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ST PETROC'S POST

Issue 155
14th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely first full week back, full of the lessons, activities and warmth that is all so familiar at St Petroc's. The new children have started well and settled into life here quickly. Alongside our new arrivals, the Reception class have transitioned into full time education beautifully and almost seamlessly. They prove that children at their age are often ready and perfectly capable of attending the full day of excitement and opportunity that school can bring. For our working parents, I know that full days for the whole week, from the start of term has been very helpful, along with our fully inclusive 'Stay and Play' programme of after school wrap-around care, offered at no extra cost.

I have had the benefit of hearing from a number of Early Years parents about the positive experiences and level of support they have had with our staff, as their children move between the settings. This is absolutely fantastic to hear about and I thank you all for your emails and kind messages. It is appreciated and great to know that you notice the level of care and the attention to detail provided here by us. This was one of the biggest areas commented on during our recent inspection and why the school received such a high grading.

Within the School, we have started work on the new roofs in the front, after successfully completing the renovations at the back and side of the building. So I thank you for working with us (and around the scaffolding) as we continue to invest and make improvements to the school.

The Key Stage 2 children have enjoyed their activities programme this week, with Surfing being another strong choice, alongside Art and the Code Club. I was amazed to see robots and Harry Potter style sorting hats being created in week one! We are looking forward to Swimming starting next week for the whole school and the Dolphins, as well as the rest of the Dolphins' activities. Please can you return your letters urgently, so that we can continue to deliver the Tennis, Yoga, Swimming and Music sessions for your children. In addition to this, we are looking to begin Gymnastics and more details will follow for that in due course. I thank you all for supporting this programme. It clearly enriches your children and lends for a 'head start', in my opinion, as they move through the terms and prepares them well for the school opportunities ahead of them.

I have challenged the children to rest this weekend. It is vital that we start the term well and healthy. School can be a shock to the system and we all need our vitamins, rest and sleep!

Have a great weekend everybody.

Ben Hilton

Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow



FORWARD DATES

**Tuesday 18th
September 2018**
Swimming starts

**Wednesday 19th
September 2018**
1pm Friendly netball
tournament at
St Joseph's School

**Thursday 20th
September 2018**
2pm U10's Netball &
Rugby v Shebbear
(Home)

**Friday 21st
September 2018**
8:40am Friends of
St Petroc's AGM

**Friday 28th
September 2018**
Macmillan Coffee
Morning

**Wednesday 17th
October 2018**
3:30pm Prep School
Break for Half Term

Information for parents

The Friends of St Petroc's AGM will take place on Friday 21st September after drop-off. Everyone is welcome to attend, including Early Years parents.

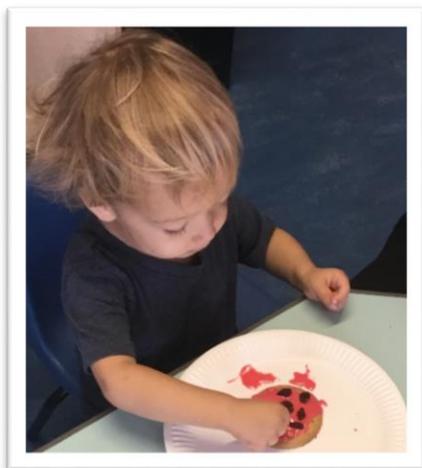
Early Years

The Little Turtles have been super busy this week, getting all creative using toothbrushes dipped in brightly coloured paint to make marks on paper. We have welcomed lots of new friends and would like to say a huge "hello" to Nixie, Winter, Jack, Charlie, Cecily, Constance, William and Isabelle.



The Sea Lions have had a busy week learning about mini beasts. They have made some yummy ladybird biscuits, counting how many spots they put on using raisins. They have also been making butterflies and sticky worm pictures to go up in the Early Years foyer. The teachers froze some bugs in ice for the Sea Lions to explore and, even though it was cold to touch, they enjoyed trying to break the bugs out of the ice using different tools or just using their warm hands to brush the ice making it melt slowly.

The Sea Lions have also been outside practising on the new balance bikes and trikes, remembering to be safe and wear a helmet. As the weather is on the change, we've been putting on our wellies and jumpers or jackets and have been making the most of it. Nothing stops the Sea Lions exploring the garden, where they have been searching for the real mini beasts too.



