Message from the Headteacher

As always, Five Islands School has been a hive of exciting activities across all areas of the school and our latest edition of the Western Eye provides you with an insight into some of those activities.

Many congratulations to our musicians who have returned from the Cornwall Music Festival having achieved outstanding results, walking away with 6 trophies! Thank you and congratulations to their teacher Jane Pender and to Sara Symonds who supported the trip.

Thank you to our science department for all their work in ensuring we had a fantastic science week. Mr Bolton and Mr Garratt wowed us with their magical Assemblies inspiring us all. I was impressed by all the volunteer students who spoke so knowledgeably and with real enthusiasm at the open evening when they demonstrated numerous experiments from their science lessons. A competition is currently running to design a mural for the wall opposite the science department which will reflect science on Scilly. I hope that there will be lots of suggestions.

I hope that you got a chance to pop into St Mary’s Church to see all the wonderful tributes to mums by our Primary children. The poems, prose and artwork were much admired by those who attended the Mothering Sunday service which was a joint churches’ service led by Deacon Eileen Martin and Canon Perran Gay. Some of our children read during the service and did an excellent job.

Miss Easterbrook has continued to drive Healthy Schools and House Activities as you will see from her articles so it is with great sadness that I have to let you know that she will be leaving us at the end of this academic year to return to the mainland. She has secured a maths teacher post in a special school for the deaf and will be taking up a special responsibility for SEN. We know she will be an asset to her new school and wish her every success for the future. We are currently advertising for her successor and will be interviewing early in the new term.

We welcomed Mr Goddard onto the staff as Yellow class teacher this term and look forward to hearing news of the safe arrival of baby Greenlaw soon. Mrs Jackson will continue to enjoy time with her baby as Mrs Parker continues to cover her maternity leave in Blue class until the May half term holiday, when Mrs Jackson will return.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing you back at school on April 11th.

Happy Easter

Linda Todd (Headteacher)
Year 9 Band Coaching – ‘Connect Resound’

We are very excited to have been asked by CYMAZ music and Cornwall Music Hub to pilot a new, Skype based music tuition programme. The ‘Connect Resound’ project aims to deliver instrumental tuition and ensemble coaching using Skype sessions and online materials. The aim of the project is to develop ways to provide music tuition in remote areas and we were the perfect testing ground! Year 9 are taking in part in a band coaching programme which is running in their curriculum music lessons and after school from Easter. Pupils have the opportunity to learn guitar, bass drums, keyboard or vocals. They are being coached by Giles Woolley, who works as a performer, music producer and informal music educator in Cornwall.

Year 9 are responding really well to the Skype lessons, and are working hard to practise their new skills. We intend to showcase these towards the end of the summer term.

Debbie Wainwright

23-24 April - another weekend of free music making for all the family led by staff from the BSO. Workshops will include brass coaching for beginners and adults, male singing group and the amazing family orchestra. More details to follow, but put it on your calendar!

News from Tresco and Bryher Base

The Infants have been continuing their project on plants and growth. After writing their own version of Jack and the Beanstalk, Ruth Eggins came into class and taught the children about felt making. The children designed and created pictures of beanstalks and enjoyed learning a new skill. We have begun planting our sweet peas and beans for the school garden and look forward to growing our usual cucumbers and tomatoes for healthy snacks at playtime.

Miss Gates
This half term the juniors have been looking at examples of work by the Impressionist painter, Claude Monet. In particular, we have studied his 'River Thames Series' and how he used light and a choice of colour to give the impression of mist and fog at different times of the day. We then produced pastel drawings of 'Waterloo Bridge' and 'The Houses of Parliament' in the style of Monet. A lovely way to finish off our topic on rivers.

Mr Wilson

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**News from St Agnes Base**

We have had a brilliant spring term with all the children producing some terrific work. The KS2 children have written some excellent discussion texts, giving arguments for and against saving the rainforest. Our heated debate on the subject culminated in an overwhelming vote to save the rainforest! KS1 have written some wonderful stories about the adventures of lemurs, fruit bats, fiddler crabs and baby gorillas! In science we have been investigating the world biomes and making our own biomes in a bottle. Everyone has enjoyed making rainforest dioramas which now adorn the walls of the infant classroom. In maths we love our daily challenge of becoming Times Table Rock stars! We had a visit from the St Agnes Firefighters who smoked out school so that we could really experience how hard it is to find people. We used the thermal imaging camera to detect each-other hiding around the base. We had a really brilliant PE afternoon with Wez, who came to teach us how to become plate twiddling, juggling, diablo throwing circus stars. Happy Easter from all at St Agnes Base.

