

St Peter's



Church of England
Primary School

October 25

Autumn Newsletter

from St Peter's
Primary School



Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's a bit of a cliché to say it — but where have the last eight weeks gone? With so many fantastic things happening day in, day out, there's never a dull moment at school, and the time has simply flown by! Please take the time to read through the class pages of this newsletter to find out about a small snapshot of the highlights!

As you know, last year, we refined and focused our core values into six that we believe are the most important to nurture in our children as St Peter's citizens: **Belonging, Kindness, Courage, Forgiveness, Responsibility and Hope**. These are more than just words on the wall — they are ideas that we are embedding across all areas of school life and the impact can be seen and felt every day.

This term, we've taken time in our collective worship, in PSHE lessons, and in everyday conversations, to explore the value of **belonging** — what it means to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We've reflected on how communities grow stronger when everyone feels seen, heard, and valued. As the wonderful poem by Benjamin Zephaniah reminded us this week: "People will always need people" — and we certainly do. Whether it's sharing a smile at the gate, helping a friend, or working as part of a team, our children are learning that belonging is something we build together, one small act at a time.

We've also explored how difficult it can feel when you don't feel like you belong — and the importance of noticing and supporting others in those moments. It has been heartening to see so many children really looking out for one another — offering a kind word, an invitation to join in, or simply a smile — to help others feel seen, valued and included both in the classroom and out on the playground.

Our first 'Family Day' of the year truly captured the spirit of connection and belonging. Children from across KS1 and KS2 spent the morning building new friendships, working with different members of staff, and coming together in their house groups to experience a different type of community. We hope you enjoyed seeing the house flags they brought home and hearing all about our new House Captains, who spent the morning getting to know the family groups they will be championing and supporting throughout the year.

A special shout-out must go to our fabulous Year 4 children, who showed great compassion and care for the wider community by organising and leading this year's Harvest food collection for our local food bank. They also planned and led the Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church — confidently sharing poems, reflections, and prayers, and presenting their legacy project to an audience of over 500 children and adults. Our Worship Leaders helped bring this message of community to life by sharing bread with their classes, creating a truly special moment of togetherness and joy. Thank you to everyone who donated food — your generosity has made a real difference to a wonderful local charity.

I must also mention the incredible Year 6 residential visit to Mill on the Brue, where we were blessed with sunshine, adventure, and plenty of opportunities for growth. It was truly inspiring to see every child challenge themselves, encourage one another, and achieve things they may never have thought possible.

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A powerful reminder to us all of what can happen when we step out of our comfort zones. I have no doubt that the memories made during this experience will leave a lasting impact on their confidence and self-belief in the years to come.

A big thank you to everyone in our adult community who supported the Paella Party Night fundraiser at Venga — proving that it's not just the children who get to have all the fun! An amazing £1,205 was raised for the PSA pot — a fantastic start to the fundraising year.

Our next adult event is just around the corner: the ever-popular Beat the Teacher Quiz Night on **Thursday 13th November**. This year, we're adding a new twist — a cheese board for your table (thank you to the team who 'brought their own' last year and provided the inspiration for this!) So, gather your team, sign up, and join us for what promises to be another brilliant evening of fun, laughter and friendly competition.

[SIGN UP FOR QUIZ NIGHT HERE](#)

Finally, another plea for parents/carers to come forward and offer their support on the PSA. We are looking for a new committee and a new team and – to date – have only had 7 expressions of interest. It is so important that we can maintain this vital fundraising work so please do consider signing up – even if just to find out a bit more!

[SIGN UP LINK](#)

Wishing you all a lovely half term and we will look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Tuesday 4th November**.

Warm Regards,

Catrin Battista



Reception

We are so proud of how brilliantly our Reception children have settled into school life! It has been a busy and exciting few weeks, and the children have approached new challenges with enthusiasm, curiosity and lots of smiles!

From the very start, we have been learning about our school rules and routines. It is so lovely to see the children become more confident each day and showing that they are ready to learn and being kind and respectful to others



One of the highlights so far has been meeting and spending time with our buddies from Year 5. All children had a wonderful time reading stories with their buddy and enjoying their break together outside in the playground. The friendships between the children are already blossoming and Reception are looking forward to seeing their buddies again next term!

A big thank you to the Year 5's for making Reception feel so welcome at our school!