The Dolphins have welcomed lots of new friends this term and the older children have enjoyed showing their younger classmates around their classroom and supporting them with the daily routines.

During circle time we have discussed many subjects, including the children's favourite colours, fruit and ice cream flavours.

Jessica told her friends that she likes strawberry and that pink is her favourite colour, while Becky spoke about her favourite colours, saying she likes yellow and purple, "because I do!".

Huxley shared that his favourite fruits are "oranges, apples and bananas".

In the porch area and classroom, the Dolphins' colourful paintings depicting their families are on display.



Prep School

The new Reception Class have been exploring the school and gradually finding out that there are many different areas they can use. This week they went up the stairs and along a long corridor to find the Food Tech room.

The children have been listening to stories about apples and talking about the various things you can do with them. They have painted apples, printed with apples and in the Food Tech room they cooked with apples, making blackberry and apple crumble. They weighed out ingredients, rubbed-in the mixture, chopped up the apple and sprinkled on the crumble topping. A great start to their Prep School years!



Year 1 have settled back into school life with ease.

It has been lovely to see two new faces in the class and the others have really welcomed them

It feels like they have always been here.

This week the children have been working on their phonics, writing and counting, as well as starting their new topic on Houses and Homes.

It's going to be a very busy and action-packed term.

With a new classroom and amazing interactive white board, the children in Years 2 and 3 have quickly and happily settled back into the routine of their school day. Our children became engineers and designers of the future, keen to articulate their ideas for a replacement area for adventure play on the school field soon.

Armed with this knowledge, and after inspecting the size available, the children were keen to design an adventure playground of their liking. They had some wonderful ideas, although it is yet to be confirmed whether Mr Hilton will agree to a rollercoaster, waterslide, tree house or a trampoline. But, whatever is built, the children all agreed it would be awesome.



Welcome back to all the parents and children in Year 4. It has been lovely seeing you all, catching up on all your news and hearing about all the exciting things you have been up to over the summer holidays.

The children have settled well in their new classroom and, after a chat about class rules and expectations, our first job has been to set our own individual targets for this term. We all made a start on choosing four targets that we hope to achieve this year and the children really impressed me with the honest and mature attitude they showed when approaching this task. Please have a look in our room at their new target display; they have done a great job!



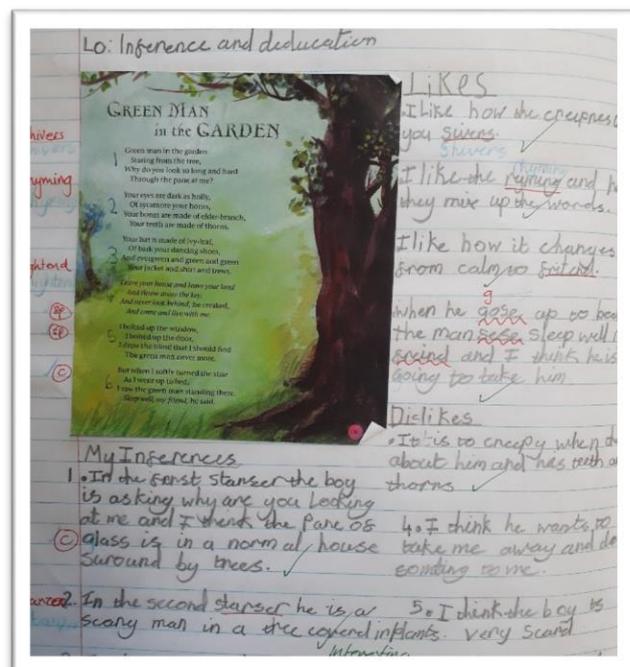
We've hit the ground running in Year 5 and the class have adapted well to their new environment and their new teacher – me (Mr Fox)!

In Maths, the pupils have been recapping on Place Value and have been ordering, adding and subtracting numbers into the ten thousands.

They have impressed me with the memory of this and it has been a useful time to find any areas of misconceptions, which will allow us to progress well into next week's work.

Our English work has been thought provoking to say the least! We have been looking at ballad poems written by Charles Causley and discussing what we can deduct from the text and what we can infer - a tricky difference to comprehend.

This will lead us to writing our own class poem in the style of a ballad.



