

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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20th December 2018



It is so great to have made it to end of this very long term. An eight week term at this time of year has been very exhausting and I know parents are as grateful as staff that the holiday has now started. We now all have a break and can return refreshed and ready for the Spring term. The Foundation nativity performances this week were really delightful. I was so impressed to watch these very young children perform with such enthusiasm. They had learnt songs and lines and all went onto the stage in front of a very large audience. Well done to all of them and we are very proud of them all.

The Christmas parties this week were thoroughly enjoyed by all children. There was a huge amount of food donated from parents so a big thank you. The excess food is being taken to the food bank and I think they will be able to have a very large and food filled party on the food we will drop off. I hope you agree that is a very worthwhile thing to do to brighten Christmas for those families and we thank you for your generosity.

Our Nursery looks fantastic and it was a real pleasure to welcome our new children and parents for an open session on Tuesday. We will open on 7th January and are looking forward to adding a Nursery to our provision. We are now looking to provide some holiday care where we will cover INSET days and some of the other holidays. We are working on a charging policy and as the children who attended the day care provided in October had such a good time and with needing to provide for the Nursery, it seems to be a good time to start. If you would like to book for the February INSET day, please contact the office in January as places will be limited.

The adventure play is now looking great! I will have to re-seed the area around it as the poor workmen installing it have truly worked through the worst weather imaginable and it has been a mud bath for them. As I hope you have noticed, the MUGA now has a multi purpose surface and the hills of mud are gone! I really feel so relieved to finally have this project closed. We are all so looking forward to using this amazing resource from January for sports and play sessions. We will be taking children for PE lessons outside so remember to provide warmer sports wear as well as shorts and T-shirts.

The choir went to sing to the residents at Asheborough House on Tuesday and the residents really enjoyed their singing. The choir represented the school very well and Miss Hall was very pleased with their caring attitude. Well done choir. The Christmas carol concert on Wednesday was incredibly well attended. I was very proud of the children as they sang so beautifully. They really are amazing singers and Miss Hall and Mr Hambly are a great team in inspiring our children. Thank you for all the positive comments after the service. We all felt it was a great success and now we can all relax and enjoy Christmas. **We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on 7th January.**

Dates for your diary

7th January

First day back for all

8th January

X Country Club starts

14th January

After School Clubs

start this week

30 January

London Trip to Houses

of Parliament

6 February

EYFS Brighter Smiles

information session

2.45pm-3.30pm

8 February

School Discos

Times to be confirmed

15 February

INSET Day

(No school for pupils)

18 - 22 February

Half Term

25 February

First day back for all

First fluoride

application for EYFS

children

26 February

EYFS Open Morning

9.00 - 10.00

Here's a selection of photos from the Carol Service, our new Nursery and Christmas Jumper Day.



'Excellence is in Everyone'



The Whole Class. of F AM for their amazing performance in our Nativity.
Corey E. of F CW for excellent Nativity singing.
Natasha J. of F CW for being a great angel!
Reuben R. of F CW for excellent manners!
Lillie-Rose N. of 1/2 AP for her amazing supportive friendship towards everyone in class.
Oliver L. of 1/2 AP for fantastic singing at the Church.
Harry P. of 1/2 NB for persevering with his Maths learning.
Josh A. of 1/2 NB for fantastic reading and great comprehension.
Thomas O. of 1/2 CB for reading his CVC words with great enthusiasm.
Daisy B. of 1/2 CB for always trying her very best in her learning.
Jack P. of 1/2 SK for fantastic creative learning and super craft making.
Ellie M. of 1/2 SK for being a fabulous role model and always helping others.
Noah H. of 1/2 SK for his amazing enthusiasm and being a great help in our class.
Olivia A. of 3/4 SH for always trying her best and taking risks in her learning.
Isaac J. of 3/4 SH for an excellent attitude to learning this term.
Imogen S-O. of 3/4 PH for always taking pride in her learning, completing it to the highest standard.
Merryn H. of 3/4 PH for always being an outstanding role model and having a thirst for learning.
Bluebell D. of 3/4 TB for always giving 100% to her learning and setting a superb example.
Rosen H. of 3/4 TB for always setting a fantastic example and always completing her learning.
Dylan W. of 5/6 LM for increased positive attitude towards school life.
Ethan C. of 5/6 LM for working really hard to improve his handwriting.
Joshua T. of 5/6 GP for being continually helpful around school.
Dylan C. of 5/6 GP for persevering with his division in Maths.
Isabella B. of 5/6 VJ for excellent puppet instructional writing.
Peta B. of 5/6 VJ for super effort and perseverance in Maths.

September 2019 admissions

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2019. Please ensure you submit your application in good time requesting your school preferences for which you can make three. Please apply direct to Cornwall Council.

DEBT POLICY REMINDER

As we approach the end of term, can we remind parents that the school operates a **NO DEBT POLICY** for school meals and Friendship Group bookings. Despite this, we currently have 127 payment items outstanding, totalling a debit of over **£2,000!**

Because of this, we're considering raising our charges to allow for the additional admin time it takes to chase and recover these debts. We really do want to avoid this if we can so we are asking all parents to clear their ParentPay balances over the Christmas period and ensure that ParentPay accounts remain in credit before any future bookings are made. Future bookings will be cancelled if there is no credit balance. We will review the situation in the New Year.

For your information, a copy of the school Debt Policy can be found on the school website (Parents - Policies - Debt Policy).

As mentioned in a previous Newsletter, we are trying to cut down on the amount of paper and printer ink costs that we have. **From January, our Newsletters will be sent by email communication only** so if you have changed your email and are not currently receiving the Newsletter electronically, please notify the office. Should you require a printed copy of the Newsletter, there will be copies available from the reception area. Thank you.



Here are our **Foundation children** dressed in their costumes. They performed for the school and their parents/carers and all really enjoyed themselves. Well done children.

Thank you to Frankie W-P's mum, Maisie B's mum and William D's mum for their kind donations to Friendship Time. All the staff of Friendship Time wish all the children and their parents/carers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS START DATES

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. There are still a few spaces left.

Plymouth Argyle Football Clubs commence again either Wednesday, 9th January or Friday, 11th January - new letters are available from the office for next term.

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