

St Petroc's Post



Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our first 'full' week concludes, I have been pondering stamina, resolve and new experiences. Your children, across the board and in all of our settings on the St Petroc's site, have astounded me. The air of calmness, focus and - most importantly - smiling faces has been evident within every room. I have seen the 'chaos' of trying to get back into routines and drop children to their respective classes, year groups, new teachers, Early Years settings and, often, all of those have involved some form of new location. All of which can be incredibly unsettling. Yet, almost without breaking stride, I am so impressed with how your children cope with the demands of being with us for jam-packed full days from the word 'go'.

The new Reception children looked as bright and as energetic this morning as they did last Wednesday. Yet, often without meaning to, people discount or discredit children of their age of being able to 'do' so many wonderful things, let alone starting school full time and for the first time. I listed the highlights to everyone in our assembly this morning and it is invigorating to know that our 4 and 5 year olds are already experiencing so much of what the school has to offer. The swimming pool looked superb with so many of our children taking part in lessons on Tuesday morning and I was very impressed with how able and independent they are. There are certainly signs that the activities that take place in the Dolphins preschool are paying real dividends in their development when they start school. (I am sure they will be tired this weekend though!)

Other highlights included the start of our activities programme for the older children. The photos on Facebook show some fantastic towers constructed by the 'Beach Rangers' and I know the staff were hopeful of some extras from the Cookery Club but to no avail.... The Year 2 golfers had a blast with the coach from Bude Golf Club, although they were slightly 'competitive' at times, following on from their Tennis sessions last term. Then our week moved onto STEMfest 2019, when the children from Years 1 to 6 travelled to the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, to learn about how they are going to build their very own boat, in partnership with Princess Yachts, and sail it on the Plymouth Sound in March. They also managed to manufacture and engrave their own souvenir, before shoe-horning in a tour with an educational talk that involved multiple virtual reality headsets about the wildlife in our oceans. All in all, just another normal but very inspiring week at St Petroc's.

Please allow for some rest over the weekend!

Ben Hilton
Fast Yn Mesk Tonnow

Diary Dates

Friday 20th September

8:40am Friends of
St Petroc's AGM

Friday 27th September

3:40pm Macmillan Coffee
Afternoon

Friday 4th October

Year 6 Class Assembly

Wednesday 16th October

3:30pm Break for
Half Term
(No Stay & Play)

Monday 28th October

Term resumes



Join us!

The Friends of St Petroc's, who run various fundraising events throughout the school year, invite you to join them for their next meeting and AGM.

- **Friday 20th September at 8:40am, at St Petroc's School**

Joining the Friends is a fantastic opportunity to have a real impact on your child's learning environment and resources. There are various ways you can help so, if you are interested in planning and running fundraising events, please come along. If you are unable to come to the AGM but are interested in having a role in the Friends, please contact the school office.





Little Turtles

Super sensory



What a wonderful week the Little Turtles have had! We have been super busy using our senses to explore the world around us. We have had fun with mirrors, looking at our fabulous faces, and enjoyed using our fingers to make marks and put seeds into our play dough. What a clever bunch!



Sea Lions



Room to grow



The Sea Lions have had a great start to the term and are enjoying our lovely new room and garden. The new space gives us more room to explore and for the new friends who are beginning to join us over the next few weeks. The Sea Lions really enjoyed playing outside in the new playhouse and sand pit, which is big enough for everyone. Inside, we have been doing some painting to display on our new boards and enjoying tea parties in our bigger role play area.





Dolphins

A wiggly, squiggly superhero



The Dolphins have enjoyed listening to the story 'Superworm', by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, on the interactive white board this week. Some of the children used their creative skills and enjoyed making gardens for the worms. Next week, the Dolphins will continue with this topic and, as a class, attempt to make a wormery.



Phonics sessions are in full swing! The Dolphins have been exploring objects beginning with the letter 'W' and learning the phonic actions for the initial letters of their names. In the role-play area the children have enjoyed making afternoon tea, taking it in turns to sample the different cakes and tea.

