

# St Petroc's Post



## Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the children have been embracing the shift from horizontal rain to frosty mornings and - in some cases, ice - as we ploughed on from 'Blue Monday' into a fantastic but chilly week at St Petroc's.

I have enjoyed listening to the Key Stage 2 children discussing their activity choices and the photos from both Yoga and Canoeing look great. From the Art Room, the Reception and Key Stage 1 clay projects are coming along nicely and I am delighted to see a number of plants slowly appearing around the school grounds. Also, the 'fairies' have been hard at work creating possible gifts for significant dates in March (shhh, don't tell anyone..!).

I had the joy of being able to watch our Reception Class enjoying the Outdoor Learning Garden yesterday afternoon. They were all so busy, working together creating sculptures and a flurry of water-carrying pathways that the Egyptians would have been proud of! They were very engaged indeed. Their excitement as they made the water travel longer and further before being caught and refilling the troughs was amazing. It was a great advert for their investigative curiosity and hard work. Watching them run back and forth racing the water was awesome. This was topped off with a lesson around the fire and I even spotted the odd marshmallow being toasted as a treat.

On Wednesday, we ventured over to Haldon Forest in Exeter for the ISA South West Cross Country Championships and our children gave their very best. We await confirmation of any qualifications for the Nationals but rest assured the runners did us proud in sub-zero temperatures. It will stand them in very good stead as we approach our own Annual Cross Country event in March.

Across the Early Years, the children have been enjoying creating lots of wonderful pieces to display for Chinese New Year, ranging from decorating lanterns with red and gold paint, practising animal jigsaws and even trying prawn crackers. I particularly loved listening to the Dolphins describing how shapes look and feel to touch. My favourite quote was that "Circles are just kind of weird!".

Finally, a big well done to the Year 6 children that have been taking part in various exams and scholarship assessments throughout the week over at Shebbear College. I hope you get some rest over the weekend. That goes for the rest of us too!

Ben Hilton  
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## Diary Dates

### 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

### Friday 7th February

- Friends of St Petroc's Bingo Night

### Wednesday 12th February

- U8s Mixed Mini-Football v Shebbear College (H)

### Thursday 13th February

- KS1 Multiskills Event at Budehaven School (TBC)
- 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)

### Monday 24th February

- Term resumes

### Friday 6th March

- Friends of St Petroc's Quiz Night





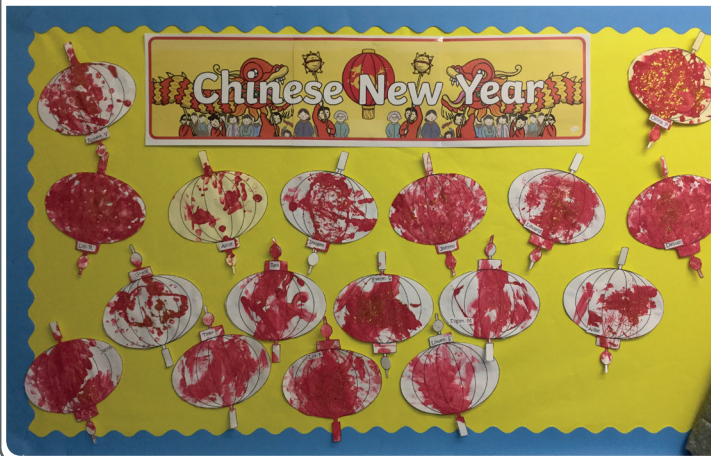
## Little Turtles

### Going crackers for Chinese New Year



This week in Little Turtles we have been celebrating Chinese New Year and have loved decorating lantern pictures with red and shiny gold paint. They have pride of place on our display board for everyone to see!

We have been playing with lots of animal based toys this week too, such as animal puzzles and the zoo toys, also as part of our Chinese New Year theme. We even enjoyed trying some prawn crackers at snack time; they were very tasty!



## Sea Lions

### Icy explorers



This week started off a little chilly in Sea Lions, when we found a big sheet of ice in our outdoor tray. We loved driving the cars over the cold surface and also enjoyed touching the ice and watching it melt slowly. In our Home Corner, we've been practising our hairdressing skills - brushing, straightening, washing and drying the models' heads. We have also enjoyed musical movement, following the actions of our adults, and also using the felt tip pens to work on our fine motor skills and mark making.







## Dolphins

### The Year of the Rat



The Dolphins have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year throughout this week and had fun recalling facts about rats. During snack time, they tried some prawn crackers and noodles alongside their fruit. Some of the children had fun taking food orders and attempting to use chop sticks while preparing dinner for their classmates. The children also designed some dragons and had fun identifying 2D shapes in the process. Collectively, the Dolphins worked together and created a huge dragon, which is displayed in the preschool entrance foyer. Come and have a look!