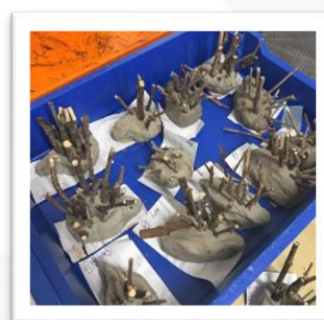
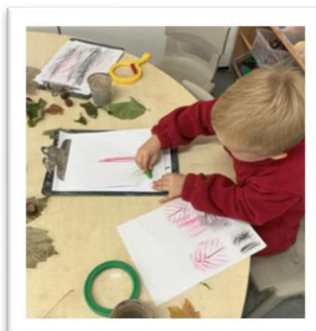


This term, we have been learning Phase 2 sounds and Common Exception Words (CEWs). It has been great to see how quickly children have become phonics experts and have shown resilience with their blending of words and writing. Below are our Phase 2 sounds and CEWs, as always any practice possible at home will help secure them in your child's long-term memory!



Reception have also been learning all about Harvest and why it is an important time of the year. We discussed where our food comes from and how we can be thankful for the fruits and vegetables that we eat. The children took part in a special Harvest Service run by Mrs Battista and Reverend Tonya. They sang brilliantly together! A particular favourite was Big Red Combine Harvester.

The children have been diving into the wonderful world of storytelling through the books Hooray for Fish and Stick Man. Using Talk Through Stories, they brought the characters to life through actions and reading aloud. Alongside our stories, the children have been exploring natural resources to enhance their fine motor skills – using sticks, leaves, conkers and pine cones to support learning within continuous provision. A highlight has been creating clay hedgehogs, where the children practised shaping and decorating using wooden sticks. It has been a fantastic term of imagination, language and hands-on learning!



We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2!

Reception Team 😊



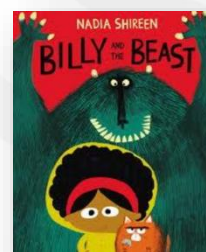
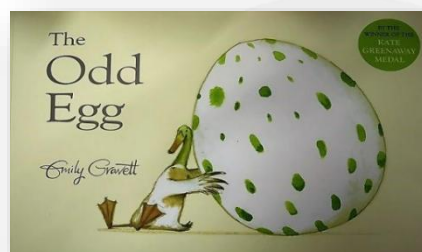
Year 1

Year 1 have made a fantastic start to the year!

This term, we've been exploring the work of artist Henri Rousseau, with a special focus on his painting *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised)*. Our budding artists have been developing key skills such as line work, colour mixing, pattern creation and printing to create their own masterpieces. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and have set up a beautiful art gallery in the Year 1 area to showcase their work.



In English, we have been busy reading and writing about *The Odd Egg* by Emily Gravett and *Billy and the Beast* by Nadia Shireen. The children have worked hard on composing their own sentences, focusing on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have also enjoyed learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives and were thrilled to apply this new knowledge in our writing.



