

Trust Executive Leader Newsletter January 2021

Dear All

As I open this letter, I am sure that all our parents would want to join with me in saying a huge thank you to the staff in our schools. Indeed many of you have shown your support for the provision and the noticeable changes made as we have learnt from the last lockdown. The staff are putting in an incredible amount of additional hours to ensure the best they can provide for all of our pupils and showing amazing creativity in their design of lessons and activities. Some of the wonderful ideas and the work being produced by children is shared below.

We also want to say thank you to parents for your patience and all your efforts to keep your children engaged in the learning. We recognise that it is a real challenge for many of you. Everyone is doing what they can and everyone's situation is different and we do understand this. It is so important that we continue to work together to break the transmission rates of the virus in our community so thank you for supporting that by keeping your children at home with you and helping to keep everyone as safe as possible.

As I write, we are still uncertain about how soon children will be able to return to the classroom, although 8th March is the potential date for changes to take place. We all want the children back but we all want this to be as safe as possible too. Once the government has reviewed the scientific evidence later in February, we will be better able to plan and in turn we will let you know as soon as we can what the plans are for your school's opening.

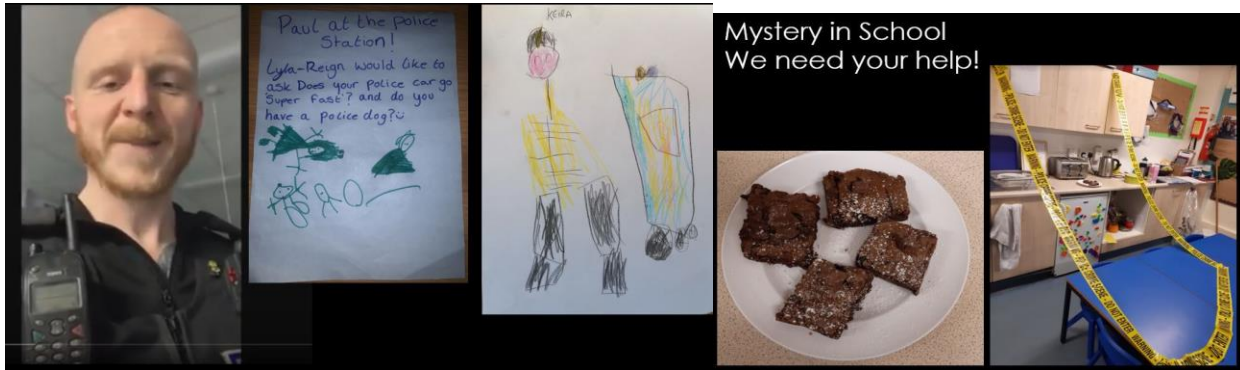
Many of you fed back how encouraging it was to see a range of positive stories from across the Trust in the last newsletter, so I hope you enjoy the items below and that they bring some joy and hope.



