

# CROFTY NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER TERM 2024

Welcome to the last newsletter of the 2023-2024 school year.

As you'd expect it's a show case of everything that makes our schools and trust special with camps and outdoor learning a big theme.

It's also great to see so many examples of the sustainability curriculum in action, a fantastic piece of collaborative work that started last February at our trust training day.

This curriculum innovation fits perfectly with the work of the Crofty Eco Council who are quickly establishing the reputation of Crofty as being at the forefront of the Net Zero agenda.

The influence this group of young people have is quite remarkable, with many of our suppliers changing and improving their practices to reduce carbon, energy use and waste.

Finally, you may well have heard that Caroline Thomas, from the shared services team, is leaving us at the end of the summer.

Caroline has been a cornerstone of the trust, being with us since we formed the back in 2016.

Her dedication and commitment to the staff of the Crofty schools has been unswerving over the years so I wanted to say a huge thank you to Caroline and wish her the very best.

As we reach the end of the school year, thank you for everything you do for the children of Crofty.

I hope you have a restful summer break and see you again in September.



## Parc Eglos School



### Year 1 Beach Trip

Year 1 children had a lovely time at Gunwalloe Beach as part of their Geography learning.

They completed their fieldwork studies and enjoyed taking part in a sandcastle and sculpture competition, paddling in the stream and enjoying a picnic.

They were all absolutely fantastic and so well behaved – we are incredibly proud of them!

We would also like to thank the parents again for all their support with this trip, we couldn't have done it without you!



## Treloweth School

### Science Fair

This half-term, Treloweth students from all year groups dazzled us with their creativity and scientific understanding at our Science Fair. The children presented an impressive array of experiments and innovations they had been working on, and we were incredibly proud of the way they confidently spoke to adults and children about their projects. We had over 50 entries, with projects ranging from sustainable energy solutions to cutting-edge robotics. Our winning projects were Scott with his coded robot and Hallie with her gummy bear experiment.



## Sithney School



### Surf Days

Sithney School have enjoyed their Surf Days down at Praa Sands during the Summer Term. Years 1 - 4 have caught the best of the weather so far with some gorgeous sunshine. Children were taught beach safety at the start of the session, then how to carry, travel and lie on a surfboard. Before attempting to surf - there were plenty of wipeouts and laughter. It was a great day out and the children can't wait for next years surf day. Big thanks to Global Boarders for their excellent coaching.



## Illogan School

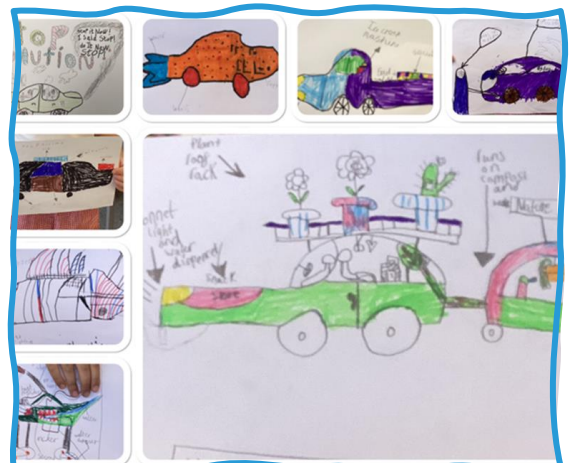
### EYFS - Sustainability

During Sustainability week Reception read the story "This Moose belongs to Me" by Oliver Jeffers. All about sustainability in forests. We had great fun answering the question "Why do we need trees?" We looked at why different animals and people use trees. We created some art using a bark rubbing technique and collecting leaves to make a collage.

We went on a walk to look at the different types of trees grown on the school grounds and learnt the different name of trees, exploring what is the same and what is different. We finally learnt what we can do to be responsible for the trees in our local area.

### Year2 - Sustainability

In year 2 we learnt about the causes of climate change. We researched ways to reduce CO2 and invented cars of the future.

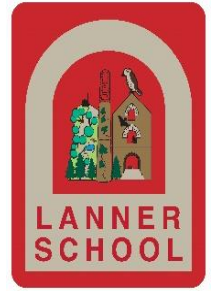


# Lanner School

## Sports Week

What a fantastic week we had at Lanner for our sports week, the sun was shining all week.

It was so lovely to see the children taking part in so many sports!



# Rosemellin School



## Royal Cornwall Show

Seahorses and some pupils in year 1 and 3 entered the Junior Flower tent classes at the Royal Cornwall Show.

They all received certificates for their entries, along with key stage 2 Seahorses receiving Highly Commended for their Hanging Sea creature made from recycled materials and their Lighthouse keeper's lunch made from clay.

Darcie in Year 1 was awarded 2nd place for her Lighthouse keeper's lunch.

Well done to everyone who took part.



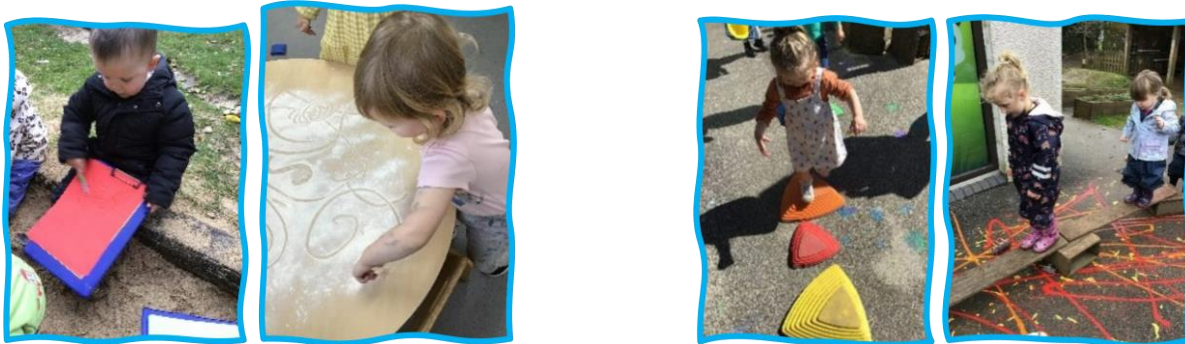
# Roskear Primary and Nursery School



## Crofty Minors

Roskear Nursery and Crofty Minors Pre-School is a unique setting for children aged 2-4

years. Children learn the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, through hands on investigation and are happy, curious and creative. They make friends and are supported by highly qualified staff. Children at Roskear Pre-School and Nursery build strong learning foundations for their lives ahead.



At Crofty Minors and Roskear School Nursery, we encourage children to learn through play in a safe, caring, indoor and outdoor environment, encouraging and enabling children to learn and develop both physically and emotionally in their unique way.

We work closely with families as partners, to achieve the best care for their child, helping to ensure their progress, health, well-being and happiness.

Good early years practice involves children learning through play. We follow national guidance and legislation and use a wealth of staff expertise to provide challenging and stimulating experiences for all children. Children are encouraged to be independent, confident and take pride in their achievements. Parents/carers are our partners in their child's learning. Children learn through playing on their own, in small groups and in sessions where they are in larger groups e.g. at story time, circle time or dance time. Children will learn to listen, concentrate, observe, express themselves and have confidence to tackle new tasks.

If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch by sending an email to the following email address,

[roskearnurseryandpreschool@croftymat.org](mailto:roskearnurseryandpreschool@croftymat.org) or alternatively give us a call on 01209 714214 and ask to speak to Becky in the nursery.

# Godolphin School



## Out and About

It's been a busy summer term for Godolphin's young adventurers with a number of memorable and enriching visits taking place. Our lucky children have faced new challenges during residentials, stroked lambs at a farm and explored the mining heritage around Godolphin, Geevor and King Edward.



The Emerald children had a fantastic time at Tregullus Farm. The pupils were taught about farming in Cornwall and were invited to get up close and personal with some of the adorable animals. Of course, the highlight being the cuddles with the lambs! During the visit, the group also learnt about different habitats and had the opportunity to take part in some pond dipping where they found a variety of animals such as dragon flies, newts and tadpoles.



The Diamond class had an amazing residential trip to Carnyorth where they learnt about Cornish hedges and identified different plants and species that live in them. Once back at the centre they took part in some basket weaving using plants found in the surrounding hedgerows. On the second day, the children explored the beautiful scenic views of Botallack, searching for clues to help unravel the secrets of a once thriving location for mining.

The Zircon class have been learning about mining this term and have enjoyed several trips to some of Cornwall's mining hotspots, including Geevor Tin Mine near St Just and King Edward Mine Museum on the Great Flat Lode.

The first trip in the diary was an informative and inspirational tour around the local area, exploring Godolphin Woods, Godolphin House, Godolphin Hill and Great Work Mine. The tour was led by mining expert – Steve Polglase – who was keen to share his passion and enthusiasm for the local mining heritage around Godolphin. At the end of the walk, the children were invited back to Steve's workshop where he demonstrated aspects of the process of turning tin ore into tin concentrate ready to be smelted. All-in-all, the day was a huge success and helped reinforce the learning that had been taking place in the classroom. Thank you to Mr Polglase for such a memorable and enlightening day!