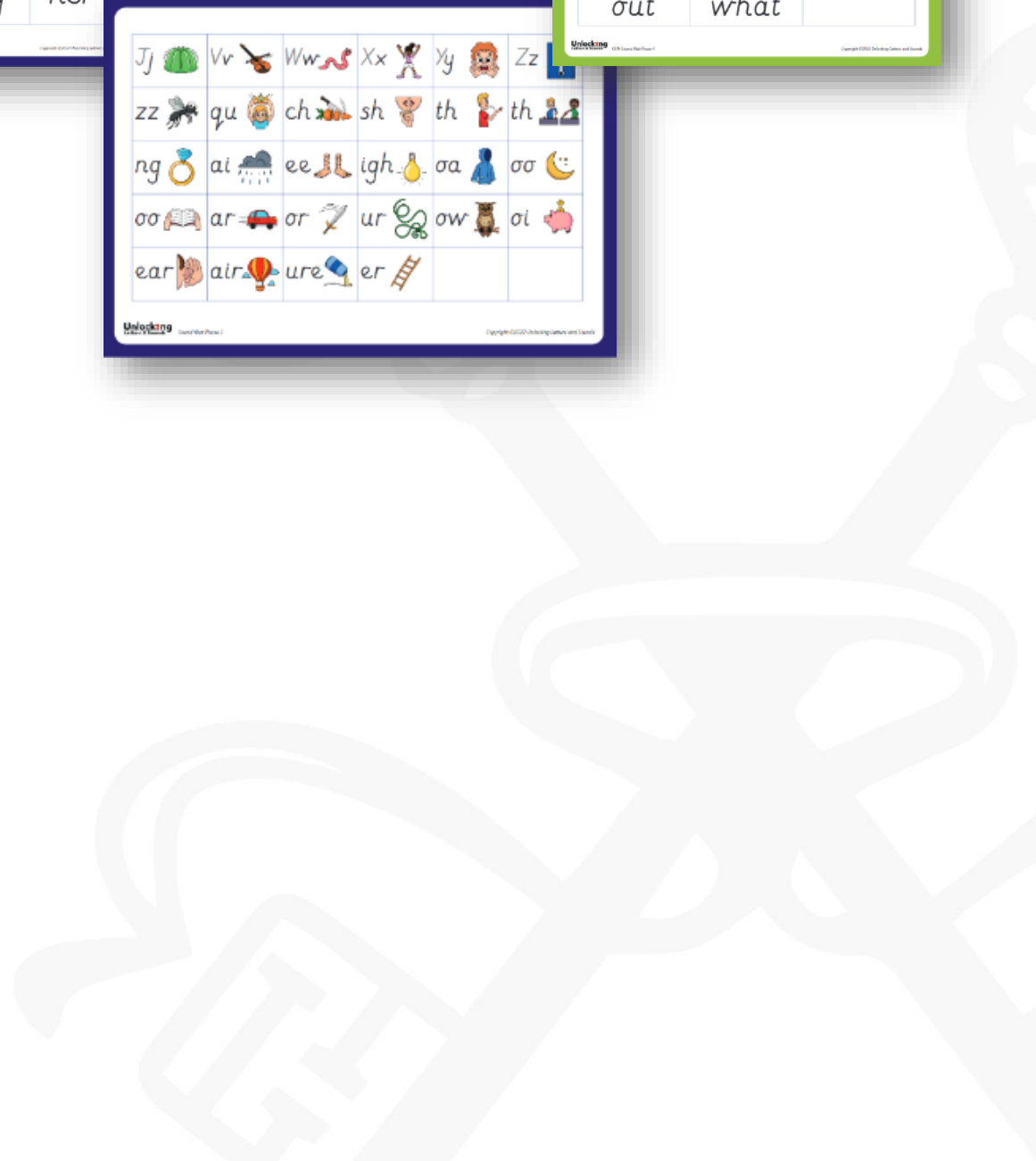


This term, we've enjoyed growing into confident readers by strengthening our phonics skills. We've reviewed Phase 4, and the children have been very excited about learning the new Phase 5 graphemes and common exception words. This excitement is sure to continue as we learn more of Phase 5 in term 2

me	we	be	he
she	was	you	they
all	are	my	her

said	have	like
so	do	some
come	were	there
little	one	when
out	what	

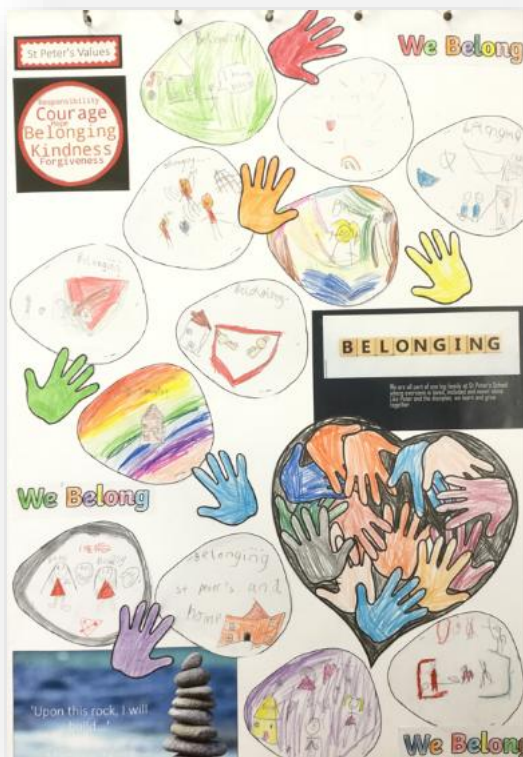
Jj	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz
zz	qu	ch	sh	th	th
ng	ai	ee	igh	oa	oo
oo	ar	or	ur	ow	oi
ear	air	ure	er		





Year 2

Year 2 have made an amazing start to the school year. They have settled brilliantly into their new classes and have been showing what fantastic St Peter's Citizens they are through how well they have grasped their new learning and they are respectfully following the new structures and routines. Well done year 2, you should feel very proud of your strong start to the year!



