

St Mary's News



Friday 4th April 2014 – Issue 2

Local Children's Author Visits St Mary's

David Lawrence Jones, a local author, came to visit the school and talk to us about himself and his books. The children enjoyed listening to his experiences as a writer and what happened to him as a child that inspired him to write. David acted out the first two chapters of his first novel, with the help of some of the pupils. This inspired many of the pupils to buy his books. He visited the school the following day and signed copies for everyone who wanted to buy them.

David has written four novels about the hero, Bradley Baker, and is currently writing a fifth one. David told us that after he has finished this novel he will begin writing a new series of books although may in the future write another book in the Bradley Baker series. Some of the pupils from Burrator read the books in this series and wrote books reviews. These are available to read in the school library and also in the Pupils' section of the school website.

By Jonty



Fundraiser - Sports Relief 2014 and Rowcroft Hospice

The school council decided to do their part and raise money for Sports Relief and Rowcroft, charities chosen by St Mary's school councillors this year. We came up with the idea to organise and run an obstacle course that would be suitable for all ages of pupils across the school. As I am a school councillor, I decided that I would like to run and create the obstacle course for the event. Firstly I designed it on the computer and thought about the equipment that would be needed. When the day of the obstacle course finally arrived, Mr de Young, the other school councillors and I went onto the field to set up the equipment and add a few last minute changes to the course to make it a little bit harder but hopefully more exciting. It cost £1 to take part in the obstacle course and we raised £85.46 to be split between the two charities.

By Brian



Easter Egg Facts

🍫 The first chocolate egg was produced in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol. 🍫 Sales at Easter make up 10% of UK chocolate spending for the whole year. 🍫 The tallest chocolate egg was made in Italy in 2011. It was 10.39 metres high and weighed 7,200 kg. 🍫

The Structure of our New School Hall

Our new school hall frame has just been built ready for the actual walls to go up. Everyone is very excited because soon we will be able to go into a hall that is right next to our main building. It will have triangular windows to make it look like it is meant for children. All the walls will be painted bright colours and hopefully they will use the spare cupboard for all our PE equipment to go in.

Around the hall

Around the hall right now is a little dip which is where they started to build the wall that holds the frame upright. The person in charge of all the building work said "We have built the lowest part of the wall so once the frame is up we can secure it and level the floor with concrete."

The frame

After the builders put up the surrounding wall they decided it was time to put the frame up for the hall. The frame is made out of wood but even if it rains the hall frame will stay up because they glossed it. Now the frame is up they will hopefully be able to put the main wall up so we can go into the hall. Also the builders are soon going to make a ramp down from Burrator, the top class, so they can easily go down to the hall.

By Hannah M and Eleanor



School Librarians

This term St Mary's four librarians (Callie-Ann, Jasmine, Eloise and Nico) have been very busy in carrying out their duties in school. We all look after the library by keeping it tidy and making sure that all the books are in the right place. Each one of us has received training in being a school librarian and we have been able to select the books from the Devon Schools' Library van which visits our school each term. This involves sorting through the books and swapping old books for new ones.

We have really enjoyed organising the book displays this term, selecting books which perhaps would be suitable for girls or boys of particular ages to encourage them to read a range of different books. We feel that the job of a librarian is very important but can also be a lot of fun!

By Callie-Ann and Eloise



Our librarians take time to relax with a good book!

St Mary's Football Match

On 25th February, some pupils took part in a friendly football match against Buckfastleigh Primary School. We had a mixed team, with pupils of different ages, abilities and skills. Our team captain for the match was Finlay Wilson.

We started off a little shakily and unsure but as the matches progressed we became better and grew in confidence. On many occasions we came tantalisingly close to a goal, many players took a shot and just clipped past the post. Overall we scored twice; one goal was scored by Finlay and one by Daniel. Our two goalies also did a great job, saving many goals. Half way through, one of our goalies even saved a penalty!

One of our players said, "I really enjoyed the football, it was a wonderful experience, I didn't think that it would go so well!" One of the spectators said, "I thought that our team easily scored many goals and defended brilliantly."

Throughout the matches the team players were substituted to let everyone have a go. Whenever players were changed the people on the side lines were very supportive and cheered on the team. Overall St Mary's lost, but everyone was proud of our achievements and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. We hope to play again soon and improve even more as a team.

By Bethany



Body Language Dance Festival

On Tuesday 4th March pupils in Burrator went to South Dartmoor Community College to perform their Body Language Dance, based on the Commonwealth Games. Pupils had been rehearsing their dance for six weeks to get ready for the event. Burrator performed a combination of Singapore and African dances, to fit with the theme of the Commonwealth Games. Mrs McCullough had spent five weeks modelling and decorating a dragon head, using papier-mâché and orange paint. Twelve people made up the dragon and two people stood at the front sharing the head to move it along. Mr Carty, Mrs McCullough, Mr de Young and the children all made up the dance together. The first part of the dance was the part that pupils made up themselves in small groups, followed by the dragon dance and then a tribal dance. On the day, we all took part in singing and art workshops. Each school taking part had their own dressing room which they could use in between the performances. It was a long day and we finally finished our last performance at 8pm.

By Jodie and Robert

I.T. Club

Do you like computers? Do you like using your brain? If the answer to these questions is yes, then computer club could be for you! It has run this term for children from Year 2 to Year 6. The club has been run by Miss Porter and Miss Slack on a Monday after school. In I.T. club we usually try to make something using the computer. For example, a few weeks ago we made our own apps. We also had a go at creating our own animations, which was really cool. We have also played games, which involved programming objects to move using a set of instructions, such as 'turn left', 'go forwards' and 'repeat'. You had to really use your brain to make sure the objects moved in the right direction.

This was an amazing club, where you could learn new skills and have fun. You can also use the skills you learn in subjects such as maths, school projects and even in your future career.

By Finlay

Easter Celebrations

At the end of term, all the classes took part in lots of Easter activities. We all made Easter Bonnets and in our achievement assembly we had a parade and the winners were chosen by Fr Christopher. They were Nicole, Hannah M and Brian. We also had an Easter Egg Hunt around the school. Each class had to find Easter egg clues; Venford had to find ten and Fernworthy and Burrator had to find twenty. It was very exciting and everyone managed to get all the clues and got a chocolate egg as a prize.

By Ethan

Alternative Sports Festival

This term Fernworthy class and some children from Burrator went to South Dartmoor Community College for a fun Alternative Sports Festival. When we arrived, we saw three different sports being played – ultimate Frisbee, badminton and trampolining.

First I tried badminton. I had never tried this sport before, and I have to say I rather enjoyed myself! Next I played ultimate Frisbee which was entirely different to badminton and quite noisy, with all the Frisbees landing on the floor. Finally I had a go at trampolining. This isn't really my thing, but it was fun trying!

Everyone really enjoyed the festival. Jodie said, "I enjoyed the trampoline most of all because I overcame my fear of falling."

Overall this was a fantastic day and I would definitely recommend the event to others.

By Jasmine

Venford's Trip on the Steam Railway and to the Rare Breeds Farm

Yesterday we went to the South Devon Railway station. When we got to the station we went up the steps, over the path and then waited patiently for the train to arrive.

When we arrived at the Rare Breeds Farm in Totnes we saw lots of animals including a horse and some sheep. After looking around we had some lunch and finally we returned to school on the train.

By Lily L.



Please send any ideas or suggestions for St Mary's News to the School Office or email the information to admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk.