



'Blue' Briefing



December, 2008

Keeping you in touch with events at St. Columb Minor School

Our International Parade!



Our drumming group led the parade around St. Columb Minor Village.

Welcome to the December edition of 'Blue Briefing'.



This year's **International Book Week** was a huge success with everyone from children to adults taking part in book related activities. We especially enjoyed the performances by Pandemonium Theatre and the drumming / dance workshops. Thank you so much to everyone who helped the children with their flags and costumes. Book Week is such a special week where we suspend the usual timetable and dedicate our time to books—it's always a week to remember! Come and see some of our best book week memories on the screen in our entrance area or visit our website.

The staff, governors and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a **Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year**. Enjoy our Christmas events!

This month's edition of 'Blue Briefing' is packed with important information and interesting articles. Once you've read it, keep it handy, so that you know what's coming up throughout the month! Looks like another exciting month at Blue School!

Inside.....

News from all year groups

Reply slips for all occasions!

Events in school this Christmas

New arrivals

Term dates for this year

Visit our school website at www.blueschool.co.uk



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Foundation Stage News Starfish and Jellyfish

Thank you to everyone who supported our **International Book week**, we had a wonderful time, having fun, learning all about books, watching Pandemonium Theatre and dressing up for the parade.

We are now getting very excited about the forthcoming **Christmas Play**, being performed in the week beginning December 8th. Starfish are going to be 'presents' and Jellyfish are going to be 'pharaohs'. (Costumes provided by school so don't worry!) We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances. **Please note that the part time children will be staying ALL DAY instead of just the mornings on December 8th and 9th and 15th (party day)** On party day they need to wear school uniform and bring clothes that are easy to change in to for the afternoon. We also need all of the children for our evening performance on **Wed 10th December**. Please can they come back to school at 5.30pm. It is important that they come even if you are not watching the performance that evening so that the quality of our part of the play is as good as it will be during the afternoon performances.

As mentioned above our **Christmas party** is on the afternoon of **Monday 15th December**. Small contributions of food will be appreciated and also help from any mums or dads. Please let us know if you are able to help.

We are really pleased with the way the children have settled into their first term at school. They have all made excellent progress in lots of ways. Thank you for all your support. Please could we remind you to continue to practise learning the sounds and letter formation.

On another very different note, we have noticed that our children are coming in quite muddy from break times now that the weather has changed. We plan to use the outside area as much as possible regardless of weather. It would be helpful if children could keep an old pair of shoes or wellies in the cloak room please. We hope to be able to buy some water proof trousers for them, if you have any spare we would be very grateful.

This is a really exciting time in school with all the Christmas celebrations; we want your children to enjoy every moment. May we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a **very enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

The Foundation Stage Team



Term Dates for the Year

Autumn Term 2008
4th Sept—19th Dec

Spring Term 2009

6th Jan—3rd April
Half term Mon 16th—20th Feb
Closure day for training 23rd Feb (no pupils)

Summer Term 2009

21st April—22nd July
Half term Mon 25th—29th May

For New Year 6 Parents !!!!!

Year 6 SATS week 2009 is May 11th—15th, 2009

It is **very important** that your child is in school this week and in the weeks prior to the tests. No holiday leave will be sanctioned during SAT's week for Year 6 pupils.



Important dates in December

Mon 1st Dec Messy Play Christmas Party

Thur 4th Dec Our Christmas Fayre and Suitcase Sale
2.30—5.00 p.m. (separate letter due)

Fri 5th Dec Joint Schools' Carol Service
St. Michaels's Church 7-8 p.m.

Mon 8th Dec Key Stage 1 Afternoon Performance to Senior Citizens and (Parents 2 p.m. Entry by ticket only.)

Tues 9th Dec Key Stage 1 Afternoon Performance
2 p.m. Entry by ticket only.

Wed 10th Dec Key Stage 1 Evening Performance
6 p.m. Entry by ticket only.

Fri 12th Dec Tretherras Cross Country Race 3
12.30—1.00 p.m.

Sun 14th Dec Village Carol Service St Columb Minor Church 4pm (Ocarina & Choir involved)

Tues 16th Dec Key Stage 2 Carol Service in school at 2p.m. and 6p.m. Entry by ticket only

KS1 Xmas party 15th Dec

Year 3&4 Xmas party 18th Dec

Year 5 & 6 Xmas party 19th Dec



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Clams, and Limpets Year 1 News

It hardly seems possible that we are in December and in the run up to Christmas!

There are so many exciting things on the horizon for Key Stage 1 over the next couple of weeks.

Christmas Play

We have just begun rehearsing for our **Christmas play** – which is being performed for parents on **Monday 8th** and **Tuesday 9th at 2pm** and **Wednesday 10th at 6pm**. Your child will have 3 songs to learn. Two of the songs are being sung by all children but your child will have 1 song to learn to sing with their class – they are very, very easy – please can you help them with the words, which will be sent home to you in your child's book bag. There will be 2 tickets per family, the same as last year, and these will be issued on a first come first served basis in each class. A letter will have come out to you with all the details about the performances, times, costumes and how to get your tickets. Please see your child's class teacher if you have not had your letter! In that letter are all the details you will need to know – but do not hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher if you need more information.

Christmas Party

Our **Christmas party** is on the afternoon of **Monday 15th December**. Your child must come to school in their school uniform but they can bring party clothes to change into in the afternoon. A named hanger or carrier bag with your child's clothes on would be very useful! We will request that all children bring some party food to share with others. We are looking for savoury things like sausage rolls and sandwiches as well as biscuits and cakes. Last year lots of children brought fruit to share: pineapple, grapes and kiwi. This was fantastic and as we are studying fruit, vegetables and healthy food choices at the moment this will support our learning in a very positive way. The children loved the variety last year and we think they will again! We will send another letter closer to the time with all of the details you need.

What are we learning?

At the moment we are in the middle of a unit called "**We Are What We Eat.**" This unit focuses on looking at different foods, which countries they come from and whether they are healthy foods or not. We have had a great time designing and building cafes. We acted out the different characters in the café and enjoy playing with it each day. We have used ICT to make posters to go into our cafes and menus to go onto the tables. We looked carefully at a range of foods and drew them using a range of different art materials.

In the next few weeks we are looking at foods from around the world. Are they the same or different to ours? What countries do particular foods come from? Why do some foods only grow in certain places in the world? How do we get them to our shops and how is that food packaged? You could help us with this and get the children to

help you put the shopping away at the same time! They can help you look for packaging that comes from other countries and then put the things away for you. It doesn't matter whether it is just a label, however small, or a tin, carton or box. Please can you send it in **as soon as possible** to help us with our learning.

Finally.....

We are still looking for parents to come and help hear children read. It is really valuable for all children to have individual time reading with an adult every day. This time allows them to chat about what they are reading, the sounds in the words and the words in the sentences. We would really love to see as many parents as possible coming in to help hear children read so that every child could have that extra quality time every week for reading, in addition to the guided reading they do with their teacher. Please see your child's class teacher if you think you can give just an hour of time – maybe in the last hour of school before you pick your children up.

May we take the opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas!



From all staff in Year 1.



Christmas Lunch in School

Our menu is as follows:

Fresh Roast Turkey
With Cocktail Sausage & Sage & Onion Stuffing

Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sprouts

Specially made Christmas Desserts

Vegetarian option: Cheesy Vegetable Crumble

Last month everyone was given the opportunity to book their Christmas lunch. We are all looking forward to sharing this special meal together on Wednesday 17th December. If you did not book a meal for your child you will need to send him/her into school with a packed lunch on this day

All of our catering staff wish you all a Happy Christmas!



Dogs on School Premises

Can I please remind everyone that the exercising of dogs on school premises is **prohibited**. We would prefer it if we had no dogs on site because of the health and safety risks and also because we have many children and adults who are afraid of dogs.

We would appreciate your support on this issue.

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Oysters and Mussels Year 2 News

We are feeling very excited about the many special things on the horizon for Year 2 over the next couple of weeks.

We have just begun rehearsing for our **Christmas play**. You will find Performance dates in this bulletin. As last year a letter will be sent out to you with all of the details about the performances, times, costumes and how to get your tickets.

The **Christmas party** for all of Key Stage 1 is on the afternoon of **Monday 15th December**. Your child must come to school in their school uniform but they can bring party clothes to change into in the afternoon. A named hanger or carrier bag would be very useful! We will request that all children bring a small amount of party food to share with others. We are looking for savoury things like sausage rolls and sandwiches as well as biscuits and cakes. We will send another letter closer to the time with all of the details you need. Please let us know if you can help out at the party.

What are we learning? Our project at the moment is called "**Stories People Tell**." Following the visit of Pandemonium Theatre we have been focussing on Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories but are now looking at myths and legends. In **history** we are being detectives and trying to discover the facts that may be in myths and legends. In **art** we have designed and made our own mythical creatures, and in **geography** we have been learning to make sketch maps. In **RE** we will be learning about the Christian and Hindu Creation Stories and also in **history** about Theseus and the Minotaur. We are learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables in **maths** and are beginning to learn about division.



