

'Blue' Briefing



Also available on-line at www.blueschool.co.uk

January, 2010

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

Happy New Year!



A rather cheeky sheep at our recent Key Stage 1 performance of 'Christmas with the Aliens.'

Learning to ride the wave of life

Welcome to the January edition of 'Blue Briefing'.

The Governors, Staff, Children and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas fundraising events. Our Christmas Fayre proved to be a great success and raised in the region of **££1464.98!** I'm sure that you will join me in thanking all FOBS members who worked so hard to organise such a successful event.

The Key Stage 1 performances of 'Christmas with the Aliens' and the Key Stage 2 Carol Concerts were enjoyed by all. Thank you for helping your children with words and costumes for both performances. Finally, the parties were loads of fun and very lively. What a fantastic end to the term!

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

Swimming Arrangements

Events in school this Spring

Results of Parental Survey

Term dates for this year

Reply slips for all occasions!

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Welcome to New Staff

This month we welcome Andrea Bristow to our school. Andrea is now a member of our Teaching Assistant 1:1 team. We are pleased to welcome her and wish her every success at our school.

Anne Woolcock
Induction Tutor



Foundation Stage News Starfish and Jellyfish

Welcome back to a new term and a new year!

We hope that you all had a really good Christmas. Our part timers now join us 'full time' and it will be super to have the children here all day. We can achieve so much more!

We have just completed our topic of food and are looking forward to beginning our next topic this half term which is 'Shopping'. We hope to visit our local Cooperative store and Post Office as well as a trip to 'Morrisons'. We will confirm arrangements as soon as we can. Parent support will be very welcome! Please let us know if you would be able to help.

We will be turning our role play areas into shops and would appreciate any old shoe boxes or junk materials. During this term we also aim to have our own class shops selling second-hand toys and we will be asking the children to bring in up to 10p in change so keep an eye out for a letter with more information about the class shops. We want the children to use real money! We will be having a focus on **money** this half term so letting the children handle and recognise coins at home will be most helpful.

Our phonic work has been going really well with the children learning the sounds and how to write them. We will be continuing this and introducing *tricky words*! These are words that can not be phonetically sounded and need to be recognised by sight. We will be sending home tricky words within the next few weeks for the children to learn, as always little and often.



Our Kings at Christmas!

We will be going outdoors to explore and support learning. We have bought some outdoor outfits but would greatly appreciate if you have any wellies, old shoes and waterproof suits or an old coat that can be kept at school for your child. It would mean we can keep all the children warm and dry but they can still have fun!!

On a more practical level please can you ensure that your child's lunchbox is named clearly. If your child is having school dinners they cost £2-00 and can be bought on a daily basis. Water or milk is provided but juice can be bought for an extra 25p. If children bring dinner money it must be in a named purse or envelope. Thank you!

Once more 'Happy New Year' to all of you- let's hope it's a healthy one!



The Foundation Stage Team!



Term Dates 2010

Spring Term 2010

5th Jan—1st April

Half term Fri 12th—Fri 19th Feb

Closure day for staff training Friday 12th Feb

Summer Term 2010

20th April— 22nd July

Half term Mon 31st May—4th June



For Year 6 Parents !!!!!

**Year 6 SATS week 2010 is
May 10th—14th, 2010**

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 January

5th January Year 1 Circus Skills Workshop

6th January 6.00 p.m.

Friends of Blue School Meeting

7th January Rearranged High 5 Netball and Football Tournament

7th January Swimming Programme restarts (Year 4/5 are first—details to follow)

15th January Cross Country Race at Tretherras

25th Gifted and Talented English Day (local schools event.)

26th Gifted and Talented ICT Day (local schools event.)

27th January Girl's Football Festival Treviglas

28th SEN Parents group meeting 9am

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Warning of dates later in the term

4th February Parents' Forum 2.15 p.m.
All Parents welcome to come in and discuss topical issues with Jennie Walker, Headteacher. See slip at end of newsletter.

5th Feb CARE Day (Major fundraising event for pupils organised by pupils.)

Week of 1st —5th Feb
Parent Consultation Meetings for Parents of Children with Individual Education Plans.

Week of 8th Feb—12th Feb
Main Parent Consultation Meetings.



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.



Clams, and Limpets Year 1 News

Welcome to 2010!!

We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas with your children and they are now ready to start the new term with renewed energy and enthusiasm after a well earned rest.

We had such a lovely end to the Autumn Term with the Christmas play, disco and party. The topic we have just finished on 'Food' really seemed to engage the children. They particularly enjoyed the fruit salad and the World War 2 Christmas cake. The Yule logs were spectacular and a great way to end the unit: we hope you liked yours!

Our next unit of work is called "Circus". In this unit we will be exploring:

The History of the circus – linked to the amphitheatres in Ancient Roman times

Performers in a circus – such as jugglers, clowns, trapeze artists

Tents and other structures – the children will be designing an making a small structure

Famous performers from the past – such as the mime artist Marcel Marceau

How artists have used the work of circus' in their

Art – we will be looking at circus adverts and signs

Music used in and inspired by circus performers – we shall be looking at clips from the famous Cirque du Soleil

Poetry – inspired by the circus performers

As you know we have **Swamp Circus** visiting us today to get our topic off to a flying start! The children have learnt lots of great new skills such as balancing and juggling and have thoroughly enjoyed the day. Watch the website for the wonderful pictures. If you have not yet made a contribution and would like to do so please hand in it to your class as soon as you can. Thank you.

Please can you make sure that your child has their **named PE kit** in school every day and their reading and spelling packs. Thank you.

As usual we will be looking for more volunteers to help with reading and spelling. It really makes a difference if each child can be heard for just a few minutes as often as possible, everyday is even better. If you have a few spare hours we would love to see more of you in school!!! Maybe you have a talent or skill that you would like to pass on, we would love to hear from you.

Our door is open to you if you wish to discuss anything. Please do not hesitate to contact us.



From all of the staff in Limpets and Clams.



Sports update

The New Year sees a new set of challenges for the children who are involved in our sporting activities. The **running club** is hoping to continue where they left off last year and try to win their Tretherras league cross country competition. Our Yr6 teams are currently somewhere in the top two in their leagues and our Yr5 teams are in the top 4 so with a big push the cups could be ours! In the Restormel qualifying races there are plenty of our runners hoping to qualify for the county team. They are eagerly awaiting their race at Penrice. Results will follow!

Our **Boys Football** team have also been in action but unfortunately lost to a golden goal in their cup match against Carclaze. On a freezing evening our boys fought hard and were more than a match for their opponents in normal time. Mr. Boutwood and Mr. Cook were very proud; if a little frost bitten! They boys are looking forward to progressing further in their other cup competition this year and are really playing well.

Stop Press: **The NETBALL and FOOTBALL CLUSTER FESTIVAL** has been re arranged for the 7th January – results to follow. Good Luck to everyone!

R. Withers
P.E Leader

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Swimming this term

This term sees the start of our swimming lessons. Year 5 and 4 are the first groups to start on the **first Thursday back which is January 7th!** Again, this year, we are sticking with our programme which has been designed to accelerate learning and confidence as well as optimizing the use of time. This will mean that we will be asking for a voluntary contribution of **£2.20** to cover the cost of the pool time and travel. Please pay swimming money each week to the class teaching assistant. Parents don't forget to supply your child with kit, towel and encouragement! Our children need to realise how important these sessions are, especially in view of the fact that we are so close to the sea!

Thanks R. Withers – P.E Leader



**Oysters and Mussels
Year 2 News**

Welcome back to a new term at Blue School! We hope that you had a great Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year!

different lengths of day and night as the seasons change. Ask your child to describe what happens at dusk and at dawn.

We are very impressed with the progress the children are making in reading. During Guided Reading we have noticed how good the children are at answering questions and talking about the book we are reading together. Please continue to do this with your child at home when you are reading together. Thank you for your continued support.



Sarah Woodfinden and Mary Hoyle



SEN Parent Support Group

This group met on Thursday 3rd December for the second time. We did welcome one or two new faces which was lovely.

