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ST PETROC'S POST

Issue 150
8th June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that it has been a whole year since I was penning the last Headmaster's letter out here at Heatree, the activity centre on Dartmoor where our KS2 children have been staying this week. I cannot continue without thanking all of you for your support in getting the children here. Thank you for the understanding across all year groups too. To staff three different locations within the same week has been a logistical brain teaser at times, therefore I would also like to highlight the efforts of our staff. Without such a special team, willing to give up their time with their own families, to facilitate such an adventure for your children would be impossible. Well done everyone!

It has been an incredible week and I've seen some fantastic achievements by all of our pupils; personal challenges overcome; teamwork in abundance and lots of laughter (and marshmallow eating). I am, as ever, so incredibly proud of how our pupils have behaved, but also how strong, determined and confident they have been when faced with abseiling, climbing, high ropes, hiking, kayaking and for many, their first night away from home. I speak a lot about the milestones that are offered with us and the value of tackling those 'leaps of faith' in a safe, supportive and caring environment are very special.

At St Petroc's we value outdoor education; teaching children outside of the classroom is incredibly eye-opening; children come out of their shells and surprise you with skills and determination that you didn't know they had. It's incredibly humbling and allows for a much deeper understanding of a child's character, forging such strong staff - pupil bonds. Students learn to react differently to challenges and see the need for patience and perseverance in outdoor learning; if they learn these skills in challenges such as climbing, or building a fire it's much easier to ask them to replicate that behaviour back in the classroom. It educates the whole child, it allows everyone to shine in their own way and that essentially is our ethos here.

Whilst KS2 have been busy on Dartmoor the rest of the school has been working hard too though, within their normal timetable, alongside preparation for Sports Day on Friday 15th June and I even heard rumours of a field trip to get a banquet meal and practice their fractions!

Many of our Dolphin pre-schoolers are preparing for transition days; ours start next week and although it can be a little daunting to start 'big school' we endeavour to make it into an adventure. Pupils in our Dolphins are always complimented for being very prepared for the step up into Reception and they relish the opportunity to show off their skills and independence to their new class teacher.



FORWARD DATES

Tuesday 12th June
Swimming Gala
Splash Leisure Pool

Tuesday 12th June
1:40 pm
Mixed rounders v
Polwhele (H)

Wednesday 13th June
Fly to the Line
Regional Final

Thursday 14th June
Year 1 & 2 visit to
Rosemoor

Friday 15th June
Prep School Sports
Day

I would like to wish you all the best of luck with transition days, wherever they are and invite you to come and talk through any concerns you may have and to see our own Reception facilities if you haven't already done so. You may have seen my invitation to come and bring your child for the transition sessions, even if you are heading elsewhere in September. You are still part of St Petroc's now and I would like to help support your amazing children on their journey in any way that we can, until you 'graduate'.

In theme with our appreciation for nature and our local environment, pupils across the school attended the World Oceans Day 2018 event hosted at Summerleaze beach in Bude this morning – see below for the report on the event.

It's been a marvellous week at St Petroc's; there simply is no other school in the land like it! I wish you all an equally fantastic weekend and look forward to catching up with you properly in person next week.

Ben Hilton

Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow.

World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is a global celebration of the ocean aimed at encouraging people to create a better future for people and the environment. A plastic free coastline is our ambition and this day was all about awareness, education and action.

St Petroc's were specially invited to come and take part in the day and we were blown away with the size of the event when we first arrived. We took part in a huge sand dig, to find, identify and dispose of plastic rubbish. We even found some plastiglomerates which look just like rocks! The hovering news teams were so impressed with our enthusiasm, and all of the projects we had running at school to reduce single use plastic, that they decided to film us! Keep your eye out on ITV news, ITV Westcountry News, Channel 4 news and Radio Heart Cornwall!

After the dig, we spent some time looking around the education hub, learning about the science behind some of the materials getting washed up and hearing about many pollution outlets for the waste we find in our seas.

"We live in the most beautiful part of the world; St Petroc's is the best located school in the world and it's imperative we work hard to protect our local environment for generations to come. The pupils at St Petroc's are some of the most aware and conscientious children that I have ever met and they did themselves proud today. The future is bright!" says Mr Fox.

