ST STEPHENS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Creativity Trust Aspiration Enjoyment Collaboration Kindness

THIS WEEK AT ST STEPHENS SCHOOL

Reminders

Harlyn Class swimming every Monday!

Say hello to our House Captains: Orla, Dexter, Aseda, Max, Seb, Arabella, Emilia and Albie! You will all do a wonderful job!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 October
Individual and Sibling School Photos (See ClassDojo)

8 October
Parent Toolkit! Come and join us for Online Safety at 9am and at 5pm (See ClassDojo)

15 October
Harvest Festival at St Stephens Church (See ClassDojo)

16 October
Halloween Disco (See ClassDojo)

19 October
Harvest Festival at St Stephens Church (See ClassDojo)

23 October
Last day of Term 1

26-30 October
Half Term

2 November
INSET Day

3 November
First day of Term 2

9 November
Smarter Smiles Fluoride Varnish Application for Polkerris Class and Year 1

12 November
Parent Toolkit! Come and join us for Maths at 9am and at 5pm (See ClassDojo)

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to share a few important messages with you as we head further into the Autumn term. Firstly, thank you for the improvements we have already seen in **punctuality**. We know that getting everyone up, dressed, fed and out of the door on time is not always easy, so we really do appreciate the effort families are making. Most children are now arriving promptly and ready to start their day. Arriving on time means children can settle calmly, see their friends and be ready for learning from the very beginning of the day.

However, we do have a little way to go to improve our **attendance** as it has already dropped below the line of where it is expected to be so we really need to ask for your help. We ask that you send your child into school whenever they are well enough to attend. We know that autumn brings plenty of sniffles, coughs and colds but a minor sniffle does not necessarily mean that a child needs to stay at home. If your child becomes unwell during the school day, we will look after them and will call you to let you know. If we feel that they are too unwell to remain in school, we will ask you to collect them.

There is one other matter that we particularly want to **bring to your attention** and that is the use of so-called 'nudify' apps and websites. These are tools which can use artificial intelligence to create fake images of people by digitally removing clothing from photographs. Sadly, this is becoming a growing concern for schools and parents because children's photographs can potentially be misused in this way.

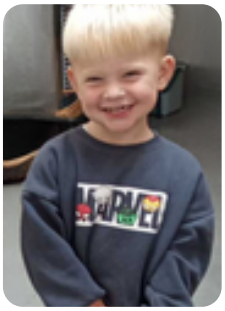
Please have a conversation with your children about this, particularly if you have older children at home. Talk to them about being careful about the photographs they take and share and about never taking, requesting or sharing inappropriate images of themselves or other children. It is also important to remind children that they should tell a trusted adult if someone asks them for a photograph, sends them something inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

By making sure children attend regularly, arrive on time and know how to stay safe online, we can give them the best possible start and help them to feel confident and safe both in and outside of school. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Have a good weekend,

Mrs Laws

THIS WEEK'S STAR AWARDS GO TO...



Niamh T (Nursery) For settling into Nursery and always making us laugh!	**Lennie J (Nursery)** For being very kind and sharing with his friends.	**Mila H (Polkerris)** For confidently writing a list using initial sounds!
Mollie S (Fistral) For outstanding contributions on the carpet and independently focusing on her learning.	**Seb B (Carlyon)** For showing how to be ready, respectful and safe. Well done!	**Karolina J-H (Pentewan)** For working hard in all areas of her learning.
Oscar H (Towan) For a fantastic start to Year 1 – great listening and hard work!	**Isabella P (Portreath)** For being loud, proud and confident when sharing her brilliant ideas!	**Minnie J-H (Treyarnon)** For being an outstanding role model and for always aspiring to achieve her best.
Oscar J (Harlyn) For his excellent use of noun phrases in English.	**Theo B (Mullion)** For thinking creatively when planning out his poem during National Poetry Day.	**Amelia H (Coverack)** For sharing imaginative ideas and approaching tasks with enthusiasm and originality.
Macey J (Kennack) For producing some lovely writing in English, particularly on National Poetry Day.	**Archie B (Sennen)** For his fantastic collaboration when completing an experiment in science.	**Attendance Awards!** For **Best Attendance** this week: **Portreath** Class For **Most Improved Attendance** this week: **Sennen** Class

SHOUT OUTS! Share your child's achievements with us – we would love to see what they are getting up to outside of school and celebrate with them!

Pete Nowlan – Vice Chair of Governors

I have been involved in school governance for many years and previously had the privilege of serving as Chair of Governors for over ten years. During that time, I worked closely with school leaders and fellow governors to support the strategic direction of the school, promote high standards, and ensure the best possible outcomes for pupils. After taking a year's break from governance, I decided to return because I remain passionate about education and the important role that effective governance plays in helping schools succeed. I believe governors can make a real difference by providing both support and constructive challenge, while always keeping the interests of children at the heart of decision-making. Professionally, I have a background in administration, governance support, and working with public sector organisations. These experiences have strengthened my skills in communication, policy, compliance, strategic planning, and understanding complex information. I have a particular interest in supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), ensuring schools remain inclusive environments where every pupil has the opportunity to thrive and achieve their potential. As a governor, I am committed to working collaboratively with school leaders, staff, parents, and the wider community. Having experienced governance from both a governor's and chair's perspective, I understand the importance of strong leadership, accountability, and maintaining a clear focus on what matters most: providing the best education and opportunities for every child.

Please be mindful of our guide dog – We would kindly ask all dog owners visiting the school to be mindful that we have a guide dog working around our school. The guide dog is currently finding it difficult with the number of dogs around the site, with several dogs growling at her, which can make it challenging for her to concentrate on her important job. Please keep your dogs close and under control when around the guide dog and give her plenty of space to work safely and comfortably. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

[redacted]

LET'S LEARN CORNISH!

'Mis Hedra' means October?

ANY OTHER BUSINESS & HOUSEKEEPING:

If your child is **absent from school for any reason**, please call the school **before 9.00am every day of absence**, leaving a message on the absence line (01752 843561)

Cornwall council are issuing Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences (including holidays) during term time. There is an information booklet on our website: Parents/Attendance.