

**Trust Executive Leader Newsletter May 2020**

At the very start of this newsletter, I want to say a huge thank you to you all. The lockdown period has brought so many challenges to so many people. The way in which you have responded has made such a difference. To the school staff, thank you for going the extra mile to make sure every child is supported whether through online learning, in the hub schools, through phone calls and emails to families as well as planning for the future and continuing your own development through online training. To parents for your patience and your engagement with learning at home. To our central team who have worked through free school meals, trip and visits refunds, health and safety issues, alongside their ongoing usual workload. To the site teams who are working to keep schools safe and ready for action on our return. To Trustees and Governors for their support and encouragement. And to the children who have produced some fantastic work and have done their best in this very strange time.

We want to support you in any way we can. If you are struggling, or need support with anything, please do make contact with school and we will do our best to help, or signpost you in the right direction. On our websites you will find a range of support materials for all sorts of matters. Please do not suffer in silence. We all want to help.

Thank you for your patience with the Free School Meals roll out. Our initial system with Tesco's was working well but we were advised by the government to move to the Edenred scheme. This new system seems to be improving every day and is now working far better than it was with less waiting time. There is greater flexibility in choosing where you can spend your vouchers but unfortunately, at the time I write this, they can only be used for online shopping at Asda and Waitrose. If you are shielding and cannot go to the supermarket yourself, you can forward the voucher to someone who is shopping on your behalf. If you are having difficulties with getting your voucher please email: [accounts@southerlypoint.co](mailto:accounts@southerlypoint.co) and someone will help you.

There is a great deal of speculation about when schools will return and a myriad of views and opinions across the media. Please be assured that our number one priority is to be able to return safely. This is important for your children and for our staff too. We will follow government guidance as best we can. There is much to be considered: which classes will return and when; how will this be phased; how do we keep social distancing in schools; how do we make transport safe ... and while we are thinking all these things through and more, it is all subject to change when the government provide further details of their roadmap. Once we hear more, we will make plans and communicate this to you through your usual school channels. Please if you are in any doubt, or hear rumours or speculation, go to your school's website as the central accurate source of information.

In the meantime, I thought you would appreciate hearing about some of the fabulous things that are going on across our schools during the lockdown period.

Manaccan School have been really impressed with how the children have tackled the home learning with the guidance of their parents. The school has received lovely videos including children creating Olympic dances, reading their own stories, learning a Japanese song and even learning to knit! There have been

many messages and photos from home which have been uploaded onto the e-schools page so friends can see what they've been up to.

At St Keverne children have been engaging with the learning and sharing their exciting ideas and activities via Eschools and Seesaw.



At Halwin, Mrs Busby has written a letter to every child and has begun receiving replies over the last week. She has them on display in her 'office'. It has been wonderful to hear how the children are getting on and seeing their beautiful handwriting and letter writing skills.

Sithney staff have planned weekly home learning activities on the website and have a celebration page for pupils who have sent work back via email. Mr Birchall has successfully set up Google Classroom for Yr 3/4 which is a great hit with pupils and parents and this is now being rolled out to Yr 5/6 and Yr 2. Yr 1/ EY are continuing to communicate via Tapestry.

Trannack staff are setting daily and weekly activities on the interactive online forum - Class Dojo - and are able to give individual feedback. Trannack are ready to launch Google Classroom too and all staff are excited about the many uses for Google Classroom across the schools in the future.

There has been a high degree of pupil engagement with learning, with many schools seeing 100% of pupils accessing home learning in some form – be it online maths, activities on the website, Google Classroom, Class Dojo, or with paper packs sent home if preferred.

Staff and pupils at Mullion Primary are celebrating small but no less important things. Pupils are busy at home working on minibeast projects, footprint sculptures, wildlife projects, architectural studies, leaflets for Cornwall's attractions and much more. Wonderful photographs of children celebrating births and birthdays have also been received. The school continues to be open as a hub serving the schools on the Lizard. All staff are doing an amazing job not only in school but through the website and contact with families. They are all looking forward to being together again as a school when it is safe to do so.

At the Mullion Hub, the children are happy and are in a routine of learning and short breaks. There has been lots of positive feedback from parents. They feel their children are well-looked after, provision is good and they are confident that they are safe. The staff seem really positive too and have enjoyed getting out and teaching. A member of staff told a parent that we had arranged it well and felt that the rota was great and kept them safe, along with the 'hygiene stations' and procedures in the schools.

At the Wendron Hub, pupils have enjoyed a variety of lessons from stories of dragons on St George's Day to art by Jackson Pollock.