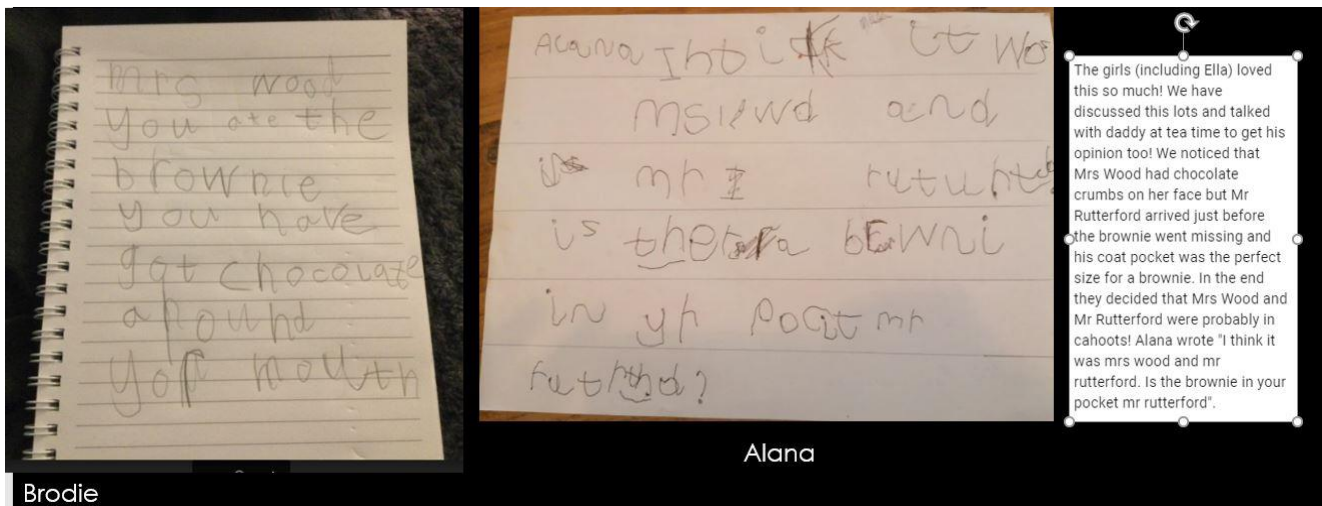
Earlier in the Autumn term a large number of last Years' Post 16 students left to start their Higher Education journeys. Students started a whole range of courses at a diverse list of Universities, or moved into apprenticeships and employment. We are immensely proud of all the achievements of the students last summer and love to hear back from them when they return during breaks from their lectures or when they are on leave. Pictured above are four ex-Helston students who are all now studying at Trinity College Oxford. Kian is now a second year student and Oliver, Finlay and Thomas joined him in October this year. Pictured to the right of this are Lucy, Jacob and Will. Jacob is now studying Medicine at St George's in London and Lucy Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol. Will has now completed his initial training at HMS Raleigh and we believe was the first person in the country to complete his gold DofE award whilst serving in the Royal Navy.



Children at Sithney School have been working with the Rockpool project to turn their planned Seashore Safari topic launch for the Spring Term into a virtual event. As part of their science and outdoor learning, they have set a Google Classroom assignment tasking both home and school-based learners to visit a local rockpool, photograph an animal species and email it to Dr Ben Holt of the Rockpool project. Dr Ben is in the process of collating these pictures to provide a live lesson on classification, food chains and webs all linked to the discoveries the children have made. Once completed with the children of Smart Zone, Sithney School this interactive virtual Seashore Safari is something the Rockpool project hopes to offer to other schools interested in exploring their locality. We hope to follow up this virtual tour with a practical day's Sea Safari and beach clean when Covid restrictions permit.



All the staff at Porthleven School are ever so proud of the hard work and effort that children are putting into their learning at home and in school. Year 5 and 6 have produced some fantastic non-chronological report writing about strange imaginary creatures. The reception and nursery children saw a video from Paul, a police officer based at Camborne Police station, explaining his duties and describing all the equipment he uses. The children produced some wonderful drawings and wrote questions they wished to ask him on the following Monday's live Google Meet. The children were then set the task to follow the clues and solve the mystery of the missing brownie at school. The staff have shown great creativity and how to make the most of remote learning.



Brodie

Alana

The girls (including Ella) loved this so much! We have discussed this lots and talked with daddy at tea time to get his opinion too! We noticed that Mrs Wood had chocolate crumbs on her face but Mr Rutterford arrived just before the brownie went missing and his coat pocket was the perfect size for a brownie. In the end they decided that Mrs Wood and Mr Rutterford were probably in cahoots! Alana wrote "I think it was Mrs Wood and Mr Rutterford. Is the brownie in your pocket Mr Rutterford".



At Cury School, their value this term is perseverance so they are awarding these stars to children who show perseverance in their home learning or during live lessons. The children are enjoying earning them and this is reported to all parents in their weekly newsletter. It is really helping to make the value that they are discussing in their daily worships meaningful and real for their children.



