



# ST LEVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



### REVIEW OF SPRING TERM 1 2018-19

It's hard to believe it's only been seven weeks but already our new units of learning are well established, with our children becoming experts on China and Communication. From story and report writing, to symmetry lessons and code cracking maths, calligraphy to computer animation, it's been a chance for all our pupils to demonstrate how much they already know and to develop their knowledge of how cultures and technology have evolved over time.

We hope you enjoy reading about their learning.

### Class One

#### China

Class One's topic this term has been all about China. The children have been so passionate and enthusiastic about this topic - it's been brilliant so far! We can't wait to find out more. Here's a snapshot of some of the things we've been up to.

#### Chinese New Year

We celebrated the start of the Year of the Pig by having a themed day of activities in which we role-played a visit to the beautiful country of China. Booking our holiday at the travel agents, we queued through security with all of



our things and then enjoyed a bumpy flight (the on-board snacks were prawn crackers- yummy!). Once there, after some delicious Chinese noodles for lunch, we visited the Great Wall, Imperial Museum and then went panda spotting!



We ended the afternoon with an awesome dragon dance around the school. Here's what we said:

*"The dragon dance was amazing! We didn't know that dragons could light up. I love dragons!" - Isabelle*

*"After we walked the Great Wall of China, then we did a Chinese dragon dance. My arms were aching from being the head!" - Morvy*



*"Messily, I tried to use Chinese chopsticks. What a disaster!" - Chloe*

*"We shared our Chinese toys and books. It was so fun!" - Sorrel*

*"We went on the airplane to China. The queue was massive and it took such a long time to get through security." - Lailani*

*"We did a dragon dance. It was very bright!" - Martha*

Here are some of the postcards we wrote home from our trip:

*Dear Mama and Pa,*

*I'm in China right now. It's sunny, hot and in Beijing it's amazing. I went to a Chinese restaurant. I didn't like the food there. It was called The Blossom of the Dragon. After that, I walked some of the Great Wall of China. My legs hurt so much but the view was wonderful. How are you? I am good but I'm missing you slightly.*

*Lots of love from Lailani*

*Dear Mum and Dad,*

*I'm in China where it is sunny and hot and beautiful. I did a dragon dance. The dragon was colourful and loud. I went to a Chinese restaurant called The Red Dragon. I had noodles which were delicious. What's the weather like at home?*

*Love from Sorrel xxx*



### Cherry Blossom Painting

A messy, paint-spattered afternoon was spent learning about the significance of cherry blossom and creating some beautiful paintings of blossom trees. We used straws to blow black paint for the branches and then flicked pink paint on top to create the little flowers on each cherry tree. Some of us ended up with more paint on our faces and the table, than the trees. Whoops!

*"We made some blossom trees. It was fun!" – Jemima*

*"We were making cherry blossom pictures and all the pink paint went on our little faces." - Morvy*

### Great Wall Building

We've spent lots of time learning about the Great Wall of China and even built it out of cardboard boxes.



Things were going so well, until the Mongols attacked. Light the fires on the watch-towers, quick!



*"Can you see me? Well, we were planning to defeat the Mongols. It was fun!" – Saskia*

*"We made the Great Wall of China. It was really long!" – Tildy*

*"We walked the Great Wall of China but the Mongols were trying to attack us. Ahhh!" - Chloe*

### Calligraphy

We've had a go at some Chinese writing too. There are thousands of characters which Chinese children have to learn. The words are each like a picture and very detailed. It looks beautiful.

*"We did Chinese writing. Wow!" – Tildy*



*"We did Chinese words. I did 'cry' and 'girl'."*

*- Isabelle*

### Stories

We've been inspired to write some beautiful stories about China too. Here a couple of excerpts to give you a flavour.

#### **Chinese New Year Race Story, by Chloe**

Once upon a time, a long time ago, the Jade Emperor had a magnificent idea. He decided to have a race. The twelve animals who won the race would have a year named after them.

The day of the race arrived and there were thirteen animals. A rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey,

rooster, dog, pig and cat. The rat and the cat were worried but they would probably be okay anyway.

Five seconds later, the race began and the rat had a great idea. He thought they could ask a very good swimmer if they could ride on their back. The rat thought they could ride on the dog but cats don't like dogs thought the cat. Then the cat thought they could ride on the ox and the rat said yes! They asked the ox and he said yes and they hopped on and they were so close when, all of a sudden, the rat pushed the cat off the ox. "Help!" screeched the cat. The rat jumped off the ox's back and the rat came first!

### **Bamboola, by Martha**

Once upon a time, there lived a leafy bamboo stick called Bamboola and she was good at poetry. She lived with her big family who were very horrid. The only thing that she could eat was sugar. Her sisters were horrible to Bamboola because they didn't like her poetry! Often, they left her alone. Again and again, they did it. One day, her family found a saw that was as long as a blanket. Bamboola nearly got chopped! Every second the saw got nearer and nearer. She was really scared so she ran away. She had lost her way!

Just then, Bamboola saw Mount Everest so she climbed up it. At the top, she found a flag that said, 'flying panda'. She touched the flag. A forgetful flying panda appeared!

Bamboola said, "Who are you?"

The flying panda said, "You should know!"

### **Panderella, by Tildy**

Once upon a time, there lived a poor, penniless and hungry panda called Panderella. He lived with his thoughtful parents who were called Bubble and Squeak. One day, Panderella's mum and dad went to get some food. When they went, thunder and lightning came and Panderella was all alone. He was hungry and very cold. Just then, a fairy called Sorrel appeared.

