

Trust Executive Leader Newsletter June 2021

Dear All,

In recent weeks we have been impacted by the Delta variant in the area causing several bubble closures across our schools. Just as schools were hoping to emerge and offer more opportunities, we have had to take a slight step back. Each school has to make decisions within its context and this does vary from school to school. Staff are working hard to ensure the important transition visits are taking place and that Year 6 pupils can finish well and celebrate their time at primary school. Thank you for your continued support and patience - we know it is frustrating at times.

Despite the restrictions, schools are providing enrichment opportunities for children as you will see below. Of course, these have been limited by bubbles, testing for secondary students, and avoiding crowded attractions!



Helston Community College have the wonderful opportunity of working alongside the Royal Shakespeare Company as one of their cluster schools. The RSC is a major British theatre company, based in Stratford-upon-Avon. The company employs over 1,000 staff and produces around 20 productions a year. The RSC plays regularly in London, Stratford-upon-Avon, and on tour across the UK and internationally. Their education department works with thousands of young people, teachers and partner theatres each year, who experience the extraordinary power of Shakespeare's language in their school, local communities and around the world. In a normal year, the RSC would be hosting a Playmaking Festival in Stratford,

where Helston students would be performing alongside other students from around the country. Under current circumstances, instead the RSC will be hosting a website on which filmed performances from around the country will be shown. As a county all but surrounded by the sea, Cornwall's entry to this year's National Playmaking Festival will be a short film exploring Shakespeare's references to the sea and to our island nation. Using extracts from a selection of plays, a montage dedicated to the sea has been created using ensemble voices and movement. Over two days during the half term holiday, four students from Helston joined several other schools in their Cornish cluster at Treviglas for rehearsals and filming of our piece. They worked with the Head of Drama at Treviglas and a choreographer in creating and recording an ensemble piece. The film will be edited at Treviglas and then submitted to the RSC. It will be released on the RSC website at the beginning of July. Huge congratulations and thanks to the year 7 students involved. They were positive, professional, creative and hard-working throughout the two days and were a credit to Helston. We look forward to many more exciting opportunities with the RSC.

Year 6 pupils from Parc Eglos School recently had the most amazing day at Stithians Lake and they really couldn't have had better weather. They managed to pack in four activities - sailing, kayaking, raft building and paddle boarding. As expected, virtually all of the children - and adults - ended up in the water at some point! The children's behaviour was impeccable and staff were really proud of how they represented the school.





Year 4 pupils at Parc Eglos School also had a fantastic day at BF Adventure recently, taking part in lots of different activities. They tackled the huge indoor climbing wall, worked together in teams to complete the low ropes challenge and had great fun canoeing on the lake. It was a bit of a damp day but they still had an amazing time.

The children at Crowan Primary have continued to make the most of the great outdoors this term. Pengelly Class [Year 3/Year 4] are pictured enjoying a 'Wild Tribe' day with a maths theme which resulted in them designing a permanent x7 multiplication ladder set into the school field for use throughout the year. Crenver Class [Year 5/Year 6] meanwhile had a day with the Global Boarder Surf Co. at Gwithian Towans and have been practising back at school with the new fencing equipment in their PE lessons.



Ahead of the G7 Conference, the children learnt about the different people attending the meeting and shared their hopes that the world leaders would agree some measures to tackle global warming. The school displayed a special

'Wave of Hope' banner outside of the school with a contribution from all of the pupils. A specially made fabric hand from Crowan was also one of the many school hands to be displayed at St. Anta Church in Carbis Bay, for all G7 delegates to witness, several times a day!

The children at Grade Ruan School have all been following the G7 Summit with great interest and this is their message to world leaders. ***'The time is now to protect what we love from climate crisis!'*** Landewednack pupils also joined in with the #waveofhope ahead of the G7 summit, to show their hope and support for positive decisions being made for the environment.



At Wendron Church of England School, the children have also been taking their learning outside with Bikeability cycle-training for the Year 6 pupils, and 'Wild Tribe' lessons in the school grounds for each class during the summer term.

