

Simon Hague



Dear Colleagues, welcome to the final newsletter of 2023. As you would expect the termly newsletter shows again how school improvement and curriculum development clearly remain a strength of the schools in Crofty.

We remain proud of how the Crofty schools retain their individuality and character, which is perhaps demonstrated most of all in the way leaders and staff create each school's curriculum. Below is just a glimpse into the variety of learning experiences you create on a daily basis.

Welcoming seven schools into Crofty on the 1st January this year has led to a quite extraordinary last 12 months. The way that school staff have seamlessly integrated with each other's networks and hubs is a testament to the shared culture, particularly the commitment we have to learning and community. Then of course there is the shared service team who have had to deal with a huge amount of change and reorganising. The outcomes they have achieved this year are remarkable, and as many of you have already told me, their commitment to get the best for all Crofty schools is clear for all to see.

So, as we navigate the fun and excitement of the festive season can I thank you for everything you do for our children, together we make a huge difference. Have a great Christmas break and see you in the New Year.

Best wishes, Simon.

School news roundup

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

Sithney



Great Fire of London

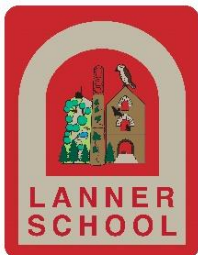
As part of Wonder Zone's learning about the Great Fire of London, Busy Zone and Wonder Zone were excited to welcome a fire engine to Sithney. They got to explore the inside of the fire engine, look at and learn about all of the equipment that the fire crew use, hear the loud sirens and spray the hose.



They had a really exciting morning with Helston Fire Crew and they now cannot wait for the crew to come back and set fire to wonder Zone's very own Pudding Lane!



Lanner



Skateboard Club

This term at Lanner, we have started a new skateboard club for our KS2 children. Mr Walsh has been taking a group of pupils over to Love Park Skate Park in Falmouth every week. Here the children are able to watch demonstrations, are being taught some tricks and have the freedom to explore their new, developing skills in the indoor park.



We even have our own fleet of skateboards for the children to use. We are looking forward to seeing how our budding skaters progress over the coming weeks.



Trannack



Diabetes Awareness Day

In aid of Diabetes Awareness Day one of our parents came to school to talk to the class about diabetes, the symptoms and the treatment. The parent explained to the children how the insulin pump works on her child (one of their peers) and how diabetes affects the body. It was a very informative afternoon, giving a greater understanding about the child's diabetes and their needs in the class, signs to look out for and how we can support them.



Parc Eglos



Inter Schools Swimming Gala

On Tuesday a team of 32 swimmers from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 competed in the Inter Schools Swimming Gala. There were 6 schools this year, and the atmosphere in the swimming pool at Helston was electric! Every single swimmer swam superbly, battling for every point and best place possible throughout 36 races, covering all 4 strokes and relays.



We achieved 13 first places, 16 second places and 7 third places to win a well-deserved First Place overall.

Parc Eglos 123 points

Wendron 97 points

Goldsithney 94 points

Mullion 66 points

Germoe 47 points

Boskenwin 35 points

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the competition, and the children were very well behaved. We had several members of staff express how lovely it was to see so many happy faces walking through school, wearing their medals with pride and telling their friends about the swimming. Thank you so much Parc Eglos Swimmers and Judith Long for being part of an amazing team. Many thanks, Jo Langham, Swimming Teacher.

Treloweth



Fund Raising

Mr Shaughnessy completed a walk on Saturday 28th October from Penzance to Truro, in memory of his mum who passed away on Sunday 18th June.

She battled Dementia for 4 tough years.



He completed the walk in 6 hours & 43 minutes and raised over £2,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.

For further information please see the link below 📌

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/patrickshaughnessymemorywalkforjoan?fbclid=IwAR03eDaKsmjPDIid_3g-CA9SSLQaQYAtZ_S2otBG6lrH10k3_j54q7AP3XI_aem_Abd9aZWW7hPpcZ-iKBltpq_qN2-Y2AT0nS0nzDyCBmj7bir8GM3TVYOKqDsKMJEmx3c

Porthleven



Kernow King

At the beginning of November Swordfish Class were lucky enough to have a visit from the Kernow King (sometimes known as Ed) who spoke to the class about mining and a brief history of Cornish mining.

They played a really exciting board game that had them competing in teams to move through mine shafts, avoiding



dangerous falls and finding ladders for quick escapes. The game brought out our competitive fires – maybe a little too much at times! After that, the whole of KS2 were treated to an assembly/show from the Kernow King and friends, which was in one word explosive! Thanks so much to Ed and co. for the exciting afternoon. It was interesting to learn new facts about Cornwall's history and mining in general.



