

St Stephens (Saltash) C P School

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3rd May 2019



We have had a very busy week and I can't believe it is already May. There was an inter school tennis tournament held on Monday and it was so great to see our amazing school grounds being used to host competitions. I was very proud at the amazing and positive comments from the other schools who couldn't believe how wonderful our MUGA and grounds are. It does make me realise that so many people don't actually know that we have extensive grounds behind our school and judge us just on the frontage. Probably not our best advert, especially with how busy the car park can be. Can I remind everyone again that the car park has a 5mph speed limit and that we try to avoid parents parking for drop off or collection unless by permission. We all need to work to keep everyone safe. The school site opens from 7am for staff to prepare for the school day so any cars parked overnight need to be away early.

We've welcomed lots of parents and children for our September 2019 intake to the information session on Wednesday night. It is always an exciting time to get to know the children and their families but it really makes it easier that many of them have been at our nursery. We have an extension to the nursery room planned for the Summer holidays so we can continue to grow and expand our provision. It is such an advantage to have the children join us so we can start their exciting journey of learning and it really has worked better than we hoped.

We have been struggling this week with the Key Stage 2 boys toilets. It has been so disappointing that we had several incidents where toilet paper was thrown around, and what we hope was water, splashed everywhere. We spoke to the boys but it continued the next day and then again, despite increased monitoring. It took taking time away from all of the boys for the events to stop. It is upsetting that the cleaning staff had to deal with this so can we remind all the children how important respect for the school property is.

On a happier note, the learning detective groups completed an investigation into our latest children's voice survey in which 10% of the children said they felt unsafe somewhere in school so I wanted the detectives to find out where. They discovered that children are worried about the forest school area as they might be stung by nettles or scratched by branches. I was relieved that it was a natural problem and is easily sorted. Mr Davy is busy controlling the nettles and brambles to solve the issue.

We have now opened up the tree adventure area of the school field. The children have absolutely loved using this forest area during lunchtimes and we have some very talented and agile climbers! It is lovely to see how much the children enjoy playing in the trees and with the logs, sticks and mud. We did have the lines marked ready for sports day and I do apologise for the white marks some children had on their clothes after playing on the field the day the marks were completed. The white should wash off. Several parents have asked if we could have a school uniform fleece so we are investigating pricing and suppliers for this at present. We are also restocking sun hats in the hope that the sun will return soon.

We have had some issues this week with ParentPay and Mrs Bunworth has been in constant conversation with them. They have promised the issues will be solved by Monday so let's hope that is true. Mrs Bunworth is very happy to help where problems are found, so please contact her if you experience difficulties. She works every morning in the office. Can we also mention that it causes real problems when Friendship Club bookings are late or not paid for. We can't provide staff at the last minute when numbers rise which is why we ask for 24 hours pre-booking. Especially at present whilst Mrs Silva is absent, we do need booking to be timely. Please note that we are planning to take part in the 'Plastic Free Day' on Wednesday. Let's all see if we can go plastic free for the day. Details are on page 2 of this newsletter.

Dates for your diary

6 May
Bank Holiday
8 May
Plastic Free Day
13 May
Year 6 SATs Week
16 May
School Census Day
Special Menu
21 May
Year 5/6
Flambards trip
22 May
Sports Day
KS2 - Morning
EYFS and KS1 -
Afternoon
27 May
Half term
3 June
Back to school for all
5-7 June
Year 6 intercluster trip to
Porthpean
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



The girls football team went to their first tournament on Wednesday. Well done to all players, especially Molly J who scored twice meaning we finished 3rd. Thank you to all parents who were able to come and watch.



On Monday this week, we hosted the local cluster 3/4 and 5/6 tennis competition. Four other local schools came to compete in the tournament. Our tennis coach, Tom Wyman, ran the event which also included fun games and activities. We had so much interest that we entered two teams. All of our teams played amazingly and one of our 5/6 teams won and got through to the East Cornwall finals. Well done to everyone who competed.

SATs - The Year 6 children will be sitting their statutory tests in the week of May 13th:

Grammar, spelling and punctuation - Monday 13th

Reading - Tuesday 14th

Maths 1&2 - Wednesday 15th

Maths 3 - Thursday 16th

Please can parents make sure children are in school and on time and can we please be informed if there are any reasons why they might not attend. I am hoping for a less dramatic year as last year we had two broken bones in SATs week!

To support the children, we will be offering a breakfast of bacon or sausage baps and/or toast and cereal for free each morning. This will give them a social time to relax before the tests and hopefully divert them a little. I am sure the children will do their best and take it in their stride.



Here are the attendance figures for April. The whole school average for April was 96.7%. The expected percentage for attendance is 96.5%.

The class attendance figures for April were:

5/6 VJ - 94.7%	1/2 CB - 98.6%
5/6 GP - 94.6%	1/2 NB - 98.9%
5/6 LM - 97.0%	1/2 SK - 97.7%
3/4 SH - 96.8%	1/2 AP - 95.8%
3/4 TB - 96.7%	FAM - 96.7%
3/4 PH - 96.5%	FCW - 96.1%

April winners: 1st 1/2 NB, 2nd 1/2 CB, 3rd 1/2 SK
As a reminder, please ensure that if your child is absent from school due to illness, please let us know as soon as possible on each day of the absence by calling the school and leaving a message on the absence line.

