

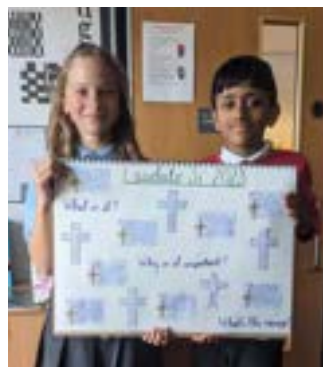


St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

Where the Word of God, and the service and strength of St Stephen, guides our steps and leads us in learning

Summer 23

Spread the Word



Welcome to our summer term magazine when we take a look back at what has been another busy and productive term at St Stephen's. Overall it has been a hugely enjoyable year in school with our children achieving so much, both individually and collectively, giving us so much to celebrate. There have been many high points including our wonderful end of year show 'Hits from the movies' in which the children have really sparkled. Sports week provided children with a wealth of new experiences and opportunities and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in school. Our football teams enjoyed huge success on the field in a season that never seemed to end!

Our Catholic school inspection was extremely successful where our commitment and work around building our community was recognised among many other strengths which saw us receive a report grading us as 'Outstanding.' Although this is brilliant news, there are still things we want to improve on and this will be our focus as we move into next year. In terms of academic outcomes, our end of key stage 2 results are excellent and, again, are well above national average figures.

As always, the end of the summer term is tinged with some sadness as our Year 6 class bring their time with us to an end. They have been a wonderful class and have done extremely well in all they have done BUT we haven't seen the best of them yet..... We wish them every success as they all move to new schools in September. Also leaving us are some members of staff who have, in a short time, made a huge contribution to the lives and learning of our children and also the life of the school. We wish Miss Lightfoot, Miss Millen, Miss Adams, Mrs Calzolari and Mrs Raczynski well as they move on from St Stephen's.

I hope you enjoy the content of the magazine and all the things we've been up to this term. Have a wonderful summer break with plenty of rest, relaxation and enjoyment and we'll look forward to doing it all again in September.



St Stephen's Prayer Garden - The Sanctuary

We are delighted to announce that our prayer garden, The St. Stephen's Sanctuary, is now officially open! It has been a busy few weeks getting it to this point but I'm sure you can agree, that our special volunteers have done such a wonderful job! The school garden was in need of some care and attention and our special helpers gave it that...and more!

Our vision for the St. Stephen's Sanctuary was quite simple: a quiet, reflective and calming space where pupils, staff and members of our parish community can spend a moment in quiet prayer with God. Essentially, we hoped to develop something permanent, which could be used regularly and cherished by all, including the birds and mini beasts! Our Little Potting Club have already made an excellent start on maintaining the garden and have taken great pride in watering the plants and ensuring that the bird feeders are topped up so that our garden can continue to blossom.

To help celebrate the opening of the garden, Fr. Sean celebrated a short service with the whole school, followed by a blessing ceremony.

We are so proud of this area of the school grounds and our Agents for Change, along with our gardening club, will do their absolute best to maintain and care for this special area of our school.

Huge thanks to Mr and Mrs Savory who carried out the refurbishment work of the garden. Their expertise and enthusiasm, along with the instructions from Mrs Long, ensured we have a really special place in school for all of us to enjoy.



It was great to celebrate Pope Francis' Letter to the World 'Laudato Si'. The children were tasked with thinking about how they can be better stewards of our common home: planet earth. In his letter, Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path.



This saw our children engage in all manner of activities including a beautiful prayer service with Father Sean, where we reflected on key messages. Father Sean also blessed the St. Stephen's Prayer Garden and officially opened it. Year 6 led our service, with the choir leading the hymns too.

Our activities gave our children lots to think about and as a result of the dedicated week in school, we have a mission going forward: to be better guardians of our common home.