"Who are you?" screamed Panderella.

What an exciting start to the year Class One!

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(There is no limit to learning)

## **Class Two**

This term, Class Two have turned their thoughts towards how we communicate. So far this term, Class 2 have...

- ⇒ Created our own Morse Code circuits and sent messages across the classroom
- ⇒ Tried semaphore communication
- ⇒ Learnt about non-verbal communication with a fantastic talk from Vickie Hugh-Jones (Thank you!)
- ⇒ Created songs and animations as we work towards creating our own viral videos

Here are some extracts from our reports on different forms of communication and from diary entries, where we have worked hard to share the emotions a character is feeling:

### **Report Extract by Tia**

How the Wolf Communicated Before Mobile Phones

cracking  
Mobile Phones - incredible inventions loved by teenagers and most of the youth population globally. If you go to any street corner, you can easily find a hoodie-clad teenager with a I-phone XR and a baseball cap skulking round in the shadows. But here's the big question, How did our parents and grandparents cope without a phone? How did they work each out on a date during school lessons? (winks, winks, nudge nudge.) Read on to find out how our ancestors communicated before the mobile phone.

### **Diary Extract by Tess based on 'The Wolf and Three Little Pigs'**

• Give examples of both  
• Use examples in short diary entries

Dearest diary, ~~today~~ <sup>write</sup> I'm to you today feeling triumphant, delighted but somewhat stressed for I have become <sup>both</sup> a murderer and a hero in the same day! How I have done this may you ask - I shall tell you exactly how. Yesterday, with a sense of fierce fierceness in my heart, because of my younger brother's snoring, I completed my ~~brick~~ brick house with moments to spare. I ~~until~~ I was disturbed by a knock on the door not one knock, not two knocks but 3! The wolf huffed and puffed but to his utter ~~great~~ dispare, unlike my 2 pathetic brothers who got eaten in the act the house did not blow in! Exasperated, the wolf climbed on top of my house and jumped down the chimney though my outstanding idea saved the day! - I had hurriedly dumped a pot of boiling <sup>there</sup> water <sup>there</sup> which seconds later he



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Heart-broken, terrified - here I am crying on my family's doorstep - rubbing my <sup>white</sup> eyes back further into my weightless head. Why did I do this? I've just wasted my life by trying to find some pointless shells! You are probably wondering what happened - if so read on. I woke up knowing that today was my last day of ~~term~~<sup>both</sup> holiday and.... "173 left! I counted! I was attempting to create a giant's necklace out of pink, beautiful conch shells. As I slipped down to the yellow long beach I could feel the sweet feeling of victory and accomplishment. Knowing that I had only 93 shells left to collect, I wasn't paying the slightest bit of attention to the dark incoming clouds - I wish

Diary extract by Tonsley

### Swimming

Every week the Year 3s and Year 4s go swimming at Penzance Leisure Centre, where, under the capable instruction of swimming teacher Jill, they have been learning new skills.

Our roving reporter Bryher reports, "The children learn different things like backstroke and front crawl. They get better by practising with floats and learning not to look up, to keep their weight and balance. All the Year 3 and 4s are looking great and learning quickly. Lots of people have got a lot better from when we started. Seven people are in the fast lane because they are a bit better than the others."

### Lights! Camera! Action!

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 11 children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in Songfest: *Lights! Camera! Action!* at St John's Hall in Penzance. This annual event is organised by Cornwall Music Hub and is an amazing opportunity for children across the county to perform alongside professional musicians to a high standard.

As always, our children represented St Levan excellently, sang beautifully (right on the front row!) and shone throughout the whole experience. Many people commented on their enthusiasm and Fred, Morgan and Will were even invited to join the Cornwall Boy's Choir – a fantastic achievement. Well done everyone!

## Fun Outdoors

### Forest School

This term we have linked our Forest School sessions with our learning in class. In Class One this means we have been designing and building kites, ready to try them out later this term, while Class Two have been learning to communicate with semaphore flags.

*Did you know it is thought that kites were invented in China?* The earliest known Chinese paper kites were flat and often rectangular so we have used that design for our kites. Kites were often decorated with mythological motifs and legendary figures; some were fitted with strings and whistles to make musical sounds while flying. We have therefore added dragon features to ours and decorated with colours associated with China. Fingers crossed for a breezy day when we try to fly them!

In Class Two sessions we have been making our own semaphore flags using coloured paper and willow sticks, and have practised sending simple words and phrases. By holding the poles in different positions we have been able to spell out letters of the alphabet, which a reader then transcribes and records. We found out it is not as easy as it looks!

### Gardening

This term we have been preparing the ground ready for planting, this has included weeding all the flower beds, clearing out the planters on the veranda and moving a lot of soil! Thanks to the early sunshine we are already seeing the bulbs we planted last term flowering and are looking forward to planning our vegetable beds and buying plants for our larger planters with Sophia.

### Orchard Planting

On the Friday before half term, Year 3 and Year 4, accompanied by a band of National Trust volunteers and parents set about clearing our quillies at Penberth. It had been almost a year since we were last there so there was a lot of weeding to do! Everyone had a turn at this, along with planting trees for an orchard and collecting pebbles from the cove, which we got to decorate and keep as a reminder of the day. Our thanks go to the team of adults who helped and to Vickie and Tristan for inviting us for pizza in their garden—it was very yummy!

