

St Petroc's Post



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

I often talk about seizing opportunities and about St Petroc's being busy. About making the most of what is on offer for the benefit of the children. This week has well and truly exceeded all expectations and has been one of the busiest weeks in my time at the school. That being said, it has been absolutely superb and I am in awe of the way the children have bounced from classroom based experiments, assessments and phonics, to performances at Launceston Town Hall, Wadebridge Town Hall and on the Netball court. They even managed to mine for their own precious gems and tin. I must also mention the Early Years children, their library visit and their superb celebration of their favourite book characters. We often talk about making memories and nurturing happy, inquisitive children, so I challenge you to ask them about just some of these experiences.

A huge congratulations to the Key Stage 1 choir for their first place at Wadebridge Festival on Wednesday, and also to the Key Stage 2 choir, who achieved a very tough and close fought third place there this morning! Evie also got a first place in her Violin class and the netballers came a tight second in their tournament this week. Well done all of you! I am now looking forward to Monday when the Main School, from Reception to Year 6, will be belatedly celebrating World Book Day. It is sure to be an excellent range of characters and, although it was a shame we had to postpone, we were half way down a tin mine on Thursday, celebrating St Piran's Day!

Moving on to the more cheery subject of the Coronavirus and Covid-19 discussions... Please rest assured that we are monitoring the situation very closely. I will communicate further when necessary but, for the moment, we are following guidance from Public Health England, the Department for Education, Cornwall County Council and the Independent Schools Council, in liaison with other local head teachers. Clearly this is a dynamic and ever changing situation so, to stop endless emails to you, please talk regularly to your class teacher or child's key worker and, if you are in any doubt, please call the Office. We are encouraging the children to wash their hands frequently and have actually had sanitising systems in place for most of the Winter. In terms of encouraging thorough hand washing, we are employing the singing of 'Happy Birthday' twice or 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat' twice (so you will hopefully notice lots of renditions of these songs over the weekend). Now, in somewhat briefer style than normal because we are setting up for the Friends of St Petroc's Quiz, I must go and ensure that the wooden spoon is ready. I have become quite fond of it! Have a great weekend everyone.

Ben Hilton
Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow

Diary Dates

Monday 9th March

- World Book Day celebrations (R-Y6)

Tuesday 10th March

- Songfest Performance at Launceston Town Hall (Years 5 & 6)
3pm depart school
7:00-8:45pm performance
9:15pm return (approx.)

Wednesday 11th March

- KS2 Mixed Netball/Football at St Joseph's (3-way fixture with Polwhele)

Thursday 12th March

- Reception Class trip to RHS Rosemoor

Friday 13th March

- Annual Cross Country

Thursday 19th March

- Year 3 & 4 Class Assembly
New Date

100 Club Winners

1st Prize

Toby C

2nd Prize

Ruben A

3rd Prize

Willow C



Little Turtles

A characterful bunch



The Little Turtles have been celebrating World Book Day throughout this week, with some of the children dressing up as characters from their favourite books. We had characters from 'Harry Potter', 'Peter Rabbit', 'Frozen' and 'Room on the Broom' and we all looked super lovely! We also took time to read some of our favourite books in group story time each day!



Sea Lions



Firm favourites



This week, the Sea Lions have been busy concentrating on our independence skills, such as doing our own shoes and taking the lids off our yoghurt pots. Giving children the time and opportunity to succeed in their tasks helps promote self esteem and gives children a sense of accomplishment.

We've also been developing our gross motor skills using the parachute, shaking and waving it around to make the balls on it fall off. We also tested our balancing by walking along benches and jumping off the end.



Later in the week, we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as characters from our favourite stories. We had Flopsy Bunny from 'The Tales of Peter Rabbit', a few 'Gruffalos', the dragon from 'Room on the Broom', a unicorn, a skeleton from 'Funny Bones' and a variety of fairies and princesses. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite stories with each other and it also gave the children the opportunity to listen to and explore stories that were new to them.

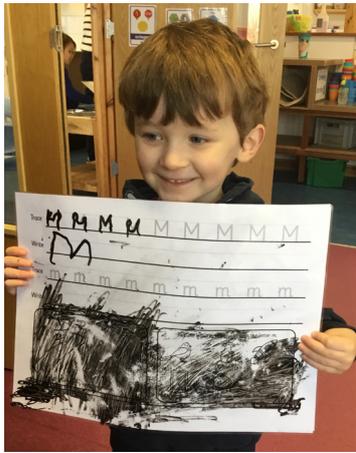


Dolphins

Tiddler's late!



This week, the Dolphins have been celebrating World Book Day. We have enjoyed reading lots of favourite stories and talking about books the children like to read at home. Some clear favourites are 'Stick Man', 'Room on the Broom', 'Frozen' and 'The Gruffalo'. During the week, the children have also been recalling stories and drawing pictures in our news books, dressing up as favourite characters and also enjoying lots of 'letters and sounds' games.



In our role play area, we have been hopping on lily pads like frogs from the 'Oi Frog' story and have enjoyed reenacting the story of 'Tiddler' using water beads, fish, fishing rods and nets in our sensory tray.

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 for more details and to get the ball rolling with your 100 Club membership!



Reception

Dinosaurs and deliciousness

The Reception children have been on a dinosaur hunt this week, retelling the classic story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children chose new environments to find and discover, such as a sandstorm, a swamp, dinosaur skeletons and the dinosaur cave! We had great fun retelling the story outside. The dinosaurs we found then had a bit of a problem, as they got frozen in the cold weather, so we had to think of lots of strategies to free them using syringes, warm hands and breaking the ice. We are also learning about being healthy, so we made some delicious fruit kebabs for our snack.