Back to the '80s' and the Big Gig

In June, Year 3 and 4 took part in a fantastic live music experience at Vertu Motors Arena. The event was celebrated with many other schools across the North Tyneside and Newcastle area and was a brilliant celebration of young musical talent. Preparations for the Big Gig took place on a weekly (and eventually daily!) basis for our pupils and were supported by Mrs Fagan, Miss Kinnear and Miss Millen. The children learnt a range of songs on the steel pans and glockenspiels, as well as the fast-paced lyrics and showed off unbelievable performance skills at the final concert. Their enthusiasm on the big show day was phenomenal from all of the children and they really did us proud. There was a range of catchy '80s hits performed, from Eye of the Tiger to Ghostbusters – the children loved them all! A huge well done to all of our budding performers in Year 3 and 4.





CAREERS WEEK 2023

Our annual Careers Week for KS2 pupils took place the week before May half term and what a busy week it was! Careers Week is an integral part of the St Stephen's calendar, providing pupils with food for thought and planting seeds for their future goals and aspirations. The purpose of the week is for pupils to be exposed to the big, wide world of work through visitors to school and trips out to workplaces.

The week began on Monday 22nd May and fifteen pupils spent the afternoon at an actual office block – the EE Corporate Office at Cobalt Business Park. The afternoon consisted of a



tour of the building and the many different roles within the company including customer service, sales and management. The children were impressed by what a great place to work this is, particularly by the rooms where staff can have access to the latest technology in order to be able to know how it works when helping customers. Pupils came back brimming with EE goodies as well as ideas!



In school, we had a Scientist perform an experiment which involved using a product that their company had created to sanitise dirty water and make it safe for drinking. This is something that is offered to communities where fresh drinking water isn't readily available and saves miles of walking to the nearest water pump. A First Aid Trainer told the children all about his role in teaching adults (who sometimes don't want to be taught!) and the importance of acquiring first aid skills. We also had a Leisure Assistant and Swimming

Teacher explain about the many roles within a leisure centre. The free swimming seemed very appealing until we found out about the early mornings and late nights involved. Some of our pupils couldn't imagine getting up at 5am to go to work! Monday also saw a representative from Newcastle United Academy who explained about the many roles in football that don't involve kicking a ball! As there was a match on that evening, it was put into context the preparation that would be in place to get ready for the big game.



Tuesday was possibly our busiest day with twelve pupils out at Boo-K Florist, learning first-hand how to put together displays of flowers and the fast-paced business that is running a successful florist! Although becoming a Florist may apply to those who like to exercise their creative flair, they must also be business minded, organised and work under pressure to keep up with seasonal demands. In school, we had a visit from a Psychotherapist who had a story about a sleepy cat that made everyone relaxed, demonstrating the power of our mind and connecting this to how we feel. We also got to meet a Solicitor who used to be a Circus Performer! They explained the many different types of lawyer and what skills might be needed to succeed in this role and help people with aspects of the law. An expert in Computing Automation gave some insight into how technology is shaping the jobs that are out there as well as the benefits of being able to do your job from home. It was news to some of us that Miss Calzolari is also a trained Pilates Instructor and the children learned about how important it is to move our bodies, compensating for the postures we adapt throughout the day hunched over desks and phones. Another field of work explored on Tuesday was that of Facilities Management and how much is involved looking after buildings for schools, hotels, offices and many other businesses.

The momentum kept going on Wednesday with more visits to school. It was clear to see the passion from the Librarian who explained that libraries are so much more than just books but an incredibly valuable public resource to find information and community. The pupils at St Stephen's always enjoy a visit



from Dogs Trust but may not have considered the work that people do to keep the dogs happy and healthy. Rachel from Dogs Trust actually used to be a teacher then found this job that allows her to be a teacher about her favourite subject everyday – dogs! We couldn't believe that there is such thing as a Lego Artist and that it is someone's job to design and build Lego all day! Some of the Lego pieces were so intricate and certainly impressive! You can see some of the work here: <https://brickthis.co.uk>. The Alnwick Gardens design ended up taking almost a year in its entirety, demonstrating the importance of the skills of determination and resilience, which we practise all of the time at Stephen's. Pupils learned about what it's like to work in a manufacturing factory building various robots that help us and businesses complete tasks. They even got to see an example of one that had 50 different parts that are shipped in from all over the world. The 'Cell Detectives' workshop was definitely popular and pupils were introduced to the world of microscopy and bioimaging using equipment to see what various objects looked like under a microscope!



