

'Blue' Briefing



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

March, 2010

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

Choir at the O2 Arena!



What an amazing experience! Singing with 5 thousand other children!! (See article inside)

Learning to ride the wave of life

Welcome to the March edition of 'Blue Briefing'. It really doesn't seem five minutes since the last newsletter! It's a short month because of the half term holiday and of course February only has 28 days! We certainly packed a great deal into those three February weeks!!

Care Day was a great success with everyone working very hard to raise money. Did you spot our very famous visitors in the press? The children excelled themselves as always! We raised an amazing **£610.10** which will go to the Precious Lives Appeal, the charity chosen by the School Council to benefit this year. Well done everyone!! Our **London Trip to the O2 Area** was truly amazing!! We represented Cornwall and waved our flag with pride. We also made friends with a school from Bury! **Parents Evenings** were held with 99% parents attending!!!!

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 Spring

Next issue April /May combined!

Term dates for this year

4th March World Book Day!!!

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Clams and Limpets Year 1 News

Well would you believe we are half-way though the year!! We have had a wonderful time finding out all about the 'Circus', from it's origins in the Roman Times to modern day acrobatic tropes.

Last week we started our new topic called 'Celebrations'. We shall be exploring why people celebrate and the different types of celebrations we and other countries participate in. As part of this we will be holding a 'mock' wedding, presided over by Reverend Chris, in St. Columb Minor Church and a reception afterwards in our classrooms. It was a great success last year, you may have even seen the photographs in the paper, and the children really understood the importance of celebration in our culture.

Another great celebration we will be having in a few days time (Friday 5th March) is **St. Pirans Day**. As you know we will be taking a trip to **Paradise Park** to see the baby Choughs and learning about the wonderful work they do there. You will soon be receiving another letter to let you know the final details of what the children need to wear and bring. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to their child's trip, because without them we wouldn't be able to run such an exciting and valuable learning experience.

Remember there is also a big celebration on Thursday 4th March, 'World Book Day'. Your child can come to school dressed up as a character from their favourite **BOOK**. It would be great if they could bring a copy of the book with them, if they have it, so we can share the stories during the day.

Tomorrow (Tuesday 2nd March) is **Clams 'lunch'** day so if you signed up to join your child for lunch please remember to be in reception by **12.10pm**. Next week on Tuesday 9th March is Limpets 'lunch' day.

In our last news letter we said a big thank you for your support with the new morning arrangements. We would like to reiterate that now and say what a difference it has made in a number of ways, not least to the calm atmosphere and eagerness to learn that it produces in the children. We would also like to say a big thank you to those parents who have themselves expressed their positive thoughts through 'parent consultations' and general comments to us; all comments on the matter are very much appreciated.

On the matter of parent consultations, thank you to all who have attended their appointments. We hope you agree that they are a vital and important time to discuss and celebrate your child's progress and to consider any points that could improve their learning and school experience even more.

If you have not yet been able to see us please arrange an appointment as soon as is convenient by speaking to ourselves at the end of the day, or Mrs. Mounter or Mrs.

Rogers in the morning.

Here's looking forward to the next half of the year and all the wonderful learning and achievements the children will be experiencing.

Kind regards
From all of the Year 1 Teachers and
Teaching Assistants.



Care Day 2010

Care Day was a great success with everyone working very hard to raise money. The children excelled themselves as always! They created a variety of stalls, games and activities to share.



Thank you to those of you who helped your children to prepare for the day by making cakes, designing games and of course giving them money to spend! The Year 6 children worked especially hard and managed to

entertain the entire school and some very important guests throughout the day in the school hall.

We raised an amazing **£610.10** which will go to the **Precious Lives Appeal**, the charity chosen by the School Council to benefit this year.

Well done everyone!!



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Keeping Our Children Safe Voluntary Helpers in School

Hopefully you will be aware by now that it is standard procedure to put all voluntary helpers in school through an induction process which includes a Criminal Records Bureau check.

We regularly organise briefing sessions for new voluntary helpers to talk them through some of the issues that they need to be aware of. If you are a parent or grandparent at home who would like to come in and give some time to help please feel free to give your information to our school office and we will contact you as soon as the next session is organised.

As a helper you do not have to give a whole day or even a whole morning / afternoon. We will use you whenever you are available. We are always looking for people to hear readers, which can be done at anytime of day, for an hour or, however much time you want to give. We will soon be looking for willing gardeners again, to help the children grow our own fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Please be brave and come and speak to any member of staff. WE NEED YOU!!!