The **International Book Week** was very enjoyable for everyone, the highlights for Year 2 being the shared reading with older children, the parade around the village in

flag colours, and, of course the visit from the theatre company! Straight after Christmas we will be beginning our new topic, **Flowers and Insects**.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mr Walker who has been on Teaching Practise in Year 2 for the second half of this term, and to send him our good wishes for the future. Happy Christmas All!
From Mrs Woodfinden and Mrs Hoyle



Parents of children who will start school in September 2009

Do you have a child who was born between 01 September 2004 and 31st August 2005? If you do, your child is due to start school next September.

Does this include your child? Have you filled in the county admission form?

Even if you already have children attending Blue School – you still have to complete the county form – otherwise they may not get a place!

The closing date for applications for a place in a foundation class at your chosen school is **12 December 2008**. If your form is submitted after this date – your child may not be allocated a place. The 2009/2010 Guide for Parents is now available on: www.cornwall.gov.uk. Go to primary school admissions for the parent information leaflet and an admissions form. Alternatively, you can collect a form from Mrs Lowbridge at Reception.

Please remember to send your form into County Hall as soon as possible!!



Sports Update

Our **Girls Football Squad** have really enjoyed their coaching from Newquay ladies and Mr. Cook is looking forward to taking teams to the **Girls Football festival** on Monday 8th Dec. This club is very popular. Thanks Mr. Cook for your continuing efforts!

Our **Boys Football Team** was unfortunately knocked out of the cup last week losing 2-1 to St. Dennis. After watching the match I really couldn't believe we had lost! Mr. Boutwood picked an attacking team but after five minutes they found themselves 2-0 down due to a lack of early concentration. After that shock however the boys came storming back controlling the rest of the second half with numerous chances. After the break our boys piled on even more pressure and eventually got one back. In a thrilling finish Aidy Walmsley rained in corner after corner with St. Dennis panicking and our boys hit the woodwork twice (not to mention missing other good opportunities) but they could not get the equaliser in a game that they would have surely gone on to win. Well played boys and a lesson for next time; start concentrating with a high tempo from the first whistle and you will set the tone for the game. Hard luck! A special mention for Will Collins and Malachy Cash who had excellent games but **Man of the Match** was Aidy Walmsley for fantastic effort and brilliant use of the football.

Our **Cross Country Team** also raced in their league for the second time this month at Newquay sports centre but we have not received the results yet. Next month we will publish those results and race three! Well done all!
Russ Withers P.E. Subject Leader

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Attendance

As many of you are aware we are trying hard to improve attendance here at Blue School.

We work hard to make the school environment a fun and stimulating one. We are here to make sure your child reaches his or her full potential. It may seem obvious but if your child isn't here, in school, we can't help them achieve this.

As a school and as parents we need to work in partnership. The school needs to keep you informed about your child's attendance and promote good attendance. For your part, as parents, you need to encourage your child to come to school and keep the school informed of reasons for absence. To enable this partnership to work well we need to communicate. Please do not feel upset at being contacted by the school. We are trying to keep you informed. There follows a list of procedures that we use to monitor attendance and to treat everyone fairly.

- Teachers call the register at 8.55am. Your child needs to be present in class at this time.
- The school informs you if your child is regularly late- that is after 9.05am..
- We ask you to inform school on the first day of absence by phone or a letter
- A member of the office staff calls you if your child is not present and we have no reason for their absence. Are they safe?
- The school may grant authorised absences for holidays of up to 10 days (remember you need to fill in a form from the office), medical appointments, genuine illness and genuine absences that can not be avoided.
- We ask you to write a note explaining your child's absence on their return to school.

Absence is undoubtedly sometimes unavoidable. Shopping trips, birthday outings, visiting relatives and children looking after other members of their family are not absences that we can authorise. It is essential that we all recognise the importance of attendance and work together to ensure our children are able to benefit from their education.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me (Tamsin Irons- SENCO/Assistant Head) or your child's teacher. **Good attendance provides great opportunities for success.**



Welcome to new families

Recently we have welcomed three new families to our school. We welcomed Jessica Golden Clark and Abbie Pluckrose in Key Stage 1 and Liam Iles in Key Stage 2. We hope that you will be happy at our school. Parents we hope that you have made friends with your 'Parent Link'.