Thursday brought with it a visit to the Opticians and more visitors to school! We found out about all of the ways we can use problem solving and communication skills in a role in Human Resources. There was also a visitor whose role is in media and communications – he gets to organise lots of events for staff and make sure they are up to date with what is going on in the company. A busy

but very fun job to do! Pupils learned about being a wind turbine engineer – they got to try on some of the gear and were shown photos and videos of wind farms out at sea. Some of the wind farms were a 7-hour trip away from shore so it wasn't surprising to hear that staff often have a snooze on the journey! We were lucky enough to have the Nutritionist for Hutchison Catering, our school meal provider, talk to the children about jobs within food and nutrition. She will have been involved in putting together the delicious menu we have on offer at school, and we feel very lucky to have met her!





The week certainly didn't tail off when Friday arrived with even more visitors to school. We had a Traffic Collision Officer who explained not only about his role specifically, but the different jobs within the police force. The children got to take part in an activity where estimations were made about how fast a vehicle might have been going to cause an accident. The Tax Inspector was certainly an interesting talk – the children were introduced to what tax is and roles that involve making sure that individuals or companies are paying the right



amount. We had a visitor from Newcastle University to talk about careers in Architecture and Town Planning. There were some big topics discussed such as sustainability and climate change. On a sports theme, some coaches known to our pupils stayed to talk about what they do outside of teaching at our school. Stephen Pape, our boxing instructor is also a Personal Trainer and runs his own gym. The children gained an understanding of what it's like to manage clients, paperwork and being self-employed and tried out some boxing themselves! Coaches from Newcastle United Foundation introduced pupils to the notion of apprenticeship schemes and how this can be a route into sports coaching. This needs determination and work ethic to get through the demands of college whilst working.



We are incredibly thankful to all who have supported Careers Week and made it such a success. If there's one thing that we've learned, it's how demanding it can be across all professions, so we are very grateful for our visitors for taking time out of their days to talk to our pupils. It's apparent to see how careers are developing with technology and the way the world is moving - our pupils could be in roles that haven't even been discovered yet! We wonder if we'll see some of them back to support St Stephen's Careers Week as professionals themselves in ten years' time!

SPORTS NEWS



Football

It has been a remarkably long but very successful football season for the children who have represented the school this year. Under the guidance of Mr Baines (a would be Eddie Howe)

and Mr Smith (he really fancies himself as Brian Clough) the teams have performed extremely well and, after many seasons where silverware seemed to elude us, the trophy cabinet is still open as our team successfully retained the league title. Demand for football among the children has been very high, such is their love of the game and we are delighted that this is the case. It has, however, been sometimes difficult to meet this level of demand and Mr Baines and Mr Smith, along with Miss Coates, have really tried satisfy this demand, resulting in a lot of fixtures and late nights. I am very grateful to all three of them for the time they have devoted to our children's football across the year. Over the course of the year, over 45 children have had the opportunity to represent the school in football at different age groups and tournaments.



When thinking of all the matches played, there have been some fantastic moments with stunning goals and saves, defence splitting passes, fierce tackling and brave defending. We have seen high scoring victories and tight no score draws; everyone has their own favourite moments. For me there are two stand out moments both of which were during the St Stephen's invitational tournament where we had two teams involved. As fate would have it ,they were drawn to play against each other in the group stages and produced a great game played in the best manner you could wish for. Although competitive, children from both teams thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle with the winning side very humble in victory and the losing side graceful in defeat. It typified the kind of attitude we strive to build in our children. The result was irrelevant, we were so proud of all those involved. Another stand out moment for me was probably the bravest piece of goalkeeping I have seen from a child in primary school. With an attacker through on goal, Lennon Foster came racing off his line and threw himself at the feet of the would be goalscorer. Whilst pushing the ball away from the feet of the attacker, Lennon took the full force of his right foot and shin to his head and to say my heart was in my mouth would be an understatement. Amazingly, Lennon jumped up to retrieve the ball and clear the danger much to the attacker's, and the spectators', disbelief and the delight of his team mates. Fantastic stuff!!

Well done to everyone who has been involved this season and contributing to what has been a great team effort.

