

Simon Hague



Dear all,

welcome to our Spring term newsletter. I should also say a special welcome to the staff from the seven schools that officially joined Crofty on the 1st January. Thank you to everyone involved in this, I know staff have worked really hard to ensure a smooth transition, minimising the disruption to children.

As usual this term's newsletter is a real celebration of our schools and a great reflection of the rich and varied curriculum experiences you have created to bring children's learning to life.

There is also the usual update on the fantastic work going on behind the scenes by the shared services team, all in support of our aim to allow school staff to focus on what matters most, learning.

All this represents an incredible achievement this term so please accept my sincere thanks for your boundless commitment and dedication.

Enjoy the well earned Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all again in the summer term.

Best wishes,

Simon.

A message from the Crofty Members

'Another term has flashed by and all our staff have been working as hard as ever and now getting back to educational trips and events not to mention reports!

They will all be getting eggcited at the prospect of Easter egg hunts and hopping along to tourist attractions as they open. All Green Army members will be on the eggsspress train to Wembley for the Pizza Cup Final and that is no yoke. A trophy at last maybe. What an eggcup that could be. Many staff, parents and pupils will no doubt be joining the pilgrimage and will be suitably eggxilerated!

Hopefully International Egg Rolling will have been a feature of the curriculum this week. A great competition that sees many competitors running out of shell and the smell permeates everything. What fun when the competitors forget that a hard-boiled egg is needed!

A big thank you to all staff, pupils and their families for another great term.'

Best wishes

Ian Bruce

(On behalf of the Crofty Members)

School news roundup

Lots of the schools sent in more than one news item for this newsletter. To see these news stories please visit the news page.

Please visit: <https://croftymat.org/category/news/>

Trannack



Maritime Museum

Praa Sands class visited the Maritime museum to support their learning in History.

Children learnt about the Cornish hero Henry Trengrouse. Children learnt all about the breeches buoy and how Henry Trengrouse devoted his life to making inventions to save lives at shipwrecks.

As part of the workshop children completed a rescue using a rocket and built and raced their own boats. On the return to school children were able to look for local links to Henry Trengrouse in Helston.



Parc Eglos

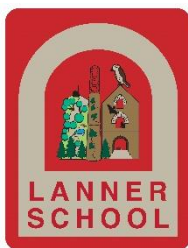


Year 4 Rugby Tournament

Some of our Year 4's took part in a rugby tournament this week, organised as part of the Cluster Schools Sports events. We played matches against Breage and Godolphin schools during the morning and managed to win both! All the children taking part enjoyed the morning and showed great team spirit, encouraging and supporting each other throughout. The players were delighted to receive gold medals for winning and we were very proud of their achievement.



Lanner



Earthquakes

Touched by the horrific earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, all the children and staff completed a sponsored run to raise funds for the victims of the disaster.

We have Turkish families in our school community, and we wanted to show our solidarity and support, as well as raise as much as possible.

Everyone ran a mile, from year N to year 6. We had planned to do the run on the school field however, due to the weather on the day of the run we conducted the mile run around the school grounds. It was such an amazing event, and we were so proud of all the children. To see the year 6 children helping the YR and YN children was wonderful.. (They also had to help one or two of the adults 😊) The cherry on the cake – which blew us all away – was that we raised over £4200. A truly humbling and unbelievable effort from all at TEAMLANNER. The money will make such a difference for so many victims.



Treloweth



World Book Day

On Friday 3rd March, Treloweth was descended upon by hundreds of book characters!

In celebration of World Book Day, children and staff were invited to dress up as their favourite book character with a wide range of characters turning out in force.



Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of different activities including designing Potato Characters, retelling stories as Ten Word Tales and watching our Masked Reader competition.

The children particularly enjoyed taking part in some shared reading, as children from different key stages got together to share their favourite books.



An amazing day for all as we encourage that everyone is a reader!



Halwin



Our Kingfisher Class had a special guest in this week to talk to them about his Arctic explorations.

Bob Hughes, from Falmouth, spoke to the class about his struggles through the frozen climate of North Iceland including the time he had to rescue his friend who had fallen deep into a crevasse!



The pupils enjoyed asking him a variety of questions, seeing extracts from his diary, photographs and videos and handling the artefacts he brought along to show us.



Sithney



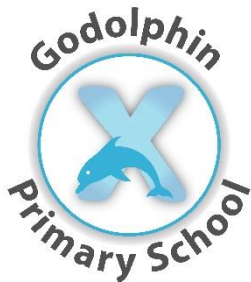
Sports for Schools

On Friday 17th March we had our athlete visit as part of Sport for Schools. Each class completed a fitness circuit followed by an inspirational whole school assembly led by Jessica Roper.

