



Headteacher- *Mrs. Janet Pascoe*

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email: [secretary@stburianacademy.org](mailto:secretary@stburianacademy.org)

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

### *EXCITING NEWS!*

*You may well have already heard about the hit show Channel 4's programme 'Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds', which was aired during the summer break with a recent follow up Christmas reunion between the residents of a retirement home and a nursery group.*

Christmas should be a happy time, but for far too many people, it's a time when we feel most lonely. Every day we hear from people who are experiencing devastating life events such as bereavement, which can give rise to overwhelming feelings of loneliness and loss. (Age Concern UK)

Our [research shows](#) 1.2 million older people in England feel chronically lonely with 928,000 saying they feel lonelier at this festive time.

*The aim of the show was to highlight the many benefits of intergenerational activities which bring the old and young together. This is an area which our school has tried to promote for many years and recent research clearly shows the benefit for all involved.*

*We are delighted to announce that our school has recently been granted a large sum of money from the National Lottery Fund, to whom we are very grateful, to promote this work further.*

*Our intention is to use our new garden building, out of school hours, for community use; more details to follow...*

**About the show:** The hit show gripped the nation earlier this year with its ambitious six-week experiment, which saw a nursery group share a classroom with older people in a retirement home in Bristol.

The intergenerational friends were back together for an hour-long Christmas special, aired on Channel 4 on 18 December- still available on All4 catch up TV), as they prepared for a joint Christmas concert. Read a review of the show, written by Lucy Mangan for The Guardian in August 2017:



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**Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds review – a moving and uplifting experiment** How do you tackle grief, depression and loneliness? Send in the kids!

Because I am a horrible person and a worse mother, my initial thought about the premise of last night's [Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds](#) – whereby a group of the latter are introduced into the former for six weeks – was that it came straight from a list of horror movie outlines unable to get studio funding because of their bottomless depravity. My son is six. A retirement home full of silent, immobile adults is my dream. If a production company tried to introduce anyone under 60 into that beautiful scenario, I'd sue. Imagine decanting a classful of youngsters into a retirement home for anyone other than convicted war criminals. The average pensioner has paid their stamps. Let them rest in peace.

In last night's opening episode, four-year-olds Nelson, Eva ("When you are old you go in a bungalow"), Millie, Solomon and friends met 10 volunteers for the scheme in the St Monica Trust retirement community in Bristol. They included 87-year-old Michael, who looked younger and fitter than I do; Zina, who is suffering from depression after her husband's diagnosis of dementia; best friends Sheila (86) and Lorna (92); and the rather wonderful Hamish, who has an artificial leg and wore an attitude of bemusement towards the whole

thing. "I can't quite see what great difference it's going to make."

He – and I – had our cynicism gently sloughed away as the first half of the six-week experiment wore on. Anything different is welcome in a place that – although obviously of a very high quality – is still, as one resident put it, full of passengers on a journey on which there is only one stop. And if that something is 10 bundles of exuberant joy, youthful curiosity and unselfconscious affection, then so much the better. There were no earth-shattering revelations. Walking is easier if you are with someone to whom everything is new and exciting ("I sawed a robin!") rather than traipsing up and down the physio's office. Watching ducklings hatch is more thrilling than eight hours of television. A trusting little hand in yours will get you out of your seat even if you are feeling down. In many ways, it would have been better done as a mood piece rather than structured as an experiment.

Hamish – a bachelor without immediate family and clearly nervous rather than curmudgeonly – was soon casting aside his walking stick and hunkering down on the floor to be a sleeping lion who will wake with roars terrifying enough to delight all his young companions. David, an 89-year-old retired geologist who once led expeditions to the Arctic but who now sits in his chair since being widowed four years ago, joined the group and lost his heart to Eva ("She's a poppet"). Zina's face lit up when one of the children chose her to help with a memory game. It was heartbreaking and uplifting all at once...



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Tickets selling fast- get yours before it's too late!



# **Flats & Sharps**

**Charity Evening at St Buryan Academy**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm**

**Raising funds for Outdoor Learning/ Camping**

**Tickets £10 available from St Buryan Academy**

**Tel: 01736 810480**



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### **Any unwanted/surplus Christmas Gifts?**

Should you be looking for a good home for those many boxes of chocolates/ biscuits or any other items that you may have received, surplus to requirement, we'd be delighted to receive them at school to use for raffle hampers/prizes.