Sports update

This month has seen the end of the winter **Cross Country** League races. After a long winter of competition the team are looking forward to the presentation evening and are confident of gaining some silverware! The runners have also focused on the second Restormel run and they are hoping to qualify for the Restormel team in the county championships on Friday 5th March. Good luck all round!

We have had children attending **indoor athletics** and **basketball** festivals at Newquay Sports Centre. Both festivals have been focused on fun and learning new skills. I was particularly pleased to see some children representing Blue School sports teams for the first time at these events! Well done and keep it up!

Swimming lessons have begun now for Year 3 and Year 6 this month. Parental contributions of £2.20 to cover transport and the hire of the pool and lifeguards should be brought to school on the morning of the swimming lesson. The children in Year 4 and 5 made tremendous progress last half term. Swimming is a vital skill for our children so please support this very valuable part of our PE curriculum.

We are hoping to include some **SURF** tuition for children in Year 5 and 6 next term! Watch this space!

Russell Withers Physical Education Leader



Oysters and Mussels Year 2 News

We have all thoroughly enjoyed our **Night and Day** topic! The visit from the zoo inspired the children to find out many facts about nocturnal animals! We were impressed with their information writing!



Thank you for supporting our charity on Care Day. The children handled their money well when making choices about what to spend it on, and were very generous.

This half term our topic is called **Flowers and Insects**. As part of our **Entry Point** the children will be making a miniature garden in a box.

In **Science** we will be learning about the conditions needed to help plants grow, why different plants and insects live in different environments and about life cycles. In **Art** we will be learning about the work of artist and author Eric Carle. The children will use his ideas in their own work and will hopefully produce some large scale sculptures. In **ICT** our learning focuses on data bases and spread sheets. This will be linked to science where we will be sorting and classifying flowers and insects. In **RE** we will be looking at special festivals and will visit St Columb Minor Church to participate in a baptism service. We will be asking for volunteers to accompany us nearer the time!

As a culmination to our topic, on Wednesday 31st March, we will be having an **'Ugly Bug Ball Day'**! This is an early warning because your child will need to come dressed as a bug on that day!

Research has shown that when children learn and recite poems it can have a positive impact on their literacy skills. In Year 2 at the end of each week we will be giving the children a poem to practise at home over the weekend. (Please return the book on the Monday). We will continue to learn and recite the poem at school over the following week. Any support you can give your child with this will be very welcome!

It was great to see so many of you in school for parent consultations. Remember that you can always approach us if you need to discuss any problems.

We would love to see you at school if you have a spare hour or two and would like to hear readers or help children with their learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Woodfinden and Mary Hoyle



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Friends of Blue School

Hi everyone welcome to another update from FOBS.

Thankfully, February is always a quieter month! The FOBS committee still meet every month on the first Wednesday (in the staff room). We still have plenty of room for more people - Come along and join us - You don't know what its like until you try it!!

On **March 19th** we will be holding our ***Easter Family Bingo***. We are in need of donations for Bingo prizes and Raffle prizes - All donations gratefully received - Chocolate, Easter eggs, unwanted gifts, etc. etc. Doors will **open at 6.30pm** with **eyes down at 7.00pm** - Please fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter to reserve seats just so we can get an idea of how many people to cater for.

Easter Bonnet Competition Thursday 1st April!!!!!!!



The date of the next FOBS meeting is Wednesday 3rd (6.00pm) We look forward to seeing new faces!



Mackerel and Cod News Year 3

First of all, thank you all very much for your support on **Care Day**. Many people were very generous with their donations. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and Year 3 raised about £50.

Swimming has got off to a great start and will continue through the rest of this half term. May we remind you that, children with long hair need it tied back before entering the pool. Also, if there are any parents who would like to help during swimming please speak to any member of the Y3 team. An extra pair of hands is always useful and greatly appreciated.

We will continue with our **Earthquakes and Volcanoes** topic this month. We have been incredibly impressed with the amount of enthusiasm the children have shown by researching at home and bringing in a huge variety of artefacts to share with the class. We are looking forward to sharing the Volcano homework topics later this week.

