

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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17th May 2019



Well, I think we are all glad that this week is over. The Year 6 children were so focused and really did themselves proud. They actually enjoyed the breakfast and seemed well set up for the challenges the tests provided. It was very tiring for them and they were running out of steam by the end of Maths paper 3 but there was a huge cheer of relief as soon as the last paper was complete. Thanks to Mrs Connors for the breakfast. Now we wait until July 8th for the results. It is an odd system where so much is resting on the results in tests of a group of 11 year old children. Strange that this coincided with mental health awareness week. Much as we make it as stress less as possible for the children, the fact that it has to be treated as an exam and that children know how important the results are for them and for the school, does cause stress. With the increasing amount of children with anxiety and other mental health issues we are dealing with, it does seem a flawed system. But it is the one we are stuck with and as always we will make the best we can.

I attended a finance summit in Newquay on Friday with one of our governors. We both came away quite depressed. It seems that schools are struggling everywhere and unless the Government wake up and take notice the system seems likely to break completely. We listened to accounts from schools across Cornwall already broken with class sizes rising and considering closing for part of a day each week. We felt lucky as we have, to some extent, been protected by the school growth special funding we have been allocated for the last two years. I am really worried, however, what will happen this year as pension contributions for employers have risen and we won't have a growth fund payment. We are already struggling with the demands, especially in providing for the extras for SEN pupils. The recommendation was to mobilise parent voice through asking parents to contact their MP to express concern. MPs were invited to the meeting and some went. It was a shame our MP did not go or send a comment. School funding is so important as if we don't educate our children well, their life chances are so much poorer. Whatever the situation, we will always do the best we can and the school is doing well.

As a staff, we are at present looking into the curriculum as the new OFSTED framework has been published this week. The focus has moved onto ensuring that the curriculum is broad and balanced. We are very proud of how well our curriculum does this and it was a strong feature of the last OFSTED we had. We are adjusting some of the themes but as we are checking through, we do have all the vast number of different curricular objectives covered. We are very glad as we see every day how the cross-curricular thematic curriculum works.

We welcomed a photographer into school this week. He is taking photos for the new prospectus and to update the website. The photos he showed me today are really fantastic. We really are lucky to have such an amazing school site. The snapshots of the children playing in the forest school and tree area really are delightful and I can't wait to refresh the website.

Thank you to those parents who contacted us regarding holiday child care. I am in the middle of completing a grant application which will help us to set up some inexpensive fun activities to cover two weeks of the holidays. I will let you know if we get the grant.

We have posted the planning permission notices as we have applied to extend the nursery classroom out to be level with Mrs Burt's present class. This doubles the size of the room and will enable us to take more children. The project is much smaller than those planned for last summer so hopefully will be easier to manage.

Dates for your diary

- 21 May**
- Year 5/6
- Flambards trip
- 22 May**
- Sports Day
- KS2
- 9am to 12pm
- EYFS and KS1
- 1pm to 3pm
- 27 May**
- Half term
- 3 June**
- Back to school for all
- 5-7 June**
- Year 6 residential trip to
- Portphean
- 13 June**
- Year 1 and 2 trip to Looe
- 19 June**
- Class photos
- 24 June**
- EYFS Fluoride
- application
- 2 July**
- Year 6 Taster Day at
- saltash.net
- 3 July**
- Bag2school collection
- 5 July**
- Summer Fair
- 12 July**
- Summer/Leavers Discos
- 22 July**
- Achievement Assemblies
- 23 July**
- Last day of Term

Please can we remind parents that sports leggings are still part of school uniform so would appreciate the children wearing black or navy plain leggings.



Some of our wonderful children enjoying the fresh air!



Update from School Council - Geography Project - Some members of School Council were asked to write a letter to a school in China. We have now had a return email and look forward to continued communications between our two schools.

Talk to School Council - If you have anything you would like to be discussed in School Council meetings, please see one of the council members on a Tuesday lunchtime in Talk to School Council.