## Trannack School

### Sustainability Week



This term we had a sustainability week at Trannack! We gave some of our wider curriculum time over to thinking about the environment and how we can live and work more sustainably, and how we can begin caring for and improving the environment around us and in the wider world.

Our Godrevy class have been focusing on car production during sustainability week, comparing fossil fuel-based cars with electric cars and the impact that both can have on the environment. They have learnt about lithium production and the benefits that battery power brings, as well as some of the problems that these batteries can cause.

We finished off our week with a BIG debate to try to answer the question, 'Should electric cars be part of our journey towards a greener future'.



In Portreath class we have been learning about water pollution, focusing on the rivers of the UK. Children have talked about how water is filtered to make it safe to use and countries around the world that don't have that luxury. We have created information posters about water pollution, created our own water filters and described the process of filtration. We are going to continue our learning by studying the local 'Red river' and writing a report on its history. The children in Portreath have been shocked by some of the facts and figures we have discovered this week.

Our Praa Sands class helped to rescue some sea animals trapped in rubbish that had been washed into our classroom. We will be thinking about the question "What would it be like if there were no plants or animals in the sea?"

## Halwin School

### Elemental Water Sports at Swanpool Beach

Children from Year 2 up to Year 6 spent two mornings at Swanpool Beach this term as part of the OAA unit of our PE curriculum. They enjoyed connecting with nature, developing their physical skills and making memories. Under the warm sun, the children enthusiastically participated in sea swimming, paddleboarding and kayaking. Guided by the Elemental instructors, they mastered new skills and overcame fears. The adventurous activity of coasteering added an extra layer of excitement, as the children navigated the rugged coastline with determination.

The experience was not only about fun but also about learning essential beach safety skills, ensuring that the children can enjoy the water responsibly this summer.

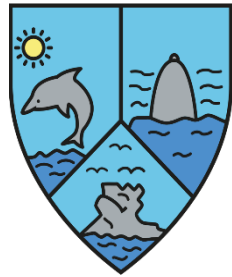
After the action-packed morning, the children enjoyed lunch and a play on the beach before returning to school.



## Portreath School

### Planetarium

All the children at Portreath School were lucky enough to experience a planetarium this term. Space Odyssey set up a mobile 'space dome' in the school hall and each class had a workshop. The children loved going inside the huge dome to learn about space. The staff were particularly delighted to hear that Cherry class stayed behind after the session for half an hour talking and asking questions! Simon, who ran the sessions, said he was astounded by their knowledge. He also commented on the fantastic behaviour of all the children across the school. Each term the school learns about a different scientist and this term it was Tim Peake. The children and staff have been so inspired that this year's whole school performance is going to have a space theme! Everybody is busy preparing and the classes are working with different artists, theatre practitioners and dancers to create the show.



## Weeth School

### Summer Fair

It was wonderful to see the return of the Weeth Summer Fair this half term, all thanks to the hard work and determination of the PTA and supporters. After much crossing of fingers and weather watching, the sun actually shone and the turnout was fantastic. ☀️ It was wonderful to see so many members of the

community, supporting the school fund raising efforts, especially during such challenging financial times. We cannot express enough how much it means and what a difference it makes.

The Summer Fair also gave us a wonderful opportunity to officially open our new school Library. Mr Warren, Mr Savage and Mrs Roberts, along with our newly appointed Year 5 librarians, have worked tirelessly to move, update, re-vamp and inject new life into the library. The Library Service has worked closely with us, helping us to update the shelves with hundreds of brand new books and the children have taken great delight in helping pick out their favourite authors and series. I know the Year 5 librarians and Mrs Roberts are very excited about continuing to develop the library next year and we are looking forward to being able to open it to both children and parents, after school once a week.





# Pennoweth School



## Residentials

This term has seen the annual residentials taking place across the school with each year group participating in an overnight stay or experience. This was kicked off by our delighted Year One and Two pupils who journeyed across the Tamar to Plymouth Aquarium to take part in the overnight workshop of 'Sleeping with Sharks'. An army of pupils and staff attended the event, which was for many of our pupils, the first night away from home. The pupils behaved impeccably and were treated to bowling and a meal out in the morning before returning home on a much quieter bus, much to the relief of our staff!