We have heard from our link school in **Peru**, where there has recently been severe flooding. Year 3 will be helping with a presentation for the ASHDEN sustainability award that our school has been nominated for. Our school has helped to provide solar ovens for the school in Peru, and we learnt about solar technology in our One World Week

back in the Autumn term. We will be telling the judges all about it on 9th March and are also looking forward to sharing our learning with you tomorrow (2nd March) afternoon.

We were very pleased to see so many of you at the consultation evenings and hope that you found it a useful and informative time. We are very pleased with how hard many of the children are working on their Rainbow Walls targets and with their reading and spelling at home. Please keep it up!

Our next **Literacy** units are **Information Texts** where we aim to write our own books on earthquakes and volcanoes and **Authors and Letters** where we will be studying the stories of Dick King-Smith. There are plenty of his books in Newquay Library if you fancy getting ahead of the game!

As always, if there are any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact school to make an appointment.

Emma Lawton, Helen Willson and Simon Rowe



Porth is our adopted beach!

How much do you love this beach??

As part of our plight to care for the environment our school adopted Porth Beach last year. It is our responsibility to monitor the rubbish and cleanliness of the beach and report back to the Marine Conversation Society to assist with their studies. We also take part in regular clean ups!

Key Stage 2 children will soon be taking part in clean up sessions on the beach as the weather gets nicer. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Mr Nigel Timpson, our Site Manager, who will be able to give you more information.



Quiz Team

After our superb win in November against some of the Newquay cluster schools, we look forward to the second round on Monday 1st March.

Fingers crossed we will also be part of the final at Newquay Junior School on the evening of Monday 22nd March!

Keep swotting up quiz team!

Emma Stewart (Leader for Gifted & Talented Education)

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Book Fair

Many thanks for all your support at our Book Fair this term. Once again there was a great selection of books to look at and buy. Due to your generosity we made £500.00, which means we get £200.00 worth of free books for school!

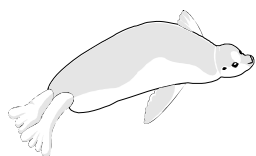


World Book Day Thursday 4th March

World Book Day is fast approaching when the staff and children will be dressing up as book characters. During our Key stage assemblies there will be a parade from each class where the best costume will receive a book prize. Don't forget to send the book along with your child so he/she can talk about his/her character.

During the day all of the children will receive their national £1.00 book voucher. This year they will be able to use the internet to listen to the authors reading their stories before buying them. Each class will also be pairing up with another year group to share books and read to each other; an activity which the children love. As always it promises to be lots of fun!

The Literacy Team



Otter & Seal News Year 4

Thank you for your support with **swimming** last half term. All of the children seem to have really enjoyed their swimming sessions and you may have had a certificate popped under your nose by a proud son or daughter! From now on we will be returning to PE in school. It would be most useful, as the weather is improving, if the children's kit could stay in school all week. Obviously at this time of year; sweatshirts and jogging bottoms are still required.

We would like to thank you for your support in all the activities that your children have been involved in over the last half term. The trip to **Poldark Mine** was a great success, with all the children gaining a lot from the day. They were especially excited to go underground!

Great fun was had by all on **Care Day** and in Year 4 our Otter and Seal 'small change' mosaics contributed well to our final total.

It has been lovely to meet you over the last few weeks to update you on your child's progress. Thank you for making the time to attend. If you haven't met us yet we will be in touch to re-arrange a mutually convenient time.

In a few weeks time we will be starting our next topic entitled '**Significant People**', just to warn you in advance

this will involve another dress up day, where children will be asked to come as a significant person of their choice.

This half term we are also lucky to welcome **PLYMOUTH ARGYLE** coaches into our PE lessons to help with our health, fitness and diet! Each Friday afternoon we will be receiving 45 minutes with the coaches as part of our P.E curriculum and PSHE development

And finally a huge congratulations to all the Yr 4 children who have competed in the Yr 5 cross country team this winter. They have made a real difference to the team and gained excellent experience for next year!

Thank you again for your continuing support. The Otter and Seal Keepers



Children's Safety Comes First

The use of the pedestrian entrance is now well established and we have had a positive response from most parents. We need to maintain this route into school in order that we keep the safety of our children a priority when pupils arrive and leave the school.

We would also like to remind you that the '**drop-off**' zone should be used just for parents to literally see their children safely out of the car and onto the pavement in order that they can then arrive at the school safely.

