



### Autumn 2019 Newsletter 8

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### Anti-Bullying Week Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Assemblies and PSHE lessons this week will be themed around Anti-Bullying Week. On Tuesday, we would like to invite the children to wear odd socks to school. **Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!** There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school, to help raise awareness of bullying and celebrate differences.

We are currently reviewing our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies in line with Anti-Bullying Week. In conjunction with this we are reviewing the Code of Conduct for Parents, visitors and Governors as we believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to learn and work.



### Good News!

Thank you to those of you who have donated books to school recently. We're delighted to announce that we now have agreement to continue to subscribe to the schools' library service. This enables each class to order boxes of books each term relevant to topics, to borrow sets of high quality guided reading books, to regularly exchange our existing book stock to ensure that it inspires our readers, as well as to order books for author studies, invite librarians into school to discuss books with the children and introduce our pupils to a range of quality new books.

I passionately believe in the many benefits of children reading widely and regularly and am delighted that the library service will enable us to promote a love of books.

In other good news, despite a smaller than usual reception class this year, we have welcomed several new families into our school since September and are now back up to 200 pupils!

### British Hen Welfare Trust

Year 2 had a visit from the British Hen Welfare Trust on Tuesday afternoon. We found out all about how to care for chickens and other pets and the children asked some fantastic questions about how to keep chickens healthy. We ended the workshop with a thought-provoking game, after which we all agreed that we'd prefer to be free-range rather than battery farmed hens.



### Message of thanks from St Petrocks in Exeter

Please accept my sincere thanks for South Tawton School's kind **Harvest food donation** which we recently received in support of St Petrock's work with local people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. It is very kind of you to think of us; we greatly value your support. Please pass on our thanks to all those involved in making this donation. Your donation will be hugely appreciated by the **60 – 80 people** who are typically accessing our drop-in sessions in St Petrock's **homelessness resource centre** each weekday morning this autumn. Our rough-sleeper survival services include provision of cooked breakfasts and lunches, showers, clothing, access to laundry, telephone and internet facilities; specialist housing advice and referral, welfare/benefits support and healthcare are also available on-site. Last year, our dedicated volunteers served around **10,750 meals** from our centre kitchen; your donations will be well used in keeping our store cupboards stocked in the months ahead. Running these essential services, which are vital to the health, wellbeing and longer-term prospects of the vulnerable people we work with, would simply not be possible without such generous support from the local community.

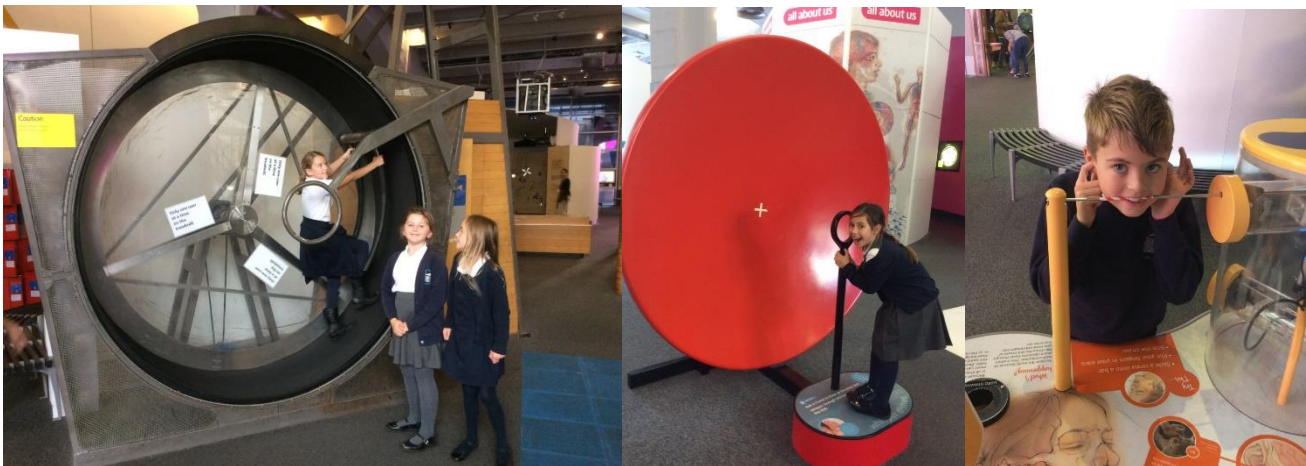
Thank you again for your help in addressing the challenges we face. St Petrock's Staff

### We The Curious

Year 3 and Year 5 enjoyed a superb day out to 'We The Curious' in Bristol. We explored many areas of Science and Technology including friction, gravity, sound waves and magnetism (there were many more). The children all explored a food area and learnt about where their herbs can be grown, and considered food miles involved; they also got to milk a cow and grind maize to make flour! Both classes got to go on a space mission in the Planetarium. We got up close to an asteroid belt, saw the Rose on Jupiter which is a storm 2 times larger than Planet Earth and we got to see the ice fields on Pluto the Dwarf planet.

'It was fun because the planets just popped out when we put on our glasses' Martha - Year 3.

Year 3 then went off to a workshop to learn how to make a Scribble Bot. They made a simple circuit which included a motor and a switch, made a cup Bot with pens for legs and then had fun taping it all together! Each child had their own bot to make and then draw with, the class then created a shared Artwork which is framed and will be hanging up soon. Year 5 enjoyed a chemistry workshop where they got to explore how different substances react with each other; they even got to use Bunsen burners!



### Year 4 and 5 cinema trip

On Wednesday, Year 4 and 5 went to Okehampton cinema to see the film *Wonder Park*. The film was about a little girl called June who created an imaginary theme park with her mum. Sadly, her mum became sick and the theme park, *Wonderland*, faded from view and the darkness took hold of it. It was June's mission, with the help of her friends, to save *Wonderland*! Our favourite bit was when she ran away from Maths Camp as she was a bit of a daredevil. We really liked the character of the mum as she was so kind to June. We would definitely recommend the film to others as it's very funny but also a little bit sad. It's a fun film for children and great to watch with the whole family. It taught us to have a growth mindset and to let your imagination run wild.



**Reviewed by Izzy and Ella.G (Year 4)**

### **Bikeability**

Year 6 have had a very active and enjoyable week whilst taking part in Bikeability. On Monday, the children practiced basic manoeuvres on the playground before heading out onto the road for the rest of the week. The children have learnt how to cycle safely on the roads, signal to other road users and developed an understanding of the importance of considering other road users. It was a thoroughly enjoyable week for all the children. Hopefully, we'll see more of the year 6 children cycling to school in the future.

### **Children in Need 2019 – Animal Antics**



This year we will be supporting Children in Need by holding a non-uniform day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Children (and staff) can wear anything with an animal theme (costumes, onesies, animal print, items with an animal on them). To raise money for the Children in Need charity, we request a donation of 50p for wearing non uniform. Each class will also create a coin trail so please send your child in with pennies and we can see how long our trails can be.

### **DMAT Questionnaire**

All Parents and Carers will have recently received a link to the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust questionnaire via e-mail. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit your responses.



**Happy Diwali from Year R.** We celebrated by making diva lamps and barfi sweets.

### **Recycling**

At an assembly this week with Devon waste educator Alex Mack and West Devon mayor Tony Leech, all children heard about the changes to recycling in our area which is taking effect next month. Each child was given an information leaflet about the changes which give households the potential to recycle more of their household waste.

### **Attendance and Absence Reporting**

Just a reminder that registration is at 8:50. Children who arrive after the register has been taken will need to sign in at reception and will be recorded as late. If your child is absent, please ring or email the school before the start of the school day for every day that they are not in. If we do not hear from you about the reason for your child's absence and cannot contact you, we may need to ask the education welfare officer or police to visit your home and complete a welfare check as we have a duty to ensure that children are safe. For this reason, we also ask that all children have at least two (and preferably more) contacts on our system who we can ring if necessary.

The school day ends at 3:30. It is very upsetting for children if their parents or carers are not there to meet them. If you are going to be late for any reason, please let us know so that we can reassure them. Please also ensure that you collect promptly from after-school clubs as there is not an administrator on duty at this time.

### **PTA news**

The year 6 cake sale raised a whopping £151.90. This is a huge total and sets the bar very high for other classes to follow with their own cake sales. Well done year 6!

The PTA disco was also a very successful fundraiser and made £272.96. Thank you to everyone for supporting these events.

### **PTA 100 Club**

October's draw was carried out at a recent school assembly and the following numbers/people won.

1st	78	Wendy Meardon
2nd	4	Kay Pyne
3rd	37	Marion West

We are still a little low on numbers for this year's 100 Club so if anyone would like to become a member, forms can be collected from the school office or the office can email one to you. The subscription is currently £10 for the remainder of this school year.

### **Dates for your diaries**

Monday 11.11.19 - Individual and family photos for school and pre-school. Family groups for siblings not at school can be photographed between 08.00am and 09.00am on the day.

Friday 15.11.19 - Children in Need Day – see above

KS1 Christmas Performance – 16.12.19 4pm, 17.12.19 2pm and 6pm

Last day of Autumn Term – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December