

# St Petroc's Post



## Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone. I have been delighted to see you all this week and to speak to the children about their breaks and the adventures they had over the Easter period.

The School building has had further investment and improvement over the holidays, with redecoration and new lighting in a number of areas. These improvements are set to continue and are testament to our ongoing commitment to making St Petroc's the very best it can be. Earlier this week, it was really enlightening to see through others' eyes how significant the changes within the building and the curriculum have been, when three of our Old Petrocians came to visit and absolutely loved what they saw. We will be welcoming them back in the Summer Term for some work experience, which further supports our long term connections with St Petroc's children. It also demonstrates their fondness of the School, even when they have grown into very 'cool' teenagers! As much as Old Petrocians enjoy coming back to St Petroc's to see how we have evolved, we also love keeping up with their successes and achievements too. Take a look at the feature later in the newsletter about how well two of our alumni are doing at Shebbear College.

The new term has seen changes in our Nursery and Preschool too, with many of our younger children making transitions between settings. As adults, it's sometimes easy to underestimate how daunting these changes can be for our little ones, and it's perfectly normal for some children to need more help and support than others. As a parent, I know how hard it can be when there are tears at drop-off time, but the Early Years team are always so supportive during this process and I never cease to be impressed by how the children learn to accept the challenge of moving between settings with such open arms. This is a prime example of our commitment to helping children - even our very youngest Petrocians - to develop their self-confidence, so huge thanks to all our Early Years staff members for making the latest transitions as smooth as possible.

For me, the end of the week brought about the MIST Annual Conference, which is an amazing opportunity to meet, learn and share with Heads, Governors and Chaplains from the 20 schools that are part of the MIST group. The conference focused on the schools' universal values and was an invaluable opportunity for St Petroc's to further benefit from being affiliated with such a wealth of experienced independent educators.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone and see you next week.

Ben Hilton

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## Diary Dates

### Tuesday 30th April

Swimming lessons  
(Dolphins & Prep School)

### Key Stage 2 Activities

Key Stage 1 Tennis  
(After School)

### Wednesday 1st May

Open Day

Dogs Trust Visit

Bikeability/Learn to Ride

### Thursday 2nd May

Open Day

2pm U9 Mixed Cricket  
v Shebbear (Home)

### Wednesday 8th May

2:15pm U11  
Cricket/Rounders  
v Mount Kelly (Away)

### Thursday 9th May

Year 4 Trip to Rosemoor

### Friday 10th May

WWF Fundraising Day

### Friday 24th May

St Petroc's Day

### Saturday 22nd June

Friends of St Petroc's  
Summer Fair



Save the date!

# Summer Fair: Saturday 22nd June



## Congratulations Jessica and Toby!

Mr Hilton was hugely pleased to hear some news about Old Petrocians Jessica and Toby, who were in one of his first classes here at St Petroc's and who are currently studying at Shebbear College.

Jessica, who achieved the equivalent of nine A\*s at GCSE (5 x 9 and 4 x 8 under the new grading), has just been named Shebbear's Head Girl. Jessica is also a county sportswoman and shows huge academic dedication and ability. Jessica's twin Toby is also flying high and has made the Shebbear Prefect Team against some strong competition. Toby recently spent time in Cape Town on Shebbear's international Cricket exchange programme. A result of this may see Toby and his counterparts coming to coach some sessions at St Petroc's later this term.

Congratulations to both Jessica and Toby; Mr Hilton is very proud of you (even if you do make him feel rather old!) and we look forward to an exciting future for you.