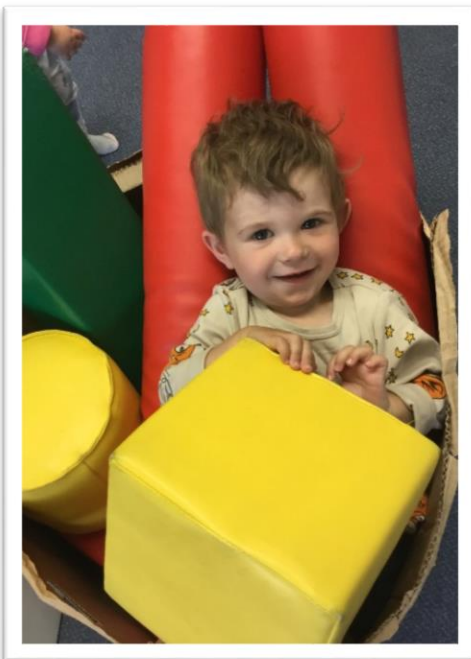
Thank you to The Environment Agency, Cleaner Seas Project and Surfers Against Sewage (just to name a few) for a fantastically hands-on and educational morning.



Early Years

To celebrate 'World Oceans Day' some of the Turtles had fun creating their very own ocean with lots of different blue paint and pairs of little feet, we had lots of very messy fun!

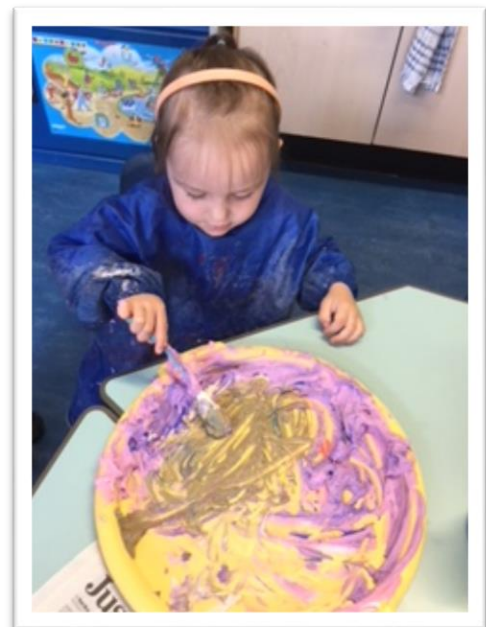
We have also been busy building structures with cardboard boxes and large squishy blocks. One of our clever Turtles made a 'big car' which he had lots of creative fun in and they went on lots of different adventures.



This week in Sea Lions we have been taking full advantage of the glorious sunny weather. The children have been exploring the garden looking for bugs, they have also been tending to our vegetables making sure they have plenty to drink.

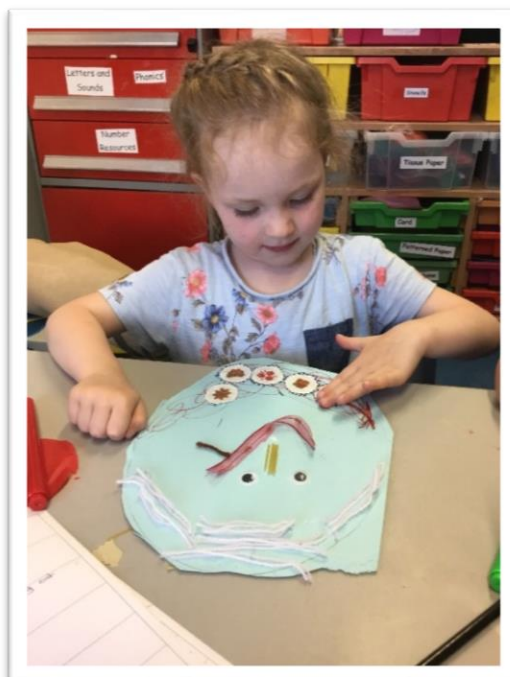
Some of the Sea Lions enjoyed mixing paint and shaving foam together recognising that when red and white combine they make pink.