If you choose to **arrive by car and want to bring your children into school**, we ask that you find an appropriate parking space outside of the grounds and use the pedestrian access. If you are a Volunteer Helper we would also ask that if you arrive by car that you park outside the school grounds, as we have limited parking.

Remember that the **school driveway is for traffic only** and there is a separate footpath for pedestrians. **The School Crossing Patrol** is sited where the footpath meets the road so that pedestrians can cross the road safely and we are asking for everyone to use the patrol to cross the road and for parents and older children to bear in mind that they should set an example to younger children.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Cyclewise in Yr5

For the second year our Yr 5 children have been given the opportunity to complete the Cyclewise course to gain vital road safety and cycling skills. Every Friday for one hour they will be working on our playgrounds and local roads to complete their six week course. Good luck and stay safe

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Swordfish & Dolphins News Year 5

We would like to start this month's newsletter by thanking all parents and carers who attended their parent's consultation appointments. It is a valuable meeting where we can explain to you how well your children are progressing, the learning they have experienced and to review and set new targets for them.

This half term is a very exciting time for the children of Yr 5. It is the time to bring the **electric kit cars** out from their winter storage, ready for this year's, pupils to strip down rebuild and race against other schools across Cornwall. Much of the work we do this half term will be centred about this project; In **D.T and Art** we will be designing a new corporate image for the team and car, and designing practice race tracks. In **literacy** we will be writing letters to local companies to seek sponsorship and in **science** we will be looking at forces and materials for the rebuild and to build in safety features.

The cars form part of our '**Energy and Fuels: making things go**' unit. The idea being that the children have gained an awareness of renewable and non-renewable sources of energy and their effect on the world's environment and are now looking to the future of fuelling our growing transport demands. We use the electric cars to show that it is possible to produce a green vehicle and have fun in it. For more information on this project you can go to www.greenpower.co.uk.

There will be events in the summer term you can attend as spectators to cheer on our racing team. More details of these will be available nearer the time.

Before the half term holiday we were fortunate to watch Tretherras' production of '**The Wiz**,' a modern interpretation of The Wizard of Oz. We were very impressed with the talent of the staff and children who

acted in the show. Many of our children found it inspiring to see ex-pupils taking the stage with such confidence. A great experience.

Swimming has now ended and we will now resume our normal **P.E sessions**. This means the children will now need to have separate indoor and outdoor kits in school. It is still cold and muddy outside so their outdoor kit must be both practical and warm.

Thank you for your continuing support with your child's education. Please listen to them read, help them to learn their times tables and spellings and remind them to complete their homework to the best of their ability.

If any parents or carers wish to become involved in the kit car project, or own/work for a company that might be able to offer sponsorship enabling us to purchase tyres and parts for this season, or can help us to transport the cars to events, we would be very appreciative of your time and help.



The Yr 5 team.

Vouchers

Tesco for Schools

Vouchers are available in store from today... So please help us this year, our target is 10,000!

Sainsbury's Active Kids

It's Sainsburys Active Kids time! Last year, you helped us to collect a fantastic 4066 vouchers which meant we were able to get a mini soccer goal & cooking equipment. We are going for a target of 5000 vouchers this year. So please help us make this year even better!

Flora – To help us get cooking equipment please collect flora lids.

Also ongoing vouchers are **Nestle Box Tops** and **Milk Bottle Tops**.


The collecting boxes are just inside the door of the library. **THANKYOU!**

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Sharks and Whales News Year 6

Firstly we would like to congratulate all of the Year 6 children for organising and running a record breaking **CARE DAY! We raised over £600!** It was an exciting and fun atmosphere and the day was a real success. The Precious Lives Appeal has been one which has really focused the children's minds on how lucky they are! Well done everyone!

Within the classroom we are now moving into our final weeks of revision before the children sit their **SATs** (National Tests) from 10th - 14th May. At home, we would encourage parents to use the **English, Maths and Science revision books** to reinforce the revision areas that the children are tackling in school each week. The children are fully aware of which areas they are studying each week and understand that these books are an excellent reinforcement of them. You might also like to look at the BBC Revisewise site which is an interactive and fun way to revise (www.bbc.co.uk/schools/revisewise).

The children have already seen an increase in the amount of work they are expected to do at home and we are delighted at the amount of effort and resulting quality of work we are receiving. Their enthusiasm and dedication is excellent. Keep it up!

