

CROFTY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2024

Dear colleagues, another term has passed, and I am as amazed as ever at the quality and range of experiences that you provide for our children. I wish learning had been this much fun when I was in primary school! In all seriousness, the general standard of the curriculums across our trust has never been higher, and this is down to the hard work and creativity of so many staff. I also see how colleagues inspire and motivate each other, right across the trust. This is such an important element of how we work at Crofty. Sharing the best of everything across our schools is one of the ways we can live our value of "Community" and ensure all our children benefit.

I would like to thank anyone involved in the hosting of our guests from the Gloucester Learning Alliance (GLA) who visited recently. The visit was arranged by mutual agreement as a form of Trust wide "peer review" between us and GLA. The GLA Chief Executive, Claire Savory, and her team were hugely impressed with how we continue to develop and evolve. They looked quite closely at EYFS and our emerging approach to inclusion. When speaking to staff in various schools they were struck by our commitment to working and learning together. What also shone through was colleagues' honesty, openness, and commitment to children. Of course, I already knew this, but how great to have fresh eyes see it for themselves.

I'll finish by saying Thank You again for another inspirational term and wish you a restful Easter break.

Best wishes, Simon



Crofty Community Awards

One of Crofty core values is community. We believe in the power of the group to overcome bigger challenges, the strength of equity - knowing that no one succeeds unless we all succeed, embracing collective responsibility, celebrating the success of others and making a positive contribution to the team.

This award is to celebrate the members of our Trust who go above and beyond. Those who are selfless and take positive action to make things happen.

They go above and beyond the everyday expectations to impact positively on our school community, making a significant positive contribution.

Nominations

Do you know a pupil or member of staff who could be described in this way?

Please fill in the form which was emailed to you and return it to vanessa.schreiber@croftymat.org if you would like to nominate someone to receive a Crofty Community Award.

Alternatively, you can complete the contact form available on the Crofty website:

[Crofty Community Awards](#)

The first two awards were given out this week to two members of staff at Porthleven school:

Louise Figgins, Assistant Headteacher

Felicity Blight, Administrator

More awards are to be given out in the coming weeks.

You can view all the recipients on the Crofty website:

[Award recipients](#)



Sustainability

Eco Summit 2024

In March we held our second annual Eco summit, celebrating all the amazing work the schools have been doing to work towards our agreed pledges. With guests from Chartwells, Sustrans, ClearVue and our ICT Manager Martin Post, the children were treated to a wide range of activities and information. The Trust has made a significant impact through the hard work of staff and pupils to reduce the amount of gas and electricity we use, reduce single use items and stationery, work with sustainable menus and increase the number of children walking or cycling to school.

This year's winners of the Eco Cup were Weeth School for their fantastic work across the whole school led by their Eco Councillors.

There will be a video coming soon of all the great achievements which we can't wait to share with you!



Rosemellin School



Bikeability at Rosemellin

Freedom, adventure, the road to enjoyment and confidence on two (or three!) wheels – that's Bikeability.

This year at Rosemellin, all our Year 4 children have had the opportunity to take part in [Level 1](#) classes, which involves developing cycling skills and confidence on the playground.

This term Year 5 children have the opportunity to attempt [Level 2](#) classes, which builds on the Level 1 confidence by taking children out onto the open roads.

In Year 6 children will have the chance to develop their Level 2 confidence further, with maybe even looking at [Level 3!](#)

This really is a fantastic opportunity for all our Year 4,5 and 6 children to develop that important understanding of road safety.

Parc Eglos School

Helston Town Council

A group of children from year 6 attended the Guildhall on Tuesday evening to meet with the Mayor and other Council officers to learn about the workings of the Town Council.

As well as questioning the Mayor about his role, children took part in a debate with the Mayor and other Town Councillors regarding the lack of facilities for young people in Helston. Ideas that were discussed included a youth centre to provide a safe space where youngsters could take part in activities such as crafts, cooking and board games. Of importance was the chance for our young people to be able to socialise and be away from technology and their screens.

There was a unanimous vote that further facilities were needed and the Town Council are going to keep us informed as to future developments.