'Excellence is in Everyone'



Florence L. of Nursery for practising her good listening skills on the carpet.
Imogen T. of F AM for her creativity and teamwork when making a dolls house.
Rose S. of F AM for her creativity and teamwork when making a dolls house.
Evony D. of F CW for excellent sentence writing in phonics.
Joseph A-A. of F CW for perseverance with independent writing for the Hungry Caterpillar.
Louie D. of 1/2 NB for writing a lovely descriptive poem about lighthouses.
Josh A. of 1/2 NB for fantastic knowledge of capacity looking at full, half, quarter and three quarters.
Leo F. of 1/2 CB for making links to previous learning when locating the world's continents and oceans.
Tegen W. of 1/2 CB for creating some wonderful descriptive sentences about a lighthouse for her poem.
Max M. of 1/2 AP for his impressive measuring and estimating length skills.
Teona V. of 1/2 AP for her superb reading and understanding of what she has read.
Isla J. of 1/2 SK for excellent reading and comprehension skills.
Archy K. of 1/2 SK for trying his best and really improving his reading and comprehension.
Raynee P. of 3/4 SH for fantastic focus on her handwriting and presentation.
Alfie C. of 3/4 SH for using superb vocabulary to convey emotion in English.
Henry F. of 3/4 PH for his carefully considered use of vocabulary in English this week.
Jacob M. of 3/4 PH for being an avid reader and for his fantastic ideas during guided reading.
Justin P. of 3/4 TB for becoming a very enthusiastic learner who is always willing to share his ideas and take risks.
Bailey C. of 3/4 TB for showing great determination and making super progress.
Rosen H. of 3/4 TB for making fantastic progress by pushing herself and taking risks.
NJ N. of 5/6 LM for always being absorbed in his learning and challenging himself.
Stacey C. of 5/6 LM for a fantastic improvement in her attitude towards reading.
Brogan D. of 5/6 GP for fantastic focusing with her learning this week.
Paige L. of 5/6 GP for working independently during science.
William D. of 5/6 VJ for improved focus and effort with all his learning.
Katie H. of 5/6 VJ for super organisational skills and continued diligence in her learning.

Mrs Silva would like to say a big thank you for all the well wishes, gifts and cards that she has received. She is very grateful for the thoughtfulness that you have shown.

More Eco-club members needed - We need dedicated children from Key Stage 2 (years 3-6) to become Eco-club members this term. Due to the other clubs we are running, our current numbers are low, therefore, we will be accepting another five children from KS2 only. The club runs every Tuesday until 4pm. This term we will be helping with the gardening club, building habitats, creating posters and designing furniture using our Eco-bricks. If you are interested, please collect a form from the office or speak to Miss Platts.

Year 6 residential trip to Porthpean - Polite reminder that you are able to make payments either in full or part on ParentPay towards the Porthpean trip and if you haven't yet returned your paperwork, please do so as soon as possible. We will be sending letters out shortly so you can order a Year 6 leavers hoodie.

Here are some pictures of our Nursery and Foundation children enjoying their trip to the National Marine Aquarium.



Next Wednesday 8th May is 'Plastic Free Day' across Cornwall. Final Straw Cornwall, Beach Guardian, Final Straw Solent and Wild Tribe Heroes are collaborating to gather as many schools as possible in Cornwall to celebrate David Attenborough's 93rd birthday by taking part in the '8th May Plastic Free Day'.

Their aim is to have a day of refusing single use plastic and thus raise awareness of the issues surrounding plastic pollution and ocean health and how we can make a difference in our daily lives by making more sustainable choices.

On the 8th May, we are requesting that children are sent to school with a reusable water bottle and no snacks wrapped in plastic e.g. crisps and chocolate bars, substituting with fresh fruit or homemade healthy cakes or biscuits wrapped in foil for instance. Children who bring a packed lunch will be asked to bring sandwiches in a container staying away from cling film as usual. We are already very good at this and will soon become a recognised plastic free school by Surfers Against Sewage.

The school day will involve some class work to learn about how we can reduce the amount of plastic pollution endangering our wildlife and environment and a whole school assembly. Key Stage 2 will also have the opportunity to take part in a national colouring competition for the Beeswax Wraps. The winning school will receive £500 worth of eco-friendly Beeswax Wrappers which will help fundraise money for the school.

We hope that the Plastic Free Day will remind and encourage the children of St Stephens to be extra vigilant about littering and avoiding single use plastic wherever possible. We will also be encouraging the children to write letters to manufacturers, supermarkets, local Councillors and MPs to campaign against the pointless packaging we see every day on our shop shelves. We would love everyone to get involved and support us on this special day.



Angel P from 1/2 SK had her hair cut for the Little Princess Trust last Friday. She's donated 10 inches of her hair to the Trust who make real hair wigs for children and young people with hair loss. We are very proud of you Angel, well done.

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