

St Petroc's Post



Letter from The Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

The School has returned re-energised and ready for what is an exciting second half of term. It can be an unsettling time for children, being out of routine, but we soon get back into the St Petroc's tempo and way of life. I must share in the disappointment that our Fireworks display has had to be cancelled due to the high winds forecasted for tomorrow. Hugely frustrating, when so many people have worked hard to organise an event of that scale. There are, however, other traditional commitments for us to look forward to, such as the Christmas Bazaar at An Mor on Saturday 1st December, the Carol Service at Bude Methodist Church on 13th December, plus Red Teas, House Matches and School reports too.

Another round of improvements have been actioned and are approaching completion. The new Academic Support classroom has been refurbished and has had new lighting and heating installed. The Music Room and Office has also seen redecoration and heating installation. The Girls' bathrooms upstairs are very nearly completed and our Outdoor Learning shelter has emerged, growing out of the ground in the Forest School style garden. We are committed to this continual programme and the children are enjoying the benefits of such interesting improvements around the School site. We also have exciting plans for the Early Years to benefit from this new Outdoor Learning zone. We haven't mentioned climbing walls, 'Dengineers' or Orienteering plans yet...

Within the classrooms this week we have seen and heard wonderful things. I have crossed paths with robots, iPads and Chromebooks. I have toured parents who have had to dodge the perpetrators of the gunpowder plot (and plumbers and builders too). I have had the opportunity to meet other teachers viewing the School and hear their surprise at how much there is to see. We all know the School is like a Tardis but it is great to be able to experience that with fellow professionals and to share some of the wonderful practice that takes place here and at our neighbouring schools. We had the pleasure of skipping through a Dolphins' Tennis lesson and enjoyed the beautiful clay poppies being fashioned in Art and Design. A visiting teacher was rather impressed with an impromptu Ukelele rendition of George Esra's 'Shotgun', by one of our Year 4 girls.

All of that, plus a rather 'eggy' Science lesson, learning some amazing facts about the United States of America and 'chunking' in Long Multiplication. We embraced brackets and BODMAS, with a little sprinkling of algebra, not to mention Spooky Lunch and a mass trick or treat expedition, courtesy of the Year 1 class! And breathe... What a week!

Please rest up over the weekend and stay safe.

Ben Hilton
Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow

Diary Dates

Saturday 3rd

November

Fireworks

Cancelled

Thursday 8th November

8:45am Parent Phonics

Workshop

Friday 9th December

Reception Trip to

Rosemoor

Flu Vaccinations

(Reception to Year 5)

Friday 9th

November

'Love in a Box'

donations deadline

Friday 16th November

2pm KS2 Performance of

'Archie Dobson's War'

Friday 16th November

Children in Need

Saturday 1st December

12-3pm Christmas

Bazaar



Little Turtles

All things Autumn!

This week in Little Turtles, the babies have been super busy celebrating all things Autumn.

We explored the colour orange and our tray has been full of different orange objects, which we all enjoyed investigating .

We have also been decorating with puffy paint and the babies used spoons to spread the paint over paper plates to create pumpkins. They looked fabulous!

We also had lots of fun in the mini beasts tray and the babies loved the spiders.



Sea Lions

Spooky crafts

Welcome back Sea Lions; we hope that you all had a lovely Half Term.

This week the Sea Lions have enjoyed lots of craft activities, including making pumpkin faces and some ghost pictures for Halloween. We had a go at carving a pumpkin and the children were asked what face we should carve. They chose triangles, diamonds and a zig zag mouth.

We've started talking about Bonfire Night and made some super sparkly firework pictures with a lot of glitter and glue. We also watched some fire works displays on the iPad, looking at the pretty colours and listening to the sounds, "whoosh, crackle, bang".





Dolphins

All fuelled up

The Dolphins have arrived back from Half Term with plenty of energy and enthusiasm to participate in lots of different activities.

Some of the children spoke at length about dressing up for Halloween and going trick or treating. They also enjoyed looking for spiders and creepy crawlies amongst rice and coloured paper.

The Dolphins worked together and collectively voted to turn their role-play area into a 'Petrol Station', where they have had fun looking at a variety of numerals.

During Circle Time, the children have recalled the safety rules to remember when attending a fireworks party with their families. The Dolphins have also demonstrated an artistic flair and created wonderful glittery bonfire plates, which are on display in the porch area.



The Friends of St Petroc's



Fireworks

*****Cancelled*****

In the interests of safety, due to the high winds forecast for this Saturday evening, the fireworks provider for the planned display has unfortunately made the decision to cancel.



Wine & Wisdom

£450 raised to support local groups

The Friends of St Petroc's hosted a fantastic 'Back to School' quiz evening on Friday 12th October, which raised a total of £450 for two local community groups - Bude 1st Scouts and Bude Nippers.

The school hosted over 60 keen quizzers, who found the questions (drawn from tests such as KS2 SATs, GCSEs and BTEC) surprisingly challenging! The participants enjoyed a wonderful evening of Wine and Wisdom, although for some they preferred one aspect slightly more than the other!