S.Fallon

The final term saw the team embark on their final round of fixtures in the league. The final game was against the team second, Greenfields where a draw would be good enough to win the league. The match started very even with not a lot between the two teams but St Stephen's soon found their rhythm and went in at half time two goals up. The second half proved to be quite tough with Greenfields taking the game to us. Although they grabbed a goal back, and a very scrappy and ill tempered final few minutes, St Stephen's players kept their heads and ran out as winners. The result concluded what was a brilliant season, with the children having a perfect record of winning every league fixture and winning the league for a second year in a row. This is an excellent achievement and something that the whole squad should feel extremely proud of.

Year 6 Cremona Shield

At the end of May, Year 5/6 boys and girls competed in the Cremona Shield, held at Westmoor Community Centre. This has become a regular fixture in the football calendar for our school.

The team performed very well during the group round of games and finished top of their league and securing a semi-final place. A hard fought 2-1 victory against Bailey Green saw St Stephen's into the final of this prestigious event for the first time. Unfortunately, they came up short by missing out to the eventual winners, a very strong Hareside Primary School of Cramlington.



Girls football

The girls football team finished their final round of league fixtures against Benton Dene. Despite being the underdogs, the girls raced into a 3-0 lead by half time with a hat-trick from Eden Brogden.



The second half was a bit tighter with Benton Dene really looking for a way back into the game, pulling a goal back. However, this was short lived as Eden Brogden added a fourth goal and effectively ended the contest.

The final result meant that the girls finished the season in second place to New York Primary School who were the only team they didn't beat in the league. Despite the disappointment of not winning the league, the girls should feel really proud of themselves for pushing New York Primary all the way to the final game of the season and putting in some brilliant performances. This form was carried over into the Cochrane park tournament where, despite having a weakened team due to some of the team being away on a residential visit, they finished a very credible second place.

A girls team also played in the Cremona Shield where they finished in fifth place after coming up against some very strong opposition. However, they really used this as a learning curve and entered the Northern Cross Catholic Schools cup final with renewed determination.

The standard in the finals was extremely high but, after two really good wins against St Mary's, Cullercoats and also All Saints, Lanchester, they booked their place in the final against St Benet's from Sunderland. The game was a very tight affair with neither team able to stamp their authority on the game. Unfortunately, it was St Benet's, who took the only real chance of the game after scoring a scrappy goal after the girls struggled to clear the ball from what was a highly disputable corner. Unfortunately, with little time remaining, St Benet's hung on to take the honours.

As you can imagine, the girls were really upset to lose out in such cruel circumstances. However, on reflection, they should be really proud of their achievements as they again managed to finish second in a competition which runs the length and breadth of the diocese.



Year 3 and 4 Football



This year, brought about the first ever Year 3/4 football league. The nine children from year 3 and 4 make up the squad with fixtures being played on a Monday evenings after school.

The first round of fixtures brought about a few butterflies for the children involved; however, the children needn't have worried with them winning the first two fixtures in style against Amberley and Balliol 3-0 and 8-0 respectively.

As the weeks continued, the children continued to grow in confidence and really took to the competitive stage showing great skill, teamwork and

sportsmanship throughout. They won most of their fixtures winning the majority of their games but dropping points in three matches put the league title out of reach.

Philip Reilly Football Tournament

In June, St Stephen's the children played in the 'Philip Reilly Football Tournament' which was held at St Aidan's RC Primary School in Wallsend. The boys and girls played very well winning one, losing one and drawing one. Unfortunately this wasn't enough to progress to the next stage, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the semi-finals on goal difference. However, the experience will certainly stand them in good stead for future competitions.



St Stephen's Invitational

On Thursday 29th June, St. Stephen's hosted this now very popular football tournament. With so many children wanting to play, we were able to enter two teams. The Red Team (pictured in blue to the right!) played very competitively during their group games but just missed out on reaching the semi-finals by goal difference. One of their games was against the other St Stephen's side where,



although they were defeated, they gave a terrific account of themselves and for long spells of the game more than matched the blue team!