Pennoweth



Art Workshops

This term, we invited Krowji-based artist, Claire Stockings-Baker to come into our school and run printing workshops with our Year 1 and 2 children. What an incredible day it was, spent in our brand-new Creative Lab!

The children were firstly shown vibrant Autumnal images of local landscapes and were invited to think of contrast colours to achieve the most striking effects.

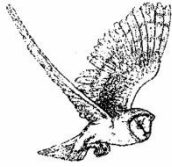
Claire demonstrated how to use the rollers on gelli plates to create a print, and how to layer colour and texture to achieve an interesting and vibrant effect. The children then chose their colours and used the rollers to blend their background colour. Next, they explored different natural materials, such as, striped material, bottle top, cork, bubble wrap and a flower stencil to add texture to their background. Once they had achieved their background, they were then invited to choose a pre-cut Perspex stencil, such as a fox, pumpkin, leaf, toadstool or badger to place on top. They used black acrylic paint to dab quickly but gently to form a silhouette. Once they were happy with the effect, they carefully lifted off the stencil. It was wonderful to hear the shrieks of delight and 'wows' throughout the day. At the beginning of one of the workshops, a child with limited use of their hand, looked with uncertainty at what lay ahead saying, "I think this is going to be really hard." However, he absolutely loved learning new techniques, and the expression on his face was unforgettable when saw what he had achieved independently. His were some of the most beautiful prints of the day.



Our Nursery children also enjoyed meeting a 'real artist' and had the opportunity to visit the Creative Lab during the day to see some of the work that had been created.

A truly memorable, engaging and joyful experience with an incredibly talented local artist.

Garras



Remembrance

On Friday 10th November, the children, and staff of Garras School paid their annual tribute to the servicemen and women who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts around the world.

Originally, the day commemorated Armistice Day and the end of the First World War but has subsequently become a memorial for all those who have lost their lives in any conflict.

We gathered at the Mawgan War Memorial, where, at 11am, Mr Sturges played the last post and Mr Davidson, a former school governor, read an extract from 'The Fallen', by Laurence Binyon.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them".

The children and staff then shared a two-minute silence before returning to school.



Godolphin



Godolphin Medal Competition

As part of the Godolphin Cross Festival of Archaeology held over the summer, Godolphin School were invited to collaborate in an exclusive and unique competition. Children were asked to design a new medal for Godolphin Cross, making use of the local area and its mining heritage. There would be a winner chosen from each class, and the overall winner would have their design carved into lead, pressed into casting sand, and cast using smelted tin to create an actual tin medal.



The class medal winners were:

Emerald Class:

- Loy

Diamond Class:

- Jowan

Zircon Class:

- Maia



Roskear



Ancient Egyptians

To kick off Year 3's unit of learning this half term (How do we know that the Ancient Egyptians were an advanced society for their time?), the children set off to Truro Museum. While there, they took part in an Ancient Egyptian workshop. Year 3 learnt all about

the beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians, why they mummified important people and how they mummified their dead. It was very interesting! The children even got to see a real mummy and a sarcophagus.

They then had the opportunity to look at artefacts and discuss what they told us about the way the Egyptians lived.

It was a great day had by all!



Weeth



Camborne Music Festival

We are delighted to share that Weeth School Choir took part in the Camborne Music Festival 2023 for the first time this year. There was some stiff competition, but the children were sensational, singing their hearts out and amazing us with

their confidence. Even when some pre-performance nerves kicked in, they overcame them and showed incredible resilience making us all very proud. The judges fed back, saying that it was a well prepared performance, sung with joy! We were delighted to return to school with a Highly Commended Trophy and Certificate and we are really looking forward to entering again next year.



Illogan



Remembrance Day

This month, at Writing Club, Illogan School pupils have been reflecting upon remembrance.

Remember every soldier, mighty soldiers, ever marching, or that marched. They sacrificed everything. Preparations and ominous howls. Please prepare. They scream, as they charge into eternal drought.

The poppies grew after the Great War, representing the blood of fallen soldiers. We always remember them on the 11th day, on the 11th month. This was the day the truce was made at 11am in 1918. Hundreds of people died for their families, their country. 70 million fought for our tomorrow. They cared for us and our future. We take time to reflect. Remember the brave, more than just on Remembrance Day. Lest we forget.

Ollie Year 5



Phoebe Year 5

Rosemellin



Netball Tournament

We were very pleased that even though we do not have a Netball club running at school at the moment, we were able to put together a team and come 3rd in the Netball tournament.