## 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](mailto:mail@lindsayhazeldine.com) for more details and to get the ball rolling with your 100 Club membership!





## Reception

### Mapping it out

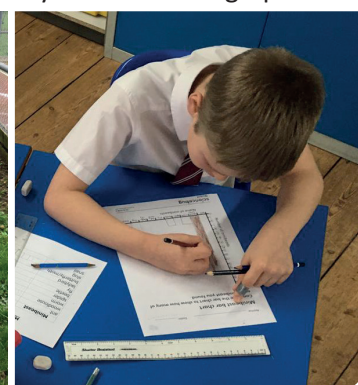
This week we have been continuing our topic on transport and have been reading the story 'Naughty Bus', which is about a bus that goes on a fantastic adventure. The children made a story map to remember the key parts of the story and we have done some wonderful writing to accompany this. We also learnt more about how to stay safe around fire. The children talked about the uses of fire and what to do if we discover a fire. They then had a great time toasting marshmallows in the Outdoor Classroom.



## Years 1 & 2

### Strategies and surveys

In PSHE, Year 1 and 2 have been focusing on their feelings. We discussed a range of emotions, what triggers them and strategies to deal with them. Mrs Wood was particularly impressed with the children's ability to express their feelings, along with sensible and well explained justifications for what made them feel like that way. They displayed a maturity above their years. On Friday, the pupils spent the morning hunting the school grounds for minibeasts, as part of their habitats topic. They picked different mini-habitats to survey and compare, plotting their results in the form of a tally chart and bar graph.



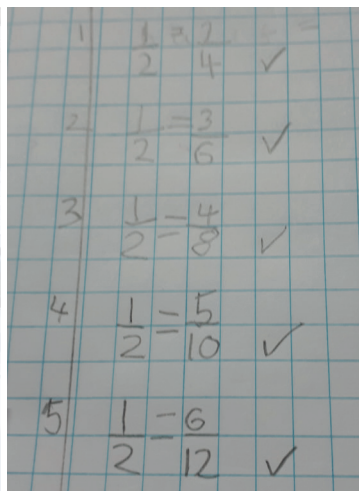




## Years 3 &amp; 4

## Feeling a little tense

This week, the children have been discussing tense and the importance of making their words agree, so that their readers know whether they are writing in the past, present or future tense. They made up some sentences (some more sensible than others!) and put them together with the correct time word - yesterday, today or tomorrow. They have now started their own short tense story, which follows a character from our current class book.



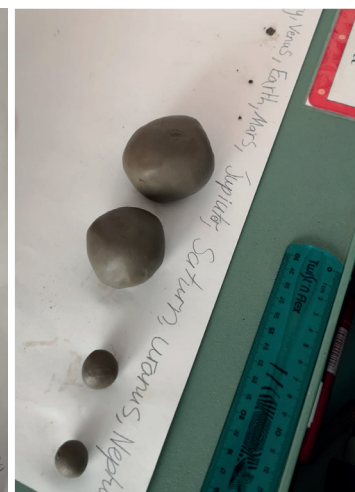
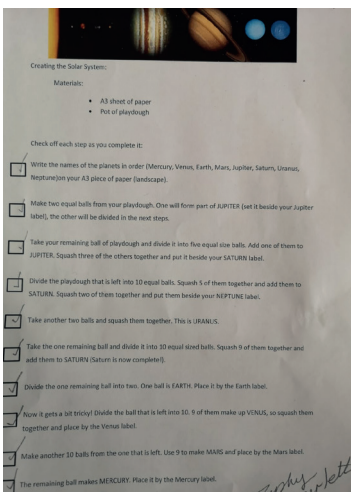
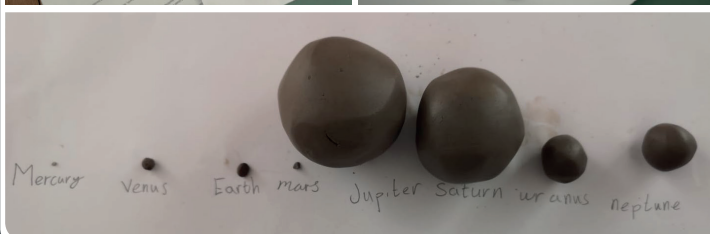
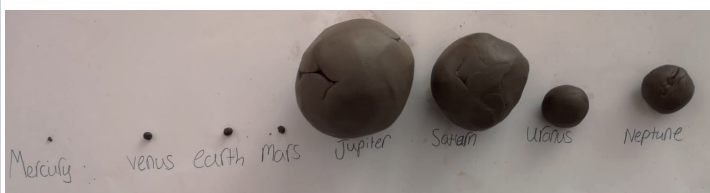
In Maths, the pupils have been working on fractions. They conducted a class investigation on Friday to see how many 'equivalent fractions' they could find to match up with half. They got the hang of it after a conversation as to the possibility of having one and a half 3rds. Mrs Cook can definitely see the logic!