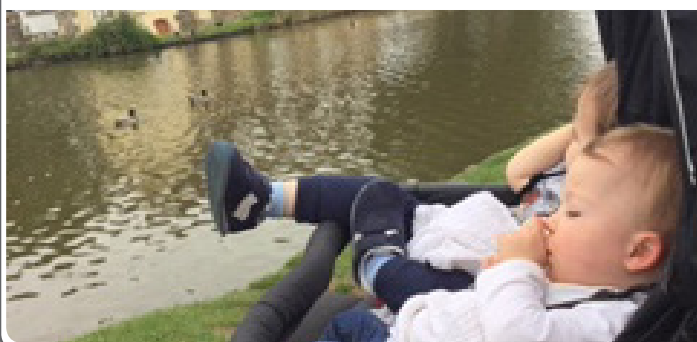
## Little Turtles

### Welcoming new friends



Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a 'eggcellent' Easter holidays! The Little Turtles have said goodbye to some of our older friends, who have moved up to the Sea Lions room, but we have also been welcoming some new friends who will be joining us over the coming weeks.

At the beginning of the week we made the most of the sunshine by going on a nature walk to feed the ducks. Then the weather took a turn for the worse but the Little Turtles have still been outside exploring the garden.



## Sea Lions



### New term, new topics



The Sea Lions have had a great start to the new term. We have welcomed back our old friends as well as welcomed some new ones. Charlie, Felicity, Teddy and Rory join us from Little Turtles and we also another new friend - Paloma.

We've been busy reminding ourselves of our routine and showing our new friends how we do things in Sea Lions. We've also been working off that Easter chocolate with some Yoga, and enjoying running about outside, even if the sunshine has gone on its own holiday for now.

The Sea Lions have also been practising their fine motor skills by colouring in letters and numbers, as well as making cheeseburgers out of play-dough! We look forward to lots of new and exciting topics this term, like 'Feelings and Emotions', 'Space', 'Down on the Farm' and 'Transport'.





## Dolphins

### St George's Day celebrations



The Dolphins children have returned to preschool eager to play and learn after their Easter break. We have had fun learning about St George's Day and taken part in many different activities.

The Dolphins thoroughly enjoyed playing football, scoring goals and chasing each other around the garden. They have also explored red and white rice, and making marks using different wooden tools. The Dolphins' have also put their creative skills to good use by decorating biscuits using white icing and red laces.



### Reminder:

- **Swimming resumes next Tuesday**
- **Bikeability starts next Wednesday**







## Art

### Archimboldo antics

In their Art class this week, Reception Class looked at the artist Archimboldo, who created pictures using objects like fruits and vegetables, as well as pots and pans. The children had a go at recreating this style, firstly by using fruits and vegetables and then later during our visit to the beach.



## Phonics



### Al fresco phonics

Reception Class took their phonics learning outside this week, using the playground markings to identify sounds and think of words with that sound in them. At the beach, we played phonics bingo by throwing stones onto a sound grid and identifying the sounds. Lexi made herself a pen from a long piece of grass and wrote her name and some words in the sand.

## Geography & Humanities

### Naturally inquisitive

During their trip to the beach on Friday, Reception thought about the things we could see that we don't find in our garden. The children quickly identified the sea, sand, rocks, cliffs and seaweed. Kaia said we can get sand in the garden - in a sandpit - so we talked about features in the environment that occur naturally, like sand on the beach, and features we put in gardens that are not natural, like a sand pit.



Year 4 have also been busy with Humanities this week, not to mention double English and Maths too. The children really hit the ground running and it was lovely to see them all back after the holidays and we enjoyed having a buzzing, vibrant classroom again! Year 4 also enjoyed welcoming Piper back into the class this week; we really missed her last term!