'Excellence is in Everyone'



Jenson T. of Nursery for settling into Nursery so well!
Well done!

Charlie B. of F AM for his super 'rap' style sounding out in phonics.

Jacob S. of F AM for his amazing innovation of 'the very hungry snake'.

Nathan H. of F CW for participation and enthusiasm for Sports Day practise!

Lola H. of F CW for excellent home learning about the Hungry Caterpillar.

Grace A. of 1/2 NB for gaining confidence in all aspects of learning.

Max G. of 1/2 NB for persevering with his English learning this term.

Barney P. of 1/2 CB for his excellent attitude to learning this week.

Finn C. of 1/2 CB for perseverance when learning how to use question marks.

Robert J. of 1/2 AP for his superb effort in his writing working independently.

Jack G. of 1/2 AP for his excellent reading skills this week!

Madison P. of 1/2 SK for trying her best and succeeding in beautiful joined up handwriting.

Emma N. of 1/2 SK for amazing perseverance throughout all her Year 2 challenges!

Lucy C. of 3/4 SH for fantastic collaborative learning during our Science experiment.

Isla T. of 3/4 SH for superb detail in her description when writing about the Stone Age.

Imogen S-O. of 3/4 PH for persevering with challenging problems in Maths this week.

Lily-May P. of 3/4 PH for being an engaged and resilient learner this week.

Alexia G. of 3/4 TB for always being fully absorbed in her learning.

Mia P-S. of 3/4 TB for a fantastic approach to her learning

Ryan S. of 3/4 TB for great ideas and contributions in his Science learning.

Ethan C. of 5/6 LM for being a fantastic role model.

Katelynn K. of 5/6 LM for taking risks in her Maths learning and making excellent progress.

Jacob N. of 5/6 GP for making links with his Maths and working really hard at improving his handwriting.

Lizzie P. of 5/6 GP for showing lots of resilience when constructing her 3D wooden shelter.

Molly G. of 5/6 VJ for great construction skills in DT.

Emilia N. of 5/6 VJ for excellent classification of animals learning.

We are noticing a large number of School Packed Lunches being requested for EYFS and KS1 children. Mrs Connors cooks a lovely hot dinner every day and we would encourage the children to take this option. Only children whose parents have specifically requested a School Packed Lunch will be provided with one. Thank you

Club cancellations

There will be no Gardening Club on Tuesday 21st May.
There will be no Activity Club on Thursday, 23rd May.

Message from Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre:

This coming May half-term we have activities for all at Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre. Starting Saturday, 25th May, and running all week, anybody can come along and dive into the action. Please see attached flyer for further details.

You can sign up to our high-ropes course, climb at our indoor climbing gym or try your hand at our archery range. If you're visiting Porthpean beach we will have water-sports galore and kayak hire right from the beach. Call or message first to avoid disappointment.

For more on the activities available contact us at porthpean@cornwall.gov.uk or phone: 01726 72901.



The PTFA will be serving teas, coffees, cookies and muffins at Sports Day next week. The second hand Uniform Shop will also be set up if you wish to purchase any items.

If your child is joining us in Foundation in September 2019, don't forget our Learning Together sessions on a Wednesday from 12.00pm-12.30pm. The children really enjoy these sessions and are able to familiarise themselves with the classroom set up, meet the teachers and start making friends too.



Message from Becky James - parent of a child in Year 6
On 4th September 2019, I will be doing a 46k trek through the Italian, Swiss and French Alps. This will be a trek over three days climbing the side of Mont Blanc.

I am doing this trek to raise money for **CHILDREN WITH CANCER UK**. I have a target of **£2,000** to reach.

This charity is very close to my heart and we need to give these kids all the support we can! Every penny raised goes straight to the charity to help these children **RING THE END OF TREATMENT BELL**.

Your support is very much appreciated.

To donate, just follow the link below.

Donate now www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rebecca-james38

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

Mrs Heather Lunders
Headteacher