

# St. Peter's News Summer 1

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May 2017

## FS2 visit to Chirk Castle

Foundation 2 spent a fantastic day at Chirk Castle in the last week of May. They were learning about what it would have been like living and working in medieval times. On arriving at Chirk the children took the walk up the hill to the castle. It was quite a long, steep walk and we discussed why the castle was built on such a big hill. Once at the top the children were greeted by some servant girls who lived in the castle long long ago.



The children were quickly enrolled as servants to the king, putting on bonnets, aprons, hats and waistcoats. The servant girls taught the children how to load and fire a cannon ball, what



knight's wore before heading in to battle, how to make biscuits and took them on a very unnerving visit to the castle dungeons. This was most children's favourite part as they were able to experience how cold and dark the dungeons would have been for prisoners. All children visited the state rooms and were able

to marvel at the grand fireplaces, very high ceilings and the old cast iron bath tub. Some children even took a dance in the great hall. The whole day provided the children with first hand experiences which we have been able to use to further enhance our topic.



## Y5/6 visit to Thurston Country Park



At the start of the summer term, the children in Years 5 and 6 visited Thurston Country Park as part of their Science work on Habitats. During the visit they went onto the beach to look at different coastal habitats before returning to the centre to do some pond dipping and visiting the bird hide. As well as supporting the children's learning in Science, the visit also inspired some creative descriptive writing linked to the stunning setting overlooking the Dee Estuary.

## Wedding Bells for Miss Harris



We offer our congratulations to Miss Jenny Harris who recently announced her engagement to her long term partner Tim. The couple plan to marry in the autumn. The news is tinged with some sadness, however, as Miss Harris will be relocating to Oxford and so will be leaving St. Peter's at the end of this school year.

Miss Harris has been a teacher at St. Peter's since 2008, initially working as part of the Y5/6 team but for the last 8 years has been a teacher in Years 3&4. In addition to this, Jenny has also been the school's English leader and her passion for English and love of reading has been influential in leading the development of standards in Reading and Writing across the school. This has included overseeing the successful Book Fairs and the planning of the new school library. We would like to thank her for her contribution to St. Peter's over the last 9 years and we wish her every happiness as she embarks on a new chapter of her life in the autumn.

## Getting ready for summer



The eco team were hard at work just before half term preparing the planters for the summer. They replaced the winter plants that had begun to die off, with new bedding plants both at the front of school and also at the KS1 entrance. Thanks to the warm and sunny weather, the pots needed plenty of watering. Fortunately, the children

were able to use water from our new water butt that was installed as part of the new canopy next to the Computer Suite. They really have brightened up the outside of school and provide a warm welcome to the children, parents and visitors.



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## Musical Masterpiece



Parents, family and friends were treated to an evening of musical entertainment with both the St. Peter's Orchestra and Concordia Choir performing a number of pieces. The Mid-Summer Concert included individual and ensemble pieces from our different sections of the orchestra as well as the guitar

group. The evening showcased the array of musical talent of children from Years 3 to 6, with the older pupils taking a more prominent role. The evening was enjoyed by over 170 adults and children who attended. A huge thank you to Mrs Helen Chetwood (Music Lead) and Mrs Angela Charlesworth (Orchestra Leader) for their input and contribution to music at St. Peter's throughout the year. And also to our peripatetic music teachers Mrs Hazelhurst, Mr Greenham and Miss Laird for all of their hard work.

## St. Peter's holds own General Election

The year 5/6 pupils really got into the election spirit in the week leading up to the half term holiday; each child wrote their own manifesto from which each class elected a party leader. There was a close-fought campaign and the final election was held on 25th May with parents voting online and all pupils and staff voting in our very own polling station in the school hall: the Heswallian Party gained a narrow majority and won the election. It was a fantastic experience for all the Year 5/6 pupils and the rest of the school too!



## Kente Cloth

During the week the children spent time exploring meaning and symbolism behind the very popular woven 'Kente' cloth originally from Ghana. We spent time looking at the geometric shapes and bold line of the cloth and discussed the meanings behind the colours used. The children were able to make their own weaving using ribbon and created their own 'Kente' style paper weaving.



## Tree Collage

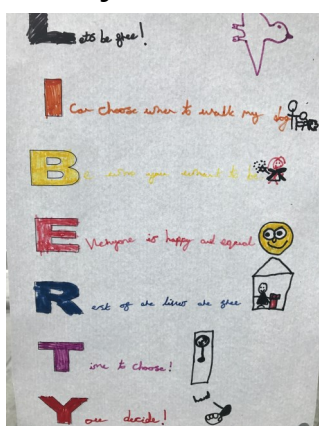
Years 1&2 worked as a whole year group to create a tree collage using natural materials. It was great to work outside with our friends from different classes and really developed our team working skills. We discussed how the tree was made up of different colours, shapes and sizes and although each part is unique and different it is all beautiful—like us!



## Creative Week

This year's creative week took on a theme looking at multiculturalism and British Values, with classes learning about different countries and their traditions. During the week, the children worked in their houses on different art and craft activities that enabled pupils to work across the age-groups. On Thursday afternoon the school came together to share some of the art work they had created and everything they had learnt.

## Liberty Poems & Freedom Flags



On the Wednesday morning, children in Nightingale (from all year groups) visited the Y3/4 classrooms to learn about Individual Liberty. Freedom Flags and Liberty poems were created and everyone had some fantastic ideas to share about the things we are free to do and the responsibilities we have when we have such great freedoms.

## African Masks

Y5&6 pupils learnt about the traditions of African masks that date back over 20,000 years. The different colours have a specific relevance with yellow representing 'fortune,' blue—'innocence' and black—'the unity of the people of Africa.' The masks can be seen on display in the main school corridor.