It was great to see all children being physically active and inspired by Jessica's key message: Dream Big, Start Small and Never Give Up! Well done everyone for attending and raising money to support the programme and equipment for schools.



Godolphin



World Book Day

Thank you to all the children (and parents) who made such a tremendous effort to come to school on World Book Day dressed as a word for our vocabulary parade.

The children dressed as some fantastic, creative and inventive words. The outfits looked amazing.

Well done to everyone!



Pennoweth



Outdoor Play and Learning

There are some exciting developments with our playtimes at Pennoweth. Recently, we have begun working with the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme to improve the quality of children's play opportunities and we can already see the positive impact it has had on our children.

20% of children's time in school is playtime, so we want to make sure this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible. OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through high quality teaching, children also learn when they play.

Play opportunities are carefully designed to support the 16 different play types and children are involved in risk-benefit assessment.

Children at Pennoweth now have access to more play zones, more resources and the opportunity to move freely around the grounds with children from Reception to Year 6 all playing together. This program has already led to more creativity, collaboration, imagination and socialisation in playtime, and we have seen a reduction in playtime and post-playtime behaviour issues!



Highlights include the large mud kitchen area with an array of pots and pans to cook up some mud delights, structured sports on the Astro including tennis, hockey and netball, the music and dance zone to show off your moves, small world play in the jungle with cars and animals and an art area for chalk drawing. Surprisingly, buckets of water with mops and brushes is one of the most popular zones - the children love brushing the playground, scrubbing the walls and mopping up the puddles!

"I love dinosaurs and now I can play with dinosaurs outside!" Reception pupil

"Me and my sister play in the mud kitchen together making mud pies and cakes." Year 2 pupil

"It's more fun because there is more equipment and there are more spaces to play!" Year 4 pupil

"We can move around the whole school now and see everyone." Year 6 pupil

Next term we will be opening our grounds further to include a den building area, archery and a scooter area (with jumps!) and we will be inviting parents in to join in and play!

On Wednesday 12th October, Heligan Tribe at Pennoweth had a celebratory trip to their Tribal Garden!

Roskear



First Words Together

At Roskear, we believe that early language development is an important factor in the development of children's literacy and as such a key part of their educational success. We know that good communication skills underpin life chances and outcomes for all our children.

This term, our pre-school leader Becky, has continued hosting our 'First Words Together' family sessions. She has been providing parents with confidence and activity ideas to support their child's development at home helping them with their reading and communication skills.





Throughout the project, Becky has been able to model language-supporting behaviours and strategies as well as encouraging parents to engage in positive interactions and fun activities that have helped to develop their child's listening, understanding and speaking skills.

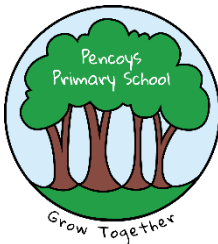
This has involved sharing books and stories, singing songs and rhymes and playing with letters and sounds in lots of fun ways. Everyone has also been painting and drawing as well as getting out and about and going for walks. As you can imagine there has always been plenty to chat about! We know toddlers are very busy and spend their days exploring and engaging in their environment. The adults in their life provide crucial developmental experiences that help them learn how to communicate their feelings.

Becky and her EYFS team help to put parents and carers in a great position to continue to nurture and support their children. This is a vital role that we must all play together.

Please feel free to visit Becky in our pre-school to find out more about this valuable communication project.

'First Words Together' project by The National Literacy Trust

Pencoys



Music Festival

The Pencoys community came together and was alive with singing, music and dancing as it held its annual Festival of Arts, on Monday 21st March. The Festival is a longstanding event in the Pencoys calendar.

Over 100 children took part in the event showcasing a range of performing arts including: violin exerts, keyboard- pieces, drumming, tap, jazz, lyrical and commercial dancing, samba and singing. The evening is an opportunity for those children that have a passion, talent for music , dance or any of the performing arts to showcase their achievements; a chance for all those minutes and hours of practice to be recognised and celebrated; and to develop those lifelong skills of recognising that fear, worry and nerves are all natural feelings and overcoming and managing them is possible.



Weeth



Wednesday Walk

This term our Reception teacher Mrs Peacock has introduced the Weeth Wednesday Walk to our FS2 class, as part of their curriculum. It's so important for the children to get out into their local community and explore the world around them – and having the opportunity to do this together has proved so much fun!