Miss Maddy
One of the highlights of this half of term was World Book Day. We shared the day with the children and staff from St Agnes Base who came over to St. Martin’s for the day. It was lovely to see all the children and grown-ups in their book character costumes! We had an amazing range of characters, from bears, sharks, James Bond and Spider-Man, to John and Nancy from Swallows and Amazons and even a particularly scary Cruella-de-Ville! The children did some fantastic shared story writing, working in small groups, creating their own books which had to include the characters they were dressed as. The results were great and we enjoyed listening to all the different stories. We also did some drama and role-play activities before the St Agnes children set off for their boat back.

The younger children were joined by three ladies from our local community to make up the posies for the Mothering Sunday church service. They did a great job. The children also showed Chris, Jackie and Julia some of the work we’ve been doing this term. They were very impressed. Our India topic is drawing to a close now. We have been learning about urban India and we were quite shocked to see how crowded and busy the streets of Delhi are. The younger children have been making ‘Elmer’ elephants with rolled up newspaper covered in modroc. For their DT project they are designing a seat for their elephant to carry. The juniors have been researching all the different types of rickshaw you see in India and they will be designing and making their own models.

We’re gearing up for our Sport Relief 1 Mile Challenge this week. Hopefully the weather will remain dry and we can all complete the challenge. We have watched a video on the Sport Relief website about a little girl called Champa, who lives in Bangladesh. She has a very tough life, but money from Sport Relief has really helped her. We hope the money we raise can help lots of other children like Champa.

Mike Tetley
News from Red class

A few people have recently told me that all we do in Red Class is play! They are absolutely right; children (and staff) have lots of fun every morning playing self-initiated games using a wide range of resources and some fantastic imaginations. But learning goes hand in hand with their play, whether they are acquiring the skills they need to record their ideas on paper, understanding story structure, remembering number sequences or learning how to get on with others. Children develop more rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time, so providing an enabling environment is essential. Yes – we do play all morning and we love it! We are looking forward to 3 more friends coming and joining in the fun after Easter!

Anna Wild

News from Orange Class

Orange Class has experienced another busy half term with lots of learning and progress being made. We looked at the story of ‘Winston and his not so boring day’ and wrote our own versions with magic eggs and amazing creatures hatching. We are eagerly watching the frogspawn and have learnt about animal and plant lifecycles. Seeds have been sown ready for even warmer weather next term.

Please can you send your child in with labelled wellingtons each Wednesday so we can continue to develop our gardening skills and explore our natural environment? Any spare pairs would be gratefully received too for our store.

We have written to our pen pals in Cumbria and can’t wait to hear about their Science week.

Happy Easter
Mrs Grossett
News from Yellow Class

Floppy is finally back!

After a week of searching, you’ll be pleased to know that our beloved pet rabbit puppet has been safely returned to yellow class. The panic is finally over and we would like to thank everyone who helped in our quest to find Floppy. From making wanted posters, to code breaking we enjoyed a fantastic week of detective inspired learning. Although there were many suspects, including Mrs Crompton, we finally found Floppy in Mr Morel’s science lab. If you see him walking around the streets of St Marys feel free to tell him off for us. We hope that everyone is as relieved as we are about Floppy’s safe return.

Mr Goddard

News from Green Class

It has been a memorable second half of the Spring Term in Green Class as we have enjoyed the ending of our class novel, ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ and realised how it magically also tells us the Easter Story. We loved making Turkish delight for our Mums (afterwards we wrote instructions, so if you want to know how to make it too, you can find out how in Green Class!).

We all had a part to play in our Class Assembly, even though some of us were a little nervous and we enjoyed sharing our stories with everyone on World Book Day all dressed up as Heroes and Villains.

As Scientists we have been investigating, through our Dark and Light topic, to find out how light reflects from different surfaces and we enjoyed measuring each other’s shadows during Science Week. We’ve been working hard in Maths to tell the time using different kinds of clocks and making our own clocks is helping us solve some tricky time problems.

We were amazed to find out just how long the Bayeux Tapestry is. Our version isn’t quite as long as the original, but we used the same colour scheme and when our scenes are all put together they cover quite a distance!