Please join us in supporting Nick on his 980 mile bike ride in aid of CLIC Sargeant



Every day 12 children and young people in the UK are diagnosed with Cancer or Leukaemia.

Nick is cycling 980 miles in 9 days for CLIC Sargeant because they supported his family through his daughter Isabel's illness. Read more about Isabel's story and how CLIC Sargeant helped her and her family on Nick's [Just Giving page](#). You can also find out more about the challenge via [Ride Across Britain](#).





Reception

Apple-tastic!

Mrs Cuff had so many apples from her tree that she didn't know what to do with them, so the Reception children made good use of them during the week. They observed the outside and inside of an apple, naming the different parts, and the children came up with some great ideas of what else to do with them.

"You can make juice from apples!"

"Play 'Apple Shop' with them!"

"We can print with them!"

"Make apple crumble!"



Years 1 & 2

Incredible individuals

Years 1 and 2 have been working extremely hard this week. We combined our PSHE with our English lesson and were thinking of all the adjectives we could use to describe each of us individually. The children had some great ideas and the end results were incredible, so we've put them on display for all to see! The class have also started learning to play recorders! After last week's start on composition, they combined the two skills by using their new instruments to play their own work.

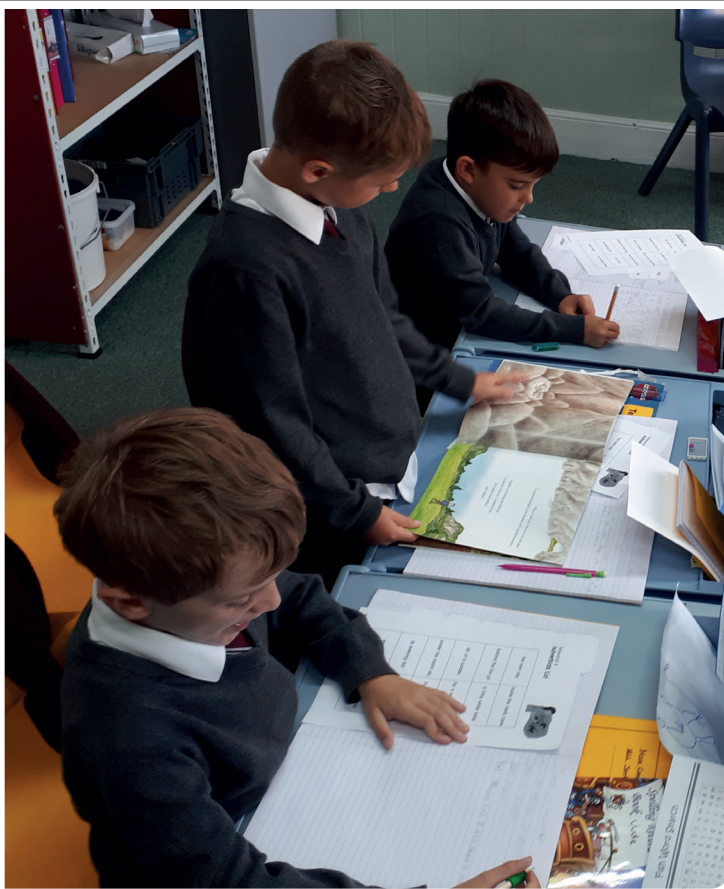




Years 3 & 4

New routines

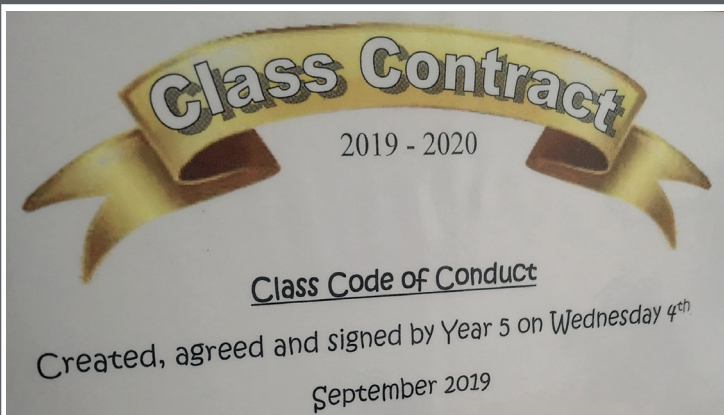
The Year 3 and 4 children have settled into the routines of Key Stage 2 with enthusiasm and hard work. They have been working on number bonds to 100 and 1000 respectively, and also ordering numbers on number lines. In English, they have been reading 'Stone Age Boy' and have written a postcard from the Stone Age using fronted adverbials.



Year 5

Reading between the lines

We've dived straight back into our work in Year 5. We've started our topic on poetry, in particular ballads, and have been using our inference and deduction to try and comprehend what is 'really' happening. The cliff hangers provide for great discussion! In Maths, we have begun with place value; adding, subtracting, ordering and investigating palindromic numbers. The class have also taken time to create their 'Celebrity Profiles', which contain kind words and thoughts from all of those in the class. A class agreement was also discussed, written and signed by all pupils. A busy and happy start to the term! Year 5 have settled into their roles as Juniors fantastically.