We heard from an Occupational Therapist who is willing to offer a free parents course about sensory impairment and how to support children with this difficulty. The group really liked this idea and the school is willing to host the course so look out for information coming out soon if you are interested.

We then discussed ways to support children at home, including the use of an IEP book where examples of children's learning linked to their IEP targets is recorded. A collection of information was given out about reading and maths support as well as confidence and self esteem boosts, which are so important to children's success. This group would like to be involved in making sure this information is available to all parents.

We decided to hold the **NEXT MEETING ON THURS 28th JAN** at 9am. The group then had a coffee and a chat.

This group welcomes all parents of children on the Special Needs register so please come along. We will be joined by our Focused TA's who provide small group and one to one support across the school to children with dyslexic tendencies, co-ordination difficulties and/or need extra support for reading, speech and language difficulties or a boost to their social skills. The aim of the group is to inform and support parents as well as keep the school informed as to parents' views and issues.

There is another opportunity to attend a Reading Without Tears course, recommended by our Parent Support Advisors. The courses will be on:
29th Jan at the NLP Office at Trevisker Primary School, St Eval 09:15 – 11:15
5th Feb at Goonhavern Primary School 1-3 p.m.

For further information see separate flyers, or contact me at school. You can call the PSA Office direct on 01841 541258

Tamsin Irons
Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Inclusion.

A scene from our Christmas Play.



This half term our topic is '**Day and Night**' and we begin our Entry Point with a very exciting visit from Newquay Zoo! During this time

the children will be learning about nocturnal animals so any books or photos you could send in to school would be useful.

During this unit we will be focusing on art, geography, music and science.

In **art**, we'll be looking at how artists have tried to show day and night, light and dark, in their pictures and trying to do the same ourselves. In **geography**, we'll be finding out why it's dark in one country and light in another at the same time and about what happens when the clocks change. In **music**, we'll be learning how composers have been inspired by thinking about day and night, bright dawn and quiet darkness. We will compose our own music with instruments and on laptops. In **science**, we'll be investigating how light is reflected, about darkness being the absence of light and how we make shadows. In **RE** we will be thinking about rules and about the beliefs of others.

You could help when you are out and about with your child by looking at shadows and discussing how long or short

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Mackerel and Cod News Year 3

Welcome back and a very happy New Year to you all. We hope that you had a great Christmas.

This term we are beginning a unit of work called "Earthquakes and Volcanoes". We are busy organising a special day to get our topic off to an exciting start. We are hoping to welcome visitors from Shelterbox so that the children will be able to explore the supplies that are sent out to disaster areas. Hopefully we have some expert campers in Yr 3 who can help to put up the tent! We will also be inviting the Red Cross who will show the children what to do when someone needs first aid. There will be a small donation involved to help these organisations with their charitable work. We hope you will support us as these experiences really do enrich the children's learning. We will give you details of the donation nearer the time.

The topic focuses particularly on **Geography** and **Science**. In **Geography** we will be finding out about how the earth is formed, where volcanoes are located in the world and what causes an earthquake. In **Science** we will be finding out about different materials, mixtures, melting and cooling. We will also be studying rocks, especially those created by an Active Earth. If anyone has any catalogued rocks or useful minerals we would love you to share them with the children in our classes.

We are extremely pleased with how many children continue to read every day at home. It is really paying off with the majority of children now moving on to library books. Please keep this up as it really makes a difference. It is really important that children read regularly even if they are able to sound out confidently as they need to be learn new words to become better readers. Well done to the children who have been working at home on their 4x table, it has really helped with their understanding of fractions during our previous work.

Please remember that the weather has turned much colder so your child will need a tracksuit or something similar for **Games**. Girls will need something to tie their hair back with and those who are wearing tights will also need to remember a pair of socks.

Now that we are in the second term we are going to be encouraging our children to become more independent. Therefore, we would like to politely request that children are encouraged to come into the cloakroom and classroom on their own in the mornings. As usual we are looking forward to seeing you at school during this term and if you have a spare hour or two and would like to hear readers, support children with their learning, or help with displays, then we would love to see you.

