

# St Mary's News



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – Issue 7

In this half term's edition of St Mary's News, each class has taken a page to write about what has been happening in their classroom this half term. I think you will agree that everyone has been extremely busy over the past few weeks.

## Lent

Father Christopher came into school this week to talk to us about Lent, which begins next Wednesday; Ash Wednesday.

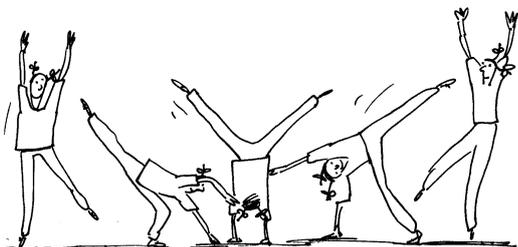
Everyone has written one thing that they will try to do better during the forty days of Lent. Pupils have written these Lenten promises on a leaf which are all displayed on our Lenten Tree outside the hall.

## Gymnastics club

This term we have had a range of different clubs at St Mary's including gym club on a Thursday after school.

In gym club we always start with a warm up involving stretching. Then we start climbing on the equipment like the wall bars and learn new things like head stands. We have also started to develop our moves such as cartwheels, jumps, human flags and balances.

By Finley T



## Energy saving school councillors

Over the last couple of weeks, the school council have been working on a project that is saving the school's money to buy better things; by shutting doors, turning off lights and closing windows when they are not needed to be used. The school council have had a meeting and discussed about different ways of saving money by doing all of these. During last week's assembly, we also carried out a secret audit. We looked at the number of lights left on, radiators cluttered up so the heat couldn't get out, doors left open and computers left on or in standby mode when no one was in the room.

We have kept money saving quiet until now because we wanted to see people doing it naturally but now it's your turn! To give you a head start on money saving, there is a competition you can enter below.

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition in the previous edition of St Mary's News and congratulations to the winners – Ellena, Venitia, Daisy B-D – who drew some beautiful Christmas pictures. We look forward to receiving lots of entries for our latest competition (see below).

## Energy saving competition

To help the School Council with their energy saving, you are invited to enter a poster competition. Could you design a poster which would remind people around the school to save energy, e.g. shutting the door, turning off the lights when you leave a room, shutting down a computer that isn't being used?

Entries need to be handed in to Miss Slack by the end of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The winning entries will be awarded a prize in the achievement assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## Around the classes ...

### VENFORD

The children in Venford have been 'Under the Sea' this half term, so pupils have been looking at the different creatures that live under water. They have produced some fantastic literacy and artwork linked to this topic and learnt lots about different sea creatures during their visit to Plymouth Aquarium.

#### Dance lessons

This term Venford have had dance sessions in school. Our teachers are called Tish and Marina. We have had five sessions in which we have learnt some new dance moves and how to improve our movements. We love dancing!

By Daisy B-D and Nicole



#### Our Trip to the Aquarium

We went to the aquarium in Plymouth. First we saw a star fish stuck on the glass. Next we saw some sea horses and held a dead one! It felt bumpy.

Later on we saw a loggerhead turtle and he stuck his head out to breathe and went back down.

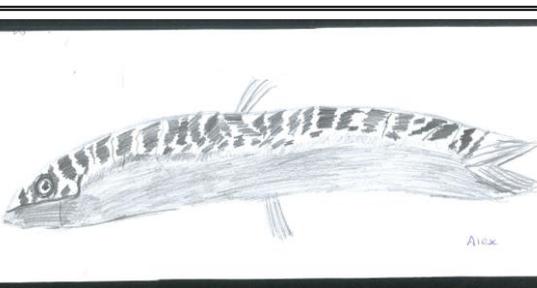
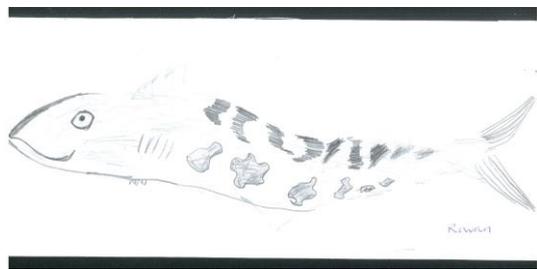
Finally we saw the sharks with massive teeth, I liked them best! We had lunch and went home.