We would like to thank all parents for attending recent **parent's evenings**. This time is vital to address issues and inform on progress. The overwhelming positive response from parents allows us to do this well. Remember that you don't have to wait until a parents evening to come in and see us. If you have any concerns or problems concerning the approaching tests please come in to see us as soon as possible.

Finally just a reminder that March continues to be our **swimming time**. We will continue to be going to Waterworld every Thursday morning at a cost of £2.20 per session. The children will need their kit, towel and money each week. These sessions cater for all abilities from the non-swimmers to our more advanced pupils within small groups. This should allow all children to progress quickly and with confidence. We hope you notice the difference next time you go for a family swim.

Year 6 team.



In January I had the pleasure of taking 30 members of our KS2 Choir to sing at the O2 Arena in London.

Our day began meeting at 5 am in the morning! Considering the time of day everyone was bright and breezy! Thankfully the weather stayed mild and we avoided any snowfall and cruised on our luxury coach to the O2. On arrival we had our lunch and then made our way into the O2 to meet the 5000 other choir members taking part !! We were all so excited not only because of the size of the event but also that we were the only school that had been chosen to represent Cornwall. We rehearsed the 13 tracks that we were to sing all afternoon and then stopped to eat our tea. It was so much fun joining in with Mexican waves and an enormous Simon Says game of 5000 participants. (Clips of which can be seen on YouTube) We were all given Voice in a Million t-Shirts to wear and glow sticks to wave. Everyone looked fantastic.

It all came together at 7.30pm when the concert started. We were supported by professional singers and choirs and some who have found fame on Britain's Got talent! The sound was incredible and equally as emotional as some of the words in the songs were so moving.

The event was to raise awareness for adoption and fostering. The organisers of the event gathered together 5000 children ranging from 7 to 18 to sing together to represent the amount of children in this country waiting for adoption. This was the first of what will be a world-wide event. The plan is to record the children singing and to end up with one million children's voices singing together on the same track. I understand that the recordings can now be purchased from the Voice In A Million Website.

The children enjoyed the star spotting as the evening's hosts were Nicky Campbell from Watchdog, Sinita former popstar and more recently Dancing on Ice contestant and Rick Wakeman music legend who was one of the main brains behind the event.

The Concert finished at 10pm and it was back to the bus to leave for home. After a quiet journey we arrived safely back at school at 4.45am. What an exciting and busy 24 hours we had, had. It was an amazing experience for all involved in this spectacular event and we are so grateful to **Newquay Rotary Club** and **St. Columb Minor Church** for their financial support without which the trip would not have been possible. Thanks also to all the staff, children and parents./ carers who were able to attend. Everyone's support has been brilliant and thanks goes out to everyone for backing me in this project of which was organised at very short notice but I am sure you will agree was an opportunity not to be missed.

Julie Jenkin Choir Leader

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Free computer course at St Columb Minor CP School with Family Learning

Family Learning is running a beginners' computer course at St Columb Minor CP School starting in the summer term on Tuesday 20th April at 9.15 - 11.15 for 10 weeks.

The course is free and aimed at parents, grandparents, carers and anybody who is connected with a child at the school. The aim of the course is to build your computer and IT skills which will help you to help your child. The main areas covered are word processing, internet use, internet safety, emailing and looking at what your child is doing at school with computers and IT. The course is aimed at beginners or those with basic computer skills.

The tutor, Ian Barnes, works in an informal, relaxed way making the sessions enjoyable, stopping for a tea and biscuits break mid-session. The course is planned to run for 10 sessions. Why not come along for the first session on 20th April at 9.15 to meet the tutor, try our excellent computer suite and see how you get on?

We need 8 parents to run the course so please take this opportunity to learn some new skills. Look out for posters and flyers and sign up or contact the school office or any member of staff now for more details. If you fancy it why not 'phone a friend' and come along together. Funding for child care may be available.

Ian Barnes, Family Learning 078111 79401



FILM CLUB

What a fantastic time Year 2 have had sharing some amazing films with their friends! Afterwards many of them have raced home to post their reviews on the website at www.filmclub.org Year 2 have been practising their literacy skills and using conjunctions to improve the quality of their reviews. The Film Club leaders have been very impressed!

Here are some examples straight from the web site.
Cloudy With a Chance Of Meatballs By Megan (member)
I liked it because it was very funny all the way through. It was sad because Flint's dad didn't believe Flint first but at the end he did.