The children have also been practising some basic stitching with Ms Croxall, in preparation for making costumes for their puppet theatre later in the term. Well done, Years 3 and 4, it's been a very busy week!

## Year 5

## Sizing-up the solar system

Year 5 had a bit of a shock this week, when they found out how vastly different in size our planets are. They discovered this by following step-by-step instructions with some clay. Mercury was almost impossible to make! Next week, we'll be outside with our toilet paper (a non-standard unit of measure) and we'll be mapping out the distances between the planets. Mr Fox wonders if this will be just as shocking..?



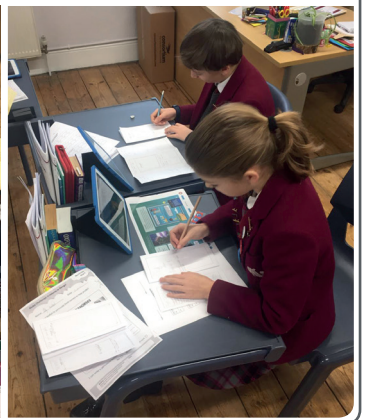
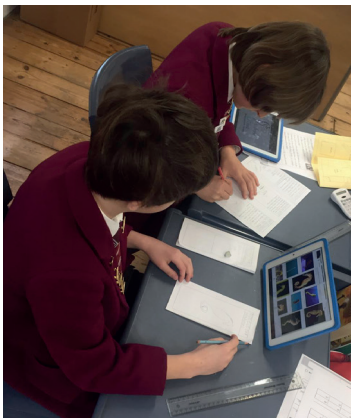
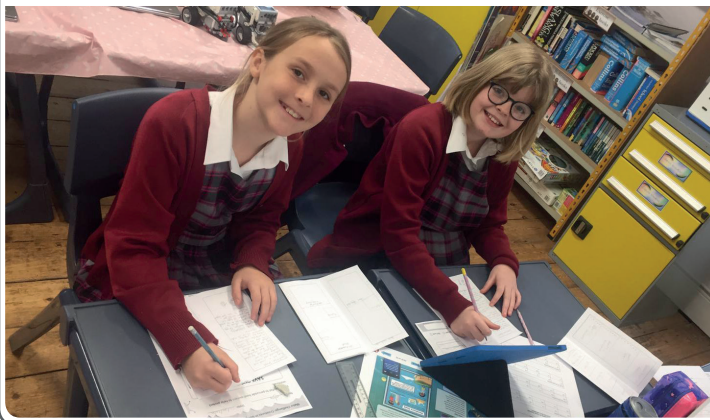




## Year 6

## Survival studies

This week, Year 6 have delved beneath the seas around the UK (in the literary sense) to research the challenges that seahorses face in their survival, as well as what mankind could do to help! Using this research, they have been creating leaflets with the aim of persuading the general public to act to protect the UK's seahorse population. Alongside this, Year 6 have spent some time revising their knowledge of fractions ready to start work with equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages next week.



## Activities

## Canal-based canoe capers

What a difference a week makes! Unlike last Tuesday's heavy wind and rain, this Tuesday's weather couldn't have been more perfect for Key Stage Two's water sports activity to 'set sail'. Bude Canal was particularly beautiful in the crisp wintry sun and the pupils had an awesome time learning a new skill while relaxing after a busy day studying at school.







## Cross Country

### ISA South West Regional Championships

Who's this in the foggy, foggy forest? The St Petroc's team running a race, through mist and mud, at great pace!

It was a new experience for many of our pupils on Wednesday, as they took on very competitive and challenging races at the ISA South West Cross Country event through Haldon Forest.

The fog became increasingly dense and the temperature continued to drop as we drove towards the woods.

This didn't dampen the children's spirits, however, who each approached their run with determination and sensible strategies in mind.

The U11 teams did St Petroc's particularly proud, with Lilly and Indigo leading the way home.

Jude, Serena and Rosie-May ran consistently and with much courage, not daunted at all by having such a big event as their debut.



## Prep School

### What a lot of pots!

The Prep children have been busy planting Spring bulbs this week. What for? Wait and see...!





*New Day, New Venue*  
*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February*  
*10-12noon*

*Bude Methodist Church*

CLOTHES

SWOP



Free Tea/Coffee

*0-4yrs Clothes, Shoes*  
*Toys, Baby Equipment, Bedding and*  
*Maternity.*