"I chose apples and strawberries because they are my favourite fruit."
- Kieran

"I chose fruit because it's healthy for your body and it keeps you fit."
- Brax



Years 1 & 2



Perfect pencil prints

Years 1 and 2 have started exploring pointillism and the style of Roy Liechtenstein, as part of their Pop Art topic. First, we recycled old pencils into the perfect printing tool for making uniformed dots. We then used them to fill in outlines of comic strip word bubbles and Liechtenstein's famous spray can image.





Years 3 & 4

From Maths to mining

The Year 3 and 4 children have had a wonderfully busy few days, starting the week quietly with their regular timetable commitments. In Maths, they are working on addition and the different methods of solution available to them. In the case of Year 4, this extended to subtraction work as well. In English they have been learning about Legends and how different types of language are used to create wonderful stories. They have learned to recognise and create expanded noun phrases and determiners, and have also had an introduction to the wonderful world of similes.



The week came to an end with a wonderful trip to Geedor Mine, where they joined in brilliantly with the older children. To top it all off, we had a trip down to Wadebridge on Friday to sing with the rest of Key Stage 2. They will need a good rest this weekend, that's for sure!



Years 5 & 6

On your marks

Years 5 and 6 teamed up for some classroom games this week, to reinforce their understanding of pronouns, prepositions and their application. First, the pupils played noughts and crosses, using prepositions to instruct one another about where to place their marks. This was followed by 'pronoun bingo', where it was a race to see who could use the pronouns on their cards the quickest, using only well written sentences.





Wadebridge Festival

Congratulations Evie and Key Stage 1!

Wadebridge Festival of Music and Speech took place throughout this week, with our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 choirs competing and also Evie performing a violin solo. On Wednesday, our Key Stage 1 choir were required to perform two songs of a contrasting nature and delivered winning renditions of 'The Lighthouse' and 'Scales and Arpeggios' to claim the Choir Cup. On Friday, the Key Stage 2 choir secured joint third place with their lovely renditions of 'Whales Swimming Free' and 'Firework'. Huge congratulations go to Evie for winning her class with her beautiful Violin playing.



Netball

U11s Netball tournament at St Joseph's

"We started the tournament on pitch 2, against Egloskerry. They tested our skills but we won 4-0 thanks to Scarlett and Ben's shooting."
- Charlotte



"In our match against Truro, we started very strong. Ralph was great at running into space. They were very tall, so we had our doubts, but we all dug deep and enjoyed it. It was a tough game and the final score was 3-0 to Truro."
- Lilly

"Our 3rd game was against St Joseph's. We were tired but determined to win. When we got to the D, Scarlett lined the ball up, had a shoot, and scored. St Joseph's were getting stronger but we managed to get back the the D. Scarlett and Ben kept missing and passing to each other but then Ben did manage to shoot and score. The final score was 2-0 to us."
- Alexis

"Our fourth game was against St Joseph's. Ralph, Isaac and Lilly were very good interceptors. St Joseph's defence was good but we kept getting the ball back to the D. Ben and I scored some goals. The end score was 2-1 to us."
- Scarlett

"Our fifth match was against St Stephen's. We started well by getting the netball up in their half and then Ben scored. Their attack was very good and so was our defence but they broke through. They did some excellent passing out of our half into theirs but didn't manage to score. The final score was 1-0."
- Indigo

"We were back against Egloskerry for our last game. They scored a goal and were very good. Scarlett then scored 2 goals, just minutes apart. We came second in the tournament overall."
- Isaac



Celebrating our Cornish heritage

St Piran's Day trip to Geevor Mine

The Key Stage 2 pupils celebrated St Piran's Day by visiting Geevor Tin Mine near St Just, to learn about the mine and its history. Nestled in the stunning terrain of Cornwall's deep south west coastline, the area around Pendeen was once at the heart of the Cornish tin and copper mining industry. The pupils and staff were warmly welcomed to the mine by Clint, their tour guide for the day, who not only explained about tin mining and its importance but also had the pupils in fits of laughter from the outset, so they knew they were in for an exciting day.



The students then investigated Geevor rocks and their properties during the hands-on 'Hard Rock Challenge', to explore how the miners could simply identify different rocks by comparing and testing their texture, hardness, weight and appearance. The children spent the rest of the afternoon crushing and sorting rock in the hand-drilling session, before seeing how scientific processes are put into action in Geevor's Processing Mill and in the sensory underground tour, where tin ore can still be seen in situ.

Having had so many fantastic experiences throughout the day, the drive home to Bude enabled the children to reflect on their amazing day exploring the rich and exciting heritage of Cornwall. In particular, the miners' stories struck a note with the pupils and they found this very humbling.



Having donned all the necessary safety equipment, the children began their exploration of the mine under Clint's expert guidance. As well as the actual groundworks of the mine, the group also explored the shaft entrances, medical centre and engineering works. Even the locker rooms, which have been left as they were when still in use, provided a fascinating insight into the harsh realities of life as a miner. As well as Clint, we were also privileged to be accompanied by Vaughan - a friend of St Petroc's School and Greenpower STEM Ambassador - who used to be one of the miners at Geevor. He had the pupils enthralled by his jaw-dropping stories about the life that the miners led.

Next stop on the tour was the Peninsular of Minerals Gallery, where the pupils learned about the huge variety of rocks and minerals that can be found underground. Clint expertly explained how the minerals got underground, illustrating the basic concepts of the rock cycle and the formation of Cornish tin.