Anne Woolcock (Induction Tutor)



Mackerel and Cod News Year 3

We've had another busy month!
We have finished our first topic about

Habitats, and begun a new one on **Fashion and Music**. In December, we are going to be learning about and experimenting with different styles of art and music. In Science, we will be learning all about light.

We had a fantastic time during our International Book Week. Our 'Year 3 goes Bananas' theme was very popular with the children. Thank you for your support with flags, and finding red and white clothes. Many children did research at home about Indonesia and found out about fair-trade products which we really enjoyed sharing in the classroom.

This month there are lots of Christmas Activities coming up, so please see the section on Christmas dates. The **Key Stage 2 Carol Concert** is on **Tuesday 16th Dec**. Each class will have a carol to practise and perform and we would really appreciate your support in helping children to learn the words before the performance, and in bringing them back to school for the evening performance.

This year, Year 3 will have their end of term **party** with a disco on **Thursday 18th Dec**, in the afternoon. Children will need to bring in items of food to share, and their party clothes to change into on the day.

We already have several helpers in Cod and Mackerel and really appreciate their efforts with tables, reading and supporting children (and teachers!) in the classroom. Thank you very much to all our helpers. Once again, if you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you.

Finally, just a reminder. **Monday's** are a very busy day in Year 3.

Children need to bring in their **PE Kit** (including tracksuit trousers.) We do not have access to the hall on a Monday, and hope to continue to get outside as much as possible during the winter, We can only do that if children have tracksuit trousers to wear to stay warm.

On Mondays we also need the children to bring: their **Spelling Books** for weekly spellings; **fife**, for weekly fife lesson and **Rainbow Wall Books** to check how they are doing on their targets.

We hope Cod and Mackerel have enjoyed their first term in Year 3 and wish all of them, their parents and carers a very happy Christmas

Emma Lawton, Debbie Curtis and Helen Wilson



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Second Hand Uniform Shop

We have lots of items in our Second Hand Uniform shop. It is available in the hall every Monday after school. Prices are by donation. If you have any old uniform that you would like to donate please wash it, remove name tags and bring into the school office. Our thanks to Amanda for running the shop.

Remember this??



The picture above was taken at this time three years ago. Can I remind all parents to look back to last month's newsletter for a reminder of what to do in the event of severe weather conditions. (All previous Briefings are available on our website.)

Whilst we are on the subject of cold weather we insist that all children wear coats to go out to play from now through to the Spring. If a child does not have a coat they will not be allowed to go outside. Thank you for the support that we received on this issue last year.



It's Never Too Late to Learn! Family Learning Courses

We have now had three successive numeracy & literacy courses for parents and carers in the school and they have proved so popular that Family Learning is offering another numeracy course in the spring term.

The course will run throughout the term on Monday mornings from 9am until 11am starting on **Monday 12th January**. Look out for a flyer in the New Year and ask around; you might find someone who has been on one of the courses. A comment from one parent was: "I now approach reading with my children totally differently and the stress has gone!"

For more information, ring Vicki Salvidge/Family Learning on 01726 891993 or ask at the school.



Netball News

Imogen Hudson and Alex Pudney took part in a netball training session at Treviglas School last week, along with players from other Restormel schools.

They were lucky enough to be coached by Cornwall County players, under the watchful eye of Jean Davies, one of the England coaches! They enjoyed the session and learnt some new skills which they will be sharing with their club mates back at school!

Several parents have asked if it would be possible to organise an informal, fun 'club' at which parents and staff can play netball. If you would be interested in playing netball on a regular basis after school please let us know. We will investigate the possibilities if there is enough interest!

Sarah Woodfinden and Maggie Simpson



Rainbow Walls

You may have noticed a rainbow appearing in your child's class room recently!

We have introduced a system called '**Rainbow Walls**' to encourage children to practise counting and learn and remember addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.

Each class's use of Rainbow Walls may be slightly differently, but generally, children in the class will be working on targets from 2 or 3 different walls based on suggested targets according to their year group, and the stage your child is at in their own mathematical learning. As they progress through the school, they will move through all the colours of the rainbow from Red to Violet, and in Year 6 may be extended through a 'Gold' wall.

Each wall is made up of bricks with a number of targets, and your child's teacher will suggest which would be the most useful to begin with. The current targets will be displayed in the class, and children may bring it home in a leaflet, target card, or in a book. Rainbow walls are accompanied by ideas for activities that may help your child to remember their facts. Usually, a wall would last for most of a year. The emphasis is on children having a really good recollection of the facts they are learning. When your child has completed a brick in the wall, their teacher will probably ask them to outline the brick to indicate that they are confident that they have completed it. The teacher will check their understanding in school, and then they can colour the whole thing in.

We hope you will support your child with their rainbow walls targets. If you have any questions please see your child's teacher.

Helen Willson and Sarah Woodfinden

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Friends of Blue School (FOBS)

Hi everyone welcome to another update from FOBS.

WOW! What a great time we all had at the **FOBS quiz night**. There was a lot of "team rivalry" and we're still not sure whether the best team won!! We all think they must have cheated - but that's another story!! The night was great fun for all, and we would like to thank Barry for all his hard work in organising the event for us. The winning team were presented with a trophy that was very kindly donated by Paul Stokes of Modern Engravers, Newquay.

We then held a Christmas **bingo evening**, which was very well attended. Thank you to Grace, our own "in house" bingo caller. This proved to be a good family night with lots of prizes on offer.

All money that we have made over the last few months will be donated to the school, to help fund the new out door play equipment. The adventure play area has been in desperate need of an upgrade and hopefully will be done soon.

The FOBS committee have been working very hard this year to hold different events, but we are still very short of members. We are a very large school and yet we only have 12 regular FOBS members. Please give some thought on whether you could spare a little bit of time, maybe once or twice a year to join us. Your donations for raffle prizes for these events are very gratefully received, as without donations we would not be able to raise money for the school.

We hope everyone enjoyed the Pantomime on Friday 28th November, a lot of fun was had by all. We would like to thank the staff at Trelvelgue for donating the ticket sales on this night to us. (Especially Mr Finnegan)

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Thursday 4th December from 2.30pm until 5.00pm - We hope you will join us and have some fun. Thank you for all of the offers of help—we are still open to more!! Please remember to send in your raffle ticket money or unsold tickets this week. It is very important that we have unsold books back so that we can sell them at the Fayre. Each book is worth a £1.00 so any books left at home are losing us money!!!

Our classes are having a competition this year to see who can bring in the most donations for the Fayre. There's a box of chocolates on offer! Also remember that filling up a suitcase with your child's old toys is a good way of clearing some space before Christmas arrives. The children who run suitcases have a great time haggling with prices. Younger children, of course, need older ones to help them! Hope to see you at the Fayre—Come and meet Father Christmas!!

Suzanne Grice-Renault (FOBS Secretary)
Sue.gr@dsl.pipex.com



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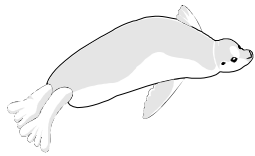
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Otter & Seal News Year 4

We can't believe we have had the pleasure of all the Otters and Seals company for nearly a whole term now! And we are again heading to the exciting time of Christmas!

We are continuing our **Pictures, Paintings and Photographs** topic. All the children are learning about different images using their senses, some of the skills they already have and learning new ways of thinking about or presenting their work. The enthusiasm with which they are working is lovely to see. We have been out and about looking for art in our community. Wow! We were all surprised how much is out there. This made our topic come alive for the children and increased its relevance to all the pupils. We have also had the pleasure of a visiting artist who shared their inspiration for their art and techniques. We look forward to inviting you to our galleries in the last week of term to share the children's work and possibly enjoy a mince pie. We will write with specific details in a week or two.

Book Week this year was a huge success. We would be very surprised if you hadn't heard about some aspect of our week, which included a number of different activities based around the story of The Lion King and our country of Kenya. Thank you all for supporting your child to dress up. We really enjoyed showing off our flags and colourful dress to the whole community.

Over the few weeks up to Christmas we are introducing a new and challenging way of encouraging our children to learn essential numeracy facts—Rainbow Walls. Your child will have specific targets to practice at home with you and then be tested in school, so they can achieve a coloured level which relates to our rainbow display. All of these facts are useful for the children to know 'off by heart' but they do need practice. We look forward to celebrating their successes in learning these facts.

It is feeling very wintry when we head outside for games. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit which should include a change of sweat shirt, trainers and if possible track- suit bottoms or appropriate trousers.

Thank you for all your support, especially with reading and homework activities. If you ever need to see any of our team please feel free to pop in, or call the office to make an appointment.



The Keepers of Otters and Seals



Flight! (Our new Dance group)

Our new Dance Club will be starting on the first Friday back after Christmas. Sessions will be from 3.15—4.15 p.m. and will be run by Emma Lawton. Initially this club will be open to Year 5 and 6 children and places are limited. To join please fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter. If you are allocated a place you will receive a reply from Miss. Lawton.