By Harvey



#### Fish Artwork

Pupils in Venford created their own detailed sketches of different fish. We have put these on display in the corridor near Venford classroom.



#### Our Trip to the Aquarium

Last Monday we went to the extremely good aquarium in Plymouth. We were learning about underwater creatures.

First we saw loads of starfish. They could grow back their legs if needed. Next we saw the sea horses and jelly fish.

After that we saw the sea turtle. It gracefully glided around the fish and sting ray. Later on we were scared to death by the sharks!

Finally we saw the puffa fish, it was like a balloon. Then we had lunch, it was delicious. I had lots of fun!

By Imogen

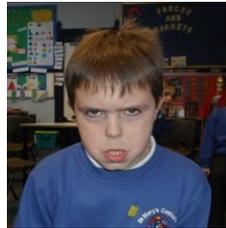


The Romans created busts of their leaders and rulers. These were made to look fierce and strong to warn other countries that they meant business! Rich people also had busts to show off their wealth.

We made our own Roman busts using clay. We enjoyed working with the clay as it was relaxing.

Before we could do this, we practised making strong, fierce faces and took photographs of these. We thought about what happened to our faces when we make them look angry and strong and tried to copy these into our Roman busts.

Lillian and Louis are demonstrating their "fierce" faces!



On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, Fernworthy Class enjoyed a trip to Hembury Hillfort. This was part of our topic on the Romans and Celts. We had been learning about a fierce warrior queen called Boudicca who took on the might of the Roman Empire!

The day before our visit, we were lucky enough to make and bake authentic Roman bread which we then took with us to the hillfort to enjoy as a snack with a pot of honey.

Alison, the education officer from the Abbey, met us at the fort and led us in a Boudicca Rebellion Act using a poem that she had written herself.



**Around the classes ...**

## **FERNWORTHY**

Fernworthy have been learning all about the Romans this half term and have linked their literacy, drama, art and design technology to this history topic.



We enjoyed a long walk around the hill fort defences and playing in the iron age village.

Finally, we were thoroughly spoilt when we were each given a cup of warming hot chocolate and authentic Roman honey cakes, baked by Mrs McCullough.

We had lots of fun and we hope next term we look forward to finding out even more about the Romans.

Thank you to Alison, Mrs Contrasti, Mr Knibb, Mrs McCullough, Mrs Perryman, Mrs Freeborn and Mrs Kerswell for taking us there.

## Around the classes ...

### BURRATOR

Burrator have been learning all about Space this half term and have linked some of their literacy, music, art and design technology to this science topic. Pupils have also been getting ready for the Body Language dance festival at South Dartmoor next month.

### Body Language 2015

For the last couple of weeks, Miss Cowell from South Dartmoor, has kindly come in and helped Burrator to develop their Body Language dance, which we'll be performing in March. Our theme this year is 'erosion'. We've focussed on different names in dance, and they are: cannon; motif and unison. We are very nervous, but also very excited about performing in front of an audience. As well as our two dance teachers, we also had another kind dance teacher from the Saldanha Dance Academy in Buckfastleigh. We hope that we do a fantastic job in performing and representing our school.

By Sophie Clements

### Rocket Building

Burrator's topic this last term was space. We made rockets for D.T; hand thrown or powered by 'pneumatics.'

'Pneumatics' is simply air which pumps things, i.e. our rockets, in to the heavens (our hall!!) Surprisingly the rocket that went the furthest was the hand thrown 'Arrow'! We all extremely enjoyed it very much, and hope to do something again like the rocket launching soon!



### Starry Night

We learnt about the artist Vincent Van Gogh and analysed his painting, Starry Night. Using our own imagination, we created our own interpretation of this painting using chalks and pastels. I hope that you will agree that everyone worked very hard to create some excellent artwork!



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](mailto:admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk) .