BOLT By Toby (member)
I'm giving this film 5stars because I loved it! I loved it because Bolt has a happy ending.

Fly Me To The Moon By Jack (member)
I liked the bugs going to space, but it doesn't make any sense.

G-Force By Shea (member)
G-force is very EXCITING because I like the idea of

guinea pigs being secret agents.

The next 5 week season of films starts on Tuesday 2nd March and is for YEAR 3. We hope to see as many Year 3's as possible then.

Sarah Woodfinden and Maggie Simpson

Eco-Schools Gardening Club

In Gardening Club we are going to plant some spinach seeds for a competition. If we are lucky, our school might win and then we would send our garden to the Chelsea Flower Show. First we need to sow the seeds in pots. Then when they are big enough we will plant them into a special crate that we have been sent.

Our school has been collecting Morrison's vouchers and Miss Simpson filled in a questionnaire. Our school was one of 100 schools picked to grow for Chelsea. 30 of the best crates will be chosen so we hope our spinach grows really well. We have also been sent a camera to take pictures of our spinach project as it grows.

Gardening Club is wicked. We have been doing a lot of digging, and putting manure in to make the soil better (and to make it smell more!) We found a few potatoes in the soil that had got left behind and we have pulled out loads of huge stones. Luckily now we have nearly finished the digging and we are all ready planting!

Charlie and Amelia Tucker
Year 3

STOP PRESS

We will soon need to build some scarecrows, and other bird scaring devices. For this we will need old children's clothes, including gloves and hats and old CDs. If you have any of these at home we would really appreciate any donations. Thanks.



We are delighted that we are one of ten UK organisations to have been shortlisted for the Ashden Awards 2010. There are 6 UK awards; one or two of these awards will be made to schools. The awards are for schools which made sustainable energy a key ongoing part of their practice and culture. The winning schools need to demonstrate successful practices which can be replicated elsewhere. On 9 March, two judges will spend the morning at our school to gather evidence to support the information on our application and to clarify technical and management details by talking to pupils and staff.

The judging panel then meet in April to agree six finalists across all four categories, with schools being one of these. We will let you know how we get on!

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Generation Green Manifesto

Ex pupil Jessica King continues her Green campaign. She believes "humans are destroying

the planet and must take responsibility to change things for the better".

Since leaving our school last July, Jessica has continued to work with other pupils selected to take part in the Generation Green Think Tank and has been busy designing plans for a 'Sustainable School'. Her design includes many green energy systems. Jessica said that "the best energy saving inventions of all time are solar panel and wind turbines because they are money savers and generate lots of energy" this certainly has been true at our school.

Working with the 'Think Tank' has enabled Jessica to express her points of view about climate change and the green issues that affect the world we live in. Last month she went to London to present the Generation Green Manifesto to MPs at the Houses of Parliament. The recommendations that were put forward in the manifesto were:

- Carbon reduction targets
- Green Education
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Usage
- On-the-move recycling facilities
- Commercial recycling facilities



Further explanation of what each one entails can be found on the Generation Green website
www.generationgreen.co.uk

We hope that Jessica continues her good work and continues to introduce further environmentally friendly issues.

Remember

'IT'S OUR FUTURE. IT'S NOT RECYCLABLE'



School Garden

We are now busy preparing our Fruit and Vegetable garden. Michelle Griffiths has been working hard helping us to plan a 4 year crop rotation. We are very excited about growing our own fruit, vegetables and flowers and looking forward to tasting our produce! If you are available to help us please contact Gill so that we can work out a rota. If you are keen to help but don't know much about gardening but are willing to learn, come on a Monday morning or afternoon and Michelle will be happy to pass on some 'top tips' in return for help with sowing seeds, potting-on, planting, digging and weeding! Maybe you would be willing to run our Garden Shop on a Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning - please speak to Gill or Nigel if you are interested.



Sustainability Forum – Sharing Good Practice

Gill Harper recently attended the SEEd Forum in London thanks to the financial support of Andy Tanner; Director of Plug into the Sun and Veryan Jones; Sustainable Officer.

It was a great opportunity to network with many environmental representatives, regional sustainability officers and influential personnel from DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) and SEEd

It is hoped that the South West Regional SEEd conference in June will be held in Cornwall. Gill is part of a working party developing and promoting Educational Sustainable Development across other primary and secondary schools in Cornwall.