Rosemellin Netball Team		We came 3 rd in the tournament!	
• Jessica	4	Rosemellin—Roskear	0
• Henry	1	Weeth—Rosemellin	10
• Oliver	4	Porthreath—Rosemellin	3
• Evelyn	2	Rosemellin—Treloweth	9
• Daisy	10	Rosemellin—Pencoys	2
• Lillie G			
• Elsie			

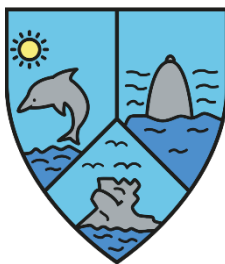


We were even more pleased that Oliver in Year 6 was awarded player of the Tournament!

We can't wait to start our Netball club after Christmas and who knows, with a bit of practice, we come back even better!



Portreath



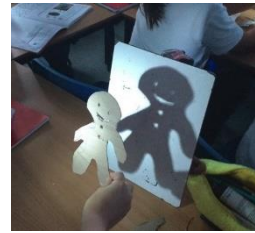
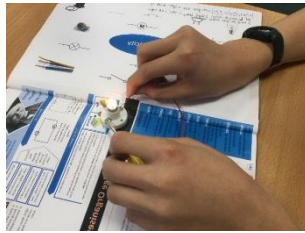
Primary Science Quality Mark

We are delighted to announce that Portreath School has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark this term. PSQM is a comprehensive evidence-based professional development programme that effectively develops science leadership, ensuring teachers have the knowledge, capability and support they need to transform science education and shape future generations.



We want our science lessons to get children excited about science and help them to see the relevance and importance of science in their lives, now and in the future.

The school have been working hard on the investigative side of science as well as building children's knowledge. The children at Portreath love science lessons! Congratulations to our science leader, Mrs Jones, and the team!



Pencoys



Sensory Garden

The Pencoys community have come together over the last year to create a sensory garden. The garden was officially completed in readiness for the start of term. The vision came from a small group of visionary and passionate parents

wanting to develop the outside space for the children.



The garden is two-fold: it is incorporated into many aspects of the curriculum including art, science, geography and DT and is also used as a well-being space for children and staff.

Halwin



Owls class visit Tehidy Woods

Owls class have been on a school trip to Tehidy Woods this term as part of their Geography and Art learning. They investigated the natural woodland habitat and looked at the plants and animals found there, recording their samples in a

tally chart. They also walked the lakes circular walk where they stopped to sketch the bridge over the river. They will be using watercolour paint back at school to create a watercolour picture of the bridge over the river in Tehidy Woods in the style of this term's artist Monet. We enjoyed a picnic lunch and spotted lots of squirrels! Several members of the public stopped us to congratulate them on the children's brilliant behaviour and enthusiasm - well done Owls class.



Every child at Halwin has been on a school trip this term.



Robins class visited Cornhill Chicken Farm and enjoyed visiting the chickens in the field and hen house, picking and packing eggs and helping to feed the pigs! Kingfishers class have visited the Hall for Cornwall for PROMS 2023: Adventures in Sound - an enchanting classical musical



journey for Primary Schools presented by conductor, composer and educator Patrick Bailey.

Shared services team news roundup

Shared Services and Operations Update



As you can see from the articles from the Shared Services Teams the last three months have been a busy period. Therefore, I would like to publicly thank all those people who often work tirelessly behind the scenes for their hard work over the last quarter.

Over the next three months we will continue to invest in the school estate, with plans afoot to make significant improvements at Godolphin and Portreath. We are also looking at how we can make best use of the kitchens across the Trust and in turn how the Trust can make sensible investments in these essential spaces. The rolling plan to ensure ICT equipment remains up to date will continue. The team is also working to ensure the network structures are robust to cope with the ever-increasing demands made on them. The Finance Team are continuing to embed the new finance software and will now start to focus on some of the peripheral systems to make sure they are appropriate for the larger organisation. The Business and Procurement team have been focussing on improving the Trusts environmental impact across all areas.

Thank you for your continuing support and the kind messages we often get, I know these are very much appreciated.

Finance



Finance Update

The new Access Finance software went live on the 1st September and to date is working well. Both staff in the Shared Services Team and Administrators at schools all received training and now have access to various training manuals, both written and video. All these training aids can be accessed via

the new software, but school staff are also reminded that if they need assistance they can always call the Finance Team who are there to help. During the last three months we have had visits from both Internal and External Auditors. Although the Internal Audit highlighted a number of areas that need to be improved, the findings were expected and measures were already in place to address the concerns raised, this work will continue of the next three months. We recently received feedback from the External Auditors who once again gave the Trust a clean bill of health, with only minor points to address. For anyone who is interested (and I know these people are few and far between) the latest accounts will be published on the Trusts website just before Christmas. They make excellent bedtime reading.