Staff at Wendron have completed a number of book reviews of favourite children's books which they have posted onto the school website. The children are being encouraged to share their own with the class-teachers. The staff have also produced a fun video of themselves on the FaceBook page to the theme from 'Friends' to encourage the children to take care of each other during the school closure period.

Children at Coverack school are learning about VE day. One family are making ginger beer and following recipes for food from that era. The mum in the family knows all of the songs and she is teaching her children. They are planning a party to celebrate the day.



At Cury, as well as working hard on weekly learning units and specific learning activities, children have been involved in Community and School projects. The Village Hall Committee asked the children to create rainbows and messages of hope to fill the windows of the hall. The children rose to the challenge beautifully and it is a welcoming sight as you enter the village.

And we have Sunflower Power! Godolphin and Cury Primary Schools are encouraging the children to get green-fingered and take part in a sunflower growing competition. It's very simple – the tallest sunflower wins! Still in the early stages, the teachers have been eagerly waiting for any updates to see who's taking an early lead. With the perfect blend of sunshine and occasional showers, we're really hoping to see some fine floral specimens!

On the Crowan school website there is a fun video montage of musicians from the school performing. Since they were unable to hold our annual Concert Evening this year, they held one 'virtually' with introductions to each of the acts by Oliver (Y6). Do take a look.

Children at Breage are engaging well with the website to support their learning and are staying in touch through the messages they share with staff. Staff may be missing the banter in the classroom but a variety of media / technology channels are enabling school chat to continue. Some great photos are being sent in by children and parents and can be seen by their classmates on the class pages. The children are developing their creative streaks well but culinary skills far outnumber the artistic in the examples being shared. Mrs Banner feels they might have to have their own Breage Bake-Off when they eventually return to school as the lockdown is showcasing the talents of many budding bakers - staff **and** children. What a life-skill to develop. There have been many cakes and other bakes as well as some delicious looking Cornish treats. Many of us are benefitting from having some time to develop our skills and learn some new ones to get us through these difficult and challenging days.

At Landewednack, the White Rose Maths Home Learning page has been amazing and it has allowed the children to carry on their learning even though they are not in school. Class Dojo has been a great way of keeping in touch with parents and children and everyone has enjoyed sharing books and teacher videos with the children. It has also been a great way to give instant feedback to the children when they have submitted their work. The children are putting so much effort into their writing tasks and are continuing to draft, edit and improve before completing a final draft. The quality of writing has been fantastic! The staff have been able to achieve 100% connection with parents on Class Dojo and have been using this daily to stay in contact with children and parents. They have continued to award a star of the week each week via videos on the school story as virtual assembly. The school has been sharing the work that children have done with the class to keep pupils connected - e.g. as part of a UK topic students created their own quiz for their classmates to complete. TAs have been setting some activities, sharing new skills they are learning, and commenting on work that students upload to their portfolios.

Children at Porthleven School are taking part in daily 'White Rose' maths activities. There are reading and writing activities spread across the week. In Years 1 and 2 they are writing chronological reports about a range of topics. After basing their literacy around superheroes, years 3 and 4 have been reading about Lewis Hamilton, writing question they would like to ask him and writing about their own favourite cars or memorable journeys they have taken - they have even made bottle cars this week. Year 5 & 6 children produced some fantastic non-fiction writing on volcanoes and life-cycles. The focus this week has been writing fiction based on short films from the 'Literacy Shed' and pictures from 'Pobble'. Our EYFS team have been working really hard in supporting home learning through 'Tapestry', providing a wide variety of ideas

and activities and involving the whole team in reading on-line stories. The children has sent some wonderful photos and video clips this week based on their topic on space. '

Our Staff meetings have continued using Google Meet. so we have been able to review curriculum documents and policies as well as undertake online training. Statutory annual reviews have continued via Google which has been a great way to bring together professionals to continue to support SEND pupils.

The extra feedback and planning that the teachers have done has been great - they've also been researching, gaining a wider knowledge of phonics, grammar and children's novels, doing online training such as the new baseline assessment, curriculum, and safeguarding to name but a few. TAs are also supporting groups or individual children. For many it is taking them longer than the normal school day and with their own families at home and their own children's home learning to do this has been quite a challenge! Well done to everyone.



We are also really proud of a small team of staff and pupils from Helston and Mullion Design Technology teams who undertook a project to make PPE for Derriford and Helston hospitals.