Please return to school office!

Friends of Blue School

Family Easter Bingo



I would like to reserve _____ seats
(number) for the Easter bingo.

Name _____

Class _____





Governor Corner

Hi there my name is Mark Jenkin and I'm a parent Governor at the school and am also on the teaching and learning committee. This academic year I have been fortunate enough to have spent some time in the classrooms and also been included on a couple of school trips.

When asked to attend one of the school trips, memories of my own primary school day trips came flooding back. At Blue school this was the first school trip I have been involved with since my own childhood. It is amazing the impact that these trips have and how they give a lasting impression to those involved. The one trip that stood out for me whilst I attended the local infant school was when my parents paid the vast sum of 14 pence for me to join the class for a helicopter ride around Marazion. I won't say how long ago that was but you can judge for yourself !!

I had forgotten the level of noise and excitement that can be generated from 60 plus children, especially in the confined space of a double decker bus. It was great to experience first hand the enthusiasm the children have on these trips and their willingness to get involved and to ask questions in order to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the subject. This is made easier by the modern approach to teaching and by the dedication and commitment of the teachers and support staff, without which, the trips would never take place.

As a parent I know that sometimes it is all too easy to be complacent about school trips and have the belief that it's 'just another trip', or it's an 'easy day for the teachers'. Now whilst experiencing it first hand, I know how much time is spent planning, organising and risk assessing these trips for the enjoyment of the children. Having been on these trips and spent several hours with the pupils. I know just how beneficial the trips are and as for the teachers, it's certainly not the 'easy option'. There is not a minute when the teachers and support staff can relax as they are caring for our precious ones every second. Whether it is assisting the learning or sorting out the spilt drink in the packed lunch box they are constantly on the go. I am looking forward to the next one almost as much as the children ! The trips are an amazing and positive learning experience which go hand in hand with the topics the children are learning in class and a great way to motivate their studies.

A few weeks ago I was assisting in Mrs Majors class in order to see some of the techniques used in motivating the pupils in class. I was impressed with the 'Special Day' award. For those who aren't aware of the mechanics of it I will explain. Each morning a pupils name is drawn out and the pupil who is picked is chooses between four to six pupils in his/her class to share something positive about them. These pupils then choose a word off a board which they think describes the person who's special day it is. For example they might choose, 'good friend', or 'responsible' or 'kind'. The 'Special Day' pupil then receives

privileges/responsibilities for the rest of the day. This helps create a positive ethos within the class environment and has the effect of negating bullying. The result of this is that children look for the positives in others which leads to a much happier and healthy environment for the child.

Being a Parent Governor I enjoy sharing with my own children who are in Year 3 and Foundation Stage their experiences of the day. School has changed dramatically since my time in what was then known as the Infants (today KS1) and Juniors (today KS2). Today their curriculum is so much wider and varied and open to a huge range of experiences, resources and expertise at such a young age. The positive ethos of our school encourages a happy and rewarding learning environment of which I have enjoyed experiencing first hand.

Mark Jenkin
Parent Governor



Internet Safety Presentation to Parents

In February we held our second Internet Safety Briefing for Parents. This was delivered by Andy Trish who is the Director of NCI Technologies and a qualified Microsoft trainer.

He gave a presentation and talked about the dangers that our children face when using modern technologies. He provided leaflets and CD's and suggested useful websites.

His main message to parents was to talk to their children and make sure that internet access was supervised. He reminded everyone about the age limits on programmes such as Facebook and MySpace and suggested more appropriate and safer options. He talked about setting up your child as a separate 'user' on the home computer so that access to programmes was controlled. He also talked about parental controls on mobile phones as not many people seemed to appreciate that this is an option available through mobile phone providers.

Andy showed some powerful and thought provoking videos. In one an adult had set himself up as a child on the internet and then enticed a child to meet him. The other showed the power of cyber bullying and how to report abuse on line.

Overall Andy wanted to stress the positive power and effect of the internet on our lives but that it needed to be used with caution. His advice was to play the games with your children so that you know how they work and can spot when something is wrong. Investigate parental controls on your computer and monitor where your child goes on line. Just as in real life 'don't keep secrets' - if they don't want you to see they are probably doing something that they shouldn't be!!! POMS = Parent Over My Shoulder!!!!!!

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