LOOKING OUT



LOOKING IN

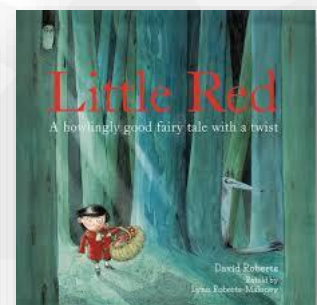
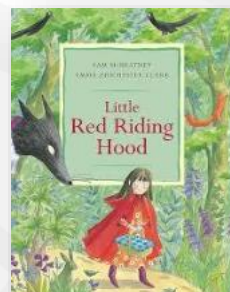


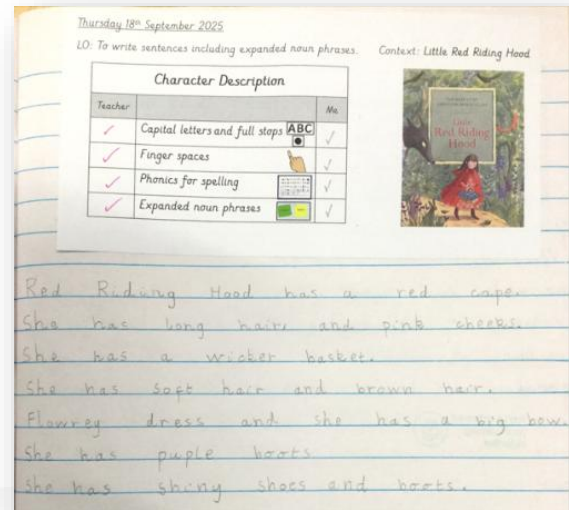
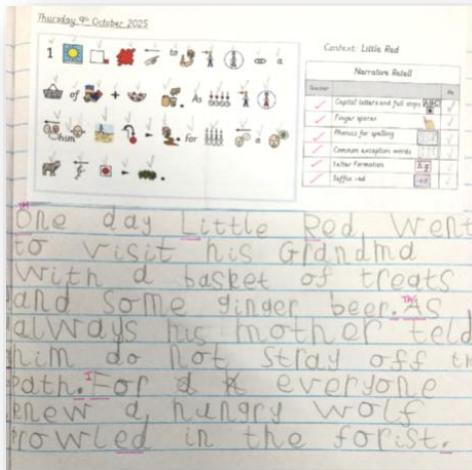
LOOKING UP...



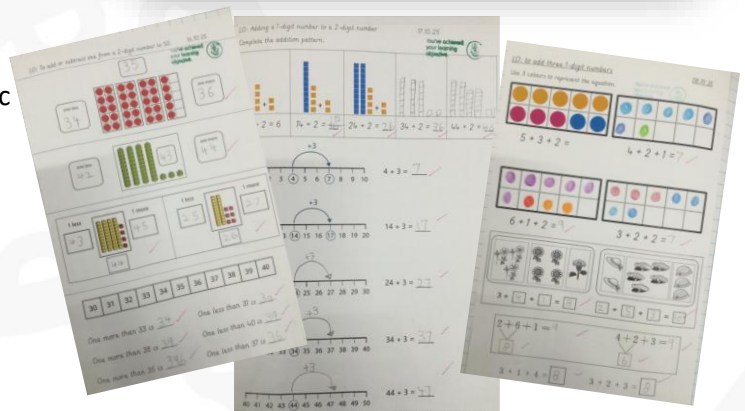
This term's school value is 'Belonging'. During whole school worship on a Monday and Class Worship times, we have been exploring this through stories and discussion, thinking about 'Looking In' (how does this make us feel), 'Looking Out' (how does this change how we respond to others and the world around us) and 'Looking Up' (how does this shape our thinking about things greater than ourselves).

In English, we have read 'Little Red Riding Hood' by Emma Chichester Clark and 'Little Red' retold by Lynn Roberts. The children have written a character description and retold elements of each story.





In maths, we have been exploring place value and addition and are working on quick fire recall of basic number facts such as doubles, number bonds and counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s to help us solve *near* calculations more efficiently.