Well Done Green Class for all your fantastic work!

Miss Thornton
Blue class News

Over the half term break we completed our homework challenge of making a model Chariot – these are displayed in the Primary Library and are definitely worth a look – they are amazing!
In the last few weeks we have learnt to march like a Roman Soldier – following Latin commands. We have produced and performed a Class Assembly to our lovely parents, relatives, friends and primary staff and pupils. In our assembly we performed an informative song about Roman life with British Sign Language.

For Mother’s Day we wrote factual newspaper reports all about our Mummy (we know lots of them made our Mums cry with joy at saying why they are so special to us) and these were also displayed in the Church so they could be shared with the whole local community. We made and presented our Mums with a beautiful clay heart that had our unique finger prints on.

On World Book Day we designed and made comic strips based on the theme Heroes and Villains. During Science week we have investigated states of matter and have learnt how to use scientific equipment accurately.
As the term draws to a close we are exploring the meanings and traditions of Easter locally and around the globe.

Louise Parker

News from Indigo Class

Another busy half-term in Indigo class. We have been learning about what it was like to be an evacuee in WW2, writing diary entries, letters home and some short stories. We have studied photographs and listened to audio excerpts of people recalling their experiences.

We have made posters about evacuation and sketched some atmospheric pictures of war in black and white.
In Science we have tried to ‘think green’ and are currently investigating how to reduce our carbon footprint by designing and testing insulated houses and looking into other ways to conserve energy for the future.

We have crammed so much into this half-term that we all think we deserve a little break (and some Easter eggs) so we can come back raring to go for the Summer.

Happy Easter!  Mrs Streeter

**Primary Assemblies**

Carn Gwaval primary children have responded amazingly to our recent assembly about looking after our earth. They watched a video clip written by Michael Morpurgo to remind them of why it is important to look after the world in which we live and then learnt about a campaign which used green hearts to encourage others to do the same. The suggestion to make their own green hearts was taken up by lots of children who filled my office with their beautiful creations! These are now displayed in the main entrance area, so do come and have a look if you have not yet seen them.
Our next project is to make and display posters around the site reminding everyone of how to be considerate to others. Each class has already come up with some fantastic ideas which they have presented in an assembly and children are now ready to start promoting their ideas on paper. These will be laminated and displayed next half term so look out for them around the site. It has been wonderful to see so many children putting their ideas into practice by remembering to walk quietly between classrooms, tuck chairs under the table, hold doors for others, spot children in need of friendship and be kind to everyone.

We have also enjoyed class assemblies from the children in Green and Blue class this half term. Their hard work and rehearsals resulted in some informative and creative performances which were enjoyed by parents, children and staff. We are looking forward to other classes sharing their learning next half term.

Anna Wild

Secondary Library News

The Secondary Library was delightfully busy on World Book Day, which was celebrated fully in Secondary for the first time at the request of Student Council. Literary villains, heroes and heroines strode the corridors of the school - the costume competition being won against strong competition by Sophie 'Katniss' Poat and Fireman Sam Stephan. Special mention should go to some of the excellent staff costumes: Professor Branestawm-Leeman, Gansta Granny Sara Symons and Miss Danny's Dad Turner, among others. During the day, Primary and Secondary staff collaborated to organise successful shared reading sessions with Years 3 and 7, a model we hope to build on in the future. And at lunchtime in the Library, three teams battled it out over a Bumper Book Quiz, a mixed age team led by Jasmine Hoyle emerging the victors. Well done to all who participated!

We said a sad goodbye to Ffion Smith, one of our founding Student Librarians, but three Year 7s have joined us in her place: Toby Hicks, Daisy Davis and Freya Jenkins, who are now working towards their Bronze Librarian certificates. Welcome! We are launching collaboration with St Mary's Library, to widen the range of reading material available in the school, following a meeting with Linda Thomas. From the beginning of the summer term, a mobile library service will be visiting the school during the Friday Library Session once every three weeks, manned by the Student Librarian team. If students bring their Library cards to school, they will be able to sign for and borrow books from a range designed to supplement our shelves - with a particular focus on good non-fiction reading. Any student who doesn't yet have a Library card can collect a form either from St Mary's Library, or from Mrs Lewin.
Mrs Lewin

**UK Intermediate Maths Challenge 2016**

Well done to all those talented students from years 9, 10 and 11 who took part in the Maths challenge in February. As usual the paper was very challenging and all who I managed to cajole into taking part did themselves proud.