Please take to school office. Thank you.

### **Y5-6 OPEN MORNING- EVERYONE WELCOME**

Next Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 9.15am

Everyone is welcome to join Y5-6 in the school hall from the start of the school day on Monday to celebrate their unit of work concerning the impact that we can all have on the world. Refreshments available from 9am.

Please bring along any interested family or friends too.

### **Land's End Benefice- Messy Church**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 4.30-6pm at St Buryan Village Hall**

**All welcome- no charge- jacket potatoes with fillings for tea included- children must be accompanied please**

**Details from Rev'd Canon Vanda Perrett 01736 810216**



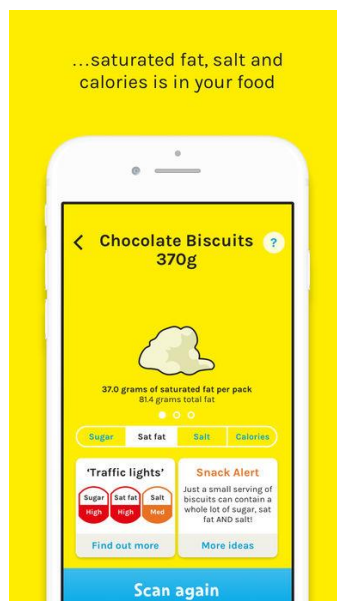
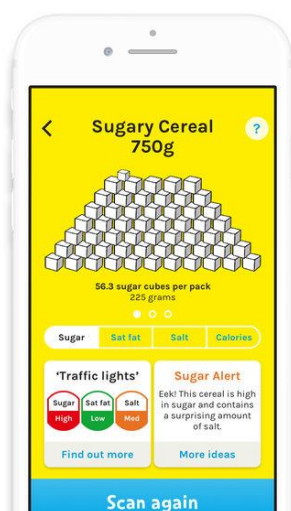
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## Change 4 Life: new Food Scanner App

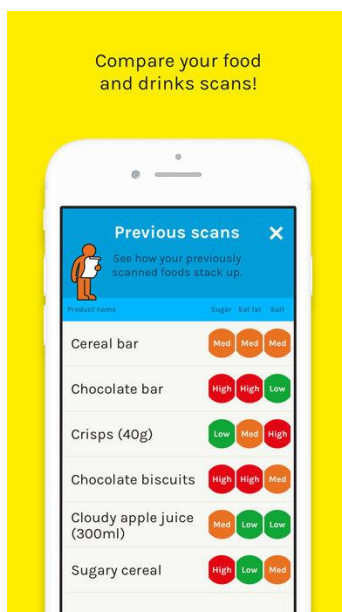
Find out how much sugar...



Look for healthier snacks that are under 100 calories and not high in sugar, sat fat or salt.



Compare your food and drinks scans!





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### Next week's menu: WEEK 2, see website, PARENTS, School Meals

**Extra-Curricular Activities; Breakfast Club** from 8am all week- **last food orders 8.40am**

*Monday- Dodge Ball (Y3-6) until 4.15pm, Art Club (Y3-4) until 4.15pm, Construction Club (Y1-2) until 4pm*

*Tuesday- Let's Get Cooking (Y3-4 Group 1) until 4.15pm*

*Wednesday- KS1 Maths Club (Y1-2) until 4pm, KS2 Ball Skills (Y3-6) until 4.15pm*

*Thursday- Football Club (Y3-6), Crochet Club (Y4, 5, 6) until 4.15pm*

**Activities R Us** – Short Stay Session to 4.15pm only £2.00 full session until 5.30pm £4.00

Monday- Construction and Puzzle Time

Tuesday- Craft Activities

Wednesday- Making Pizzas for Snack-time

Thursday- Colouring Sheets and Puzzles

Friday- Board Games

### Request from ARUs

Are you spring cleaning at home and looking to clear any of the following items? If so, we'd be delighted to make use of them at After School Club. All donations help keep our costs down. Thanks:

Any items suitable for crafting, such as wool, fabric, small boxes/ shoeboxes, kitchen tubes (empty), games and puzzles (suitable for up to 11 years).

**Thank you**