The Blue Team won all of their group games and knocked out Benton Dene 2-0 in the semi-finals to set up a mouth-watering final against our neighbours St Bart's. Early in the first half, Caelan Hutton struck a superb half volley from outside the box to take a slender lead going in at half time. After missing several clear chances to kill the game off early in the second half, we inevitably had to soak up some pressure towards the end of the game. Frustratingly, we conceded a free kick in the last minute right on the edge of the box. *(It has to be said that the free kick should never have been awarded as the ball had gone out of play for what should have been a St Stephen's throw in. Sadly, unless VAR is brought in such instances will continue to happen!)* With a sturdy defensive wall assembled, and our goalkeeper barking instructions, the free kick thankfully sailed over the bar and this was the cue for wild celebrations! What a way to end the season, another trophy following a win against our neighbours.

Athletics

On Tuesday 23rd May, a group of Year 6 children entered into the North Tyneside Athletics Tournament held at Churchill Playing Fields, in Monkseaton. Over 40 schools were competing in various track and field disciplines including: 60m hurdles, long jump, high jump, cricket ball throw, 80m sprint, 800m long run and a relay race.

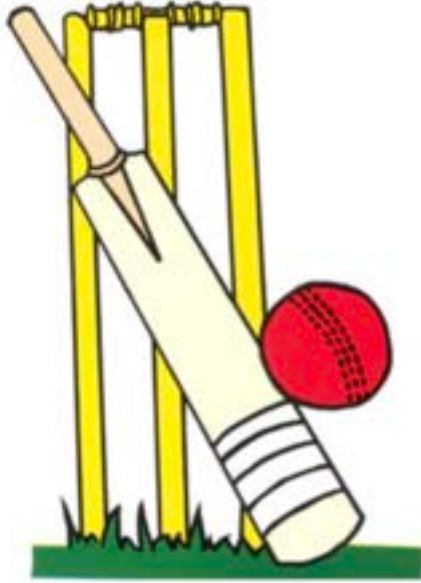
Three pupils from our school proved to be exceptional in their respective events: Sean Teasdale finished 1st in all of North Tyneside for boys 60m hurdles; Alicia Cadete also finished 2nd in all of North Tyneside for 80m sprint; and Leo Jobson finished 3rd in 800m race. All three qualified for the County Championships which was a fabulous achievement given the level of competition they faced.



The Active Mile

At the start of the second half term, children and staff took part in Active Mile Day. This event, which is part of our annual calendar of activities, supports North Tyneside and their link with the national daily mile initiative. The event includes all school pupils of all ages and key stages and encourages young people (and older) to participate in a range of activities in order to become more active. Following the event, our school sent off our participation totals and in turn will contribute to the total number of participants who have contributed across North Tyneside. Additionally, the school received a celebratory certificate marking the children's achievement and how many miles have been covered. The school total was 212 miles, which is about the equivalent from our school to Birmingham or about a three-and-a-half-hour journey in a car.





Cricket

In the latter part of the summer term, Year 6 got the opportunity put the skills learnt in the previous half term's PE to use by taking part in a cricket festival at Backworth Cricket Club. The children were divided into three separate teams, a boys team, a girls team and a mixed team. The children were all eager to get playing and everyone got the chance to bat, bowl and field as well as cheer on their peers against a number of different local schools.

As the day unfolded, everyone experienced some success whether it be taking a good catch, bowling someone out or hitting a ball to the boundary. All the teams performed really well throughout the day, particularly the boys team who finished third overall, narrowly being beaten against

the overall winners, Amberley, in the semi-finals.





Sports Week 2023



In what is now becoming an annual event, the children participated in Sports Week. The aim of the week was to inspire and enthuse the children with a love of sport and exercise and provide them with a chance to try a variety of different sports. Each day, the children chose between different activities. Some of the activities on offer were archery, tennis, rugby, ultimate frisbee, rounders, golf, team challenges, handball, hockey, parachute game, table tennis and Zumba to name just some of the choices. In total, the children got to choose from around 20 different sports across the week. The activities were delivered by a variety of different staff from teachers; teaching assistants; and even Mr Fallon, who delivered a golfing master class to some lucky students. (less of the masterclass!)