Thank you for your continued support.
Emma Lawton, Helen Willson
and Simon Rowe



Care Day 2010

On **Friday 5th February** we are holding our annual 'Care Day'. This is a fund-raising day organised by the children in Year 6 and is an important part of our Citizenship and Personal Social Health Education programme. It is also an enjoyable day and one which children remember. Class teachers will tell children in the week before, exactly what they need to bring to school on that day.

This year, as always, monies raised will go to an organisation chosen by the School Council. (The Precious Lives Appeal)



Inclusion News

As we begin 2010 just a few lines to say, well **done to all the children who received 100% attendance awards** at the end of last term.

Obviously absence is sometimes unavoidable, but well done to those children who were in school every day up until December 7th 2009.

Please remember to inform the school by phone on the first day your child is absent and then write a note for our records that the children can bring in on their return.

Tamsin Irons
Assistant Head with responsibility for Inclusion (SENCO)



Recycling of Christmas Cards

After Christmas you will be taking down your decorations and deciding what to do with your Christmas Cards. This year, as last year, we would like to encourage everyone to consider recycling their cards.

You can either take them to WH Smiths, a Tesco store, Marks & Spencers or a TK Max store where there will be collecting bins provided. Alternatively, you could bring them into school as we have a special blue bin ready to receive them. We will then recycle them on your behalf, whilst teaching the children about why this is important.



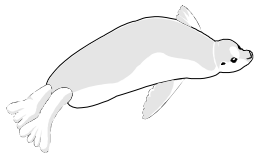
Design a Bag for Life

As you will have seen in the December edition of the Blue Briefing we launched these bags at our Christmas Fayre. These bags are now on sale from the school office at a cost of £3.00 in two sizes.

Please support us in caring for the environment and do your bit to 'Make a difference'.

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Otter & Seal News Year 4

Welcome back to a New Year. We trust that you all had a great Christmas holiday. We are changing our topic this term. Over the next ten weeks we will be following a unit of work on a theme which focuses on **“Inventions and Machines**.

Some of the activities to support our learning will be:

- Finding out about the inventions of the 20th Century and plotting them on a timeline
- Using different resources to find out more about inventions
- “Reinventing” machines and technologies
- Choosing our “best” invention
- Designing a questionnaire to find out how technology and inventions affect the lives of people of different ages
- Finding out whether inventions have made life easier or harder
- Looking at inventions in the home and host countries
- Comparing societies that have a lot of technology with those that have very little technology
- Identifying a problem in today’s society
- Inventing and building something to solve the problem
- Thinking about how technology and inventions have helped to create a global community

We will be starting off this topic with a **Non-Technology Day on Friday 8th January**. This presents us with an opportunity to think about how different life could be without all of the amazing inventions and machines we are all so used to. We hope to share some photos of us in our costumes with you in the next Blue Briefing. We thank you in advance for your support with costumes and entering into the spirit of the day by discouraging the use of technology at home as well as in school.

Swimming also starts for our Year group this term. This is obviously an essential skill for our Otters and Seals!!

Please remember the contribution of £2.20. All children should swim every week. If that is not possible because of illness please send a letter to school on the swimming day-**THURSDAY**. Make sure all swimming kit is labelled and in a waterproof bag. Your child must wear a coat at all times, but of course a warm one for Thursdays would be very sensible.

Watch this space for details of our trip this term—we are mid arrangements!

The Keepers of the Seals and Otters



Dolphin & Swordfish News Year 5

We hope you all had a very happy Christmas.

We are all very excited about the coming term. Our project for the spring term is **Making Things Go’**, in which we will be investigating the ways in which power is generated and consumed and we will be participating in the Greenpower Goblin Race Series for the third year. (www.greenpower.co.uk/racing/goblins.php) This project involves local schools building and racing electric powered kit cars, culminating in a real race meet, where the winners can progress to regional finals and ultimately to The Goodwood Festival of Speed. Last year we were very successful finishing 1st and 2nd overall and winning the sprint race trophies in the local and regional finals. We had a great time building and racing the cars and are looking forward to even greater success this year.