Trannack School

School Council Fundraising

Some of our fabulous school councillors, along with our eco councillors, have been hard at work and have started production of bees' wax wraps. These will be sold to reduce packaging waste and to raise money for an outside games table made of recycled materials.

A huge thank you to Jess, one of our parents, for her kind donation of beautiful cotton fabric.



Hawlin School

Oggy, oggy, oggy! Oi, oi, oi!

Halwin School celebrated National Cornish Pasty Making Week 2024 with a visit from Prima Bakeries on Friday 1st March.

Every child from Reception to Year 6 took part in a pasty making workshop, learning about the ingredients and history of Cornish pasties and then making their own. They mixed the ingredients and learnt how to crimp their pasty. We cooked them at school and then they were able to take them home for dinner.

We arranged this visit following a grant from the Cornish Pasty Community Fund and we were excited to be filmed by ITV Westcountry for a segment on the local news that evening!



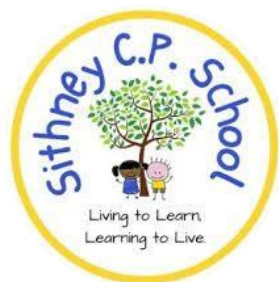
Garras School

Design and Technology

As part of their DT project, the Eagle Owls class at Garras evaluated current designs of shoes, with the aim of creating their own snow boots.

This process involved deconstructing shoes, boots and sandals to establish their insulation qualities.

The children had great fun taking apart shoes using knives, scissors and saws!



Sithney School

Creative Arts

This half term the children at Sithney have been experiencing the creative arts during their educational visits.

KS1 were treated to seeing Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform live at Redruth Regal Theatre at the beginning of March, whilst UKS2 attended a sketching workshop at CAST in Helston a week later.

The children followed in the footsteps of Victorian botanist Joseph Dalton Hooker, investigating rhododendrons in the foothills of the Himalayas. They had an immersive experience in the black box space, recording the sights and sounds in their sketchbooks.

Whilst, in the learning studio they enjoyed the freedom to write about, sketch and paint the range of plant specimens, using the selection of art materials available. The children valued the expertise of the artists, who demonstrated techniques and supported them. Later in March, EYFS will be visiting the Barbara Hepworth Museum to take part in the sculpture workshop.





Porthleven School

Trip to Bristol



Year 5&6 embarked on an unforgettable 3-day journey in Bristol, filled with exhilarating activities and enriching experiences.

Day 1: The adventure kicked off with an early start at 0800, setting the tone for an action-packed day. First on the agenda was a visit to Go Ape, where our fearless pupils tackled a variety of climbing challenges amidst challenging winds. Following this adrenaline-filled escapade, we travelled into Bristol and reached the cosy confines of YHA Bristol. After dropping our bags and eating our first appetising meal, we concluded the day with friendly competition at the tenpin bowling alley.



Day 2: The morning commenced with a leisurely hour-long boat trip on the picturesque River Avon. As the students marvelled at the historical beauty of Bristol, they also put their knowledge to the test with an engaging quiz. The adventure continued at The Wild Place, where encounters with wolves provided insights into their hunting strategies and survival skills. The rest of the day was spent exploring the space and finding other fascinating creatures, including giraffes, hibernating bears and monkeys. The grand finale for the day was a captivating visit to the theatre, where our students were spellbound by the enchanting performance of "Wicked."

Day 3: The final day took us to the breathtaking Cheddar Gorge, where we delved into the depths of caves adorned with stalactites and stalagmites. Guided by an unusual cinematic experience, we learned about the geological wonders of the caves. The journey back to school was marked by a sense of fulfilment and a treasure trove of newfound experiences. The children still managed to produce a song as they left the bus. The Bristol adventure was an enriching chapter in their academic journey, leaving indelible memories and lessons that extend far beyond the classroom.





Godolphin School

Squashbox Theatre Visit

The children and staff all really enjoyed a Squashbox Theatre performance of 'Curious Creatures' at the beginning of the Spring term. They found the show amusing and engaging.

The Reception, Y1 & Y2 children were lucky enough to then take part in a puppet-making workshop. The children had great fun creating their own moving stick puppets.

Many thanks once again to the PTA for funding this great opportunity and to Craig from Squashbox for providing such an entertaining start to the week!



