

St Petroc's Post



Letter from The Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year! It's been a great start to 2019 here at St Petroc's; the staff and pupils are energised after their Christmas breaks and we've seen some winter sunshine, which I am sure has put a spring in most of our steps. I would like to take this opportunity to say 'welcome,' to the new families who have joined our Early Years and 'well done' to all of our new Dolphins or Sea Lions who have made their transitions in January. I am always amazed at how smooth this process is. For such young children, moving rooms and Key Person is a big step yet our wonderful Early Years team make the whole process as smooth and easy as possible. This was a much lauded part of our 'outstanding' inspection, yet often goes unnoticed, so I would like to thank you all for making the process so easy for parents and pupils alike.

We've had visitors from MIST and prospective family tours this week, and the energy and engagement across each group has been much discussed. As well as commenting on our broad curriculum and high expectations, our visitors were impressed by our pupils and their conversations. I am sure that you have heard by now about the new giant swing! Thank you to the Friends of St Petroc's for installing this wonderful piece of equipment and thank you for your support in making these improvements happen!

It's been a typically busy week here at School, with new intervention systems in place for KS1 and KS2, to continue our commitment to targeted, personalised learning for pupils in both Guided Reading and Phonics. Our Dolphins have enjoyed their first tastes of Gymnastics, Swimming, Tennis, Yoga and Music. The School children have jumped back into their learning; be it team building in Games, new topics in the classroom or hands-on learning such as Thursday's fantastic First Aid training. Pupils from Dolphins to Year 7 learnt what to do in an emergency and our KS2 pupils were taught bandaging, the recovery position, CPR and how to use defibrillators. It was a wonderful day of learning that could one day be life-saving. It's so important for us all to keep up to date on our first aid training so, if you haven't attended a course lately, I would advise you to do so. Learning and relearning these skills ensures that they are almost second nature should we need them. Maybe you could ask your child for a quick refresher!

On Wednesday we took part in a Football training session at Shebbear College. The boys and girls had a wonderful time playing together in mixed teams and played a mini tournament with their counterparts. We're already looking forward to our mixed inter-house matches later on this term! Pupils practised for the ISA cross-country competition in Games and our own School cross country is on 1st February. With some very able runners (and keen running parents!) amongst us, we're looking forward to the races this term. Have a restful weekend after the first week back to St Petroc's 'normal'.

Ben Hilton
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Diary Dates 2019

Friday 18th January

- 8:45am Class Assembly:
Years 2 & 3
- 4pm Silent Disco

Wednesday 23rd January

- ISA KS2 Cross Country

Thursday 24th January

- KS1 Multi-skills Festival

Friday 25th January

- 8:45am Class Assembly:
Year 4

Friday 1st February

- St Petroc's Annual
Cross Country

- Friends of St Petroc's
Wine and Wisdom

Friday 8th February

- 8:45am Class Assembly:
Year 1

Tuesday 12th February

- 'Fly To The Line'
Regional Finals

Friday 15th February

- 8:45am Class Assembly:
Reception
- Break for Half Term



Wine and Wisdom



Save the date!

The next Wine and Wisdom evening will be on:

Friday
1st February
2019



A you the next Lego Master? Open to parents and kids teams!



DO YOU WANT TO PUT YOUR BRICK BUILDING SKILLS TO THE ULTIMATE TEST?

LEGO MASTERS

The popular Channel 4 series is looking for imaginative building pairs to take part in the creative brick-building competition to find the UK's most talented amateur builders.

Please email build@tuesdayschild.tv for more information.

Unfortunately, we are unable to answer all the requests individually. Under 18's - must be aged 9+ by 03/02/2019 in order to take part and a parent or guardian must email on their behalf. Tuesday's Child is committed to safeguarding and protecting your Personal Data. Further information can be located on our website - www.tuesdayschild.tv

TUESDAY'S CHILD

Lost Property



Come to the School office to claim!



We currently have some lost property items in the office:

- A beaded bracelet
- A grey scarf
- A decorated cake tin
- 2 umbrellas





Little Turtles

Enjoying the winter sun



This week in the Little Turtles room we have welcomed some new starters.

We have all been investigating how to pull scarves through different containers and exploring some natural objects like pine cones and shells.

On Thursday, some of the children went for a walk in the sun to see the ducks and to the beach to build some sandcastles!



