

CEO Newsletter June 2018

The second half of the summer term has been incredibly busy for our schools. Here is a flavour of what has been happening.

This year has been an extremely successful Cross Country League. 16 Helston and Mullion primary schools took part in the 6 races. The league has seen a record number of children entering. This event is fantastic at encouraging all children to become more active, earn points for their schools and work towards their own personal best. Every child has the opportunity to receive an endurance medal by simply taking part in 5 of the races. The winners this year included 150 endurance medal winners from across all of the primary schools. Trophies are also awarded for children who win 5 or 6 out of 6 league races. This year Tansy (Y6 Wendron School) received this special award. The trophy for the highest number of points earned went to Parc Eglos School and the runner up trophy went to Godolphin School. To allow for smaller schools with fewer children, the points are also worked out on a weighted points system. The trophy for the highest number of points earned went to Godolphin School and the runner up trophy went to Trannack School. 8 children from Helston also qualified at Pool School this year, racing at the county finals at Newquay. A fantastic achievement all round.



Congratulations to Charlie from Mullion Primary School who has been shortlisted in the top 150 stories for the Heroes Young Writer's Competition. This is run by Discover Education and David Walliams is the judge.

Mullion school set the challenge as Easter home-learning and entered over 60 stories from their 4-11 year olds. Charlie's story is about a teacher called Mrs Wigglebottom who has super powers. He is now awaiting news of whether his story will be in the top 10 shortlisted by David Walliams. The competition had 38,000 entries in total! What an impressive feat!

The Science Departments of Helston Community College and Mullion School met together for a training session on maths in the science curriculum. Like many subjects, there have been a raft of changes to the nature of the qualifications. Notably, the new GCSE science qualifications have up to 30% of the examination material weighted towards maths. The key objectives for the teams going forward are to ensure that there is a common language for Maths and Science, that methods for teaching key maths skills are the same and the Maths teams make contextual links back to science to further strengthen pupil understanding. Together, the teams agreed some specific teaching strategies that they felt would benefit the pupils. The meeting brought fresh thinking whilst reinvigorating and consolidating existing good practice. Above all, it was good to work together with colleagues across the two schools for the benefit of the pupils.

In addition, we were able to host training for Science teams across Cornwall to ensure that their health and Safety training for science laboratories were up to date. Normally this training only happens in other parts of the country so this was a huge cost benefit to the Trust and helped other schools across Cornwall at the same time.

Halwin School are thrilled that some of their children have had their work chosen to be put on display for the Primary Engineer Leaders Award, at the University of the West of England, on Saturday 30th June 2018 gaining 9 Distinctions and 2 Highly Commended. This is a remarkable achievement for the children. The competition this year was tough and saw over 2,700 entries in the South West of England alone. This was another fabulous opportunity for the children from one of our smaller schools to help raise their aspirations and provide exciting opportunities through Halwin's creative curriculum. Halwin wish to thank Mrs Wood who started the project, Mrs Board for all of her support, and the Engineers that came in during the week to inspire the children and their wonderful staff.

Every Thursday, Garras School celebrate their cultural roots. One week, Edward and his dad shared their family history within the farming community. The land on which the Minack Theatre is now built, once belonged to a farm on Edward's dad's side of the family! Hawk Owls also enjoyed delicious Heavy Cake made by Edward and his dad. Garras also had a visit from Mark the Miner. He talked about the history of Cornish mining, as well as his own experiences below ground. The children learned about the tools that the miners used and some of the minerals that were found in the mines. Mark told the story of his workmate, a man who had a healthy appetite and brought a large lunch bag to work every day - so large in fact, that Eli was able to fit into it!!



Parc Eglos started off the 'Great Get Together' community weekend in style with their sixth Grandparents' Day, which over 250 grandparents attended. The school has fabulous links with its community and a major part of this is to pay tribute to the role played by grandparents. Headteacher Brett Dye, who has six grandchildren of his own, feels it is so important to recognise this: 'Grandparents play such an important part in children's lives, supporting busy mums and dads in enabling the best possible education for their children. The emotional and practical support they give, as well as the help with learning, cannot be underestimated.'



One visitor commented: "We had such a wonderful afternoon. Seeing our grandchildren in their classrooms is something we don't normally do so it was very special. All the children did a magnificent job with the singing. The cream tea was the perfect end. Thank you to all at the school."

The More Able Maths groups have run throughout the year and have received some excellent feedback. These seem to have had a positive impact on the children who attended and, more importantly, they really enjoyed them! This is what the children from the Keskowethyans schools who joined the project this year had to say:

' I learnt quicker methods and it helped quite a lot with SATS.'

'I didn't learn any new basic things, it kind of expanded things I already knew and taught me more.'

'I'd recommend it for R & A who are in Y5 now - it would be great for them - they'd get a lot out of it.'

'It explained why systems worked.'

'It was fun - great change of scenery and place!'

Many thanks to Alex Wells (Landewednack) and Katie Cotterill (Parc Eglos) for leading these groups.

Thank you to everyone in the Trust for their commitment and dedication to providing our children with great learning opportunities and good fun and for continuing to be willing to learn more themselves.

With all best wishes



Donna