They have also been very busy with secret craft making so keep your eyes peeled in the next couple of weeks.



The Dolphins have enjoyed talking about and singing their favourite rhymes. They have participated in an activity designing their own 'Humpty Dumpty'. The children had fun using scissors and demonstrated good listening skills remembering how to use them safely.

Lots of outdoor play has been enjoyed, cooking up a storm in the mud kitchen, using bats and balls, building models using a variety of construction resources and playing lots of different games.

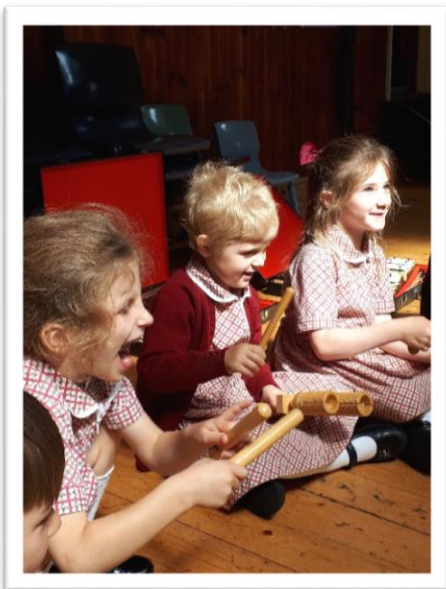


Prep School News

In Reception, our tiny caterpillars grew and grew and have now turned themselves into chrysalides. They are hanging in our butterfly garden net where they will emerge as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies. We are learning that chrysalides are the pupa stage of the life-cycle and that a butterfly emerges from a chrysalis and a moth emerges from a cocoon. We have placed a shallow dish of sugary water in the net for the new butterflies to feed on when they emerge.

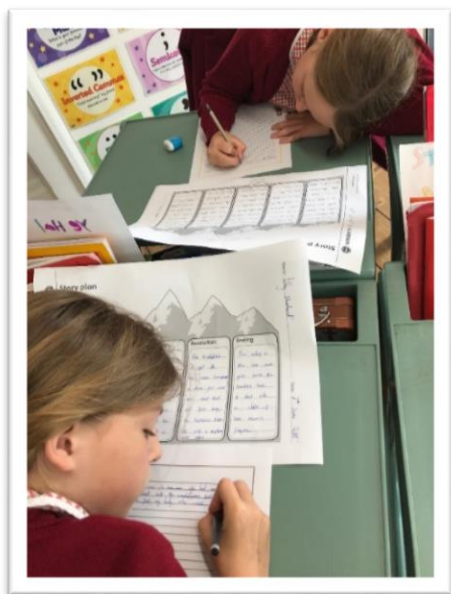


Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been busy in Music identifying and sorting groups of instruments, and then following a conductor who used mats to indicate who should be playing when. The children concentrated very well indeed and there were some excellent and imaginative results.

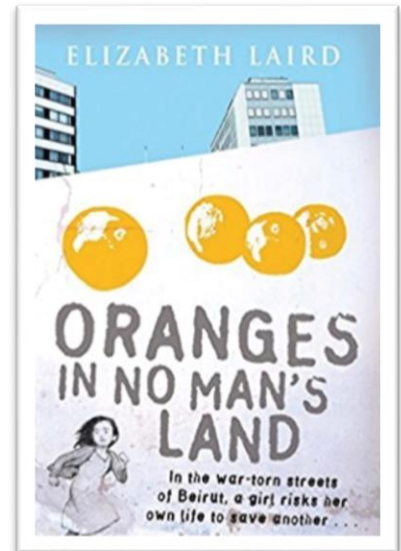


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After coming back from an exciting activity trip, Year 4 started to compose their own 'Iron Man' stories. Each story had to have an opener, an encounter, a problem, a resolution and a suitable ending. They had to include descriptive writing and similes. The stories are beginning to take shape and we are looking forward to sharing them.



Year 5 and 6 have been exploring "Oranges in No Man's Land," a fictional story set in Lebanon. They have been questioning and developing an understanding of inference and the author's use of language. They have used role play to explore the characters and to think about the impact of civil war. They are planning and editing diary entries from the viewpoints of the different characters.