At our secondary schools, pupils have engaged well with the online activities through Google classroom and Show my Homework. The schools are busy working through the arrangements for awarding exam grades with Ofqual the exams regulator. This is a significant and important piece of work as we want to provide every young person with an outcome that reflects their hard work and endeavours. A level bridging units have been provided for Year 11 students so they can begin their preliminary studies for A level making the most of this lockdown period.

We have had many messages of support from parents and this has been so encouraging to our staff. Here is a sample:

- All your support is really appreciated and I can't thank you enough!
- Hats off to you and your colleagues for doing such an incredible job. Teaching is NOT easy, and neither is controlling multiple children at once! We are so grateful for your input.
- Thankyou for all that you and everyone are doing for us and our children. You're all doing a fantastic job and we can't wait to see you all again soon. Stay safe.
- Please accept our thanks for all that you and your colleagues are doing to ensure that we, as parents, are as prepared for each week as we can be.
- Well done for your superb and sensitive handling of the ongoing situation we are all faced with. To have such a cool, calm and soothing influence leading the school is an incredible impression which you will leave on all (most) parents and pupils for the rest of their lives. Never underestimate the incredible impact you will have on the rest of all these lives through the dignified and warm manner in which you continue to act. Thank you for everything. Stay safe
- I would like to thank you and your team for remaining open for us. We very much appreciate your support whilst we continue to work.
- I would just like to say how grateful I am to you for making this surreal time for us go as smoothly as it can.
- The lesson plans are laid out so everything is easy to follow & explained extensively using a wide range of resources.
- I think it is going well. At first it was a lot to get my head around and for my child also settling into a different routine, but now we have a routine we are both happy and enjoying doing tasks set. This has been backed up with support from you and the resources have been good.

- I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for doing an absolutely amazing job. You kept us as up to date as possible to the run up to this and the staff provided good, easy to understand information on diseases without causing distress to the students. It gave us such peace of mind knowing our child was looked after and one less thing to be stressed about during our hectic, chaotic and unpredictable days. All of you have been fabulous, I wish there was something I could do to repay the peace of mind you have provided.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my huge thanks to everyone, children, parents, governors and Trustees, for pulling together as a co-operative community during these times. To our staff, thank you so much for your tireless work from home and putting yourselves in difficult situations without a single complaint or hesitation.

I would also like to share some examples of work from Porthleven School and this fabulous piece of writing by a year 5 pupil at Crowan School. (see below)