As well as the various sporting activities in school, some children also got the opportunity to attend various trips such as visits to Forest Hall Tennis Club for coaching from a specialist tennis coach and a trip to Newburn Leisure Centre to access their climbing wall.



At the back end the week we held our our Key Stage 1 and 2 Sports Days. The events were a mixture of traditional athletic events such as long jump, long throw and different running events as well as some more fun events such as egg and spoon and sack races.



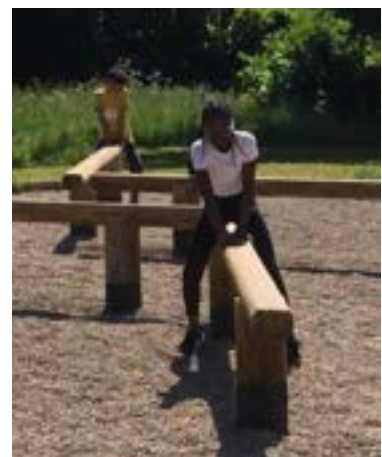
As always, the races were fiercely competitive, but all the children went about this in a positive and supportive manner encouraging and supporting their peers. The children all performed brilliantly and tried their best and as a result, regardless of where they finished in the various races, the children enjoyed their morning of competition.



Residential visits

Our residential programme is now fully back in place following the disruption caused Covid. This term, our children year 5 have been to Ford Castle in Northumberland, near Berwick whilst Year 6 have been to High Borrans in the Lake District.

The purpose behind the visits is, as well as creating fabulous memories for our children, is to provide experiences which help develop resilience, independence, teamwork and challenge. Our children often surprise themselves with how much they achieve whilst away, whether it be tackling a high ropes course, climbing to the top of a ghyll, successfully following a map or even making their own bed! This breeds confidence and further motivates our children to do more as they learn to understand and manage risk in a very controlled environment. The physical activities, which the children undertake, complement our physical education curriculum within the outdoor and adventurous element, another reason why this work is so valuable. We are always seeking ways to improve or tweak our 'offer' and next year we will most likely switch the Year 5 venue from Berwick to North Yorkshire and a barbed new purpose built activity centre.... Exciting times ahead.....







Mini-movers

The new nursery children have enjoyed mini-movers sessions every Friday with Active North Tyneside. They have played games to develop their strength, coordination and listening skills. As well as being great activity, it helped our children familiarise themselves with our school in readiness for September. We are excited to welcome you all back in September.



Visit from the chicks

Year 5 were fortunate enough to have chicks in their classroom as part of a science project. However, there was no way Early years could miss this opportunity to get them into our classroom.

The children were absolutely captivated by them and when they got the chance to hold them they were thrilled. After a tentative start, we were lucky to get the chicks back to year 5!



Year 3 Team Challenge Day



Year 3 took part in a Desert Survival Day ran by Kevin and Heather from Team Challenge. We started off the day in our teams and building our bases. Our bases would be used as a space to communicate and regroup to share ideas and plans for the tasks that were to follow. The aim of the day was to be the team to win a seat on the rescue plane, but there were only 8 seats!! Only one team could win. The victorious team would be the one who cooperated effectively during the tasks and worked together as a team to win mini challenges and earn sand. The team with the most sand in their bucket at the end of the day would win a seat on the rescue plane. There was a series of challenges throughout the day that required us to put our ideas together, problem solve and listen effectively in order to be successful. The children were excellent at listening to each other's ideas and then deciding the best methods to help their team succeed. Despite only one team winning, all children did us proud with their efforts. Well done, Year 3!



As we come to the end of the school year and get ready for the summer holiday, we say goodbye to a special bunch of people who will move on to secondary school in September. I hope that they look back on their time at St Stephens with fond memories of the learning, the fun and the experiences they had here. They have been a remarkable group who really did live out the 'St Stephen's Way' in a manner which has had such a positive impact on the life of the school. As individuals, and collectively, they have been a joy to have in our school and we are extremely proud of all they have achieved. It is in these achievements, and their development, that they have demonstrated a readiness for secondary school; put simply, they have achieved all there is to do at St Stephen's and it is time to move on. Although we will miss them, we are also excited to hear about all the great things they will go on to do in the years ahead and we will take a small grain of satisfaction in that their journey started here with us at St Stephen's. On behalf of all the staff and governors, we wish them all the very best of luck for September and the years ahead.