Looking closely
Re-read Chapter 7 and answer the following questions. Make sure you refer closely to the text.

- How do we know that Granny is still very sick? (page 39)
We know that Granny is still very sick because her legs are blue, her breathing is shallow and she didn't sleep when she was asleep.
- What are the thoughts running through Ayesha's head when she finds her courage almost gone? (page 40)
The thoughts running through Ayesha's head when she finds her courage almost gone are "What if I end up dead here?" and "She will look after my brothers."
- Why does Ayesha think she has been a fool to come to the checkpoint early? (page 41)
Ayesha thought she was too late to come to the checkpoint early because she was alone.
- a) How does Ayesha describe her 'silly chatter'? (page 42)
She describes her silly chatter as a talking box where the talking goes flat.
b) Do you think this is an effective simile? Why?
I think that is an effective simile because everyone knows how it sounds.
- Why does Ayesha stop running? (page 44)
Ayesha stopped running because her legs were stuck with fear.
- Why does Ayesha find it hard to believe that she is in the same streets she visited with her mother long ago? (page 44)
She finds it hard to believe because long ago the streets were full with happy and singing and now everything is broken and it like a black and white movie.
- How do you think Ayesha feels when she sees the second checkpoint? (page 46)
She was feeling scared because she was with the enemy.

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We know that Granny is still very sick because her legs are blue, her breathing is shallow and she didn't sleep when she was asleep.
- What are the thoughts running through Ayesha's head when she finds her courage almost gone? (page 40)
Her thoughts were: "What if I end up dead here?" "Where will I look after my brothers then?"
- Why does Ayesha think she has been a fool to come to the checkpoint early? (page 41)
She thought she was a fool to come to the checkpoint early because there were many people who could make a distraction.
- a) How does Ayesha describe her 'silly chatter'? (page 42)
She described it as if she was a talking box when the battery goes flat.
b) Do you think this is an effective simile? Why?
It is a effective simile because this people who are reading this book have experienced a toy without battery going flat.
- Why does Ayesha stop running? (page 44)
She stops running because she knows she is out of sight of everyone.
- Why does Ayesha find it hard to believe that she is in the same streets she visited with her mother long ago? (page 44)
She finds it hard to believe because she was not more lively or happy.
- How do you think Ayesha feels when she sees the second checkpoint? (page 46)
She felt scared and confused because she thought she was in a bad place.

Add notes to help you plan your diary entry.

This is the diary of ... *Dr. Ibrahim* ...

Introduction: What has happened to you?
Dear diary, Today we were packing to go to France when we heard a knock on the door. It turned out to be old assistants granddaughters Ayesha. She was telling me all about how her granny was really ill and how her mum got bombed and they had to run away from home and now she is living here. Then she asked for some medicine for granny so I asked her some questions about how her granny was.

How did this make you feel?
It made me feel very sorry for Ayesha and worried for her. And also scared for her granny.

Why?
Because Ayesha is only 10 years old and granny is very ill and she could die.

How do you feel now, and why?
I feel I need to help Ayesha and her granny before I have to go to France.

What do you think you might do next?
I will give her the medicine for granny then I need to help Ayesha go back across the quarantine.

Add notes to help you plan your diary entry.

This is the diary of ... *Dr. Ibrahim* ...

Introduction: What has happened to you?
Dear diary, Today in the afternoon I heard a knock at the door. It was Ayesha. I asked her why she was here and she told me about her granny and how she was terribly ill. I asked her how her granny felt and I went to get some medicine for her.

How did this make you feel?
It made me feel really worried about granny and if I had the right medicine.

Why?
Because I didn't want granny to die.

How do you feel now, and why?
I feel better now because I have the right medicine for granny that will last her for about a year while we are away on holiday to France until this horrible war ends.

What do you think you might do next?
I will find a way of her to get home safely.

Stay and Play children were joined by some Year 3 children for their Outdoor Art activity. After making their own names in found natural materials they worked as a team to pick elderflowers and honeysuckle to create the name of their favourite teacher!



Activities on Dartmoor