The Friends of St Petroc's are looking forward to hosting their next quiz in the Spring term, which will be raising money for two very local charities; Talan's Trust and Jay's AIM. We extend our warmest thanks to parents, grandparents and friends in the local community for their ongoing support of our charitable events; it makes a huge difference to many local people!



Reception

Stick with it!

There have been some spooky adventures in Reception this week!

We started off by measuring and weighing a pumpkin, then prepared it by scooping out the middle before finally carving it.

Our focus story this week has been 'Room on the Broom', by Julia Donaldson, and we found lots of rhyming words. We made potions to make the dragon in the story more kind, and we also made spiders by finding different ways of making 8.

We also went out stick collecting. First we needed to find a very long stick, then lots of smaller sticks, to make our own broomsticks.

There was a lot of competition to see who had found the longest stick! Once they were made we were able to 'fly' around the garden.



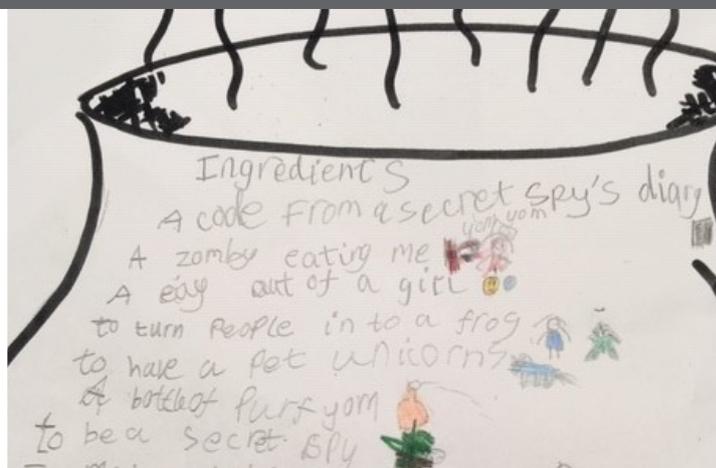
Year 1

Weird and wonderful

There was great excitement in the Year 1 class as they found out their roles for the Christmas play. It is going to be a great show.

In Art, the class have started to make lolly stick houses, which will be made into jewellery boxes.

English has taken on a spooky theme and the children have all thought up their own spells, trying to include lots of adjectives. There were some fantastically weird and wonderful ones.





Years 2 & 3

The excitement builds...

Years 2 and 3 have started this half term with lots of new, interesting and challenging activities.

They have been exploring the language and features we need to use to write an effective set of instructions, through playground games and board games. They ended the week by creating their own board game, which had to include clear and detailed instructions, to help their classmates play by the right rules.

As the seasons turn to Winter, our topic for this half term is 'Winter celebrations from around the world'. This week the children wrote postcards to each other, pretending they were at a festival. They described the meaning behind the festival, as well as how it was being celebrated.

This is the start of a very exciting few weeks for Years 2 and 3, as we begin our preparations for the Christmas play and as we run up to the festive season.



Year 4

If you've got it, haunt it!

Wednesday saw Halloween descend with style upon Year 4. The dressing up allowed the poetic juices to flow in our spooky English lesson, as we created a range of spooktacular poems. These included acrostics, free verse, riddle and limerick, with the lesson ending with a pick from the bat and spider infested cauldron of treats!

In Science, the egg-speriment to find the most damaging liquid to our teeth has been concluded. The pupils very bravely poured away the mouldy liquids that had been home to our submerged eggs for the last three weeks. The results were quite astonishing! After breaking apart the eggs, the true extent of the damage could be seen. Safety goggles and gloves were worn throughout! We found out that milk caused the least amount of damage, while the Capri-Sun caused the most.

Rosie: "Capri-Sun was the worst because it had lots of sugar in it".

Isaac: "It made the egg all black and sticky".

Ralph: "The results were very unusual and we have been misled by Capri-Sun, as it says it is very healthy."





Year 5

Spooky Maths

Year 5 had a spooktacular time in their Maths lesson on Wednesday. They delved their way through cobwebs and spiders to pick out some Halloween challenges. The questions revolved around a witch's shopping list and she was adamant about getting her change back!

Year 5, along with Year 4, have also been working really hard on their World War Two posters. They have worked in groups and used charcoal to create an eerie effect. The finished results are super!



