

Trust Executive Leader Newsletter September 2021

Dear All,

As we begin the new academic year, it has been a joy to see our children and young people return and settle into their learning. Each school is beginning to engage with its wider offer, with more extra curricular activities and trips and visits making a welcome return. You can get a flavour of this below with some items from a sample of our schools. Covid is still hampering some activities as each school has to adapt its offer as circumstances arise. Indeed, as I write, we have just been advised by Public Health that we need to take a few additional actions to limit Covid spread as cases are still too high and 50% of these are amongst under 18s.

Our pupil attendance is looking strong however and we hope this will continue.

You may recall that, earlier this year, the Children's Commissioner asked children and young people to complete a nation-wide survey, The Big Ask. Over half a million children responded. At a critical time, as we emerge from the pandemic, children have shared how the past year has affected them and what needs to happen now as we recover.

Importantly, the majority of children say they are happy.

- Children care deeply about family – families of all kinds. They care about being part of happy homes. This is particularly important for vulnerable children.
- Children care deeply about community. They want to get outside and play. To have enough to do in their neighbourhoods. They want to feel safe and protected in online spaces.
- Children were united in showing a new consciousness of the importance of health and wellbeing. The pandemic has affected their wellbeing and now they want good mental and physical health to be a priority.
- Children are pleased to be back in school. As we recover, they have asked for support to make a success of the opportunities returned to them. This is especially important for children who found learning harder in lockdown.
- Children described ambitious plans for the world of work and their futures. Many of them want to do civic-minded jobs which help other people - to be part of the recovery from the pandemic.
- They want to contribute to a better, fairer world – and crucially, they care about a greener world and the environment.
- The same ambitions were true of children in care. They described both gratitude and frustration at the level of support they currently receive.

The Children's Commissioner says: "The first priority is to bolster catch-up funding for schools; we should then use this effort to embed high-quality, early-intervention support in the long-term – both pastorally and academically. Very simply, if we keep expectations high – as we must – we must also give students the support they need to be able to reach those standards, especially the disadvantaged and the vulnerable."

We are as always committed to you and your children and will strive to do our very best for them in the days ahead.

Mullion School are pleased to announce the launch of their own in-house Forest School led by Mel Hatton [TIS Practitioner] with the first groups starting next week. She did her training during the Summer Holidays and took part in a Forest School Leadership course up in Exmouth with the amazing Outdoor Group. They plan to run sessions for selected students during timetabled lessons at school from this term, with the students selected for this term being mainly from Year 8 and a couple of Year 9s. They are hoping that as the year progresses more students can be invited and therefore benefit from the outdoor activities that Forest School has to offer.

A 'camp style' base has been set up, where there is a campfire, outdoor kitchen area, natural seating and even a wooden throne for their 'King/Queen of the Camp'- all part of the adventure. Mel also has plans to throw out an invite to staff once a week to pop down for a cuppa and a chance to sit and take a breath. It really is quite tranquil down there with lots of wildlife.

Mullion School's new website has also gone live - you can see more of the work of the school there of course.



Year 6 children at Parc Eglos School are currently working with the Police to become Mini Police Officers. As well as learning about the role of a police officer and how we can work with the police, children are being taught about how, for example, to be good citizens, to be safe online and in respect of road safety. They will be undertaking a project in the community and more information will follow.

The new Reception children at Cury C of E School have been very busy creating a new sensory garden. They have enjoyed weeding, digging and planting. They are now taking care of the plants and are looking forward to watching them grow.



Sithney School has begun Art Club this term for years 1-6 and their first session had 35 children attend, which is nearly half the school! This first session focussed on the work of Kandinsky and the children recreated his work using oil or chalk pastels. They will be replicating their work further onto canvas using acrylic paints in following sessions. Here are their creations from the first session.



Also, Busyzone and Wonderzone at Sithney School have had a special visit from Helston Fire Brigade. Wonderzone have begun learning about The Great Fire of London this term so it was a special surprise to have a real fire engine come and visit them on the school field. The children were shown around the fire engine and they were able to learn about what a fire engine does to keep us safe. They were then allowed to sit in the back of the fire engine and use the hose!



Wow, they eventually made it! With the easing of Covid restrictions, Mullion Primary School's Year 3 and 4 pupils were able to start the term with a long awaited, twice postponed, three day residential visit to nearby BF Adventure. The Year 2 pupils also joined them for a day. The children had a wonderful time enjoying activities such as rafted canoeing, rock climbing, zip wire, adventure quarry and giant catapult building. It was great to see their enthusiasm and growing self- confidence as they encouraged and supported each other through the many challenges. All in all, it

was a brilliant team building and bonding experience providing a very positive start to the new academic year.