Hall for Cornwall—Cinderella

We are extremely proud that we have two members of Blue School performing at this year's pantomime. Jarod Smokvina and Rachel Millington have both been selected.

Please watch out for them when you go and give them lots of cheers!! Break a leg both of you!!!!



5th Newquay Beavers

A small group of parents are trying to 'restart' your local colony. Would you be interested in helping out? Do you have a boy or girl aged 6 or 7 who would like to join? If so please contact Hilary on 01637 874622.



Table Top Sale Pre-Christmas Bargains

Rock n roll Memorabilia—DVD's—CD's
Clothes—Toys & Games—Books—etc.

St Columb Minor
Memorial Hall—Church Street

Refreshments Available
Saturday 6th December, 2008
8.00 a.m.—Midday



It's that time of year!!

Don't throw them out—save them until after Christmas and we will start collecting again!!

Please remember we do not want your new one—it's the old one that you would be getting rid of. Also ask at work as the more we collect the more likely we are to win the competition!

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Governor News Results of Pupil Survey 2008

Below are the results of annual pupil's survey. This year all of the children took part, even the youngest ones. Thanks to those Year 6 children who patiently supported our Foundation Stage children. The results are very positive and for comparison I have included the figures from two years ago in brackets so that the can see which areas have changed. The children will be discussing the results at School Council next term.

We are particularly pleased with:

I think I am a good learner 71% Yes 2006 to 85% Yes 2008 (98% positive i.e. yes or sometimes!)

This reflects the hard work that we have put into introducing the Assessment for Learning strategy in all classes. We believe that the children now know what they are learning (the learning intention), how to achieve their learning (the success criteria) and what their next steps are. (from assessment / marking) This is reflected in our higher progress rates in writing across the school.

I enjoy writing 58% Yes 2006 to 74% 2008 (96% positive i.e. yes or sometimes)

This reflects the huge efforts that we have put into improving the way that we teach writing and our attempts to make it more fun! Children are now doing more writing more regularly. We are seeing progress rates going up as the enthusiasm goes up! We have Golden Writing celebrated in our Feather Assemblies and a record number of children attend Writing Club on a Tuesday evening.

I know what I need to do to improve my learning 67% Yes 2006 to 82% 2008 (94% positive i.e. yes or sometimes)

Again this reflects our Assessment for Learning Strategy as explained in the first example.

We feel that this is a very positive survey and will be interested to hear what the children feel about the figures.

	Yes	Sometimes	No	Not Sure
I like Blue School most of the time	86% (84%)	9% (10%)	3% (4%)	2% (2%)
I enjoy our IPC topics (new question)	80% (%)	14% (%)	3% (2%)	3% (1%)
My teacher listens to me	89% (82%)	8% (14%)	2% (3%)	1% (1%)
I think our school council makes a difference (new question)	74% (%)	15% (%)	3% (%)	8% (%)
I think that I behave well in school	82% (79%)	14% (15%)	2% (3%)	2% (3%)
I think that having a school garden is a good idea (new q)	89% (%)	7% (%)	2% (%)	2% (%)
Most of the children are friendly	74% (66%)	20% (27%)	4% (5%)	2% (1%)
I know what to do if someone is being unkind to me	86% (80%)	7% (12%)	6% (4%)	1% (4%)
I think that if you want rights you have to be respon. (new q)	86% (%)	6% (%)	2% (3%)	6% (2%)
I think I am doing well in school	84% (80%)	12% (12%)	2% (1%)	2% (7%)
I think that making energy is a good idea (new question)	91% (%)	5% (%)	3% (%)	1% (%)
I think that the things I do make a diff. to the world (new q)	72% (%)	17% (%)	5% (%)	6% (%)
I know what I need to do to improve my learning	82% (67%)	12% (18%)	3% (8%)	3% (7%)
I am treated fairly in school	77% (65%)	15% (24%)	5% (9%)	3% (2%)
I like maths (new question)	74% (%)	17% (%)	9% (1%)	0% (1%)
The teaching assistants in my class listen to me	86% (80%)	10% (15%)	2% (4%)	2% (1%)
My Middy Supervisor listens to me	80% (72%)	14% (21%)	5% (4%)	1% (3%)
I enjoy writing	74% (58%)	22% (27%)	3% (13%)	1% (2%)
I enjoy using the laptops	91% (92%)	5% (6%)	2% (1%)	2% (1%)
I am a good learner	85% (71%)	13% (20%)	1% (3%)	1% (6%)
I want to learn about other parts of the world (new question)	84% (%)	11% (%)	4% (%)	1% (%)

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tion) **pdfMachine - is a pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!** (%)

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Dolphin & Swordfish News Year 5

It has been an exciting month in Swordfish and Dolphins. Having now finished our **Mission to Mars** project we are very much enjoying looking around our classrooms at all the terrific work the children have produced, from non-chronological reports to fabulous space stations.