The focus of the learning for Reception / Year 1 was a 'Pirate Adventure' whilst Years 2 and 3, explored the human digestive system. The children in Grylls and Trengrouse classes have also been introduced to music lessons through the 'First Access' scheme, learning to play the ukulele with 'Mr. Ben' [from the Cornwall Music Trust].



Puffins Class at Landewednack School have had fun trying to be as eco-friendly as possible this year. In April, they upcycled old furniture into planters for their outdoor area. They've really enjoying looking after their garden, and it's amazing to see how it's sprung to life already.

Pupils learnt about why trees are so important for the environment and they

wrote persuasive letters to ask for saplings for their school. In April, they were lucky to receive harvest saplings from the Woodland Trust. They had fun planting them on the school field and in the upcycled planters.



Halwin School recently enjoyed a wonderful workshop with their amazing Chartwells team making some most delicious pizzas. All three groups received an explanation of how bread is made and 50% wholemeal / 50% white flour was used for the healthier option! They learnt how to prove the bread and the reason why it was necessary. All children had to knead the bread before applying their toppings to make the classic cheese and tomato pizza. Miss Wallens, Area Manager for Chartwells, will be returning during health and fitness week to show the children how to prepare a healthy breakfast to give them energy for sports day!



Chartwells also went to Porthleven School to do a workshop with Year 5 pupils which involved making a healthier option 'Beany Burger' in a wholemeal sourdough pitta. They worked in groups of 3 - 4 and had ingredients of red kidney beans, butterbeans, onion, breadcrumbs, chilli and some herbs. Knife safety was explained, along with how to peel and chop an onion using a fork as a handle from the root. The ingredients were then blitzed and divided into how many were in the group, formed into a burger shape and then lightly fried until cooked. With all six pans on the go, they decided to open doors and windows just in case an alarm went off!!!! It was then shredding some lettuce, slicing the pitta and adding some mayonnaise before the children got to eat their homemade burgers.

When Karen from Chartwells went into Primrose Class at Coverack School, she read the children one of their favourite stories: The Very Hungry Caterpillar. They then made their own healthy plate pictures based on the story and rolled some of the salad and vegetables into 'cocoons' to eat for their snack. The children all tried something new to eat! The rocket was very peppery and the lime was really sour!



The EYFS / Year 1 children at St Keverne also had a fantastic time at the Minack Theatre. They watched Wenna's Wonderful World and, as always, were up for joining in with singing and dancing at any opportunity. They then listened to (and joined in with) a story told by John Brolly about a King from the Island of Haiti. The children behaved impeccably and made the day so enjoyable. It was a real pleasure to take them out for the day.

Children in Red class (Yrs R-2) at Breage School attended a workshop session at the Minack Theatre and what a glorious day it was. Being their first Educational Visit for such a long time, excitement was high but despite this, the children listened carefully, joined in enthusiastically and were wonderful 'school ambassadors'. The children also enjoyed an interactive and thoroughly entertaining yarn from a storyteller before lunch and returning back to school. Whilst leaving the theatre and heading back to the bus, several members of the public complemented the teachers on the children's engagement and even their dancing abilities! A lovely day was had by all - children and staff, and they'd like to thank Pat, Liane and Chris from the Child's Eye View team, for offering us this opportunity.

7 children from Year 5 and 6 at Breage School took part in the First Lego League Challenge. This had been a project the children had been working on since returning to school after Lockdown this year and involved two parts:

- 1) Building and programming a Lego Robot to interact with different models on a large map.
- 2) An innovation project where the team had to think of a problem which prevented people from being active and then work to plan and design a solution, including a Lego prototype.

After weeks of hard work, the finale was last Wednesday, where the children had to present their Innovation project to a judging panel comprised of a Royal Navy test pilot, a Falmouth based vaccine pump engineer and a procurement officer for Imerys. Later in the day, they had to do a live run through of their Robot interacting with 3 different models on the game map (from a choice of 12). This was judged by another Royal Navy pilot and a bio-tech engineer.

A comment from the judges: 'Great communications and enthusiasm for the challenge. These are transferrable to real-life jobs. Fantastic, Team Breage!'