Sea Lions



A busy term ahead



The Sea Lions have been busy welcoming our friends, old and new. Welcome to all the children that have moved up from Little Turtles and to our brand new friend who has started Sea Lions this term.

This week, we have been recycling the wrappers from the bright coloured sweets we ate at Christmas to make some stained glass window decorations.

We've also been playing with playdough, feeling the squishy texture and using different tools to mould it. And some of us built a big dinosaur road, which took a long time and lots of team work.

Some of the topics Sea Lions will be exploring this term are: Down in the Jungle, Space, Under the Sea, Down on the Farm and Emergency Services, so we welcome any stories or objects that will help the children's learning and understanding of these topics.



Dolphins

Mini medics



The Dolphins are back full of beans and ready to start the Spring Term! This week, they have participated in daily circle times, talking about their favourite colours. They also recorded their Christmas news in their topic books and spoke about how they enjoyed spending time with their families.



The children are busy undertaking a project this term. They are working collectively to make contributions to a class book. Once the book is completed it will be on display in the Dolphins porch area.

On Thursday, the Dolphins were lucky enough to have a visit from Chaz from 'First Aid at Hand'. The children had a go at some First Aid on 'Bertie and Gertie'. They demonstrated very good concentration and listening skills. Later in the day the Dolphins recalled some of their First Aid training and practised the recovery position!

At St Petroc's we are delighted to be able to offer a full range of weekly activities for our Dolphins children, as we do in the main School. Each one is conducted by a fully qualified external coach and offers a uniquely enriching experience. Speak to a member of staff if you would like your child to take part in swimming or any of these exciting activities.



Gymnastics



Music



Yoga



Tennis



Reception

Space cadets

We have had a very exciting and busy first week back, as we started our new topic on space, and the children have been so enthusiastic and engaged. We have talked about all the things we know about space and the things we would like to know. We will be busy finding out about stars, planets, astronauts and space stations. We have been building a space station and rocket for our role play area, which is proving very popular with the children. Reception class also had a very special visitor this week. Baby Bear from the story 'Whatever Next' came to tell us about his adventures going to the moon in a rocket.



The children were unsure if it was Miss Calienda dressed up or the real Baby Bear!

In Maths, we have been learning to count forwards and backwards to 20, and writing the numbers correctly. We have made a new number line for the sand tray and the challenge is to pick a number and make the correct number of sandcastles. In Music, the Reception children had the opportunity to explore and compose some space music. They did very well at mastering some untuned percussion, as well as playing together and alone. Well done to all of them.

Year 1

And now for the weather...

Ms Croxall would like to start by welcoming back Year 1 and thanking them for a wonderful first week. It has been a lot of fun getting to know the class a bit better and their energy and enthusiasm are very impressive! We start this term with our topic on Weather and the Seasons. We've done a lot of creative Literacy this week, from writing and performing rhyming weather poems to observing the weather and reporting it as weather forecasters. The children have demonstrated fantastic focus and confidence.



We have had a very successful week in Maths, managing to fit in activities on counting forward and back in ones and tens, learning about tens and units and adding them together to make two-digit numbers and writing two-digit number in words; phew! Well done for a super start Year 1! Ms Croxall looks forward to seeing you back refreshed on Monday for a week of kite flying and more!



Years 2 & 3

Whatever the weather

Another term begins and we are all happy to be back into our school routine. The children have returned full of enthusiasm ready to face the challenges ahead.

This term, Years 2 and 3 are also focussing on 'The Weather.' We have been busy making weather wheels, booklets to record the weather - here and in other countries - and deciding what clothes we need for different weather conditions. Great fun was had presenting a weather forecast to each other, after getting a few ideas from a certain well known puppet show! When discussing ideas and designing ways to make a rain gauge, the children used everyday objects to carry out the task. Placing it outside where it can be seen from our classroom window is an added bonus. All we need now is some more rain to measure!



Year 4



The pupils are building a miniature robot using a gear system and motor to be able to change direction. The pupils discussed our computational thinking skills and were quick to recognise that, although we are all very different, each one of us has a super computer brain that is very good at certain things. Rosie is our resident Lego builder, Ralph loves designing, Kaitlyn loves problem solving and Lana is superb at sorting disagreements! Mrs Cole was very impressed with the increased levels of maturity in the groups; they worked together beautifully and shared the tasks evenly. Well done Year 4!