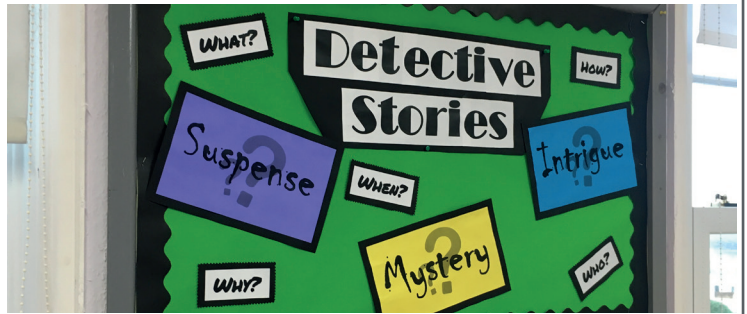




Year 6

Firm foundations

Year 6 have started the new academic year strongly, cracking on with their new duties and diving straight in with their learning. This week in Maths, they have explored the many reasons it's necessary to know the place value, from column addition and subtraction with 6 digit numbers, to comparing decimal numbers and multiplying and dividing them by 10, 100 and 1,000.



English has focused on three different areas so far. The class are becoming familiar with investigative stories through their reading and, this week, were introduced to their new class novels and guided reading texts. They have been creating and self-assessing recounts, writing two pieces recalling their summer holidays and the wonderful experiences they had at Plymouth Aquarium's STEM day on Thursday. Finally, suffixes have been the focus of SPAG, revisiting the spelling rules involved when adding endings to words.

There have also been a lot introductions to new, fresh topics in the foundations subjects, which are already causing much excitement and anticipation amongst the pupils.



Stay & Play

An explosive time in Stay and Play!

The children looked at photographs of different volcanoes and talked about their different shapes. We then made salt dough volcanoes and watched the reaction when we mixed bicarbonate of soda with vinegar and red food colouring. The children were so excited to watch their volcanoes erupting!





Swimming

Reception jump right into their first lesson

The whole class were brilliant at their first school swimming lesson, both in the pool and getting themselves changed before and afterwards. Our seaside location makes swimming such an essential part of the school curriculum and it's fantastic to see our latest cohort embark on their journey of swimming lessons through the school.



Beach Rangers

High tide and high towers

High tide at Crooklets didn't stop the St Petroc's Beach Rangers from making the most of their Activity session! The children arranged themselves into small groups to take on a stone tower challenge. With points available for the tallest tower, the most layers and the most interesting or stylish tower, the children busily began gathering, layering and wedging stones, with all sorts of strategies going on. In the end, every team walked away winning a category, as all their towers showed off the pupils' innovation, creativity and resilience!