Almost all the subjects taught in the spring term will be related to the re-design and re-building of the kit cars in some way. We have two cars, one per class, to ensure that all the children are given the opportunity to have a 'hands on' role in the programme. We secured funding for the cars last year but as all working parts are susceptible to wear and tear we will be looking for funding to continue this project and replace worn out or damaged parts such as tyres, brakes and overalls. Should any parent that works in or knows of any organisations that would be prepared to give sponsorship for our project we would be delighted to hear from them.

Commencing Thursday 7th January, we will begin our 6 week block of **swimming** lessons. Please remember to name all kit and send in a suitable bag. (Plastic carriers all look the same and lead to mistaken identity!) We require a voluntary contribution of £2.20 towards the cost of transport and hire of the pool.

This year we have a very exciting entry point for our new topic organised with some people coming in from Camp Kernow to do some workshops with the children on renewable energy. Hopefully we will be building our own wind turbines !

Can we also take this opportunity to thank all parents/ carers for their continuing support with homework. We will be sending all homework home on Wednesdays and it needs to be returned by the following Tuesday. Remember to keep up the hard work with the spellings and times-tables.

Have a Happy New Year.

Julie Jenkin, Paul Boutwood and the Year 5 team.



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Friends of Blue School (FOBS)

What a busy time of year this is for all of us, especially our children! They seem to have a better social life than me!!

It started with the school fayre which was a great success and with the help of many of the children, we raised a massive **£1464.98**.



Then came "Christmas with the Aliens" school play which was fantastic. They all did really well. FOBS's sold raffle tickets at each performance and with your generous donations we made **£179.00**.

Then finally we held the FOB's Disco's that was enjoyed by all. There was a lot of glitter, sequins and spiky hair.

I am still unsure who enjoyed it more the children, the helpers or the teachers! We raised an amazing **£714.43** on the entry fee, pocket money and sweet stall. We must also thank DJ Simpson you were brilliant and even played my requests!!

Your generosity at this time of year with Christmas upon us and the "credit crunch" is truly fantastic. We cannot thank you enough. None of the above would be possible without you ALL, your donations, time and enthusiasm.

From January there will be a "Guilt Free" jar, hopefully outside Mr. Bennett's class, this has been suggested to FOB's with a great amount of interest. It's for parent/carers whose baking skills leave a lot to be desired or just don't have the time to bake, when we need your help for "cuppa and cake" mornings or at our fayres. They can make a donation to ease their guilty secret and feel guilt free! Or even just put in your small change in on the way past.

NOW RELAX AND ENJOY CHRISTMAS
.... As we will need YOU next year!!

All this hard work is for OUR children so they can enjoy an amazing adventure playground.

Rachel Northwood
FOBS Chair. (russrach20@hotmail.com)
Our FOBS group on Facebook is "Friends of the Blue School"



A message from Mrs. Walker!

A quick message to say how amazed and thrilled I am with the increased membership and enthusiasm of the re-energised FOBS committee. My thanks to everyone who has given up their time to support with events this year. I am looking forward to an exciting year of FOBS events.

Well done everyone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Sharks and Whales News Year 6

Welcome to 2010!

We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and that the children are coming back to a new term with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Over the next eleven weeks, we will be looking at the topic of 'The Physical World' where we will be exploring energy, force, light and sound. On Wed 6th Jan our entry point proves to be an exciting one where Mrs Ellis-Davis, a Science teacher from Tretherras, will run a carousel of fun and educational activities based on these areas.

During this term we will be completing a P.E unit on **Swimming**. The parental contribution each week including transport by bus and the swimming tuition will be £2.20. However, Year 6 we will not start until the second half of the term.

We have now ordered for Yr 6 our usual revision books that we sell to the children. These books we are able to purchase very cheaply and are happy to pass them on to you as shop prices are very high! The books match the children's needs very well and are set out in a fun, bright manner. Each week we would like to set homework revision from these books to ensure the children cover all the relevant areas of study before their SATs and so would encourage all parents to purchase them. We are able to provide these books in English and Maths for £2.00 each!