Illogan School

Gardening Club

On Tuesday 5th March 2024. Illogan School Gardening Club, which includes Nancy, Sophie, Martha, Eva, Eliana, Isla and Mrs Aytoun, all walked up to Illogan Parish Park.

This was so that we could plant a hamamelis mollis witch hazel tree, donated by Kim Conchi, in order to celebrate the first year of the new parish offices being built.

Luckily for us it was a bright and sunny day, so lots of parents and local people came to see.

When we arrived, we gave a speech to share information about the tree and how to look after it. Afterwards we had cake, biscuits and juice.

We all had a lovely time and will be visiting our tree often.



Pencoys School

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Pencoys were extremely fortunate to welcome members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra into school inspiring our future musicians with various excerpts by a range of composers.

The theme was 'animals' and the children learnt a song to accompany the quartet.

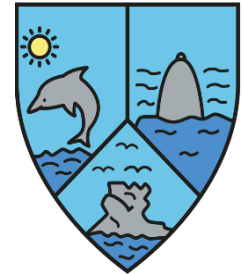
The musicians talked about the various roles and instruments within an orchestra and how (through hours of practice), they became 'so good.'



Portreath School

Team GB

At the end of January, the children at Portreath School got to meet Team GB Gymnast, Jaydon Paddock. The afternoon kicked off with a very inspiring assembly, as the children learnt all about the dedication and determination that goes with becoming an elite athlete. Jaydon spoke about his journey to success, all about his sport (tumbling), his career, his training and his hopes and dreams. We were even lucky enough for Jaydon to show us some skills! Each class then participated in their sponsored fitness circuit, completing a series of challenging exercises as demonstrated by Jaydon. Well done to all the children for taking part with such enthusiasm and as always, for showing such exemplary behaviour throughout the whole afternoon. They raised a staggering £1900! This money will be used to support Jaydon and purchase equipment for school. A massive thank-you to Mrs Doble for organising this incredible opportunity. I'm sure after Jaydon's visit there will be lots of aspiring gymnasts and tumblers.



Roskear School



London Residential

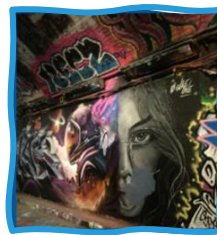
On Wednesday 28th February, 44 Year 6 pupils began their residential trip to London. After our long journey, our first stop in London was Buckingham Palace, where we were lucky to see Queen Camilla arrive with her entourage! We then visited the Imperial War Museum and enjoyed trying out the Anderson and Morrison shelters (even though they were rather cramped). The adults were so proud to hear from staff that we were 'the best-behaved school they had ever had'.

On day two, we had a jam-packed day, which started with a walk alongside the National Covid Memorial Wall and then on to Leake Street Arches, otherwise known as 'Graffiti Tunnel', which is London's largest legal graffiti wall. We were astounded at the quality of the artwork - it was simply amazing.

After that, we enjoyed a ride on the London Eye, where some of the children were incredibly brave and conquered their fear of heights. The river Cruise came next and despite the inclement weather, we sat on the top deck and enjoyed our picnic lunch, whilst cruising the Thames and seeing all the landmarks.

In the evening, we donned our smart attire and went to the Lyceum Theatre to watch The Lion King. It was a fabulous show and we all stood at the end to show our appreciation by giving a standing ovation.

Finally, on day 3, after our delicious, cooked breakfast, we packed up and travelled the short distance to our last stop - Westminster Abbey and The Houses of Parliament. Our tour of the Palace of Westminster was incredible. We learned how parliament works and even got to see live debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords



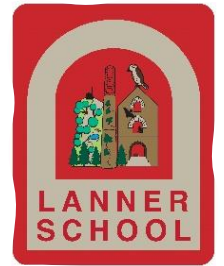
Lanner School

Fire Brigade

On Friday 15th March Year 2 had a visit from Tolvaddon Fire Brigade.

We learnt all about the equipment that they have on the engine and how they keep themselves safe. We were allowed to sit in the fire truck and even got to spray some water!

This visit links to our class topic – The great Fire of London



Weeth School

Songfest 2024

We are passionate about music here at Weeth and we all enjoyed a day of musical celebration earlier this half-term.