Five fabulous members of St Keverne Band and staff from the Cornwall Music Service Trust came to Grade Ruan School. One of the members showed the children how to make an instrument out of a hose pipe and funnel. How cool is that!



Representatives from St Keverne Youth Band also entertained the children - and staff! - at a recent assembly at Landewednack School. This was to highlight brass instruments and to explain to the children that there were opportunities for them to learn to play if they wanted to.



The school also celebrated Jeans for Genes Day on Friday 17th September. They were delighted to have raised £87 for this charity which they are proud to support every year.

The Razorbills Class attended a Literacy Day at Kestle Barton near Manaccan. The children were thrilled to meet the authors of the books that were featured during the day and were able to buy their books.

Porthleven School started the new school year with residential trips for Years 3/4 and Year 6 at BF Adventure and Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre, respectively. The children had a fantastic time and showed their resilience in trying new adventurous activities. Year 5 have been working with Amanda Lorens, a local film maker, in producing an animation for The Museum of Cornish Life in partnership with "Helston Makes It". The children have written the story of a fisherman caught in a storm off Porthleven and have provided drawings to be animated. When finished the film will be shown at Helston Museum and can be viewed on YouTube.

Recently, Coverack School had their first Forest School session. The children had a great time doing a variety of things:



problem solving, den building, making hammocks, making a fire and cooking hot chocolate on the fire. Here are some pictures of the children getting 'stuck in'! The children are already looking forward to the next session!

Almost £16,000 has been given out to charities and organisations in Helston this month in Town Council grants. Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust was one of the groups fortunate enough to benefit and will receive £1,700 to buy books involving more diverse authors, characters and settings. Our grateful thanks go to the members of Helston Town Council.



Congratulations to Lily Williamson from Helston Community College on her charity fund raising effort over the summer holiday. After all the disruptions and struggles of the past 18 months due to Covid, she asked her parents if she could do something positive during the 6 week break. Lily ran a total of 100 miles in August, completing her final run on 31st August 2021 with a 6 mile run and was cheered across the finish line by proud friends and family. She was the youngest participant for this fundraising challenge and has raised a staggering £1145 so far for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Her original target was £150, so this is a phenomenal effort. The College is very proud of Lily and her achievements and she has been awarded the first 'Headteacher Award' badge of this academic year. Thank you Lily for demonstrating the values of social responsibility and caring for others.

Despite delays and shortages over the summer, there has been a lot of premises work completed - toilet' refurbishments at Crowan; a new hall floor covering and Early Years outdoor play area at Mullion Primary; overhaul of the hall, Early Years classroom and playground at Breage; new Catering and Nutrition rooms at Mullion School, along with refurbishment of an Art Room; additional outdoor play equipment at Garras; new path and external wall in B Block area at Helston; refurbishment of two foundation classrooms and improvement works to the woodland area, including the pond, at Parc Eglos; and a new fire alarm system fitted at Porthleven.





The Trust is also committed to developing its staff. We are delighted to announce that Naomi Tostdevine in the Central Finance Team has completed her AAT Professional Diploma in Accounting – Level 4. Congratulations also to Angie Atkinson who has achieved her CIPD Level 5 Certificate in Human Resource Management.



In line with the DfE initiative, this year we launch the Early Careers Framework for teachers in their first two years of teaching. Each Early Careers teacher will have a mentor who will have undergone training to support them in this work. We also have staff accessing the new National Professional Qualifications suite of courses. All of these courses are designed to support teaching and leadership development. We are also introducing a suite of courses for our Teaching Assistants. Of course, all of this training ultimately benefits your children.

We have also been working to strengthen our Governing Bodies with a full suite of training which began with what we hope will become an annual event, the Governance Gathering. This was well attended and gave our governors across the Trust the chance to meet up, discuss what is working well and areas we can develop further. If you or someone you know in the community would like to become a governor in one of schools, please do contact our Trust Administrator, Karen Teague, via kteague@southerlypoint.co

Finally, can I say a huge well done to two of our schools who have already had Ofsted Inspections - Sithney and Garras. Yes, we have only been back 3 weeks!

Thank you all for your ongoing support.



Kind regards

Donna

Donna Bryant

Trust Executive Leader