As always, Swordfish and Dolphins thoroughly enjoyed **Book Week**; so much so that the children all agreed there was nothing about the week they would change, that everything was just 'perfect!' We were particularly proud of the children's ability to work well together in groups during this week which resulted in some beautiful work. They very much enjoyed the African drum and dance workshops and the 'Around the World' experience in each class proved to be lots of fun.

Our focus for this term until Christmas is '**Artist's Impressions**'. During this project we will be considering how various forms of 'art' are perceived. In **dance** we will be exploring how different forms of music affect the way in which we move. In **art** we will be considering how the 'impressionists' saw the world and exploring how art can mean different things to different people. We will also be considering how 'pop artists' use everyday objects in their art.

Over the next few weeks we will be preparing for our Key Stage 2 **carol concert**—we hope that lots of you will be able to attend. We will also be thinking about the **Xmas Fayre and Suitcase Sale** as well as our **party and disco**. We will have so much fun in such a short space of time.

Throughout this period and over the holidays it is essential that your children continues to read and learn their times tables at home to support their learning in school. It really does make such a big difference!

We are actively encouraging all Year 5 children to become more confident and independent. In an effort to do this we are now going to be asking parents to say goodbye to their children on the playground in the mornings. (unless you need to see the class teacher) We would like you to allow your child to come into school at 8.45am on his / her own and then organise themselves for the day ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Happy Christmas**.

Helen Murray & Paul Boutwood



By the way we are **still recycling phones!!** Bring them in a plastic carrier bag to the office!



This month the Eco-team (representatives on the School Council Y5 and Y6) were sent an important email. This was from one of the companies that installed our solar panels. They asked us if we would film a short video to send to the leaders and politicians of Poland. We filmed it at school and enjoyed it very much.



You may have noticed our wind turbine is already up on the back playground. All we are waiting for is a windy day now to get the blades turning and the energy generating! The turbine and the solar panels will help us achieve the award for the most Eco-friendly school. We have the Silver award at the moment, but hopefully this will soon change, as we hope to get full Eco-School status next year.

Jess King – Eco team member and School Council representative.



Up-date from our Eco-Team members; Eve, Dawson and Gill Harper

We are pleased with our Wind Turbine! You will see it standing tall on our back field, next to our games wall. We would like to thank the Low Carbon Building Programme and CSEP for their financial support in this venture. Once it is fully functional we will celebrate our achievement within the community.

As you know earlier in the year we installed Solar PV panels. These are proving to be a great success and have already generated more than £500!

Our school garden is looking a bit sad at the moment because it had to be dug up for the cable to be installed for the wind turbine. In the spring we will be busy digging it and getting it ready to start growing things again—we would really welcome your help—**please tell your child's class teacher if you are able to help us in our garden**. For Harvest Festival this year instead of bringing in cans and vegetables we asked pupils to bring in a small contribution and have raised enough money to support a school in Africa to set up their own garden we hope to be able to link up with this school and track their progress. Other pupils on the Eco-team have been busy writing to pupils in the Gambia to find out what they grow in their gardens and we can then share their experiences.

On Wed 19 Nov – the School Council were able to cook pumpkin muffins and soup. We used our own pumpkins grown in our garden – they were lovely! A big thank you

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to Miss Lawton and her mum who gave up their morning to cook with us.

Thanks to the Newquay Rotary Club, our garden shed has arrived. Mr Timpson will be putting this up soon so that we can keep all our garden equipment dry and safe.



Progress on the Eco-Schools Programme

Jess and Tyler are writing to pupils in Slovenia to tell them how we have progressed on our journey to be more sustainable since we started on the Eco-Schools programme 12 months ago. We now have the Silver Award and are aiming for the Green Flag early next year. We really have made big steps into developing sustainability at our school, thank you to all members on the Eco-team.



Gardening

A MASSIVE THANKYOU to everyone who has collected the Morrison "Let's Grow" Vouchers as I write this we have 20,000 vouchers! If you still have any vouchers in your purses, drawers etc **PLEASE** can you bring them in before Monday 15th December as we need to place our order. Keep a watch on this space for photos of our new garden equipment.