The day started with our KS2 trip to the Hall for Cornwall. Over one hundred of our students joined one thousand children from local Cornish Schools to perform with Will Keating in a singing extravaganza, raising the roof with Cornish singing, dancing, and a lot of St Piran's flag waving! We were even treated to a surprise visit on stage by Harry Glasson, the great composer who wrote, 'Cornwall My Home'. There wasn't a dry eye in the house as all the children sang his song for him.

That same evening, we were also delighted to be able to take part in Songfest 2024 at Truro Cathedral. Eleven of our children from Choir, joined ten other primary schools in an evening performance, to sing a variety of beautiful and rousing Sea Shanty's. The children were incredible, and we couldn't have been prouder of their performance. They showed such resilience, on what was a very long day and you only had to see their faces to know how much they enjoyed having the opportunity to take part in something so special.





Treloweth School

'Start Small; Dream Big'

At Treloweth Primary school we are participating in a project called 'Start Small; Dream Big', linking Careers Related Learning to our whole school curriculum.

We know that broadening what children know about future opportunities can have a huge impact on their aspirations, motivation, subject confidence, and future wellbeing. Did you know that between the ages of five to eight children form fixed ideas around careers – *'people like me can't do jobs like that'* – and that by the time they are ten, this can lead to them holding stereotypes that limit their future options?

With our core values of "Curious, Kind and Connected" in mind, we launched the project with a whole school assembly introducing 2 ex- pupils and another employee from the local community: a Chief Fire Officer for Cornwall, Geothermal engineer and a Speech and Language Therapist who works for the NHS. We quizzed them on the skills and attributes they need to do their jobs.

This inspired us for our Aspirations Week where we dressed as 'My Future Self' on World Book Day- bringing in any books that depict our future role.

During the week, we also had hands-on employer encounters with the police, a miner and geologist from Cornish Metal, tractor visits from local farmers and workshops from Cornish Heritage Trust. Our thanks go to local employers Cornish Heritage Trust, Cornhill Farms, Cornish Metals, and local police for their involvement. A real inspiration to our school community: making a meaningful connection between our curriculum learning and skills for life.





Pennoweth School

Spring Term

Throughout the Spring term, Pennoweth pupils have been treated with several experiences and trips to enrich our immersive curriculum.

Children have been dissecting hearts, hosting, and nurturing chicks, exploring the Arts through visits to the Orchestra and taking part in Chinese New Year Dance workshops.

We have also been lucky enough to provide our pupils with the opportunity of accessing our wider STEM programme through taking part in a Lego League competition and purchasing new robotic equipment for our Early Years and Keystage One classes.

Following the completion and opening of the new build part of the school it has been lovely to host a number of Crofty events. This included the Eco Summit, which was held across the school in recent weeks, with council ambassadors coming together to work through a number of different workshops linked together through our ever-developing Sustainability Curriculum. It was wonderful to share such a positive day with pupils from across our Trust and to smell and experience the different workshops provided by a number of different professionals.

The new part of the school continues to be developed and further integrated into life at Pennoweth with the now famous, 'Dave Draws' mosaic, being hand drawn across one of the hallways to bring Redruth town into our pupils' everyday life and our Thinking Threads taking centre stage as you enter the building.



Lego League Win

Congratulations to Porthleven who won the regional finals at Culdrose on Thursday 14th March.

Back in September, the children were introduced to the Lego League and were given the opportunity to apply for a space on the team. Once the team was picked and the kit arrived, the team set off building the missions with Mrs Blight and getting to know each other as a team. They called the team The Wave Makers.

They worked hard as a team each session, rushing up to Lego club to build on their mission plans for the competition as soon as the bell went for lunch. The team were so keen that they asked to meet almost daily! They not only worked hard on building their robot and completing the missions, but also worked on their innovation project, which was all about using technology to get other people interested in their hobbies/interests.

The competition was broken down into 4 sections, each worth 25% towards the final score. These sections are: 'Core Values', 'Robot Design', 'Innovation Project' and 'Robot Game'.

With everyone gathered at the end of the day on 14th March, for the final results, the Wave Makers were stood with everything crossed hoping for a good result! After cheering on the fantastic results and awards for the other schools, it was time for the final 'Champion's Award'.