The certificates should arrive in the next week or so and will be presented to students. A special mention must go to those listed below who were our top performers:

- James Hathway (Y9) Silver Award and best in school
- Lucy Riley (Y10) Silver Award and best in year
- Charlotte Smalley (Y9) Silver Award
- Inca Reynolds (Y9) Bronze Award
- Andy Brogan (Y11) Bronze Award and best in year
- Archie Hicks (Y9) Bronze Award
- Sophie Poat (Y10) Bronze Award
- Jack Austin (Y9) Bronze Award

**Try this sample question from the challenge.**

The sum of the areas of the squares on the sides of a right angled isosceles triangle is 72 cm$^2$. What is the area of the triangle?

- A 6 cm$^2$
- B 8 cm$^2$
- C 9 cm$^2$
- D 12 cm$^2$
- E 18 cm$^2$

Dave Baxter
The science team had the idea that spring was not too far away and have been pushing on with real enthusiasm for the subjects covered. We were happy that Dr Garman turned up with his ECG machine in class one day, not because someone was ill, but he came to show a group how much information can be gained from the trace that is produced by strapping it onto Mr Garratt. It really helped make the topic more understandable and relevant (Oh, we confirmed Mr Garratt is very healthy!) Another class got to measure how heavy air is by comparing the weight of a dive cylinder when full and empty. There was a considerable change which quite surprised the class and the calculation was very close to the ‘book’ value. Thanks to the McBride’s for the cylinder loan.

A couple of groups in Years 10 and 11 took exams contributing towards the BTEC qualification. They worked really hard in the build-up and should be happy they did their very best on the day. As a group they are waiting to hear the results.

As a school we joined in National Science week. During the week we had things going on in the labs at lunchtime but on the Tuesday evening we invited parents to come into the labs and see what sort of things the students do in class. There were experiments illustrating work done from all year groups in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. It was a really good evening and the labs were constantly busy with some volunteer pupils taking on the role of teacher for the evening. There were wires, buzzers, bulbs and switches in one place and flame testing and distillation in another. (Tucked away in a safe place there was even a real set of lungs and heart for the less squeamish to have a look at!) We also got involved with science teaching in the primary classes and produced a couple of ‘magic’ assemblies.
Another thing that took place during the week was the Inter house Great Egg Race. The challenge was to work as a team and build an egg carrying vehicle powered by a single elastic band. There were some wonderfully creative egg-samples, some of which were decorated to a very high standard. There was a real scramble to get finished and no one cracked up under the pressure. A couple of the teams had technical problems and their machines eggs-ploded on the start line becoming omelettes and couldn’t race. Egg-ceptional teamwork was shown by all (no egg-omaniacs) and ideas were eggs-changed during the construction work. The groups had even put effort into the names with Team Egg Sheeran, Egg-sterminator, Egg-uardo and others all tried their best in the sports hall. It was an egg-citing finale to the week and Jules got lots of eggs-ercise measuring the distances. Well done to all involved.
Healthy Schools

At the end of last term Jen and Karen visited us from Cornwall Healthy Schools to talk about making healthy choices. Reception had a fruit tasting session, Primary and Year 7 looked at the eat well plate and sugar content and KS4 looked more closely at takeaway food. At break time and after school there were healthy snacks to try. So if your household have been requesting humus, lychees or malt loaf recently, now you know why. Thank you to Jen and Karen for making it all happen and to the Co-op for donating the healthy snacks!

We learnt how much sugar you should have in a day. No more than 30g if you are aged 11 or over. That’s one carton of Ribena! Did you know on average only 2% of lunch boxes meet the national guidelines? Karen’s school meals have to meet these guidelines and they’re yummy! With the 2016 budget bringing in a sugar tax now might be the time to start paying more attention to your sugar intake. Why not try the sugar smart app?

Rachael Easterbrook
The day started off with the Easter Bake Off. There were 19 entries. Thank you to Becky Lock, Susie Taylor and Annette Ferguson who had the difficult task of judging!

