

St Petroc's Post



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather has done its absolute best to scupper our plans and make things difficult this week. It has, at the same time, allowed for lots of reflection about the power of nature and also fits equally well with our motto 'Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow'. The children and teachers have been demonstrating flexibility and perseverance, following on from our assemblies about targets and goal setting. This was fantastically epitomised by our U11s girls, who attended the ISA Regional Netball Championships on Wednesday. The standard was very high and each girl gave her very best. Although some of the scores were very close, we performed well against some extremely tall girls from Wales, who deservedly went on to win the tournament and will now represent the South West at the National Championships. As the Independent Schools Association Head of Sport for the South West, I was very proud of our team and I want to wish good luck to Monmouth Prep Girls, who really were a formidable outfit! We now assemble our Cross Country team for next week's Regional championships in the picturesque Haldon Forest in Exeter and wish our runners the very best of luck in this new format event. They too have the chance to compete in the National Championships later in the year, which is very exciting.

Activities started in phases this week and the Key Stage 2 children enjoyed their first 'proper' Yoga session, working very hard. Our canoeists met with the Shoreline Instructor, talked through their goals and what they are hoping to get out of the water sports activities. Meanwhile, the Stay and Play children have been busy decorating the beautiful clay pots they made last week. I managed to spend a little time with the Dolphins pre-schoolers but was, sadly, called away for a phone call and missed out on making my own Gingerbread Man. I was subsequently reliably informed that Sebastian and Teddy ate mine - how charming! Lots of fun none the less. Back into the Prep and I would like to welcome back Mrs Cole from her Maternity Leave. We are delighted to see her energy and excitement light up the classrooms, with both her love of Spanish and ICT, but also running some of our intervention programmes alongside Mrs Rees. Another great stride in the classroom for our children. I am sure the children will enjoy seeing her too. Perseverance was our continued focus in Assembly this morning and the tale of 'The Hare and the Tortoise'. I would also like to wish the very best of luck to our Year 6 pupils, who are heading over to Shebbear College next week for various Scholarship and Academic Assessments. Embrace the experience and fly your St Petroc's flag with pride!

Have a restful weekend everyone.

Ben Hilton
Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow

Diary Dates

Monday 20th - Friday 24th

January

- Shebbear College Entrance & Scholarship Assessments

Wednesday 22nd January

- ISA Regional Cross Country at Halden Forest

Monday 3rd February

- Budehaven Book Event (Dolphins & Reception)

Wednesday 5th February

- U11 (KS2) Mixed Football Coaching Fixture v Shebbear College (H)
- ISA U11 Boys' 5-a-Side Football Tournament at St Joseph's

Wednesday 12th February

- U8s Mixed Mini-Football at Shebbear College

Thursday 13th February

- KS1 Multiskills Event at Budehaven School (New Date)
- U8s Hockey & Netball Coaching Fixture v Mount Kelly Prep (A)

Friday 14th February

- Year 1 & 2 Class Assembly
- Break for Half Term (No Stay & Play)



Little Turtles

Making their mark



This week in Little Turtles we were super lucky as we got to enjoy a lovely sunny walk to the library with our friends. While we were there, we practised our mark making by colouring in some wintery pictures. We then continued to practice our mark making skills throughout the rest of the week in nursery.



Sea Lions

Feeling fortunate



This week the Sea Lions had a visit from Kieran the Electrician. They were mesmerised by him and all the tools he used. Some of them then headed off to see what they could construct, building towers with the soft blocks, and using the tools in the role play area. We have also been practising our throwing and catching skills, which at times was very tricky! In preparation for Chinese New Year, we have made some lucky fortune trees. We painted our hand gold, formed the tree and then used a cork to make marks representing the coins falling from the tree to the ground.





Dolphins

Exciting experiments



This week, the Dolphins enjoyed listening to the story 'The Gingerbread Man', before recalling their favourite part of the book. The children then put their baking skills to good use and made gingerbread men, talking about the ingredients and helping to weigh, mix and pour. They also had fun drawing around a classmate and painting a gingerbread man to display in the classroom. Finally, they conducted a Science experiment, walking a gingerbread man in a tray of water to find out what would happen if he did cross the river.

"The Gingerbread Man falls in the fox's mouth and 'snap!'" - Harry C.

"The Gingerbread Man ran away, so the man and the girl chased him." - Ludo



"The Gingerbread Man ran away from the shop really fast. He said 'peekaboo' and could see everybody." - Briar

"The fox called the Gingerbread Man 'socks' and that was really funny. The cow chased the Gingerbread Man and the horse." - Erin



The Friends of St Petroc's



The 100 Club

Join the 100 Club!