IT across Crofty



This Term has seen the addition of 2 further schools into the Crofty Microsoft Cloud system. This means that all 16 schools teacher accounts, devices and files are stored within a single Teams based system. This project has taken 2 years to be completed. We will be looking at rearranging our Google Shared Drives into Microsoft Teams over the Spring Term so all files are available in a single system for easier access for all.



Across the last academic year the IT Team have purchased and configured the following devices to support the cloud move and improve the age of the equipment we are using:

- 150+ staff laptops
- 20 Interactive screens for classrooms
- 5 large Interactive screens for school halls
- 100+ Chromebooks for pupils
- 150+ iPads for staff and pupils
- New networking equipment at 6 schools including a £80,000 investment from the DfE Connect the Classroom scheme.

In the Spring term we will be focussing on purchasing further equipment for Teaching walls and pupil devices including iPads and Chromebooks. We will be finishing a print tender that will bring new printers to 7 schools that will increase reliability whilst costing the schools less money per page.

We will be aiming to come out to schools more in the Spring Term now that the cloud move is finished to give additional staff training. If you have an IT issue that isn't for NCI then please contact us on 01209 31135 option 5 or email itsupport@croftymat.org. This is checked by both of us so you are more likely to get a swifter response.

Business and Procurement



Trust Sustainability

This year one of the top focusses of the Trust is to become more sustainable.

The Trust Eco Council have been working towards the goals and pledges set by the pupils at last year's Trust summit.

There are already some exciting things happening across all the schools, including an initiative this term to ensure that everyone has a refillable drinking bottle in school to reduce plastic bottles.



The children have also been given some stickers to remind people to recycle and we are sure that some schools will have plenty of these put up already! There is plenty underway involving the pupils to make an impact, and they will all be putting up a display in school to show the work of the Trust Council.

Weeth School have been trialling refillable glue sticks (thank you Mrs Taylor!) we have had plenty of feedback on glue.

The newest 7 schools have had their smart meters installed and we will be out to map these with the school before Christmas once there is a little more data on them. The school will then be able to map their individual energy consumption for areas of the school and make a real impact on reducing energy and costs.

Roskear and Lanner have had Solar panels installed over the summer holiday by the Estates team. The way the Trust's energy budget works means that the impact of these savings is felt across all the schools. In the first 2 months the energy saved is the equivalent to planting 74 trees.

If you have any projects you would like us to get involved in or anything your school is doing that you think should be rolled out, please let us know.

Estates and compliance team



Estates Projects 2022-2023

It has been another busy term this autumn for the estates team, after a project packed summer.

As well as reacting quickly to various storm related issues many scheduled projects continued across the Crofty schools (some pictured below).



Godolphin Pre-School



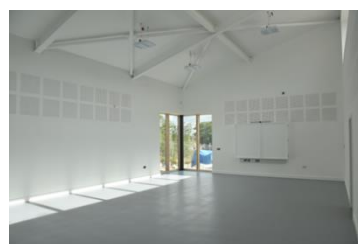
Parc Eglos School Full replacement of a significant section of flat roofing



Trannack School New pitched roof



Pennoweth School Basic needs project CC funded



Lanner School Nursery kitchen refurbishment

Sithney School



Full replacement of the pitched roof covering



Hall refurbishment



Full cladding of Elliot hut



Other Projects completed:

- Pencoys, Rosemellin and Treloweth - Fire Alarm (PFI)
- Portreath - New Boiler
- Roskear - Solar Panels
- Halwin, Trannack and Sithney - Fire Doors
- Porthleven - External Painting

Summary of the projects carried out this year:

Number of schools who received investment: 14

Number of estates projects co-ordinated this year: 32

Total investment during 2022-23: around £3,827,000

Funded has been received from SCA, Basic Needs, PFI & Trust Revenue

Flu Jabs

If ANY employee over the age of 18 that work at Garras, Godolphin, Halwin, Parc-Eglos, Porthleven, Sithney and Trannack would like to receive a free flu vaccine please email human.resources@croftymat.org and a voucher will be arranged that can be redeemed at Boots.

Employees over the age of 18 that work at Illogan, Lanner, Pencoys, Pennoweth, Portreath, Rosemellin, Roskear, Treloweth and Weeth.

Please click on the following link <https://www.educationmutual.co.uk/flu-vaccination/> and complete all the required details. Once the provided information has been verified by Education Mutual, the staff member will receive an email containing a voucher code and full instructions, enabling them to book online for an appointment at their nearest Boots Pharmacy, we anticipate this will take 24/48 hours.

If anyone under the age of 18 would like to book an injection , if they pay for it and then upload the receipt to Edupay we will reimburse.