



## Monday 28th November 2022

Dear parents,

As Christmas is a stones throw away with our 'Christmas Happening' on Saturday we are definitely in sight of Advent. All of the children, alongside John Brolly have been working extremely hard on their Christmas performance which will be at the Acorn on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December! I'm sure it will be a fantastic play enjoyed by everyone.

This morning Choughs visited Marazion and took part in bird watching on the marshes and sketching the St Michael's Mount skyline. Among the heavy showers and the brilliant rainbows, they thoroughly enjoyed their morning – well done children for your exceptional behaviour as always. Puffins will be performing at the Minack Theatre's Shakespeare Festival this Wednesday afternoon as it was recently postponed due to the inclement weather – good luck one and all!

As I aforementioned our school's Christmas Market is this Saturday between 1100 and 1500. This event was cancelled last year and I'm sure it will be another excellent community event following on from the Cellidh and the Halloween gathering.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Mark Francis - Head Teacher

### Attendance

Please be mindful that good attendance is vital for learning for all of our children. The national minimum expectation is set at 96%. Please help us achieve this on a daily basis and support your child's learning.

Choughs	88%
Puffins	93%
Whole school	91%

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### **Tuesday 29th November**

- Year 3 & 4 Swimming

#### **Wednesday 30th November**

- Puffins Class - Shakespeare Festival at The Minack Theatre

#### **Friday 2nd December**

- Little Levans session 1.30pm - 2.45pm

#### **Saturday 3rd December**

- Christmas Happening, 11.00am-3.00pm

#### **Monday 5th December**

- Treasure Island, Hall for Cornwall

#### **Tuesday 6th December**

- Year 3 & 4 Swimming

#### **Thursday 8th December**

- Christmas Jumper Day (raising money for Save The Children)

#### **Tuesday 13th December**

- Year 3 & 4 Swimming

#### **Wednesday 14th December**

- Christmas Lunch

#### **Thursday 15th December**

- Christmas Production, Acorn Theatre (info to follow)

#### **Friday 16th December**

- Last day of Autumn term 1.30pm finish

#### **Tuesday 3rd January**

- INSET DAY - school closed

#### **Wednesday 4th January**

- Spring Term 2023 begins



**Save the  
Children**



### Shining Stars of the Week



#### **Miss Ferguson's Star of the Week**

**Hettie** - For making a fantastic start - you are a wonderful addition to Choughs class!

#### **Miss Finch's Stars of the Week**

**Freya** - For superb dedication and determination in all learning, listening to and acting on feedback.

#### **Miss Trenoweth's Star of the Week**

**Erin O** - For demonstrating your appreciation and care for the world around us in your poetry writing.

Dear Parents,

We are asking for homemade donations to the Parents' Stall at this year's Christmas Happening, and hope that you will be able to make something for us to sell. All proceeds from this stall go straight to the school. We are looking for homemade cakes, biscuits, jams, marmalades, sauces, chutneys, etc., but also, if you make any art/craft items, these would be absolutely brilliant too. Donations can be dropped at the school this Friday from 2pm, or by 11am on Saturday.

Many thanks in advance!

Friends of St Levan School





## Reading Update

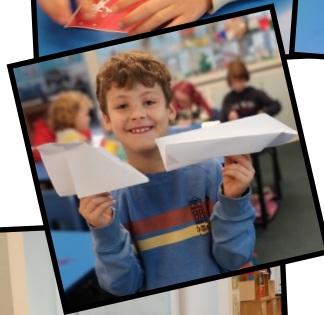
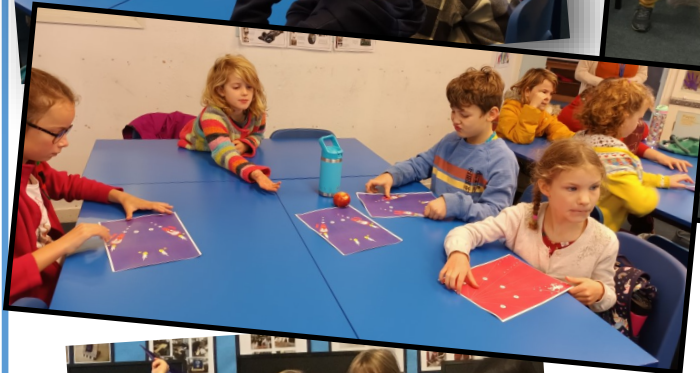
At the beginning of this half term, we visited St Just Library. Vicky and Sarah explained how to find books we liked and helped us choose one each to borrow before we got comfy for a story. We also made our own book marks and did some leaf rubbings. We're hoping to visit the library again next term and swap our library books. Therefore, could these all please be returned to school before the end of term. Thank you!







On this day we also visited Cape Cornwall School and did a fantastic DT lesson with Mr Jones all about paper planes. We talked about how we could improve our plane designs to make them fly further and had lots of fun addressing some misconceptions! For example, identifying that paper planes fly better than a screwed up ball of paper because of their shape, not because they are lighter!