Christmas seems a long time ago now but we want to say well done to the children at Cury School who raised funds through their Christmas Jumper Day. Key Stage 2 children created an advent calendar in the form of stocking hanging over a fireplace and, on the back of each stocking, was a prayer or an act of



kindness for all to complete over the next day. All of the children made Christmas cards which the school's ministers delivered to the residents of Cury, and Key Stage 2 children created postcards to send to residential homes nearby - they even got some replies!



On Friday 11th December, the staff and pupils at Wendron School took part in the Santa Run for the Children's Hospice South West. Every child took part, dressing up and having fun. The school raised over £1,400 through a combination of donations on coin collection cards and online donations through a Just giving page. The Fundraising team at the Hospice were blown away with the total that we raised. We are all very proud of the generosity of the families at Wendron.

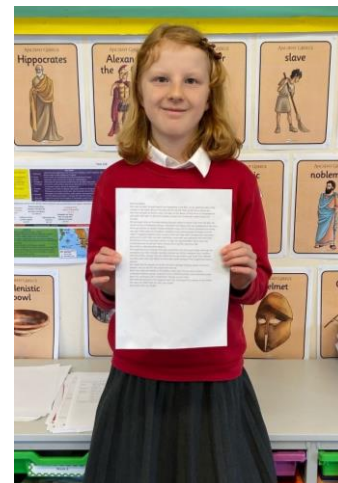


Keeping fit and healthy are really important during lockdown. Our Lizard schools have their very own 'Joe Wicks' in the form of Mr Studd! As it is difficult for Mr Studd to move from school to school currently, he is producing a range of PE lessons online for everyone in the Trust to use. This has gone down very well with parents and children who have been taking part at school and at home. We have seen a good variety of Mr Studd's lessons from fine motor skills such as tying shoelaces and making knots, to decathlon jumping, to intense 7 minute twice daily workouts.



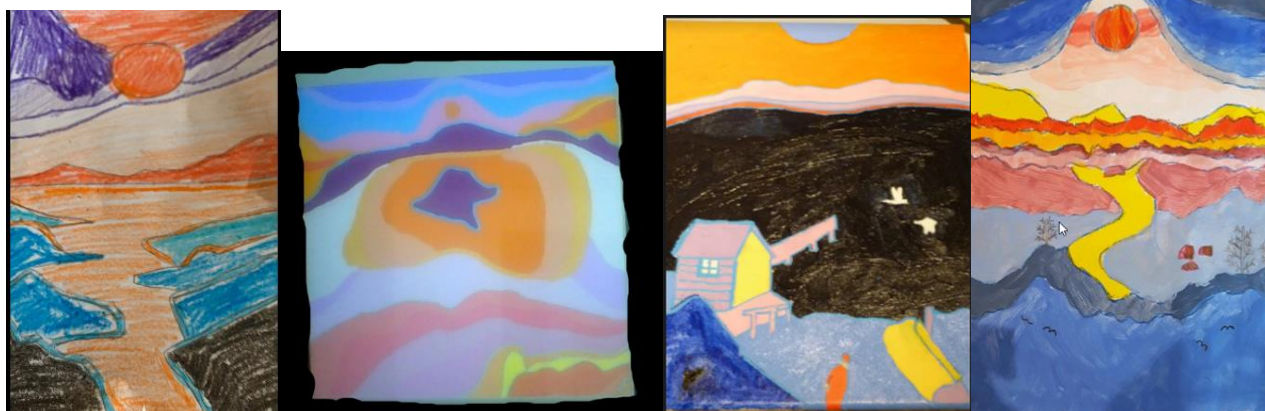
Maisie R, a pupil at Coverack School, began writing to a resident at Porthgwarra - their local nursing home - at the beginning of the first lockdown in March. Their relationship has continued to grow and both have gained from the experience. This half term the class have been learning about the Swinging Sixties and Maisie wrote to ask her penpal if she could help. The resident said that she could not remember a lot about that period but she asked whether the next remote link session that the home had arranged with a museum could be devoted to finding out more. She then wrote back to Maisie with lots of helpful information to add to her project.