Each number costs £4 per month, with 50% of each month's donations supporting the work of the Friends of St Petroc's and the remaining 50% being the prize fund for that month's members.

Each month, three numbers are drawn at random and the lucky winners receive a share of the prize fund!

You could win one of three cash prizes every month!

Help raise valuable funds for the school and Early Years

- Numbers currently available:
- 8
 - 17
 - 19
 - 20
 - 25
 - 32
 - 36
 - 38
 - 40
 - 41
 - 45
 - 46
 - 47
 - 48
 - 49
 - 52
 - 54
 - 57
 - 59
 - 60
 - 62
 - 65
 - 66
 - 68
 - 70
 - 71
 - 72
 - 73
 - 74
 - 77
 - 83
 - 84
 - 86
 - 87
 - 89
 - 90
 - 91
 - 93
 - 94
 - 95
 - 97
 - 98

Contact Lindsay on mail@lindsayhazeldine.com for more details and to get the ball rolling with your 100 Club membership!



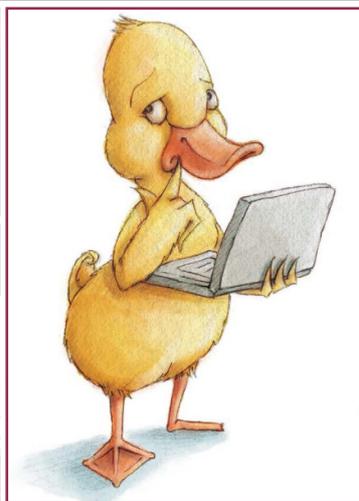
Reception

Safety first

The Reception children went onto the road with Mrs Cuff this week, to practise crossing the road safely. Children of this age should always be accompanied by an adult when crossing the road. They should hold the adult's hand and remember to Stop, Look, Listen and Think. The government's website www.think.org has more information. Look out for the children's super road safety posters that are on display around the school.



Years 1 & 2



Digiduck's Big Decision

Years 1 and 2 have had a bustling, diverse week! In ICT, the children met Digiduck, who had some big decisions to make about using the internet sensibly and safely. Following the story, they made 'SMART' posters for the computer room, to remind them of internet safety. In Art, the children have participated in a whole school display that celebrates their uniqueness and individuality, as well as what that adds to the entity that is the St Petroc's community. The pupils have started a new topic on habitats in Science, exploring animals and plant life, from the depths of the oceans to sweltering deserts.

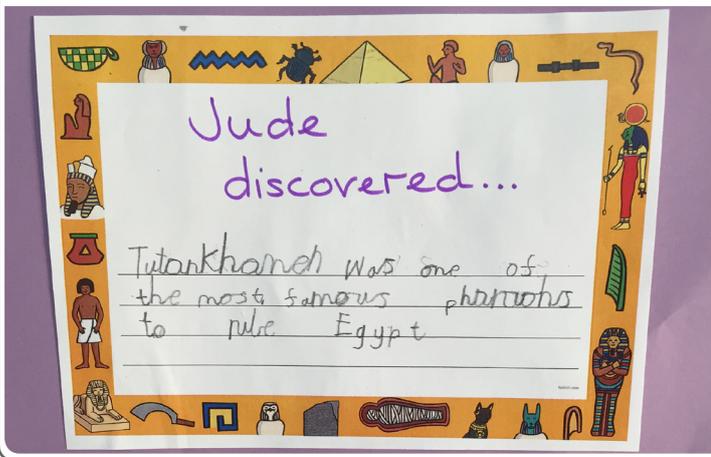




Years 3 & 4

Dynastic discoveries

The children have begun their new topic this week, which will be learning about the Egyptians. This will be a cross curricular topic across English and Humanities. Their particular focus in English is to zoom in on The Mystery of Tutankhamun and 'The BIG Question' of whether he died of natural causes or whether he was killed. The children have already become quite engaged with the question and are busy looking for clues in the online text which we are working from.



Year 5

A sense of place

In English, Year 5 have been thinking back to a time when they had a nervous or scary experience. A bit like Michael Rosen's swimming lesson, where he was forced off the top diving board, or Mr Fox's descent down the Ranger's Path of Mount Snowdon on his mountain bike. They planned and created a prose (narrative) around their memories. Some very scary! Next week, we'll be picking out key phrases and words to be the basis of our free verse poem.

In Maths, it's been decimals, decimals, decimals! Adding, subtracting and problem solving. There has been a big focus on Place Value again this week and the pupils have done well. We've also been running some targeted 'micro' Maths sessions on areas of general misconception. This week it was on reading scales (capacity).

In Science, we have discussed the solar system - what are the planets made of, scale of size, distances from the Sun, how many moons, etc. These are just some of the facts the children have been researching in order to create their posters on our solar system.