High flyers

Year 4 started their Computing lessons for the Spring Term with a mission to build a base on the Moon. We considered three questions:

- What would we need to build a base?
- How could we get things to the Moon?
- What kind of robot would we need to manage the base?



Year 4 have flown into their S.T.E.M topic, Fly to the Line. This topic is all about physics and aerodynamics. In this first session, they got to make paper planes and tested the thrust, pitch and balance to find the perfect flight. These skills will help them with their glider designs and throwing technique.



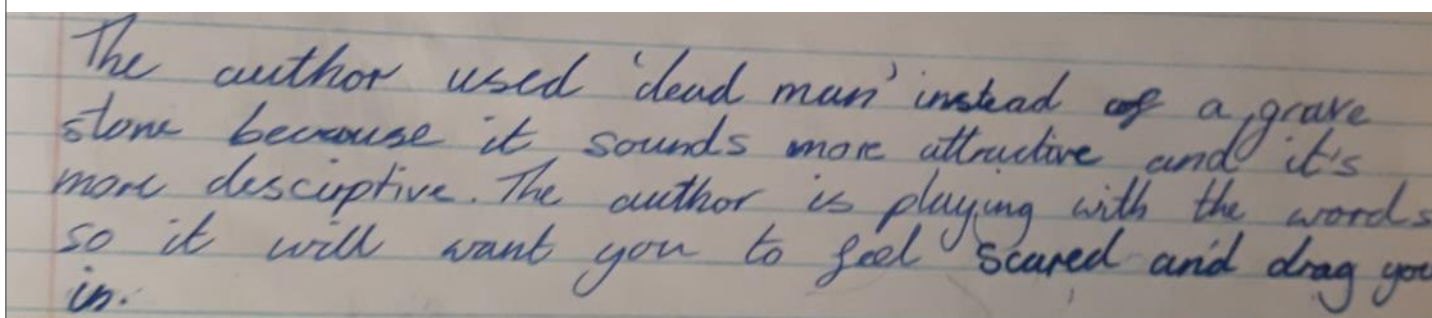
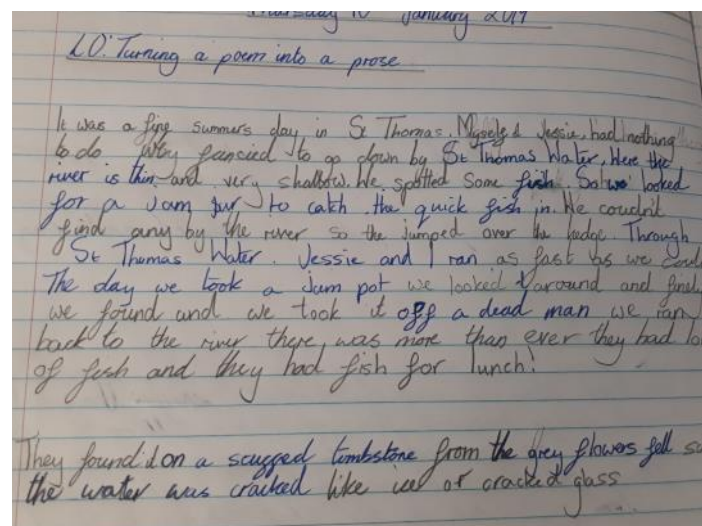
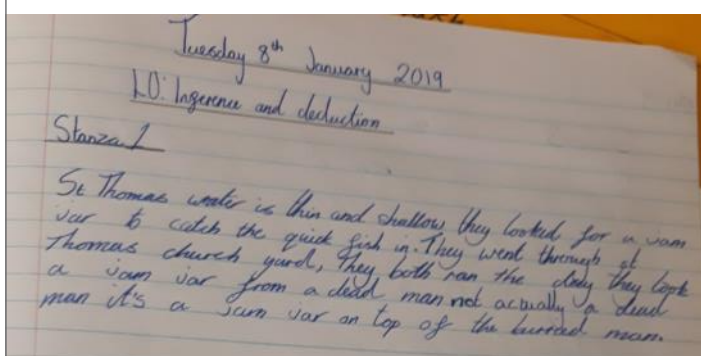
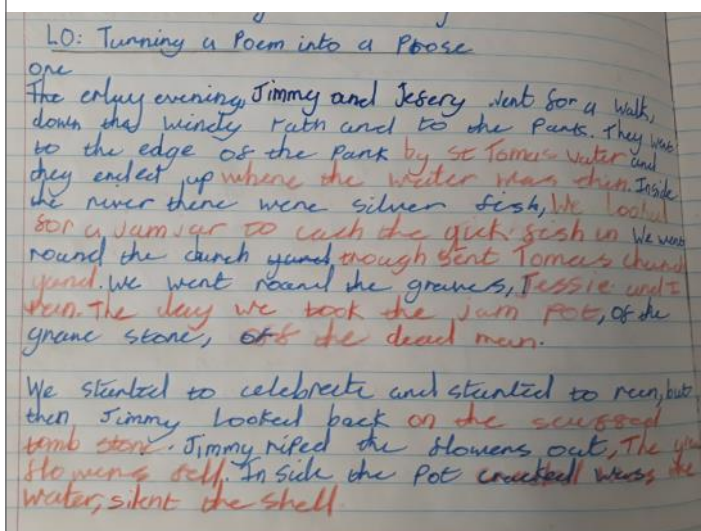
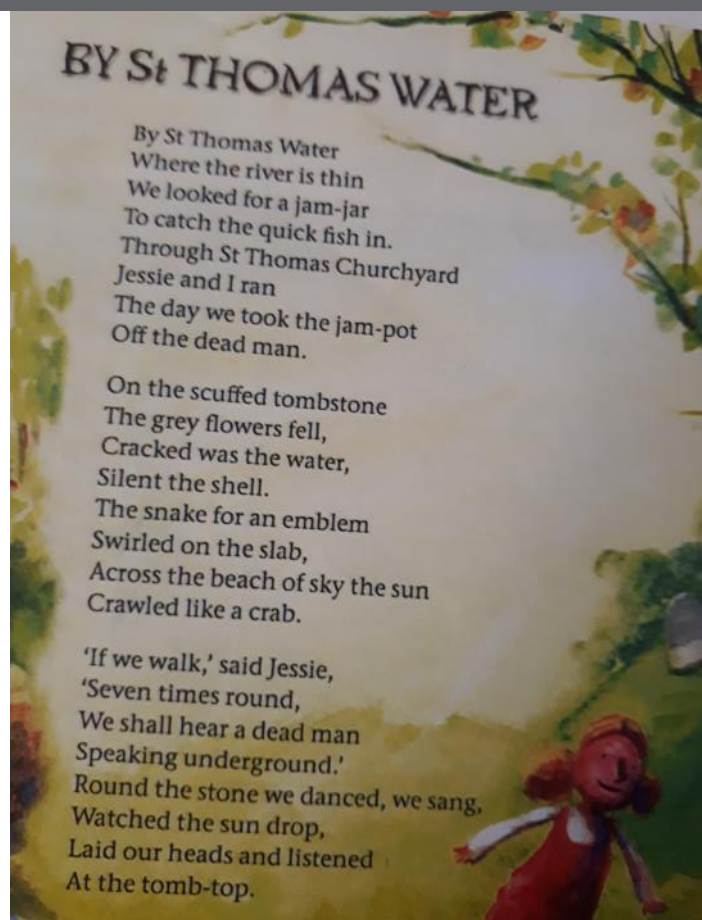
Year 5