STEMFest 2019

A fantastic day at the National Marine Aquarium

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 enjoyed a stimulating day of design and craftsmanship on Thursday, when they attended the Plymouth Aquarium and Princess Yacht STEMFest day. From the off, the children were thrown into the mindset of shipbuilders, as they made pirate ships out of everyday materials strong enough to carry 'cannonballs' across a makeshift ocean. One St Petroc's team impressed so much that they ended the day being awarded with commendations for their vessel, 'The Jolly Roger'.

Later on in the morning, the children experienced tools and processes used in metal work and carpentry to make personalised Princess Ferry coasters. They were wholly enthused by the activity and have come away itching to begin applying their new found skills to the next workshop and phase of the school's boat making task.





Outdoor Learning

New for this academic year!

Key Stage 2 will now be making the most of our new and improved outdoor spaces every Wednesday afternoon, by having their lessons outdoors - whatever the weather!

This week, we introduced the pupils to the awesome new outdoor learning haven, and started by cooking damper bread on an open fire. Three groups rotated around: Ms Croxall took the groups stick hunting for the cooking of the bread and future kindling; Mrs Rees had the important role of overseeing the dough being made; and Mr Fox talked about fire safety and introduced the pupils to a flint and steel.



We came together at the end for the cooking of the bread and a discussion about how fire has shaped the world we live in - "What would our lives be like without fire?".

In the coming weeks and seasons, we hope to use this outdoor time to develop the area further, with planting and composting. It'll be an area for learning new skills and conducting Science inquiries. We'll also be using the area for Maths and English lessons.

Please can all pupils ensure that, as a minimum, they have a waterproof coat, waterproof trousers and a pair of wellies.

Optional:

Children are allowed to bring in a change of 'outdoor' clothes for these Wednesday afternoon sessions. This will avoid their uniform potentially getting muddy or smelly of wood smoke.





A fond farewell and two warm welcomes

For those of you who may not already know, we will soon bid a sad but fond farewell to Anne Smith.

Our loss will be Anne's family's gain, as she takes a step towards retirement and enjoys the time and freedom to travel, enjoy her garden and be with her family. There's even talk of a move across the border into Wales...! We will miss Anne greatly but wish her every happiness in her forthcoming adventures.

Stepping into Anne's shoes is the lovely Lisa, who is already getting firmly to grips with the busy life of St Petroc's. Lisa will be in the office Monday to Thursday and comes to us with a wealth of experience. She is currently enjoying a very thorough handover period!



Our second warm welcome goes to Hayden White, who will be working afternoons with our younger pupils initially but we hope to see more of him in the future.

Hayden is already very popular with our Reception and Stay and Play children but also has experience of working with Key Stage 2 children too.

Please join us in making Lisa and Hayden very welcome to the St Petroc's team.

Welcome also to our new parents and carers!

Thank you very much to everyone who came to our Welcome Drinks this afternoon, in the glorious September sunshine. Our thanks also to the Friends of St Petroc's for hosting the event, which seemed to do a brilliant job of helping our new parents and carers meet and get to know each other and some of our existing families.

Hopefully our new families felt the true warmth of the St Petroc's family and made some friendships that will support those of your children for years to come.



We hope that you also got a flavour of the fantastic sense of community which the Friends of St Petroc's bring in their unending support of the school and local causes. It would be fantastic to see as many of you as possible at the Friends' AGM on Friday 20th September and at their future events. If you can't make it to the AGM please don't let that stop you getting involved - just let the office know that you are willing and able to join the fantastic Friends team!



Golf

Key Stage 1 teed off on Tuesday!

The children had glorious weather for their Golf lesson on Tuesday with Adam.



Cookery

Autumn Crumbles!

The Cookery Club had the school smelling wonderful on Tuesday, as the smell of their Autumn Crumbles wafted through the corridors...



Art Club

They're hooked!

Art Club enjoyed painting this week but are particularly excited to start working on their latch hook kits next week...