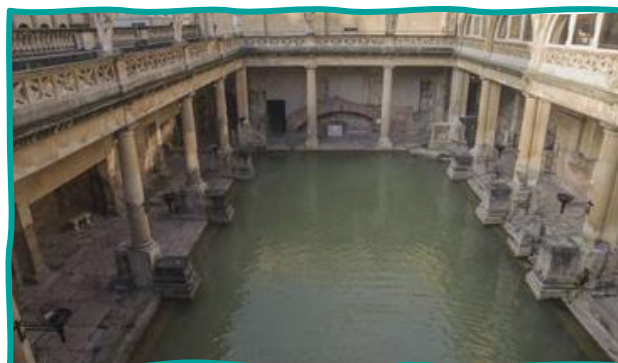
Following this, our Year Three pupils ventured off to Porthpean Outdoor Centre for a two day and one night stay. The children participated in a number of activities such as Archery, Climbing and of course Kayaking. Conditions were tricky whilst out on the kayaks, as the shifting wind battered the fleet, nevertheless, the children pulled together and overcame the elements. They then finished the beach day jumping of the giant paddleboard before a hearty meal back at the camp. Again, our pupils behaved and listened incredibly well and were a credit to the school.



Our Year Four's journeyed to Pill Farm on the National Trust site of Trelissick – where again the children were treated to water sports in the form of Canadian Canoeing. The children then had the opportunity to test their skills at Archery before taking part in a well contested quiz in the evening.

Year Five have recently journeyed a little further afield to PGL Barton Hall, where again the children were subjected to several outdoor activities. The children (& staff) once again behaved incredibly well and developed their singing skills which no doubt we will continue to hear between now and the end of term.

Finally, our Year Six pupils escaped to the city of Bath for a more cultural experience where they absorbed the beautiful architecture and were able to visit famous sites such as The Roman Baths in the city centre. Throughout their stay, the public continued to comment on the manners and courtesy that our pupils showed when representing the school in public. Their experience we hope, will provide them with a lifelong memory before heading in all different directions on their next academic journey into secondary school.





## Porthleven School



### Sustainability week

Porthleven School have been taking part in their sustainability week! We have been taking part in a variety of different learning activities over the week from Nursery through to Year 6.



Year 5 have been learning about responsible production, specifically looking at the production of cars. After reading "A Climate of Chaos" by Neal Layton and discussing the effects of climate change whilst looking at images, they then moved onto learning about how they can be agents of change. They created their own road of facts to show how they can help to create a greener future and have planned and created their own website pages for Cornish Lithium Mining. What a brilliant week we have had!



## Pencoys School

### Tate Pencoys!

On Thursday 7th June, Pencoys opened its doors for friends and families to visit our Art Exhibition. Teachers took the opportunity to show case a range of artwork from across the school. From our very youngest pupils exhibiting pieces of work in the style of Hundwasser to our oldest year 6 pupils creating dioramas with accompanying musical compositions. Visitors observed, admired, and reflected on a range of mediums, inspirations and messages whilst being guided and informed by the children. The art exhibition was a resounding success. The creativity and talent displayed by our pupils was truly inspiring and is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and passion.





## Garras School

### The Incredible 8! Schools Bowling Championships 2024

On Friday 14 June, eight talented students from Hawk and Eagle Owls represented the school at the Schools Bowling Championships in Chacewater.

Eleven teams took part in the competition and the scoring to get into the final was very close. Garras students played fantastically and not only made the final but went on to win the whole tournament! Congratulations team Garras, we are so proud of you all!

Thanks from the school also must go to the team at the Helston Bowling club for all of their support and encouragement. Also thanks to Adrian from the club who also attended to support the team, and give feedback on how well they played





## Shared Services Team News

### Operations Update

As you will see from the various Team reports there has been lots going on this term and there are plans for much more over the Summer holiday period.

On this occasion I would like to highlight the work the Estates and ICT Teams have completed this term and the vast amount of work they will do over the summer, whilst the pupils and school staff are on leave. The Summer holiday represents the key opportunity when jobs can get done, so for both of these teams, as always it will be a busy period.

The Estates Team once again has a full agenda and will be completing tasks over a number of schools this Summer, but I would like to take this chance to highlight why they are such a key resource for the Trust. Early in the term we had a serious flood at Pennoweth School. Due to the swift actions of the Estates Team they were able to restrict the damage caused, make the rooms impacted fit for purpose in quick time and also continue to complete the work required to secure the insurance income required to make good. It is this type of event that really highlights the strength that a Trust can offer to each of our schools.