## **The Miniature World of Stories**

Following on from our visit to St Just, we have expanded our own school library, purchasing new books in response to a recent reading survey and distributing books across both classes, the Meeting Room and a special shed on the playground which, after intense discussion and a whole-school vote, is to be called 'The Miniature World of Stories'. Our current librarians, Martha, Astrid and Bertie are doing a fantastic job of ensuring that everyone can enjoy reading for pleasure at play times in this cosy space. We will be raising money for school to buy some more lovely books later in the year. We'll keep you





## World Nursery Rhyme Week



Choughs had fun singing nursery rhymes every day as part of World Nursery Rhyme Week. Making up our own silly versions was something the Choughs just did naturally.

Some of our favourite creations were adaptations of The Big Ship Sails:

The wet cat swam  
On the ally-ally-oh,  
The ally-ally-oh,  
The ally-ally-oh,  
The wet cat swam  
On the ally-ally-oh,  
On the 17th November.  
Ally-ally-oh,  
Ally-oh,  
On the 17th November.  
By Aria and Ursula

The jolly duck swam  
On the ally-ally-oh,  
The ally-ally-oh, the ally-ally-oh,  
The jolly duck swam  
On the ally-ally-oh,  
On the 17th November.  
Ally-ally-oh, ally-oh,  
On the 17th November.

### Star Treat Alert!



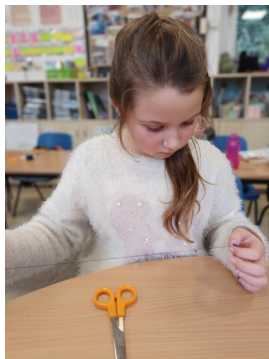
After weeks of hard work and toil, the Choughs have finally earned all ten of their stars. It's class treat time! There were strong contenders for what the treat would be and suggestions included an animal day, outdoor learning or class party. However, the Choughs have almost unanimously voted for a movie afternoon with PJs and popcorn. This much anticipated event will be taking place on Wednesday 30th November.

# Super Sewing in Puffins!

Puffins have demonstrated incredible determination and resilience while working on their Maya themed pencil cases. Threading needles and tying knots in the ends of threads is not easy and many members of our class have also demonstrated great kindness helping their peers to achieve their goals.



*I liked turning it inside out—that was the best part! MN*



*I liked having a fluffy side on the outside! CH*



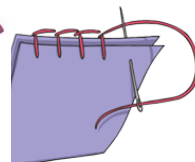
*Sewing is really hard but it's really worthwhile once you've finished! AS*



*I liked cutting it! TTE*

*It was fun making something you'll actually be able to use.*

LA





## Flexi-schooling research feedback

The research explored how children, parents and staff understand the practice of flexi-schooling at St Levan. Participants were found to be broadly in favour of flexi-schooling yet views were conflicted. At the outset, it was suggested that flexi-schooling provides enriching educational opportunities for children yet potentially impacts upon pupil progress and increases staff workload.

### Outcomes of the research

Some emphasised flexi-schooling's potential in providing a more balanced education, particularly for younger pupils or those with SEND, and although positive about our school, many were critical of the wider education system in the UK. Flexi-schooling's ability to provide a more personalised, individual curriculum and pedagogy was evidenced by many responses. It was also felt that flexi-schooling offered a 'USP' which helps attract families to our rural community.



***"A family learning together."***



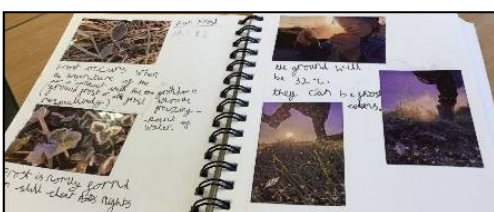
***"Parents need to work. She's happy at school."***

However, the conflicting responses indicated that flexi-schooling is a divisive issue and some felt reticent about sharing their views which stem from deeply rooted assumptions about education and schooling.

### Suggested improvements

One aim of the research was to suggest means of improving flexi-schooling but this was challenging as different groups' suggestions conflicted. For instance, some participants suggested having greater freedom of the choice of day whereas others suggested limiting flexi-schooling to just a Friday afternoon. Suggesting any improvements, therefore, required thwarting the aims of one group to appease another! Suggested improvements included:

- Changing terminology to 'flexi-learning' to overcome dominance of 'schooling' discourse
- Maintaining existing hours and age limit
- Promoting flexi-schooling more widely as a USP
- Celebrating flexi-schooling more regularly through e.g. sharing assemblies and pupil focus groups
- Better communication between school and flexi-schooling families



### Thank you

I thoroughly enjoyed doing this research for my dissertation and really appreciate the time that everyone gave in order to participate and share their thoughts on flexi-schooling. Thank you!

From Miss Ferguson