Year 6 & 7 have welcomed the challenges ahead of them in the coming academic year.

They are preparing for SATs examinations and are already well on the road to completing their baseline testing routine, which is held at the start of each academic year, to enable us to plot and track progress for them within the classroom.

The basis of this will allow us to set very specific and individualised targets for the children.

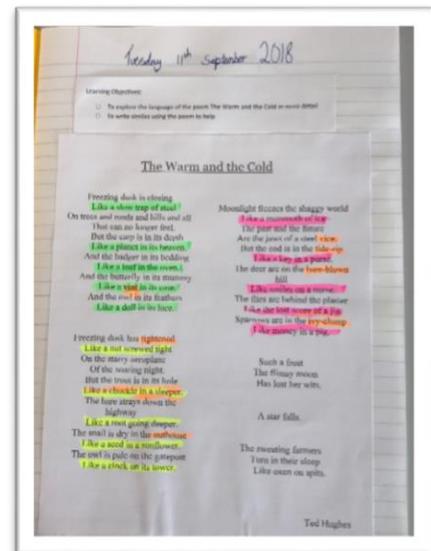
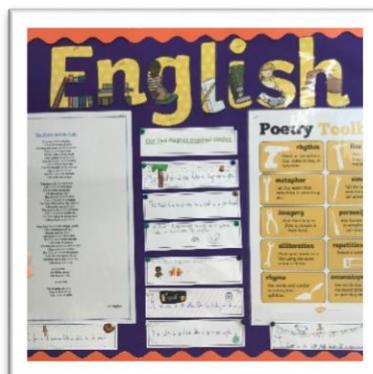
Alongside the assessments, they have also been working hard and settling very nicely into their roles of responsibility at the top end of school.

We would like to congratulate the Heads of School too. A big achievement that is richly deserved, so well done to Toby as Head Boy and Rosie as Head Girl.

Alongside them we have Sports Monitors, Music Monitors and the new Set Leaders. This will continue the traditions at the school, as they have for the past 100 years or so.

Year 6 and 7 pupils have started their English lessons with a unit on poetry. We're looking at poems by the much loved poet Ted Hughes and his wonderful children's collections.

We started the term with a close analysis of 'The Warm and the Cold' and discussed his wonderful use of imagery and similes. After investigating the structure in greater detail, the pupils had a go at writing their own animal inspired similes to describe these countryside critters warming themselves on a cold winter's night. We left winter behind and switched our focus to Autumn later in the week, as we familiarised ourselves with Hughes' Elegy for the Leaves. This beautiful poem laments the loss of leaves at this time of year and we felt it was very appropriate!



A medallist in our midst!

Evelyne from Year 5 has returned from the Scottish Taekwondo Championships in Glasgow proudly sporting her silver medal, which she won in the Senior Girls category.

Taekwondo is a defensive martial art where the participants don't hurt each other and they wear padded protection on their hands, head, feet and legs.

Beginners wear white belts while the experts, who can also teach the sport, wear black belts. Evelyne currently wears a blue belt, which is a middle grade, and she's very proud of being crowned the Scottish number two.

Congratulations from everyone at St Petroc's and good luck in your future competitions!



KS2 Geo Walk

On Monday morning all pupils in KS2 donned their walking books and backpacks, ready for a 4 mile walk along our beautiful coastline. The guide for our walk was Dr Roger Higgs, an expert on our local geology. Dr Roger, or 'Doc Rog' as he is affectionately known, spoke to the children initially about the importance of geology and how important rocks are in our day to day lives. Where would we be without the oil, metal and minerals contained within these otherwise ignored objects?



We began our walk at Crooklets and made several stops to look at geological phenomena, amongst them former mountain formations (Bude used to be amongst a 5000m tall mountain range) and the tell-tale zigzag bases that you can see on Crooklets beach cliffs.



We also learnt about our school's important role in the discovery of a rare and localised fossil; *Cornuboniscus Budensis*. Discovered in 1932, pupils at St Petroc's helped to find 28 specimen samples which made their way to the Natural History Museum in London.



We were extremely fortunate with the weather and enjoyed a sunny autumnal afternoon walk, examining our local beaches with a new lens. We walked back along the clifftops and filled our tummies with blackberries; a wonderful start to the Autumn Term!