Over the summer the ICT Team will be working to make significant network upgrades to two of the Trusts schools. Networking is often overlooked when it comes to investment, but without a strong network, however new the equipment is it will not function to its full potential. I would also like to highlight the results from the recent staff survey which including a number of very encouraging comments about the work that both Martin and Phil do in the schools. It is evident from the feedback that they make a real impact.

I was also heartened to see that the feedback from the recent staff review would indicate that changes the Shared Services Team have made over the last few terms are going down well with the school Administrators. Although we have work to do it would appear that the joint training days are really appreciated, not only for the training/updates provided, but they also represent a chance for Administrators to establishment working relationships with people in other schools.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the part Caroline Thomas has played over the last nine years to establish Crofty Education Trust. As I suspect you all know by now, Caroline at the end of this term will be leaving to take up a new role at Flushing School. Caroline is one of a kind, kind being the key word! Her thoughtfulness, experience and exceptional attitude to the workplace will be greatly missed. But the call of working in a school, working closer to the pupils was ultimately too much of a draw for Caroline. I know all of us would have benefitted from Caroline's input at some point in the past and in turn would wish her all the best the future.

Sean Pinhay

CFOO Crofty Education Trust





## IT Across Crofty

In the Summer Term we have configured and installed over 100 iPads in 11 schools as well as installing Interactive screens in 4 more schools. We have tried to be a more regular presence at schools to help staff with any issues they are having and to catch those jobs that are only remembered when you see one of us.

We have used the Summer Term to trial new interactive screens and Safeguarding monitoring systems. We want to ensure that we are still using the most suitable interactive screens as new models are being developed and released regularly. We are trialling Safeguarding monitoring systems at several schools to see if we can add this to our current filtering systems to improve our pupils safeguarding in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Outside of this we have been continuing with several of our long-term projects. This has included upgrading and removing further servers from schools to increase our security and reduce our energy usage. All school websites are now in the new template, and we are starting to look at creating an Intranet that we will use for improved sharing of information internally.

As we move towards the summer holidays, we have been getting quotes together to fully upgrade the network infrastructure at 2 of our schools to bring them more up to date. We will also be looking at further integrating our systems across the Trust to make management of accounts and devices easier. We are going to create a Crofty Wide Wireless system so all devices will connect to a single network at all schools for increased mobility.

If you have an IT issue that isn't for NCI then please contact us on 01209 311 135 option 5 or email [itsupport@croftymat.org](mailto: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. Pennoweth school has recently been flooded causing over thirty thousand pounds worth of damage when a mains water pipe burst. The Estates team, alongside Richfords Fire and Flood worked throughout the night to ensure that no teaching and learning time was lost. After a period of drying, new carpets have been laid and the remaining remedial works to the hall will be carried out during the summer holidays.



## Porthleven

Two classrooms at Porthleven have recently been renovated, this included creating a new doorway to incorporate the toilets into the classrooms.



### Projects the Estate team are currently working on include:

- Portreath – two new classroom build.
- Halwin - external walls and classroom refurbishment.
- Trannack - hall and classroom refurbishment.
- Parc Eglos - toilet upgrades.
- Sithney - new main boiler and associated works.
- Godolphin - updating the main corridor.
- Strategic kitchen upgrades across the trust.



## Finance (inc. Audit) Update

The Finance Team continue to squirrel away in the background, introducing and refining more systems which help the smooth running of the Access Software based on feedback. Efforts have moved to income this term with systems introduced to support direct payments and over the Summer work is planned to develop and make more use of ParentPay.

This term we have had an Internal Audit visit to review Safeguarding and Whistleblowing. Internal Audit is part of the Trusts risk reduction strategy and is the one of the tools used by the Trustees to ensure what we say we are doing is actually delivered. Thank you for those members of staff who were asked to take part in this audit, the findings will be published next week and if there are lessons to be learnt this will be acted upon as appropriate. We have a further Internal Audit which will be checking Purchase to Pay at the end of July. We also engaged the services of a new External Auditor, Wescotts who will be working with the Trust to complete both the Annual Audit and Annual Accounts during the Autumn term.

From September with Caroline moving to pastures new, payroll will come under the control of the Finance Team, with myself taking the lead, further details will follow next term. To reassure you all I have held a very similar position in another Trust recently and in turn have years of previous payroll experience both within schools and the private sector.

Maria Collins

Financial Controller

Crofty Education Trust

### 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](mailto:finance@croftymat.org) or call on 01209311135 option 2.