The children did amazingly well and had a great time, both on the day and in the weeks leading up to it. They won Silver in the 'Rising Stars' category and Gold in the 'Breakthrough' category and have medals to celebrate their hard work. It has enthused more children in the school to take part next year, which is fantastic!



Children at Cury have shared their learning with us:

Our topic at the moment is 'How did life change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age'. We have focussed some of this learning on Stonehenge. In our last topic lesson, we learnt about the history of Stonehenge and built a replica out of food. We had a great time - it was definitely the best lesson ever. [Katie Y5]



We have been learning about cave paintings in our Art lessons. We have practised drawing prehistoric animals on different surfaces with a range of different drawing instruments. This week, we challenged ourselves to draw with sticks and mud! It was very difficult, but we really enjoyed it. [Liam Y6]

Cury School also enjoyed a great day with Daya learning about Hinduism [class 1] and Sikhism [class 2]. The children took part in various activities such as dressing up, roleplay activities, discussions and finished the day with making chapatis and eating them with mango chutney. All children were well behaved and engaged in all activities.



Mullion Primary School pupils have had the opportunity to work with local artist Melanie Young to produce work that will be scanned and printed to produce a stained glass effect window. The window will be 4 metres high and 3 metres wide. The work is funded by Kresen Kernow, Cornwall's archive, in Redruth. The finished work will be installed and seen by visitors to the centre, as part of their Out of the Ordinary exhibition, to celebrate the return to Cornwall of the Ordinalia manuscripts.

Once the exhibition is finished, the stained glass sections will be returned and displayed in school.

The section of the window that pupils have been working on represent the Last Supper. The work produced is part of a project with 4 schools across Cornwall.



In the Busy Bees class at Manaccan School they have been learning about Africa. So far in art they have created African necklaces and are continuing to complete African tribal masks, which they will be incorporating into their African style dance next week.

Manaccan School are also proud to present the story of 'Boudica' for their end of year production, a story of a very strong independent woman, set in ancient Rome. Due to Covid restrictions this is being filmed and presented to parents. The children have enjoyed dressing up and acting out their roles with enthusiasm and excitement, and we are very much looking forward to the final cut.



Eagle Owls class at Garras Primary recently took part in an Ancient Greek Day. The children and teaching staff arrived in their best Greek inspired outfits and undertook a range of activities throughout the day. These ranged from designing their own Greek pottery depicting a well-known Greek myth to sampling food originating from Greece. A highlight of the day was the mini Olympics with children competing in discus and javelin type throws and completing the event with the original sprint. A great day for all involved which has gone on to inspire our historical enquiry into this period of time.



The Diamond Class at Godolphin are enjoying their topic 'Meadowsong'. The children have explored the world of soil, learnt a song 'The Deep Dark Earth', carried out an investigation to find the answer to "What is soil made from?", created scratch drawings and dance movements inspired by surrealist paintings and the fungi Mycelium. In addition, the children have been investigating the requirements of a plant for life and growth. They went on a Plant Safari around the school (an activity linked to our RSPB Bronze award), planned an enquiry to find out what plants need and learnt our second song about wildflowers. They are now writing



non-chronological reports about a wildflower of their choice, and in dance they created motifs inspired by plant names and the physical features of wildflowers.



Smart Zone, from Sithney School, took part in a sea safari with the Rock Pool Project as part of our work on classification. The children identified a number of species and completed quadrat surveys at Castle Beach, Falmouth. This followed on from our virtual survey completed earlier in the year.

Years five and six at Sithney have been working with Wild Tribe on their outdoor learning this term. Both year groups completed a day's training on emergency first aid – learning the steps they need to follow when helping an unresponsive casualty and how to apply bandages and slings.

Recently, Godrevy class from Trannack School had a crash course in how to surf with Global Boarders. The sun was shining, the waves were perfect and the children were all smiling. It was just what the class needed after this strange year! Well done to all members of Godrevy class. They showed an impeccable attitude.