Place Value

× by 10, 100 and 1000

$54 \times 100 = 5\,400$

Tip 1 - × means move the numbers to the left

Tip 2 - ×10 - jump once
×100 - jump twice
×1000 - jump three times

$0.12 \times 1000 = 120$

Tip 3 - You NEVER add a zero, it is a place holder!

÷ by 10, 100 and 1000

$3\,600 \div 100 = 36$

Tip 1 - ÷ means the numbers the right

$723 \div 1000 = 0.723$

Tip 2 - ÷10 jump 1
÷100 jump 2
÷1000 jump 3 times

HTh	TTh	Th	H	T	O	Decimal
Hundred Thousands	Ten Thousands	Thousands	Hundreds	Tens	Ones	
2	4	5	8	6	1	



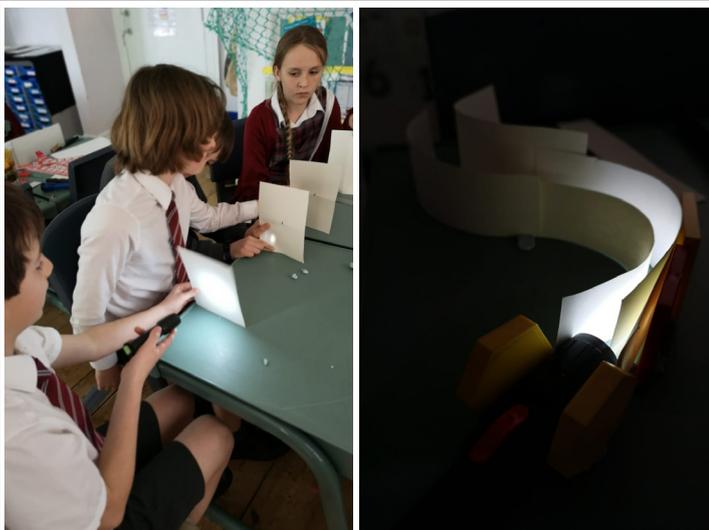
Years 5 & 6

Dramatic discoveries

In PSHE, Years 5 and 6 have been discovering that there are many ways to communicate. They learned how to recognise that people can feel alone and misunderstood, as well as how to give appropriate support. They worked in small groups to dramatise a series of problem scenarios, scripting the endings before performing them to the class. They then discussed which is the most important part of the communication process - speaking or listening?



Year 6



Year 6 have covered an array of knowledge in Maths this week, from multiplying fractions and decimals to working out missing angles in a triangle.

In English, the pupils have been looking at the skills and information needed to create a balanced argument. They have read a number of scientific and news articles, as well as watched past Youth Speak presentations, taking note of what makes an engaging, persuasive text.

Covering all the angles

Does light bend? A hard question to answer and it was even harder to create a Science experiment to find out! After many attempts at finding a way, the Year 6 pupils persevered and eventually found an 'illuminating' answer.

Using a candle and pin point holes, it was proven that light does not bend. It can, however, change direction through reflection and refraction!





Stay and Play

Experimental explorers

In their Science sessions, Stay and Play have been exploring density. We have found out that oil and water do not mix and, because of this, we have explored some exciting experiments - 'Fireworks in a Jar' and 'Snowstorm in a Jar'.

It has certainly created the 'wow' factor and the children loved watching the effects of the colours sinking.



Activities

Yoga is a go go! (But watersports was a no no...)

Key Stage 2 Activities started this week and, although the foul weather scuppered our hopes of getting out adventuring with Shoreline Extreme Sports, our cosy hall was the ideal venue for the Yoga group to strike a pose. After some breathing exercises to relax their bodies and focus their minds, the group started working through some introductory Yoga moves. The Sun Salutations were particularly popular, despite the heavy rain outside!

The rest of Key Stage 2 now eagerly await their outdoor pursuits getting underway next week. To whet their appetite in the meantime, Joel from Shoreline gave an introductory talk about their planned activities. Fingers crossed for some canal-based canoe capers next Tuesday!





Netball

ISA South West Regional Tournament

The U11 Girls' Netball Team travelled to Trinity School in Teignmouth on Wednesday to compete for a place in the National Finals. The girls put in a performance to be proud of, showing great sporting spirit and determination. The competition was extremely strong (and tall!), however, so a place in the nationals was disappointingly just out of reach this time. The team returned to St Petroc's full of drive to perfect their tactics and come back even stronger in their next fixture.



Cross Country



On course for cross country

Key Stage 2 have been tracing out the Cross Country course, showing the younger children the different sections and how to adapt their running technique. A couple of muddy spots did take them by surprise...!