This term also, Year 6 are holding our annual **Care Day on Thursday 5th February**. This is a fund-raising day organised by the children in Year 6 and is an important part of our Citizenship and PSHE programme. It is also an enjoyable day and one which children remember. This year we will be supporting the Precious Lives appeal. We are anticipating another rewarding and enjoyable term for us all in Year 6.

Ali Major, Emma Stewart and all the Year 6 Team.



PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. WALKER

Parents Forum Spring Term 2009



Name

Parent of Year Group

I will be attending the Parents' Forum on 4th February.

Signed



Parental Survey Results 2009

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the parental survey. By the end point we had 120 parental questionnaires completed. A special thank you to those of you who completed the online version as this saved us having to input the data ourselves. The majority of questionnaires were done on line this year. The results are very positive. Here are the results:

	SA	A	D	SD	DK
My child enjoys school	73	26	1	0	0
I feel welcome	71	26	1	0	2
My child is progressing well	69	23	4	0	4
I know what my child is learning	65	33	2	0	0
I am kept informed about how well my child is getting on	67	31	1	0	0
I know how to support my child's learning	69	27	3	1	0
Good behaviour is encouraged	73	25	1	1	0
I believe my child is well taught	71	28	0	0	1
I find parents' eves helpful	69	27	1	0	3
The arrangements for my child starting school were good	69	28	1	0	3
I think the school values the views of parents	63	28	1	0	7
I am kept well informed	69	28	2	0	0
I think the school is well led	71	24	2	0	3
The school encourages my child to become responsible	70	27	2	0	1
The school is well thought of in the local community	68	28	1	0	3
I feel that I could approach the school with a complaint etc.	74	23	2	0	1
The school provides many learning opps beyond the classroom	65	33	1	0	1
I think that having a school garden is a good idea	80	20	0	0	0
The school keeps my child safe	71	28	1	0	0
It is important for ch. to understand their responsibilities towards the World	89	11	0	0	0
My child is enjoying learning thro' the IPC	71	25	1	0	3
The school gives opportunities to contribute to local community	65	28	3	0	3
The school promotes rights and responsibilities	69	28	0	0	3
The school promotes a healthy lifestyle	69	29	1	0	1
The sch meets my child's needs	71	28	1	0	1
Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school	74	25	1	0	0

THANK YOU!



At our January 'Whole School Review' day we will be adding our parental views to those of the governors, staff and pupils to help us to determine our new school improvement plan. Thanks again for your involvement!
Your views really do matter to us!!!!

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Eco-Schools Cornwall Sustainability Awards



On Friday 4th December Mrs Fergusson and Mrs Harper attended the 7th Annual Cornwall Sustainability Awards presentation which was held at the Royal Showground at Wadebridge. We were delighted to come first in our category which was 'sustainable communities'. We were the only school to be shortlisted in our category and were up against many businesses and organizations applying for this award.

Our school was one of 5 to be shortlisted for our involvement in tackling climate change within our Community. Thanks must go to everyone involved in making this possible. The areas that the judges focused on were: Energy, Waste and Resource Management, Water, Transport, Purchasing and the Local Economy, Buildings and land use, Employment practices, Environmental management and in particular *Community participation*.

The award which is displayed in the hall was designed by *leap* made from recyclable material. The School Council have agreed to have a similar award designed which they will award on a monthly basis for a class or individual



pupil who has made the best contribution to combat climate change during the month.

At the end of last term we planted some trees which were saplings 18 months ago and are now strong enough to plant out in our grounds. These trees will further reduce our carbon footprint, and begin our new biodiversity area which the School Council are creating to encourage wildlife. These trees were kindly donated to the school by the Woodland Trust.

Pupils from year 6 have also been busy planting some more saplings in our 'holding area' which we will grow on until they are big enough to plant out in the school grounds.

Through our involvement with the Woodland Trust and the work that we have done to plant and care for new trees over the past 2 years as we have achieved the prestigious **Gold award** on the Green Tree Schools Award programme. This award also entitles us to a year's free subscription to the Nature Detective's Club which I am sure the children will enjoy using.



The Children's Version

On Monday the 14th December, Y6 School Council members and the Eco-team were asked to plant some trees which had been previously donated by the Woodland Trust.