Maisie said 'I like writing to Pam because it is very interesting and nice to talk to somebody who might not have many people'.



Trannack School have continued with their Woodland Schools each week for the pupils in school, sending outdoor learning activities for the pupils at home. They have taken advantage of the few sunny days we have had and used their den making skills to set up camp with hammocks and prepared lunch on an open fire.

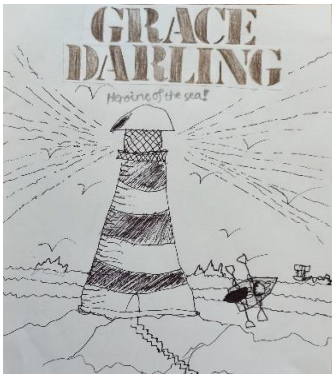
The children in the Razorbills class at Landewednack School have looked carefully at the artwork of a North American artist called Ted Harrison. Ted was an art teacher who lived in the Yukon in the icy, far North of Canada; he was inspired by the landscapes of The Yukon. The children used bold shapes and strong outlines as well as warm and cool complimentary colours to recreate their own work inspired by the artist. Here are a few examples:



The KS2 children at Manaccan have been inspired by the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky in their remote learning art sessions. They have produced some really imaginative pieces. Well done in particular to Honey who created her own piece of artwork and then turned it into a lovely animation.

The children in KS2 at St Keverne School have been busy exploring how they can continue their talk for writing approach through a webcam. They have been fantastic at engaging with this and have created some great pieces as we build towards our final copies. Staff have been particularly impressed with the creativity they have shown, including creating some Goblin worlds!

Key Stage Two children at Grade Ruan have been engaging with their topic about Water. In History lessons they have been learning about Grace Darling and acting out her famous rescue using props (and parents!) found around the home. In Science they made rain gauges which luckily coincided with a particularly wet weekend. In Art they have experimented with brush strokes and cool colours whilst studying Impressionism and RE lessons have explored the concept that Jesus and his disciples were 'Fishers of Men'.



At Breage School they have seen fabulous uptake of their home learning through Google Classroom. From the first tentative steps their children, regardless of age, have taken so brilliantly to attending their meetings and completing their learning in this new manner. Headteacher, Dan Hadley, would like to praise the children for their continued efforts, the parents for their tenacity and resolve in supporting their children and the staff for working so hard balancing the home learning demands with supporting those children in school. Particular highlights from home learning have included a weather forecast videoed by one of the Reception children, parents being interviewed as Ernest Shackleton and children recording themselves practising their French. Well done, Breage!

At Parc Eglos, staff have been sending a friendly postcard home to children in their bubble congratulating them on practising a variety of virtues as well as for their amazing work and engagement in both school and from home. Parents and children have been really appreciative of the messages that have been sent from their child's class, loving the contact with their class teachers and the support staff. These special little cards have made the children at Parc Eglos smile.





At Garras School, their Spring topic is 'We are zoologists'. The children are absolutely loving this study of learning as it engages them with their education on and off screen. They have been sending in regular photographs and illustrations to the Google Classroom Stream, on top of their work already set. One of the children in Hawk Owls sent in this beautiful image of a frosted cobweb. Earlier in the term, the children had the opportunity to watch and take part in a live session by Paignton Zoo. This really helped to bring the learning alive with one child in Eagle Owls saying "I really liked learning about all of the different habitats and taking part in the live quizzes!"

Throughout the month of February, the pupils and staff at Godolphin will be taking part in a 'February Fitness Challenge'. It is hoped that this challenge will incentivise all children, staff and their families to spend time outdoors, get active and ultimately increase health and wellbeing. All competitors, at home and in school, will be encouraged to clock up as many minutes of physical activity as they can to earn points for their class teams, with every 15 minutes of exercise earning one point. At the end of the month, all points will be converted to miles and the team with the greatest total distance wins.