As part of our learning in science, we have been finding out about animals and their habitats and have been working scientifically to investigate habitats and microhabitats in the school grounds. We undertook an investigation to find out where woodlice like to live. We asked simple questions, observed closely, used simple equipment and recorded our findings. Our results revealed that woodlice like a habitat that is damp and dark.



In geography we have been developing our fieldwork and mapping skills through studying the human and physical features of our school and local area. Look at the sketch maps we have drawn from aerial photos of Portishead. We are geographers!





Art

In art, we have been focussing on Maggi Hambling and her work on seascapes. We spent some time creating different tints and shades as well as exploring different techniques to add texture to paintings. Our final pieces turned out beautifully!



In science, we have been exploring light. We have discovered different light sources and what objects reflect light. We loved making our own shadow puppets and changing the size of the shadow using the distance away from the torch! We also learned the difference between opaque, translucent and transparent. Finally, we explored UV rays and how we can protect ourselves from the sun.



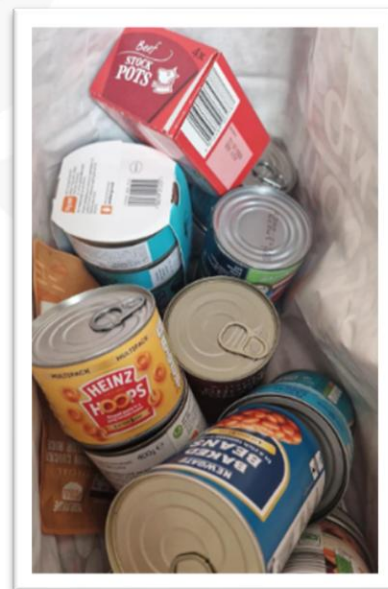
Year 4

Harvest

As part of their Legacy Learning partnership with Clevedon and District Food Bank, Year 4 have been learning about the vital role food banks play in supporting families in our local community. We were delighted to welcome a visitor from the Portishead branch, who spoke to the children about the importance of food donations and how they make a real difference to those in need.

Inspired by what they learned, Year 4 created informative posters to raise awareness across the school of the items most needed by the food bank. They also took an active role in collecting donations, showing great enthusiasm and responsibility.

Year 4 then proudly led the school's Harvest Service at the church. They read their poems, prayers and readings beautifully and with confidence. Year 4 truly demonstrated excellence in service with others.





English

In English, year 4 have explored two texts this term: *Cinnamon* and *It's a No Money Day*. While reading *Cinnamon*, we created detailed setting descriptions, using ambitious adjectives to create vivid descriptions. Linking to our legacy learning project, we then read *It's a No Money Day*, Year 4 stepped into the shoes of the characters and wrote thoughtful diary entries, showing real empathy and understanding.

Geography

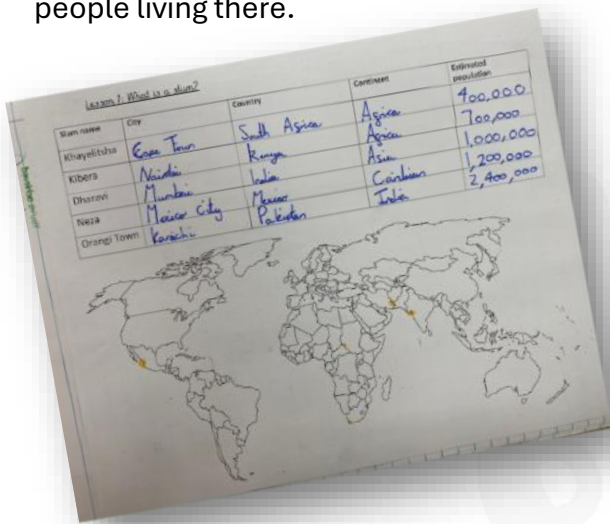
In Geography, Year 4 have been diving into a topic on rivers. They have learnt how rivers are formed and have been using expert vocabulary such as *source*, *meander*, *oxbow lake*, *sediment*, *deposit* and *mouth* to accurately describe the journey of a river from beginning to end.



Year 5

Geography

Year 5's topic this term has been Slums. The children developed their knowledge of maps when locating different slums across the world and also learned how to use 4-figure grid references to find features of slums such as clean water taps. They were fascinated to find out why and how slums develop and have shown real maturity and empathy in discussing what life might be like for people living there.