The day we took the jam-pot

In English, Year 5 have been reciting and discussing a poem called 'By St Thomas Water', which was written by Charles Causley.

We discussed and inferred the meaning behind some of the vocabulary and the poetic techniques Charles has used to make this a spooky story. We then added a 'back story' to the poem and wrote a prose, using all of the words in stanza 1 and 2.

This was an excellent activity, which allowed the pupils to use their wider imagination and gave them a deeper understanding of the poem.





Years 6 & 7

Distinguishing debates

Years 6 and 7 have started a new topic for their English this term: The Great Debate. Our introductory sessions have looked at the differences between an argument and a debate, and also how to distinguish between facts and opinions.

We examined the key principles of a 'balanced argument' and acted out role plays, so that we could investigate the physical differences and how it feels to argue compared with how it feels to debate. These were lots of fun! Who knew arguing over a trophy or a chair could evoke such passionate arguments! Can you decide which of these are characteristics of an argument, a debate, or both?

- Raised voices
- Well researched
- Persuasive
- Logical
- Irrational and impassioned
- Insults
- Listening and evaluating another person's point of view
- Interrupting

In Science, Years 6 and 7 were exposed to a crime scene: a laptop containing important information was stolen from a school. 6 prime suspects were identified and a number of cryptic light and shadow clues were left behind on the CCTV.

Before they could pursue the matter, they had to demonstrate the correct skills for the job. 5 challenges were set, all involving light. This week's challenge was to investigate the question: does light travel in a straight line or can it bend?

After a period of discussion and logical thinking, some experiments were devised and results were observed. The class discovered that, although light was not bending by itself, there was a reaction of refraction and reflection which allowed it to change direction or 'bend'.

Tune in next week to find out whether the other challenges have been completed!



This topic will lead to a staged debate between two teams, which will be filmed and possibly performed in front of an audience, for the pupils' assessment at the end of unit. Watch out - now might not be the time to challenge your child to the last roast potato!





Stay and Play

Bubbling over with excitement

Stay and Play's Science experiment! The children really enjoyed their bubble blowing activity. They had three options of washing-up liquid to choose from: cheap, mid-price or expensive.

They had to explore which one gave the best bubble, and to see if the bubbles change shape or size. What fun!





First Aid Training

Little life-savers

In these invaluable First Aid sessions, pupils learnt to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, as well as how to carry out CPR and deal with choking.

The class was practical from the word 'go', was lots of fun and involved plenty of activities for the children to enjoy while learning life saving skills.





Children's Silent Disco in aid of Bude ReFILL Shop

BUDE'S PLASTIC FREE SHOPPING INITIATIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/refillshopbude>



Dear Friends,

You'll no doubt have heard the exciting news that we're hoping to open a zero-waste ReFILL Shop in Bude. The shop will be run initially by volunteers, as a social enterprise with 100% of profits donated to local community projects.

The range of fill-your-own, plastic-free options will include essentials and family favourites, such as pasta, herbs and spices, cereals and grains, nuts, seeds and dried fruit, pulses, oils and vinegar, toiletries, all types of household cleaning products and even a few treats. Customers will be able to buy as much or a little as needed, so less waste and less cost too.

How you can help us?

We are crowd funding to raise £11,000 to fit out the shop - this doesn't include rent, wages (we're all volunteers) or running costs. We are half way there but really need your help to make this happen!





Congratulations Mrs Cole!

A teacher of distinction

Mrs Cole had a very exciting start to the Christmas holidays as she attended her graduation at Exeter University.

Mrs Cole graduated with a Distinction in her Masters of Education: Technology, Creativity and Thinking.

She began her masters in 2013, while working at St Andrew's College Prep in Christchurch, New Zealand. It was here that she first began teaching and integrating technology, establishing a successful Lego and Coding curriculum and undergoing professional development at Dunedin University. Mrs Cole, who at the time had very limited experience, began a technology and education blog at www.missmarksblogs.wordpress.com and wrote about her triumphs and failures whilst learning to teach alongside technology. Her blog on how to begin teaching robotics was featured in Interface magazine, as a guest article helping those starting on their technological ventures within the classroom.

Last year Mrs Cole was assisted by the wonderful pupils at St Petroc's for her dissertation research project. Her dissertation focused on how the students perceived themselves when performing computational tasks; did they understand the complexity of their thought processes? If not, how could we encourage them to view this wonderful skill as transferrable to other areas of the curriculum?

Unsurprisingly, the results showed marvellous collaborative skills and a gradual increase in independent thought, as pupils became more familiar with their work. What model students!

Mrs Cole would like to extend her thanks to the pupils who are currently in Years 5, 6 and 7 for being such superb learners and guinea pigs! She couldn't have done it without you!



I would like to say how proud we are of Mrs Cole. She has played such a huge part in the ongoing development that St Petroc's has displayed over the past two years, in a number of guises from the development of the curriculum to the innovation within the classroom that the rest of the staff and I have a commitment to nurturing.

She has achieved this while juggling a toddler and teaching a share of Year 6, alongside her other teaching throughout the school.

Well done Mrs Cole; what an impressive achievement! We look forward to the future at St Petroc's following your studies.

Congratulations,
Mr Hilton