Thank you so much to Coverack windsurfing centre for treating the Year 5/6 children from Coverack School to a wonderful afternoon of paddle boarding and kayaking. The children and staff had a fantastic time and were extremely grateful for this opportunity to spend some quality time together. It was a pleasure to watch those children who were confident in the water encouraging those who were a little apprehensive. Robin, Chris, Richard and Ben were a brilliant, friendly team, ensuring they all had the best time



As part of our ongoing monitoring visits, Richard Lawrence [Deputy Executive Leader] and I have been accompanied by different subject leaders to go and have a look at how a variety of subjects are taught across our schools. In the visits we meet [socially distanced!] with children to hear their views, review their work, and look at the learning environment and consistency across the school. It has been an absolute joy to see the rich learning going on. The visits provide an opportunity for teachers to learn from each other, to ask questions, provide challenge and take away some great ideas to improve their own schools.

We heard Y6 pupils at Landewednack tell the stories about members of their family who served in the second world war and saw their Design Technology work on embroidery with a focus on 'Make do and Mend!' supported by a community volunteer. We heard pupils at Crowan talk about their Science learning on habitats, space and light - they could remember and draw on previous learning. They are very enthusiastic scientists! Pupils at Grade Ruan discussed people's beliefs and views on Humanism, Christianity and Islam. We observed great PE lessons at Mullion School and heard pupils talk with enthusiasm about their PE Tech course. Pupils at Halwin, Wendron, Sithney, Trannack, Breage, Godolphin and Grade Ruan were really keen to read to us, tell us about their favourite books and share how proud they were of their progress. Pupils in Y4/5/6 at Coverack discussed savings and investments; Y3 were keen to share their own progress journeys and things they were proud of achieving. Pupils at Parc Eglos and Garras told us all about their learning in Maths. Cury also had a pre Church school inspection visit with the Diocesan Director of Education alongside Richard and it was fantastic to see the distinctive Christian character of the school supporting the children's lives and learning at the school.

One of the challenges in rural Cornwall is to ensure that the richness and diversity of the community is fully reflected in our schools. It was good to see schools addressing this in the breadth of their curriculum and visual images across the school. It was reassuring to hear children talk with maturity and sensitivity about understanding that others' beliefs, culture and identity may be different from their own but that together we are a community and we who show respect to each other. We are extending our work on this across the schools not just as part of our PSHE work but in an integrated way throughout the full curriculum.



We are looking forward to more of these visits. It is so good to see pupils enjoying their learning and building their knowledge, skills and understanding and applying their knowledge in new contexts.

And finally, last but definitely not least, Mullion School's famous Hootenanny found a new point on the school calendar, due to Covid, with a special recorded show this July. After the weather put an end to the outside socially distanced concert, plans turned towards a non-audience recorded show. The pupils put so much time and hard work into rehearsing that it would have been a real shame for them not to perform and show off their undoubted talent. The pupils were fantastic and we are very proud of them all. The event, led by Mark Burgoyne, showcases the talent of our musicians and demands that they step up their ambition. Mark said, "I get these crazy ideas of what people can pull off, set them working and hope it will all come together on the night. They were brilliant. I went home very happy." The transformation of the hall and the technical expertise is down to our Performing Arts Technician Martin Wren and his experience in live events as both a musician and a technician. There is a coming together of the peripatetic music input, Mark's own guitar and piano work, Diston Dryburgh's woodwind, Ross Hamilton's percussion and Head of Music, Kathleen Morrison's singing excellence." What a team!

In closing, I wanted to update you on the situation with the consultations in respect of Coverack and Cury schools. Coverack will continue as a full primary school. Cury will become an Infant specialist setting from September.

As you will be aware, the cost of housing, the growth of second homes, and the lack of employment in the area has affected the numbers of children living here. This has a direct effect on schools. We will be proactively working with the local MP, Cornwall Council and the local parish councils to see what can be done to address this situation. It is important that your voice is heard in helping the area to find a sustainable way forward. Please take part in any surveys or public meetings that arise as part of this ongoing work. I'll update you further in the Autumn.

Have a very restful and enjoyable summer holiday.



Kind regards

Donna

Donna Bryant

Trust Executive Leader