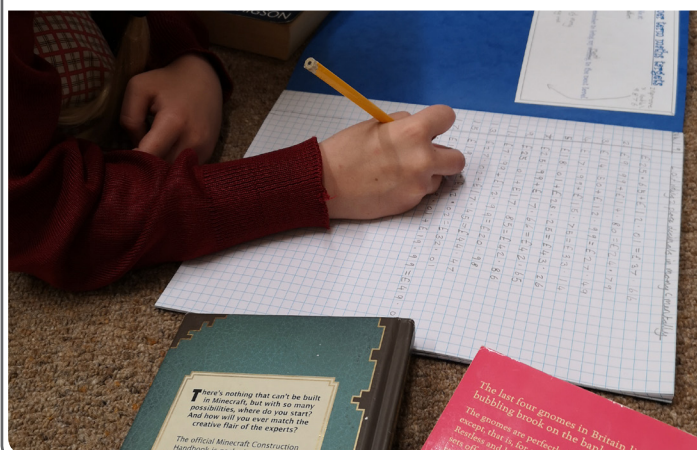




## Maths

### Shopping skills and data conversion

This week in Maths, the Year 5 pupils practised their rounding skills, to mentally add two amounts of money together with two decimal places. It took a few goes to remember to add or take away the extra penny but they all persevered towards the end of the week. This is a great skill to take to the shops and the children have been encouraged to estimate their total before making payment, to ensure they get charged the correct amount.

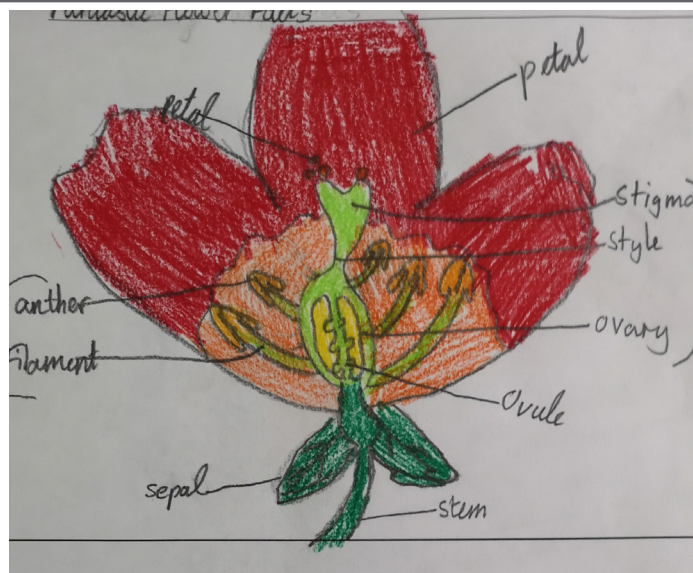


In their Maths lessons, Years 6 and 7 have been learning how to read and convert the data in line graphs and pie charts. They also continue their SATs preparations.

## Science

### Changing shapes and reproducing plants

Year 2 and 3's Science focus this term will be on changing shape. We have had lots of fun modelling dough into various shapes, before exploring different materials and thinking about how to change the shape of each one. Some interesting ideas were suggested, which we will explore further during the term. We also inspected the growth of our potatoes, which the class feel will produce more harvest than the other classes! The children were all happy to return to school after a lovely sunny Easter break, eager to share their news and write about their holidays.



Year 5's new Science topic is 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. We have launched our studies by looking at plants and how they reproduce. This first week involved a mixture of fact finding, problem solving and investigating. Keep your eyes peeled for some in depth studies coming soon, particularly focusing on practical work.





## English

### Voyage into mythology

In English, Year 1 have begun their literary voyage through Greek Mythology, with Odysseus as their guide! We have read the myth of the Trojan Horse and discussed Odysseus' heroic acts and how he used both brains and brawn to solve the problems in this story. The children have retold the tale through storyboards, reminding themselves how to use notes and speech bubbles for planning stories.



## Music



### Warming up

In Music this week, the children did a musical warm up with a difference for hymn practise, it involved remembering a series of sequences as well as the words!

## RNLI Assembly

### Seaside safety

On Thursday, the children enjoyed a colourful, lively, engaging and informative assembly from the RNLI. They were reminded about how to stay safe in the sea and the sun, and how to get help by signalling to lifeguards on the beach to call for the coastguard. The children were lucky enough to role play some emergency scenarios, demonstrating some of the equipment and strategies used by the lifeguards to rescue beach users.



### How to stay safe on your Summer beach days:

- Find a safe place to swim between the red and yellow flags.
- Stay in waist depth, where your feet can always touch the ground.
- If you find yourself in trouble, wave one arm above your head and call for help to get the attention of the lifeguards.
- Wear sun cream and a hat in the sun.
- If you see anyone in trouble, find a lifeguard or call for the coastguard on 999 or 112.