In art, we have been exploring the life and work of Vincent van Gogh. We learnt about his life and what inspired him as well as experimenting with different mediums to imitate pieces of his work. We have even had a go at doing some observational drawings which we will use in our final piece of artwork.



We are very excited to have started our whole class trumpet lessons, which the children are really enjoying. We are really lucky to have the expertise of the music teacher Mr Sansom and with lots of practice, we can't wait to hear the fantastic tunes the children will be playing as the weeks go on. We hope you are enjoying listening to the children practise at home.

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Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed meeting their Reception buddies this term. They shared stories and read together before heading outside for some playtime, building lovely new friendships across the year groups. Year 5s took great pride in being positive role models for their younger peers, showing kindness, patience and enthusiasm as they helped their buddies settle into school life.





Year 6

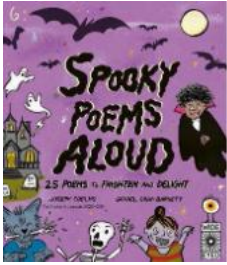


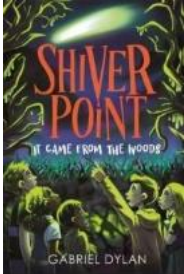
Year 6 had a fantastic week at Mill On The Brue. Challenges were faced, fears were overcome and memories were made. The talent show also demonstrated what a creative year group we have. Well done year 6!





BOOK CORNER

Spooky half term book recommendations

EYFS and KS1		<p>Spooky Poems Aloud by Joseph Coelho</p> <p>Within these pages, you'll discover poems that can be recited loudly, softly, or in a ghostly whisper, offering a diverse range of performances. Some poems are meant to make your audience jump or send shivers down their spine, while others weave spell-poems that can enchant a witch's cat or cast a spell of laughter. There are even poems that will tickle your funny bones.</p>
		<p>There's a Ghost in the House by Oliver Jeffers</p> <p>An interactive picture book ideal for storytelling on a dark, wet, Autumn afternoon. Explore the haunted house with the little girl that lives there. Help her to find a ghost amongst the beautifully illustrated pages. A great book to read as a family.</p>
		<p>Maggie Sparks and the Fang-tastic Fairground by Steve Smallman</p> <p>Young witch Maggie sets out to prove to her friend Arthur that Halloween is fun not frightening. This is a lively first chapter book with eye catching illustrations.</p>
KS2		<p>Shiver Point: It came from the Woods by Gabriel Dylan</p> <p>When Alex sees a meteorite streaking towards Howlmoor Forest he imagines finding fame and fortune but what he finds instead is the stuff of nightmares! Written in short, cliff hanger chapters this is bound to get KS2 children hooked.</p>



		<p>The Violet Veil Mysteries: A Case of Grave Danger by Sophie Cleverly</p> <p>Violet is forced into a world of intrigue and ghostly goings on when her father is arrested for crimes he didn't commit. This story is suited for upper KS2 mystery enthusiasts.</p>
		<p>Curse Breaker by Simon Tudhope</p> <p>You find yourself alone and scared in a prison cell, locked up for something you didn't do! In this book you are the story and you decide what to do. With interactive gameplay this is a perfect mystery for Year 6 to get themselves lost in.</p>



PSA Dates for the diary

Purchases can be made [HERE](#)

🏠 All Events

[Home](#) / All Events

🏠 Upcoming Events

 **FROM £20.00**

ST. PETER'S PORTISHEAD PSA

Quiz Night

[View more →](#)

🏠 THU 13 NOV, 2025 19:00

What's On

3

🏠 Products

[View Event →](#)

 **FROM £5.00**

ST. PETER'S PORTISHEAD PSA

Y4 and Y5 Disco

[View more →](#)


🏠 THU 20 NOV, 2025 17:00 - 18:30

What's On

1

🏠 Product

[View Event →](#)

 **FROM £5.00**

ST. PETER'S PORTISHEAD PSA

Reception Tea Towels

[View more →](#)

🏠 MON 01 DEC, 2025 00:00 - 00:...

What's On

1

🏠 Product

[View Event →](#)

 **FROM £5.00**

ST. PETER'S PORTISHEAD PSA

Christmas Fair

[View more →](#)

🏠 SAT 06 DEC, 2025 12:00

What's On

N/A

[View Event →](#)

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Wellbeing newsletters

You will find this terms wellbeing Newsletters

[HERE](#)