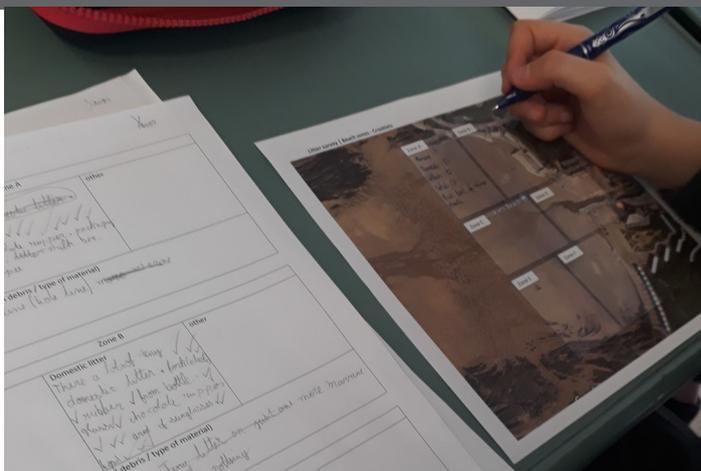
Years 6 & 7

Healthy hearts and minds

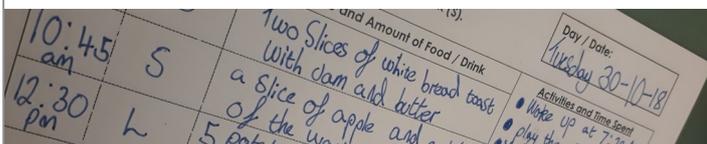
Years 6 and 7 have established a good understanding of the circulatory system and are now underway to finding out how they can ensure they maintain a healthy heart, lungs and blood.

They have been issued with a 'lifestyle diary', which they are required to fill in every day for two weeks. They need to include any food or liquid consumed, their activities throughout the day, as well as their general mood and well-being throughout the day. This will arm them with the information needed to investigate their own, busy lifestyle and to equip them with the knowledge to make beneficial changes.

"Please help by reminding the pupils to complete their diaries! Thank you!" - Mr Fox



Year 6 and 7 have also started collating their raw data from the beach clean before Half Term. The pupils have already noticed some interesting results with the spread of the data. The average total will be input into Excel over the coming weeks, to create charts to help display the findings. As a first attempt, the collection of data was good but some areas show discrepancies. We'll learn from these points and our next data collection should have enhanced accuracy.





Beach Clean

St Petroc's Pupils take their learning outside

On Wednesday 17th October, St Petroc's School joined thousands of other volunteers around the country to take part in an Autumn Beach Clean. This is now becoming an annual event, with parents and volunteers joining the pupils for the third year in succession, to find out more about the growing problem of plastics in our seas.

The pupils were divided into three teams for the event: Team Macro with a mix of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, picking up larger pieces of litter along the tide line with specific targets of 'Retro' plastics from the eager Mr Fox. They were richly assisted by Miss Tye, Mrs Croxall, Miss Cottle, Miss Calienda and Mrs Chespy.



Team Micro consisted of Years 4 and 5, collecting and analysing small particles of plastic with the expert help of Avril from The Cleaner Seas Project, alongside Mrs Cook and Mrs Wood. This team used protective gear to carefully identify the smaller particles of debris collected. This group also began to consider the wider implications for the environment, food chain and wildlife in our oceans.

The final group of scientists were Team Survey, made up of Year 6 children, who spent their time measuring the quantities and type of litter 'sprawl' across the beach. The children used their map reading skills and divided the beach into zones, devising tables and tallying the results, which allowed the monitoring of land based and marine based litter washing up on the beach. This will continue to form elements of their Science topic for the second half of term and what better way to allow the children to engage with their learning, than getting them outside and being part of the data gathering, especially with such a wonderful resource on their doorstep! They were lead by Mrs Rees and Mr Fox, alongside a whole host of other volunteers from within the School and Early Years Community.

Mrs Wood said: "Not only does our beautiful local beach become a cleaner and safer place for the children to enjoy but also the pupils link their beach clean into the their classroom work in Science, Maths and Geography. It even raises awareness among some of the youngest children in the School and Early Years".

Many thanks to all the volunteers who came to help, to Avril for her expert input and to Rosie's Café for providing hot chocolate!

School Council

Representatives elected

Our Chair of Governors Mr Nick Buckland assisted in the formation of our new School Council this week.

He was shocked at the level of confidence, maturity and understanding shown by the newly elected children.

He even commented that "St Petroc's normal is not normal, they are absolutely wonderful!" and Mr Hilton agrees!





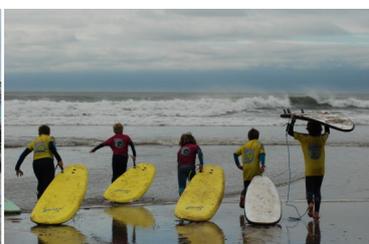
Surf Club

Great progression by everyone

Surf club has concluded once again for the winter months as the light is now dwindling and the 'claw' has come back!

The surfers optimised our motto 'fast yn mesk tonnow'. Every wipe-out and 'over the falls' set off a chain reaction of grins and laughter, leaving all of them thirstier for more.

The skill level has been the biggest achievement; from the beginners to the intermediates absolutely everyone progressed. Soon they'll be giving the coaches a run for their money! See you next spring - shaka!



Movember

Mo Bros!

Mr Hilton, Mr Fox and Mr Scantlebury (and some of the dads) have all temporarily discarded their razors and are taking part in Movember to raise funds for men's health. Here are their clean-shaven faces at the start of the month; find out more next week about how and when the winner will be judged!



Spooky Lunch

Severed fingers for lunch anyone...?

The children (and staff!) enjoyed a special spooky lunch on Halloween, with severed fingers (sausages!), bones (chips) and brains (baked beans) on the menu. The Jack-o'-lantern stuffed peppers were also a hit!