Each week the class decides where to explore next and invites parents and carers to join them on the adventure. So far, they have been able to explore Camborne Recreational Park, where even Mrs Peacock had fun on the slide; they have taken a walk around Camborne spotting signs of Spring and visited the Library for some story telling.

This week they are off to the Church for some Easter fun and exploring. We are incredibly grateful to all the parents and carers who join us each week as they have helped to make this such a fantastic success, enjoyed by all. Here's to many more exciting adventures to come 😊



Rosemellin



Geevor Mine

One afternoon, as part of our history topic about mining in Cornwall, we were very lucky to be visited by Steve Tarantino, a real-life miner who works at South Crofty.

He spoke at length about the history of mining, the process of extracting tin and the skills needed to be a miner.

The children were enthralled and asked some brilliant questions.



Porthleven

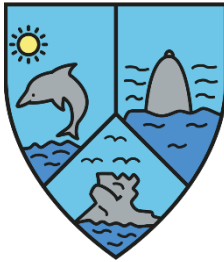


Royal Cornwall Showground

Year 3 & 4 attended the Farm & Country day at Royal Cornwall Showground on Thursday and joined hundreds of other pupils from Cornish schools taking part in lots of different activities. The children were able to meet and learn about a variety of animals such as cows, pigs, pygmy goats and sheep with their 5 day old lambs. They learnt about food production of milk, cheese, butter and ice cream and had a go at making some of their own with plenty of delicious samples too! They were able to look at farm machinery up close and how vegetables are farmed during the year.



Portreath



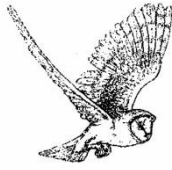
Dog Fouling Campaign

The community of Portreath felt that a way to improve the village would be to reduce the dog's mess around the village. Jo from Gwel an Mor and Vicki Webb, Portreath Parish Councillor, came to speak to the school about the issue and ask for the children's help. They launched a dog fouling poster competition. The aim of the posters was to remind people to pick up after their dog. Whilst the children were busy designing their posters. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Stewart, took on the smelly job of counting, recording and picking up all the dog poo found in two identified hot spots - Penberthy Road and at the harbour's triangle patch of grass. Ian counted these for 2 weeks.



There was an overwhelming response for the poster competition, with 37 poster entries. The panel: Portreath Parish Council; Love Portreath CAN; Portreath Primary School & Gwel an Mor, had the very difficult decision of deciding on the winner, the posters really were amazing! The runners up were: Freddy, Bea, Ellie, and Indya. Second place went to Martha and the winner was: Viola. The winning poster was printed onto metal signs, which were then put up in the two identified 'hot spot' locations. These posters were also sent to local businesses to put up in their windows/premises should they wish. Ian continued to count the dog mess in these two areas for another 2 weeks and found that the signs made a huge difference! The dog mess in the hot spot area of Penberthy Road, reduced by 67% and the dog mess at the harbour triangle, reduced by 85%. It is great for the children to see how they can contribute to the local community and make a difference to their village.

Garras



Zoologists

As part of their topic work 'We are Zoologists!' Garras' Barn Owls class visited the Rosuick Organic Farm in St Martin and were able to help with taking care of the sheep! They began by digging up turnips to feed the sheep, then feeding the sheep with the turnips, and finally herding the sheep and lambs into the field.



Illogan



The Illogan Heart

This week during assembly we discussed our half term focus affirmation "**we are mindful**".

We explored the meaning of this, and the children suggested words such as aware, careful and kind.

We talked about the importance of being mindful of our thoughts, actions and words and the

impact these things can have on those around us, as well as ourselves.

We then read a book called "Bottled" by Tom and Jo Brassington. The book emphasises the importance sharing our feelings, rather than "bottling" them up inside and helps support children to understand why and how they should express their emotions in a healthy way. Here is an extract from the book:

Even with our feelings bottled,
Nestled deep inside,
It's hard to just ignore them-
They never truly hide

Our bottles keep on filling up,
Not knowing when to stop.
Each day, they just get heavier
Till they're filled right to the top

All bottles have their limits,
Have you ever tried,
To fill one up until it's full?
It can't all stay inside.



We talk a lot in school about different emotions and use the "Zone of Regulations" to share and explain how we are feeling at different times.

Shared services team news roundup

Many of you will have already met or spoken with Vanessa Schrieber who started in the shared services team this term. Her main role is to act as assistant to Simon and Tamsin. She will also be supporting the Trust Chair, Mike Hosking and being generally involved in organising various trust activities.