First Holy Communion



St Aidan's RC Church 2023

A huge well done to our children who made their First holy Communion in the latter part of the summer term. The children, and their families, have worked with the parish catechists at St Aidan's over the year in order to prepare to receive this sacrament. We are very grateful to all involved, not least the children who, in receiving communion, have reached a significant milestone in their faith journey.



Lego League Explore

This term our school entered, for the first time, the Lego League Explore festival. This programme allowed some children from Years 3 and 4 to take part in a creative and fun project where they got to find out about a real-world problem and make and design Lego models in order to potentially solve this.

This year's theme was called 'Superpowered' and involved the children looking into the different parts of the energy journey and thinking of ways this could be improved. The Year 3 team chose to look into electrical outputs and thought that they could reduce the impact of climate change through more people using electric cars and designed a more efficient charging station. The Year 4 team decided to focus more on the way energy is produced and designed a hydroelectricity plant to harness the different water sources we have nearby.

Both teams worked tirelessly on their projects: designing, creating and coding to make the various models and add movement to them as well as making an imaginative poster displaying all the different things they had learned over the weeks.

Needless to say when the day of the festival arrived, the children were excited to showcase their work to the judges, who were really impressed with both teams giving them outstanding in the majority of categories.

As part of the festival, the school were also asked by the organisers to bring some coding experts along from Year 6 to help inspire children from all the schools involved to take part in the First League Lego competition, which is aimed at the older children. The organisers of the event all commented how impressed they were with the children's knowledge but also their behaviour and attitude stating they were a real credit to the school.





As part of our school's partnership with Newcastle United Foundation, children from Year 5 and 6 were given an opportunity to visit St James' Park as part of a stadium tour package.

When they arrived, they learned a little of the history of our famous local club. They also looked around the changing rooms and got to hear about some of the different gamesmanship tactics that are used by the home team and opposition teams, whilst also finding out where some of the first team players sit and what they are like in the dressing room. The children then walked up to level seven of the stadium to really experience the sheer size of the vast stadium and what the view would be like if you sat at the very top row!

Finally, the children got to experience what it would be like to play for Newcastle United as they ran out through the tunnel to the song 'Local Hero', just like the first team players do. As you can imagine, this was a brilliant experience for our children, which they thoroughly enjoyed and I'm sure will further inspire their love of Newcastle United and football in general.





At the time of writing, the children and staff were getting ready to put on our end of term show 'Hits from the Movies.' By the time you read this, there's every chance you've been to see the production and, hopefully, you were suitably impressed by the quality of the performance our children put on. They've been rehearsing and practising so hard and judging from what we can hear echoing through the school, the enthusiasm the children have shown and all the work of

Mrs Long and the staff, I fully expect it to have been a cracking show. Mrs Long has been keen to produce something like this for a long time and, once her request was granted, the work started. We'll have a full report on the show in the Autumn term, as writing about it before the main event wouldn't have been right. So, here's a few shots from rehearsals and, as mentioned before, hopefully you've already seen it and have been left thoroughly impressed at what the children have achieved.



Look out for the Autumn term magazine when we will have a full story about 'Hits from the Movies'.



As mentioned earlier, it has been a very busy and rewarding year in school with some fabulous achievements including our catholic school inspection, our academic outcomes and of course the wider curriculum offer we provide. For this I must pay tribute to the staff who have, yet again, worked tirelessly and endlessly for our children. I hope they have a good break and come back refreshed in readiness to do it all again in September. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for the support and encouragement you provide for the children. Lastly, and most importantly, the main thanks goes to the children. Without them, we wouldn't have our school and it is because of how they have applied themselves this year that we have had such a good year.

For some parents, this marks the end of their time with us. I hope that you can look back on your child's time at St Stephen's with a sense of satisfaction and acknowledgement that your child 'got a good deal,' here, so that he or she is now ready to embark on their next chapter in secondary education. I sincerely hope you take away many happy memories of your child's time with us.

On behalf of the staff, governors and all at St Stephen's, have a lovely summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.