Maggie Simpson



VACANCIES TEACHING ASSISTANT Grade C1

A Teaching Assistant is required to join the team at St Columb Minor School from 5 January 2009. The post will be for a minimum of 15 hours per week supporting a child at lunchtime and every afternoon. The post is to work with a child with physical and learning difficulties. Previous experience of working with SEN children is essential although some specific training will be given.

Application form and further details are available from the school office. **Closing Date: Wed 10 Dec at 12 noon**

MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

After Christmas we have a vacancy to join our dedicated and hardworking team.

Our supervisors share their lunchtime with a single class group supervising them through eating their lunch and play-time. Hours are Monday to Friday 12.10—1.20 p.m. term time only.

No experience necessary as training will be given.

Application form and further details are available from the school office. **Closing Date: Wed 10 Dec at 12 noon**



Sharks and Whales News Year 6

Year 6 have once again worked well and have had an exciting and productive month. We have started our new topic and the children are now busy **investigating boat designs** and what materials are used in boat building and why. Thanks for the extra materials the children have brought in!

Could we take this opportunity to remind you all that Year 6 children do need their **full PE kit in school each day**. Some children are beginning to forget or lose items and so a quick check to make sure your child is fully prepared would be appreciated.

As Christmas approaches we would like to remind children that we will soon be searching for "**Santa's little helpers**" who will sort and deliver all the Christmas cards that the children bring in and post in our Christmas post box! It's therefore important that children do not give cards out in class but post them with the full name of the recipient and the recipients' class name. This leads to exciting post each day without class disruption.

Congratulations must go to all the children on their general standard of dress. The children are looking very smart in school setting an excellent example and are refraining from wearing added jewellery. We are also very pleased that the children are now choosing to not bring in games and toys into school which can cause distractions in the classroom and possible arguments on the playground.

You will notice a marked increase in the amount of maths and English homework the children are receiving over the next four months as we build up towards the SATS. These homework tasks are especially designed to focus on children's areas for development and we would encourage all the children to treat their **homework** with the effort it deserves. Over Christmas your children will be asked to keep a daily diary to further develop their writing skills.

Finally we would really like to congratulate the children who have produced such **superb autobiographies**. The effort has been fantastic and the quality of the writing and presentation first class! The children are really enjoying sharing them in class. Also well done to the Yr6 Girls and Boys Cross Country teams who are flying high in their respective leagues.

Below are a few important dates to remember.

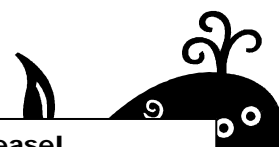
4th Dec – Christmas Fayre
16th Dec—Key Stage 2 Carol Service Afternoon and Evening (so please make your children are available to support!)
19th Dec - Yr 6 party!

We hope you all have a **fantastic Christmas and a peaceful new year**.

Ali Major
& Russell Withers

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ATTACH TO SUITCASE

Suitcase Sale

I give permission for (child)
 from (class) to sell from this
 suitcase at the Christmas Fayre. I have taped £1.00 to this slip on
 the case.

*My child is Key Stage 2 and can sell alone

*My child is Key Stage 1 and will be supervised by



Christmas Fayre 4th December

I would like to offer my services at the Christmas Fayre this
 year.

PLEASE TICK AS APPROPRIATE

- I am happy to be behind a stall
- I am happy to serve refreshments
- I am happy to set up from 1.30 p.m. onwards
- I am happy to pack away from 5 p.m.

Name (printed)

Parent of (child)

Tel. no.

**WILL ALL PARENTS PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING
 AT OUR FAYRE THIS YEAR??**



Step Into Your Child's Numeracy

I would like to book a place on the 6 week
 maths course organised for parents /carers.

Sessions start on Monday 12th January 9.15—11.15a.m.

Parent of Class

Signed

Contact me on.....



Cyclewise Training

This is a programme which we would like to
 offer to our Year 6 pupils again this year. I
 order to do this we need volunteers that would be interested in
 becoming instructors. Training is free and there are some
 courses coming up soon. If you are interested please fill in and
 return the slip below.

I am interested in volunteering as a Cyclewise instructor.

Name.....

Parent of

Contact no.....



FLIGHT DANCE CLUB

I give permission for

Child Class

to join Miss. Lawton's Dance Club

If my child is successfully selected for this club:

I will collect my child from school

Or

Please dismiss my child from school after the club

In case of emergency or cancellation please contact me

on.....(tel. no.)

Relevant medical information.....

RETURN SLIP TO MR WITHERS (who collates all club
 information)

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 product a lot easier to use and much preferable to Adobe's" A.Sarras - USA