to 20.**

**Plymouth Argyle Football Clubs will end on either Friday, 14th December or Wednesday, 19th December depending on which Club your child attends. New letters for next term will be available shortly.**

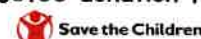
**On Wednesday, some Year 5/6 children visited the Core to make Lanterns for the Saltash Lantern parade on Saturday. We had a creative morning with a local artist. Look out for our distinctive lanterns during the parade of light on Saturday.**



**Our school council helped to decorate the Christmas tree for St Nicolas & Faith Church tree festival. It looks lovely.**



**Christmas Jumper Day  
Friday, 14 December -  
£1.00 donation for**



### Year 2019 Foundation tours

**We have a further date advertised on our school website to welcome parents/carers to visit our school with a view to their child starting with us in September 2019. Please let your friends/family know to book a place with us if they wish to look around.**

**Our school council helped Saltash Town Council by judging the shop windows in Fore Street for their festive displays.**



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

**Mrs Heather Landers  
Headteacher**