When Porthleven School was called, the children exploded with excitement and headed up onto the stage to collect their trophy! The team went straight back to working hard as a team to improve ready for Nationals in Harrogate in April and are excited to see how far 'The Wave Makers' can go!

To read the full story please visit the Crofty news page below:

[Lego Regional Winners - Crofty Multi Academy Trust \(croftymat.org\)](http://croftymat.org)

They also feature on the Cornwall Council "Together for families" page:

[Budding engineers from Cornwall wow Royal Navy judges at Lego competition - Cornwall Council](#)



Shared Services Team News

Shared Services and Operations Update

This term I would like to highlight the hard work that Maria and Stacey in the Finance Team have done since the New Year. The volume of work these two have dealt with over the last two months has been immense due to the backlog created by the introduction of the new finance system, extra demands from the external audit last term and simply getting to grips with almost double the workload compared to this time last year. I don't often single out people or groups of people, but the work these two do due to its nature is often overlooked, but it forms the basis for so many other elements of what we do within Operations.

In February we held an Administration Training Day at Parc-Eglos so that all the school administrators could meet and discuss common issues. This year the day was based around a series of workshops with groups no larger than six meeting with each of the departments within the Shared Services Team. Based on the feedback we received this was a success as it enabled staff to ask more detailed / personalised questions to the speakers about their materials that isn't always possible in large groups. As a result, we will be looking at incorporating workshops in future events based on requested topics. Our thanks go to Caroline for organising the day and the Shared Services Team members who lead the workshops.

For the remainder of this term, we will be turning our efforts to budget setting, agreeing estates and IT projects for the busy summer period and also looking at options for the schools MIS systems, alongside the normal workload.

As always, many thanks for all your support in the schools.

Regards Sean Pinhay CFOO Crofty MAT



See Rewards

Please 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.



IT Across Crofty

In the Spring Term we have focussed on coming out to schools to talk to people about their issues and to provide training. This training has been with key individuals, at the administrator's inset day, at the Computing Teach meet and at staff meetings. If you would like to organise training at your school for Teachers or Teaching assistants, then please contact us so we can arrange a date.

During January 13 printers were installed at 7 schools meaning that all schools now have the same model printers. This means we can share resources across the Trust and should be able to reduce print costs by 20% at some of the schools due to lower per page charges. 2 more school websites have been updated into our central system leaving only 1 left to complete at the start of Summer Term. This website move means all our sites have a consistent look and feel as well as some pages being updated centrally reducing duplication of work. Our Google shared drives have now all been moved into Microsoft Teams meaning that all data is in 1 location making it easier to access for staff.

Networking works have been completed at Godolphin, Garras and Trannack to increase the speed, availability, and reliability of their networks. We have also purchased over £50k of Chromebooks and iPads for 10 schools to increase the number of devices pupils can access at the schools. In the background we have also been removing servers from schools that are no longer needed due to the cloud move and upgrading those that are still required. This should reduce our power consumption and improve our security. This will be a project that we continue into the summer term across the schools.

In the Summer term we will deliver all the new devices out to schools and be present at sites to directly help users more regularly.

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.



Estates Team

It has been another busy term for the estates team. The transformation of a small store cupboard into a kitchen servery at Sithney has been a hugely successful project and has also created an additional teaching and learning room.

Exciting summer project for 2024 will include:

- A new extension at Portreath school to provide two extra classrooms.
- Fire alarm upgrades at Lanner, Pennoweth and Portreath.
- External fencing at Garras and Halwin.
- Strategic kitchen upgrades across the trust.
- Toilet upgrades at Parc Eglos.
- Full boiler replacement at Sithney.

Compliance

Trust compliance is currently at 80.5 %, we now record compliance on Parago using the traffic light rating system which acts as a visual indicator of performance and helps target areas to prioritise.

We are in the process of introducing a new Asbestos portal and all the schools will have a new survey completed over the next few months. This will enable us to monitor and repair or remove any asbestos in the future.

Training compliance currently stands at Safeguarding 83.8% and Non-Safeguarding 87.1%.

Pictures of completed Sithney servery:

