



# ST LEVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



REVIEW OF AUTUMN TERM 1 2018-19

Welcome to our new look newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting learning that took place last half term. As you'll see it's been a busy time with hunting for bears, visits to the Minack Theatre and a host of visitors!

Miss Carter, Headteacher

### Class One- A Tale of Toys

#### Lost Toys!

This half term, we have read lots of toy stories and decided that a large proportion of them seem to be about toys getting lost. We delved into Dogger, Toys in Space and The Velveteen Rabbit (to name but a few!) before we embarked upon the task of writing our own stories about lost toys. Many of these were based on real-life experiences! More than a few had happy endings though; phew! Here's a flavour of what we wrote...

*"One Wednesday morning there was a marble called Marbletta. She had a shiny gold swirl in the middle! And the girl was called MeMe. MeMe went to the park with Marbletta. They went on the see-saw and then Marbletta got lost! And Marbletta rolled in a river and then a mermaid got Marbletta. "Hello," said the mermaid. "Have you lost your home?" "Yes," said Marbletta. – Saskia*

*"Once upon a Thursday morning, there was a lovely unicorn, not a real one. Her fur was neon colour rainbow. Her fur was as fluffy like a baby bunny. Her name is Honey. Rose the little girl went to school with her. They did everything together. They went swimming, to the park, to the beach and to school. At lunch time Rose was over the moon! In the playground Rose lost Honey because Rose was so obsessed about Maths!" - Chloe*

#### Old toys



We have been lucky to borrow some different types of toys from The Education Library Service this term including toys from around the



world and toys with moving parts. We have also done some wonderful home learning about old toys. One person visited the Toy Museum in London and Flora had her own teddy bears' picnic at home.



We look forward to finding out more on our trip to Penlee House Museum and when our friends and family visit us with their old toys next half term

(Save the date: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November).

#### Teddy Bears' Picnic

*If you go up to the field today, you're sure for a big surprise.*

*If you go up to the field today, you'll hear children's happy cries.*

As part of our learning about toys and teddy bears, Class One went on a teddy bear's picnic up to the field. We played games, including teddy bear throwing, races and bubble blowing and had lots of delicious food including the pretend tea. Yum! Thank you to the grown-ups who came along and helped make this a really special morning for all the teddy bears and their children.

*"We had a teddy bears' picnic. It was fun! And my favourite part was the face paint." – Jemima*

*"Up at the field, we had bubbles and face paint. My best bit was the picnic and the bubbles. The picnic was fun!" – Tildy*



*"We had a teddy bears' picnic. It was brilliant. I loved the cheese and crackers and fun games even though we did not get the parachute out." – Morvy*

A peculiar thing happened one Monday morning... there were footprints in the classroom! The children did some serious detective work and came to the conclusion that it was a bear. The obvious next step... a bear hunt! Our brave adventurers trekked around the school through long wavy grass, a deep cold river and finally into a narrow gloomy cave where they found... you guessed it... a bear!



Luckily for us, he was friendly and went on to help us in Maths that day. We hope you enjoyed our recount of the bear hunt story in harvest assembly. Here are some of the stories we wrote based on our exciting adventure. We've been on hunts for all sorts of things including pandacorns, butterflies and tigers.



*"We're going on a unicorn hunt. We're going to catch a magical one. What a magical day! We are frightened. Uh oh! A rock. A giant rock. We can't go over it. We can't go under it. Oh no, we'll have to go through it. Crash crash crash crash crash crash." – Sorrel*

*"We're going on a butterfly hunt. We're going to catch a beautiful one. What a sunset evening. We're not frightened. Uh oh! A lake. A big wide lake. We can't go over it. We can't go under it. Oh no, we'll have to go through it. Swim swim swim." – Lailani*

*We're going on a butterfly hunt. We're going to catch a silly one. What a sunny day! We're excited! Uh oh! A beach. A seaweed-y beach. We can't go over it. We can't go under it. Oh no, we'll have to go through it. Slippy slidy slippy slidy slippy slidy." – Martha*

## Ancient Greece in Class Two

Beginning with a visit to the Minack (a theatre based on an Ancient Greek amphitheatre) we saw the wonderful Craig Johnson and his Squashbox theatre. There, he guided us through a whirlwind tour of this intriguing ancient world, using an ingenious blend of puppetry, storytelling, live music and comedy.

We met the brave heroes and immortal gods of ancient Greece, encountered some of the mixed-up monsters of legend and even learnt about the ways ancient Greece has shaped the modern world, from theatre and philosophy to mathematics and music!

It was a great way to introduce our topic and we have since focussed on different aspects of Greek life in more detail, studying different (and often bizarre) myths and legends then writing our own, discovering about Ancient Greek art and pottery and have even read Homer's Odyssey. We have begun to unravel just how much of the modern world has origins in Ancient Greece and are ready to find out more over the next half term...



## Student Council

The manifestos were written, the votes were counted and the new members for our student council are:

Joby  
Morgan  
Elyssa  
Tia  
Lailani  
Morvy

Well done to everyone who took part and took the time to share their ideas. Student councillors have already been busy gathering ideas for projects we could work towards this year to improve St Levan.



Work has also begun towards earning a green eco-flag at St Levan; something all children will be involved in throughout the year.

Well done also to our new Playground Leaders, librarians and gardeners whose roles are important to making sure our school is the best we can make it.



## What an amazing amount of determination!

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, David from Skip2bFit can and visited us, bringing with him some fantastic skipping ropes that count how many skips you do. Our children were challenged to beat their own personal best of how many skips they could do in 2 minutes. Everyone worked incredibly hard and some of the improvements after only 10 minutes were incredible.

Well done to Tia and Elyssa who achieved very high numbers of skips. Everyone was also given a box of blueberries and a recipe for making a healthy blueberry milkshake as part of a balanced diet.

We have purchased a set of the ropes and will be regularly holding challenges to help everyone improve their personal bests!





### Daya Day

One Friday, we had a very special visitor. Daya came in to tell us all about Hinduism. We learned about how Hindus pray and named some of their many gods. Did you know that Ganesh is the god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles? We had a go at drawing pictures of our favourite gods, dressed up in traditional indian-style dress and did some dancing. A lovely morning for all. Thank you, Daya!



### Harvest Assembly

Thank you for all the wonderful donations we received as part of our Harvest Celebrations, these will now be donated to the Penzance food bank. Well done to our children for their wonderful performances. A lovely way to round off the end of term.



### Reading Challenge

#### READING KARATE

Carrying on from last year's focus on reading we will be continuing to count all children's reads at home in order for them to become black belts at reading.

To earn their coloured bands they need to achieve:

No. of Reads	Coloured Wristband
15	White
30	Yellow
45	Orange
60	Green
80	Blue
100	Purple
120	Brown
150	Red
180	Black

Please do remember to record every time your child reads at home so they can progress through the colours and develop a love and interest in books; boosting your child's self esteem as a reader and developing their reading skills and strategies.

A read consists of 4 pages and 3 follow up questions using a school reading book or a whole book read to your child, the book must be one that your child could not read alone. Only 1 read will be counted per day. Parents MUST sign each read in the reading diary for it to count as a read.

Finally, a big thanks to all our pupils and family members who took part in our Big Dig. Everyone did an amazing job and the grounds are so much easier to access and use during our outdoor learning sessions. Thank you!



### **Calling all Reception parents! A word about personalised books...**

Personalised children's books have become increasingly popular. This is when children's names, addresses, their likes and dislikes are inserted into a story book – the characters can even look like the children.

A personalised book gives a child the novelty of appearing in their very own story. But the act of reading a personalised book with an adult, and moving through a story world where the child encounters familiar names and experiences

helps enormously with their language development. Research has shown that, when being read a story featuring their name, children volunteer more spontaneous speech, asking questions and making comments. This provides a great opportunity for lots of talk around the book.



The Book Trust identifies encouraging your child to talk about the book as a key factor in the shared reading experience. They recommend talking about the characters and their dilemmas, giving children ample time to respond, and asking how a character might be feeling. With a personalised book, children take on a less passive role in this interaction. Research has found that, not only do they volunteer more speech but they speak for longer, thus aiding their language development.

Another advantage is that children generally retain more unfamiliar words from personalised books. A study found that, when eighteen pre-school children were introduced to unfamiliar words in the context of both a personalised and non-personalised book, over a period of time, the children had a far better success rate of recalling the unfamiliar words from the personalised book, than those they encountered in the non-personalised book. This suggests the significance of association in children getting to grips with new words. A book referencing their own experiences relating to school or family, or a holiday such as Christmas or Easter offers a safer ground for encountering new language. Personalised books also become a favourite on the bookshelf with children requesting regular reads. This repetition helps enormously with word recognition and retention.

While it's incredibly exciting for a child to find themselves starring in their own book, a personalised book is a safe and stimulating place to grow a child's speech, vocabulary, and reading recall with familiar themes and characters.



We would really love to buy every child in Reception a personalised book

however, due to budgetary restraints, this is not possible. There are some super examples out there and I wanted to share them with you. Christmas is coming up and a personalised book would make a wonderful present! The Independent has reviewed some of the examples out there in this article:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/extras/indybest/kids/books/best-personalised-childrens-books-for-kids-uk-peppa-pig-wonderbly-reviews-a8010646.html>

If you want to read more about personalised books and reading at home, please visit these websites or come and see me:

[https://literacytrust.org.uk/documents/1407/2017-11-21\\_Personalised\\_books\\_and\\_family\\_literacy\\_outcomes\\_-\\_National\\_Literacy\\_Trust.pdf](https://literacytrust.org.uk/documents/1407/2017-11-21_Personalised_books_and_family_literacy_outcomes_-_National_Literacy_Trust.pdf)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/misc/reading-with-your-child/reading-with-your-child-booklet-for-parents.pdf>

Thanks for taking the time to read this article

! Jessica Ferguson