We planted many trees in various places; by the front drive, Key Stage 1 playground and on the back field. You will be able to watch these trees grow, Silver Birch are planted by the driveway and Cherry Trees are planted around the playground which will provide some shade in the summer. Finally, on the back field, we planted 10 Rowan Trees.

One of the Council members said 'it was really fun to go out and plant them and now we will be able to watch them grow'. Can we say a big thank you to Michelle, Mr Timpson, Mr Drake, the Eco-team and Mrs Harper.



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Governor Corner

Wow another year has been and gone and here we are in January. Happy New Year to everyone! I'm Sue Miller and it's my turn to write an article for the Blue Briefing..... I'm relatively new to school life and being a parent governor has certainly opened my eyes to how much work, behind the scenes, goes into making the school day work so efficiently. I've been amazed at the number of people involved and how helpful parent "helpers" are to do all those "little" jobs. I'm sure if any of you have any spare time your children's teacher would appreciate you volunteering your valuable skills. It may be you are asked to change reading books, hear readers, put important information into children's book bags, stick learning into books and generally help out. I have found this very rewarding and informative, both in my parent and governor role.

As part of my governor role I have become involved in the Children's Centre soon to be opening here at the school. The aim of the centre is to provide support for families of children who are under five here on our doorstep. Obviously, this will include a lot of us! This support should include access to health care, advice about groups you may like to join e.g. "stay and play", job and benefits advice, access to the internet and as a point of contact for other services that may help you and your family. I have been invited to be part of the Steering Group who will assist with opening the centre and its future running.

Please feel free to approach me with any queries or suggestions to incorporate into this exciting opportunity. It's early days in my role supporting the whole school and attending various meetings of the governors, but I have been involved in supporting the Foundation Stage. I am involved in Learning Together and preparations for this year's important session where we support new children and parents joining our school in September.

I am also, the "milk bottle top lady"!! I'd like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to everyone for their support so far. The money from recycling the bottle tops is used to pay for research into eye related diseases. Thank you again and keep collecting.

As a parent governor I am, of course, elected to represent your views. Please do find me in and around Clams classroom or via The Office if you would like a chat.

Sue Miller
Parent Governor

Parent Governor Elections

Mr. Gerry Hudson was voted in as a Parent Governor at the recent parent governor elections. Our thanks to everyone who voted in this election.



VACANCY

MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

We have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor to join our, dynamic lunchtime team.

You will share your lunchtime with a single class group supervising them through eating and play time. Hours are Monday to Friday 12.10 – 1.20 pm, term time only.

No experience necessary as training will be given.

We have a commitment to safeguarding children and the successful applicant will be required to provide an enhanced CRB disclosure.

For an application form please contact the school office tel: 01637 873958

Closing Date: 12 January 2009 at 12 noon



Out and About in Our Community

Our Choir have been very busy over the past few weeks rehearsing and preparing to entertain lots of people in our local community.

In our first performance of the festive season we joined with the other Newquay Schools at St Michael's Church for the **Newquay Joint Schools Christmas Concert**. This group raised £716.00 for Christian Aid.

Next stop was welcoming Santa at the Newquay railway station. This supported the **Friends of Trenance Cottages** to raise money for their worthy cause.

We then went to **Holly Bush Residential Care Centre** to entertain the senior citizens who live there. They loved us and gave us squash and sweets!

On a Sunday we took part in **St Columb Minor Church's** Christingle service alongside lots of other community groups like the Brownies. Indeed some of our choir members were singing for two groups!! Mrs. Walker was Mary in the play!!

In the last week of term we went to two more residential care homes for the elderly. The first was **Rialton Heights** and the second was **Newquay Day Centre**. All of the senior citizens were thrilled to see us.

At the end of term we performed at the final assembly to the rest of the school. At this assembly Mrs. Walker announced that we had received two donations for our hard work to support us in our trip to London! (See separate article) Our thanks to St Columb Minor Church and the Rotary Club of Newquay for their continued support.

We are now rehearsing and practising for London!!!!!!