Best Tasting Primary: Harry Christopher, William Shaw  
Best Design Primary: Henry Dean  
Highly Commended Primary: Blossom Wild  
Most Original: Charlotte Legg, Amber Carr

Best tasting Secondary: Will Locket, Oliver Locket, Jack Gatland  
Best Design Secondary: Jack Austin, Lewis Taylor, Bella Taylor  
Highly Commended Secondary: Evie Jenkins

In the afternoon there was the eggciting House Science Competition and other fundraising including the stocks. All together £142.80 was raised for School in a Bag which will fund 10 equipped school bags for children around the world.

The sad news from Mundesley is that Wez Swain is about to leave us. Since starting working at Mundesley he has introduced a slack line, shown us how to play pool, cooked some amazing teas and more recently been accompanying groups to Normandy Pool. He will be sorely missed, but has assured us that he will be able to help out with various activities from time to time.

The good news is that Mila Spence has recently joined us; we welcome her to the Mundesley family and hope she enjoys her time at the Boarding House.

Despite the weather, we have been very active during the winter months. The football goal in the garden is still in good use, although much of the grass on the lawn, to the delight of the ducks, has been replaced by mud. Swimming sessions at Normandy have proved very popular and we hope to be able to continue with
them. We have also introduced regular film showings on Thursday evenings. And just to be sure that we all have the chance to keep fit we have been having Zumba sessions on Tuesdays. Nearly everyone, staff included, has joined in the fun.

Inside, the kitchen has been in good use as usual, particularly for pancake making, when we were joined by Rudi, who seemed to enjoy eating them! Rudi has helped us a few times; always ready to join in with activities. Come again, Rudi. There have also been some interesting experiments in smoothie making with all sorts of original combinations of fruits, vegetables and a few other ingredients. Some of the results were delicious. We even tried them out on Mrs Todd!

Mr Pearson

News from Governors

This is a busy time of year for the school Governors as we focus on school improvement and the end of our financial year. The non-pupil day at the beginning of this month saw us join staff in school to draw together our new School Improvement Plan; this rigorous plan will form the framework of the work of the school over the next year and beyond to ensure that we are delivering a really strong education for our pupils. Meanwhile, the Governors’ finance committee is in the midst of setting the school budget for the next year. This is a real challenge as we strive to find the necessary funds to deliver the School Improvement Plan and an excellent, broad curriculum, all in the context of ever increasing costs and an income grant which has been static for the last four years.

Sadly, Annette Ferguson will be leaving the Governing Body to concentrate on her other school roles; Annette has been a wonderful Staff Governor and will be sorely missed at our meetings. It is at least some consolation to know that she will be continuing as our ever-cheerful Sites Manager.

The Governing Body still has a vacancy for a co-opted Governor. If you have a strong desire to help our school deliver a first class education to our pupils and to ensure continuous improvement – or if you know someone else who fits the bill – please get in touch for a chat. Any of the existing Governors will be glad to talk with you, or if you prefer, feel free to contact me directly at ben@scillyflowers.co.uk.

Last but by no means least, on behalf of the Governing Body; I would like to extend hearty congratulations to the music department and pupils who represented Five Islands School at the recent Cornwall Music Festival. Not only have they returned with an amazing haul of trophies, but they have also been excellent ambassadors for our school and islands on the mainland. Well done!

Ben Julian, Chair of Governors
16 instrumental students competed at the Cornwall Music Festival last week and had a huge amount of success.

The adjudicator, Gillian Oswell, was highly impressed with the standard of teaching and playing that happens in our school, and although there was stiff competition, mainly from Truro School, we walked away with 6 trophies and a wad of 2nd places, which she said ‘we thoroughly deserved’.

Our winners were:

Becky Smith — Grade 3 & 4 Woodwind Solo

Remy Lewin — Grade 3 & 4 Saxophone Solo

Piran Julian — Grade 1 & 2 Saxophone Solo

Jevon Hughes & Remy Lewin — Grade 4 & below Duet

Sophie Poat & Loveday Lewin — Grade 5 & above Duet

Recorder Ensemble — Instrumental Ensemble, Recorders, 3-9

Jane Pender
Secondary Art & Design ‘Our Gallery’

Year 7: Creating our Paper Sculptures

Daisy Davis
Toby Hicks
Alexander McMurray

Year 8:
Collaborative
Land Art

Daisy Chuter
Year 9: Exploring Lino Printing

Year 10: Developing our Food Studies

Year 11: Preparing for the Final Art Exam! Good Luck!
AND FINALLY......the things you find yourself doing as a teacher to support fund raising!

Mr Baxter confirms what a good sport he is!