IT across Crofty



Equipment upgrades

It has been another very busy term for the IT team. Phil Glover has been seconded across to help full time with moving the 7 schools that joined Crofty in January to the Microsoft cloud.



A survey of each of those schools has been completed and an action plan set in place. Garras school have already

been moved across to the cloud, with the rest of the schools due to be completed this year.

New laptops have been purchased in various numbers for all 17 Crofty schools. £9000 in trade in has been secured through the Brighter Futures scheme, this also supports the Forest Carbon project.

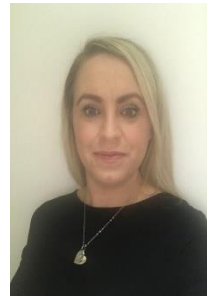
<https://brighterfuturesedu.com/>

Business and Procurement



Business Contracts

With the addition of 7 schools, we have been working to align contracts across the Trust for all our business requirements (energy, waste, catering, insurances, furniture and supply to name a few!) Buying as a group means we get best value as a Trust of schools with our buying power, enabling more money to be spent on the pupils. We are also conscious about buying



inline with our Trusts visions and ensuring that suppliers help with the School's environmental aims. Some of our suppliers offer workshops (Chartwells) or visits to the recycling centre (Biffa). Often these are free, so if you are looking for something to support your curriculum, please get in touch with us and we will see if there is anything suitable that a current supplier might be able to help with!

Trust Eco Council

The Trust Council has been working on reducing the use of energy since September. The 9 original Crofty Schools have got new ClearVue technology installed in their schools. This means that we can monitor the electricity usage in 'zones' within the school. This quickly highlighted certain high usage areas for us to target! With this information, the company visited us to do an energy audit and Nathan Thomas has worked with the schools to implement some changes already! For instance, Weeth School year 3 and 4 classes have had alterations to the timers on their air con and heating as we could see it was coming on at midnight Saturday (we did wonder what they were up to!) this change alone is saving a whopping £2,704 a year! The Trust council also know that this is saving

938kg of Carbon dioxide which is the equivalent of playing a Playstation 5 for over 42 thousand hours, or saving around 42 trees a year!

We are looking forward to having our Gas recorded very soon and getting the technology into the 7 new schools in September.

The Trust Council have an exciting summit coming up in July, we can't wait to share what we have been working on with you all soon!

If anyone would like to specifically work with their school or class on energy saving data please contact Rachel Rachel.Jewell@croftymat.org and we would be more than happy to help.

Gym memberships

Crofty have a long-standing discounted gym membership with Carn Brea Leisure Centre. Recently a few people have requested for other leisure centres, so the Better Health group have agreed to provide a discounted rate for Crofty employees. The Administrators in your schools have the details, or contact Becky at Rebecca.Collins@croftymat.org and she will be able to help you out. If there are any other local places that you would like to see a Crofty discount scheme available at please let Becky know and we can see what can be done!

Finance



New Team Members

Sean Pinhay and Maria Collins have joined the Crofty team from Southerly Point.



See Rewards

Make use of the "See Rewards" scheme that is available to all Crofty employees.

It offers:

A salary sacrifice electric car leasing scheme

High street discounts including 4% off supermarket shopping and lots more.

Instructions are available on our website, please visit: <https://croftymat.org/seerewards/>

Any problems please contact us at finance@croftymat.org or call on 01209311135 option 2.

Estates and compliance team



Smart meters

The implementation of ClearVUE.Zero energy management software now gives Crofty a license to scrutinise energy consumption, not just at meter level, but down to individual circuits.



The ability to individually view energy data has driven the following improvements.

Weeth – year 3 and 4 modular building has been investigated and the air con and heating settings have been adjusted. This now means a saving of £52 a week, in a year 936kg of co2 is being saved, which is equal to playing a PlayStation for over 42 thousand hours!

Rosemellin – the kitchen had been investigated as the technology showed ‘spikes’ at the weekend. It turns out that the timers on the equipment required upgrading. The timers have been replaced and they were using £248 of electricity a week in January and 110kg of co2. This is now down to £215 of electricity and 94KG of co2.



Solar Panels

Following a recent feasibility study which included site and drone surveys it has been decided to go out to tender for solar installation at Roskear and Lanner. This work is planned to be completed by the end of the summer term

Building Projects

Next term promises to be an exciting one with the completion of the Pennoweth extension and the launch of large roofing projects at Parc Eglos, Sithney and Trannack.