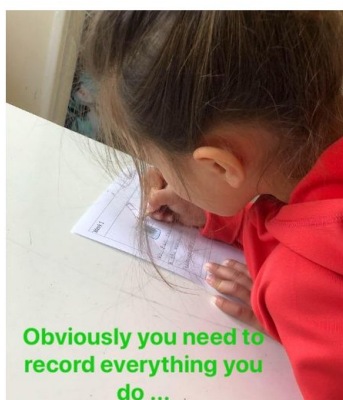
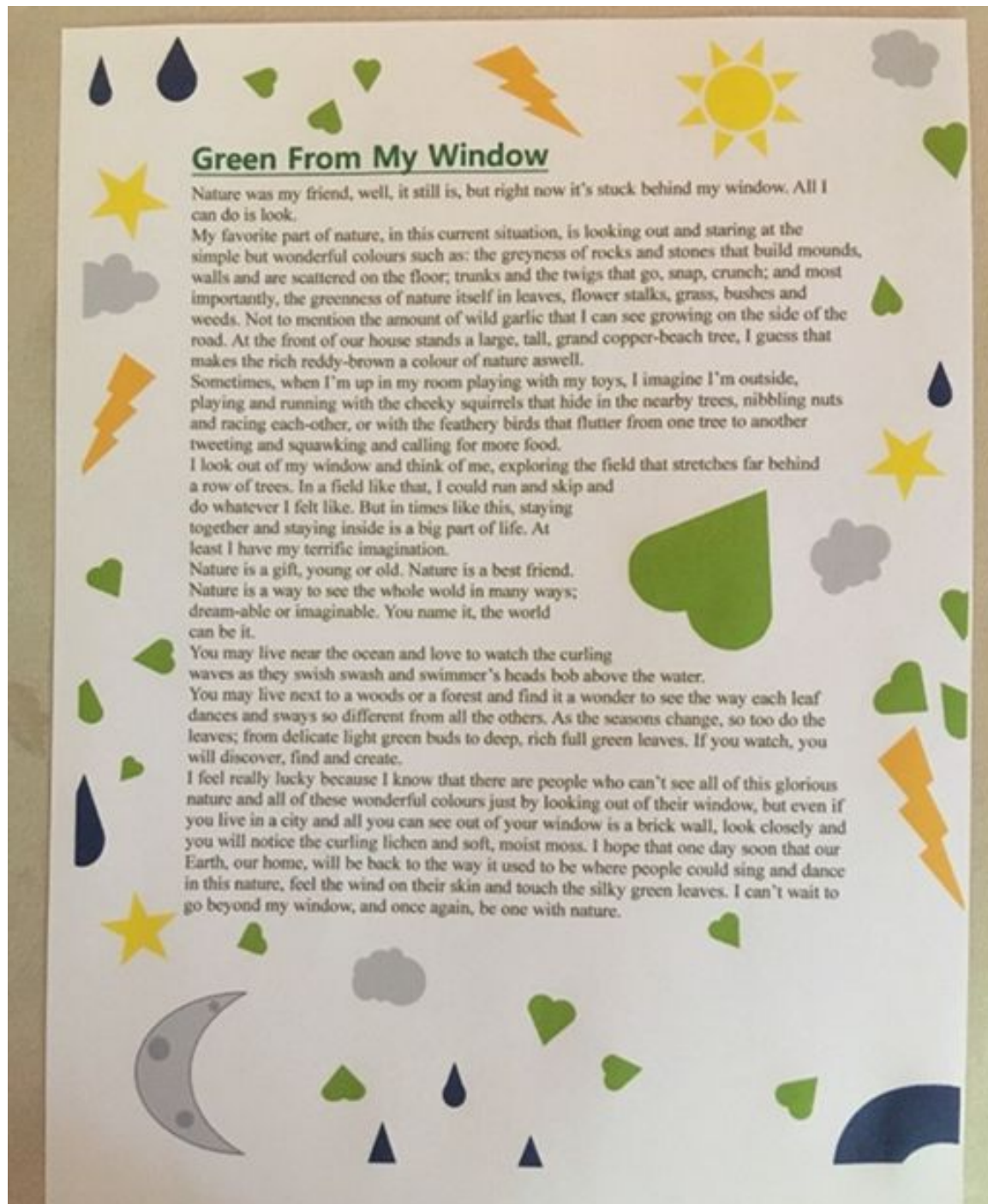
Take care and stay safe.

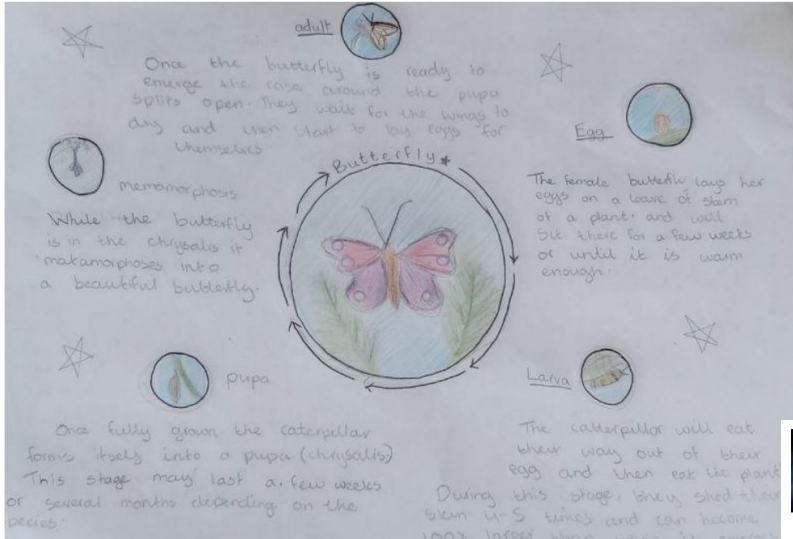


Kind regards

**Donna**

Trust Executive Leader





A selection of work from Porthleven children



## Volcanoes



Did you know Volcanoes are considered one the most destructive things on the planet when they erupt.

Volcanoes are made by two tectonic plates colliding and forcing together and rising up to make molten magna burst through the earths crust at the weak points where the plates meet.

Did you know that the volcano **KRAKATAU IN ASIA**, when it erupted in 1883, produced 200 megatons of energy with is equivalent to **15,000 nuclear bombs!**



Volcanoes can produce rich, fertile land.

Over time, lava and ash break down to produce **nutrient-rich soil**, great for growing crops! That's why some people like to set up home on the slopes of a volcano.



Self Help Self Responsibility Equity Equality Democracy Solidarity

Social Responsibility Honesty Openness Caring for Others