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Some Thoughts from Rev. McQuillen-Wright (Governor)

Last month I attended two concerts. One in Carnglaze Caverns, the other, here in St. Columb Minor at the church. The former being Bodmin school jazz orchestra and the latter The Cornwall Chamber Orchestra. From blues and bond, to Bach and Haydn. And I realised just how much local talent there is available and around which can be accessed at all times. Hobbies, whatever they are, be it music or sport or anything else, sometimes begin at school, and very often are nurtured at school. It is the school environment that in so many cases gives opportunities that otherwise would be missed. How at 6 or 7 do we know what we want to do, either professionally or in our spare time, so having a broad breath of experiences which school provides is the only way for every person to realise their potential.

The ethos of our school as I understand it is that we are equipping the children in all areas of life, yes the government wants statistics for English and Math's, but life is so much more than statistics. Our Christmas plays, our sports teams, the choir are all part of the education of our children and we as a school are so lucky to have dedicated staff who give the extra time to enable our children to experience life learning away from the school desk.

When children don't get given this opportunity, the imagination and stimulative thought processes lessen, which makes a big effect on life long learning including English and Maths.

There is an American film based on a true story of a teacher at a school in Harlem. It is a tough school with a lot of socio-economic problems and the head is totally focused on raising the standards. Ted Danson plays the teacher who struggles to find a way to unlock the children's learning potential, but being a keen chess buff he teaches them chess. He is summoned to see the head and says, "You have ignored my instructions, my syllabus and everything you are required to do. Keep it up; your children's results are the best in the school". It is a wonderful story with a lovely happy ending and as it is true I am not afraid to admit that it had me in tears at the end.

Now St. Columb Minor School is like the teacher, Ted Danson and the government is akin to the head. We have given our children the opportunity of the international curriculum, which ensures that the children learn in new and imaginative ways. Alongside this comes all the extra curricular activities and the after school clubs. I urge everyone, wherever possible to give our children every opportunity to participate in all activities, not only will it aid their learning, it may also formulate their life!



We are very proud to announce that we will be taking the older members of our KS2 Choir to sing at a very exciting event at the O2 Arena in London on the 28th of January !!

We recently applied to take part in the 'Voice in a Million' event being run by Classic Media and were delighted to receive notification that we had been accepted to take part. We are the **only school from Cornwall** to be attending. This event is to raise awareness for adoption and fostering in the UK and abroad.

Classic Media are aiming to gather 4000 children ranging from 7 to 18 to sing together in harmony at the O2 Arena. This being a world-wide event, the same is being staged all over the world and the plan is to record the children singing and to aim for one million children's voices singing on the same track. We will be singing twelve different tracks on the day, supporting some professional singers and choirs and some who have found fame on Britain's Got talent!

This is a fabulous opportunity and I have been delighted with the overwhelming response by the pupils, parents and carers alike. We had filled our seats within two days!

Thank you to those who have gained seats on the trip, we will be holding a meeting in school to go through the travel arrangements and requirements of which I will notify you shortly. We would also be grateful if you could pay your outstanding balances as soon as possible to the school office.

If any other children would like to join our happy crew (choir) please come along to my classroom (Year 5 Swordfish) every Thursday lunch-time KS2 at 12.15pm and KS1 at 12.35pm.

Thank you all for your on going support,
Mrs Julie Jenkin. Choir Leader.



Music lessons

Music lessons resume again from Mon the 11th Jan. The days for each instrument will stay the same but the times of your child's lessons will change. As many of these lessons are during class time we alternate the time-tables so that each child is not missing the same subject each term.

There are currently spaces available in the woodwind lesson sessions of Flute and Clarinet for Yr 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. A space is also available for Drums lesson for any child in Yr 4, 5 or 6. These spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis so if you are interested in any of the above mentioned then please fill in a music lesson interest form from our school office and I will get in touch with you in due course.

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St Columb Minor School in the Community!



Entertaining invited Senior Citizen guests. Carols followed by cakes and tea!



Joining other groups at St Columb Minor Church.



Watching Mrs. Walker acting!



Entertaining at Rialton Heights and Holly Bush Residential Care Homes.



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