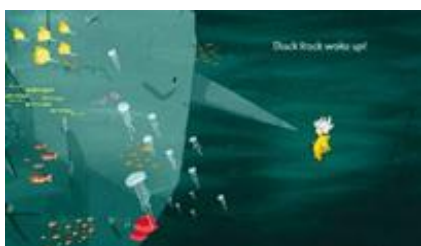
Where could these miles take us? To find out the answer to this question, the children will be asked to explore different possibilities on a map: France, Iceland, Greece, Egypt? Who knows? Maybe we could even reach Australia!

Robins class at Halwin School have been learning about directional language and following instructions. The children drew their own compasses on the playground with chalk, noting North, South, East and West and then got even more creative and made their own compasses in their new creation station area.



Owls class at Halwin School have been learning about another time in history when England suffered a crisis and had to change the way they lived. They have learnt about how people had to shelter from air raids and turn out lights to protect themselves from harm during The Blitz. Here is their art work showing how the sky would have been lit up from bombs and fires, and below the silhouettes of the buildings in the darkness.

Each day Mullion Primary School celebrate the pupils' writing by choosing a paragraph that they have written to publish. They thought you might be interested to read an example of the writing from year 3 and 4, from home and school, on *The Secret of Black Rock*. They are very proud of their work on writing and, even though they have only started using this approach across the school this year, it is pleasing to see the support given is producing high quality work which they are now seeing in pupils' independent work.



Darcy:

Black Rock exhaled, rose and awoke. Erin glared. He had a large friendly face with glistening eyes and a twinkling smile that Erin could see through the misty current. She felt warm inside. Erin noticed a seafoam-green crocodile, a sunset-orange clownfish, a diamond-grey dolphin and some sapphire-blue angelfish.

Jenson:

As fast as a huge wave forming in the bright blue ocean, Black Rock's hand arose through the water and carried Erin. "I know I can trust you to take me home," she admitted. Erin knew this was the most unforgettable moment of her entire life.



Oscar:

Erin plunged her wrinkly, pale feet into the turquoise blue ocean. Her fingers dipped slowly into the sky-blue waves. A crab scuttled along the pebbles and through the emerald green algae and Black Rock happily followed the spider crab. Together they made it back to the shore. They had a fascinating time, but further more they had found the gift of friendship.

At Crowan School, the children in Year 5 and Year 6 have been learning about ancient Egyptian technologies. In this picture, a special recipe is being used for mummifying a tomato!



Some of the children in Key Stage 1 at Crowan School made bird-feeders as part of their remote education DT work to encourage the birds to their gardens before the RSPB 'Big Garden Bird-watch' survey last weekend.



Children in Releath and Trenoweth classes at Crowan School have been learning all about 'Space'. The children designed some fantastic helmets and spacesuits of their own after learning all about Neil Armstrong and made shadow puppets to retell the story of 'How to Catch a Star'.

Alongside all the fantastic work being provided by teachers during this lock down period, our schools are working hard to ensure that the regular Lateral Flow Tests are rolled out. This helps to screen out asymptomatic cases and alongside our other measures are helping to keep schools as safe as possible. In primary schools, the kits are provided to staff for use at home, but in secondaries because pupils and staff are part of the testing programme the test centres are on site.



Testing has been set up at Mullion Secondary School by Mr Loder and his team of testers. They have a 3 bay centre which can process 100 tests a day.

Pictures show one of volunteers processing a test in full PPE, and Team Leader, Mr Lawrence, doing his own weekly test.



We sincerely hope it won't be too long before it is safe for everyone to return to school. In the meantime, hopefully the examples above clearly show how much effort everyone is making to keep children's learning on track. Thank you once again to all the staff - teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff - and to you and your families for working together with us.

Take care and stay safe.



Kind regards

Donna

Trust Executive Leader