



St Piran's Post

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'Nurturing God's gifts with compassion and drive, so that all our children succeed, learn and thrive.'



Thank you for all of your support in our schools during the first few weeks of this term.

Dear Parents,

We have made a very good start to the autumn term 2016 and your children have settled back into our schools very well. Our teachers have been thinking about our curriculum, actually what we teach in the other subjects other than literacy and maths. We are going to be developing an **'immersive curriculum'** in our five schools and later this term we will outline this further for you in greater detail.

It will be exciting!

Grampound Road welcomed the OFSTED inspectors into their school in September for a two day section 5 inspection. At the time of writing the outcome of this remains confidential. However, I am pleased to say that there are lots of smiling faces at Grampound Road. I would like to thank the staff, governors and children for their thorough preparation and hard work during these two days. Bishop Bronescombe is due to receive an OFSTED inspection before the end of this term. Richard Best, the Chair of the MAT board, writes more about the inspections in our schools later in this newsletter.

In recognition of the success of the school's church inspection in July, Bishop



Bronescombe received a visit from the Diocesan Director for Schools and Discipleship to present an award for achieving an outstanding status for this

area of the school life. Grampound Road will receive a similar award later this term.

HARVEST FESTIVALS

Harvest Festivals took place in our schools during the week of 3rd October and thank you for your kind donations for people with less than us. Each school donates this in a different way.

Below I have captured a few photographs of our celebrations for you to enjoy.

Harvest Communion at Bishop Bronescombe and food donations to the St Austell Food Bank.



Grampound with Creed went to church and kind donations of money have been given for the food Bank



Harvest Festival at Veryan, the children went to church and the food will be distributed to the elderly of the village.



Ladock School's Harvest Celebration



Grampound Road enjoyed the Friday celebration of Harvest Festival

SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS

Come and see your children learning. ALL welcome, including aspiring new parents to our schools:

- **Bishop Bronescombe** -18th October at 9 am to 11.45 am
- **Grampound Road** – 17th October at 9 am to 11.45 am
- **Grampound with Creed** – 19th October at 9 am to 11.45 am
- **Ladock** – 18th October at 9.15 am to 11.45 am
- **Veryan** – 20th October at 9 am to 11.45 am

Our schools will provide the details of each open morning within their own newsletters. We look forward to seeing you all.

A Week of Inspections for St Piran's Cross – Richard Best – Chair of the Board

The pupils and staff of St Piran's Cross Multi-Academy Trust are celebrating after an inspections blitz found its schools to be in good shape.

Veryan CE Primary School, the trust's smallest school with fewer than 60 pupils on its roll, had a one-day Ofsted inspection and a one-day SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection just two days later. Both inspections judged the school to be Good.

And two other trust schools, Grampound Road and the trust's biggest school, Bishop Bronescombe in St Austell, were both judged to be Outstanding by the SIAMS inspector in the same week.

It was a tough five days for the trust's senior leadership team, not least the Executive Principal, Mark Lees, who attended each of the inspections.

The individual schools converted to become members of a multi-academy trust in October 2013.

Mr Lees said: **"Having four inspections in four days was quite a feat of endurance for everybody involved. Lisa Michell, our head teacher from Ladock, has been covering at Veryan as our head of school, Dan Phillips, was away. Lisa deserves a special mention for all the work she has done with the whole team at the school, making sure it was ship-shape and ready for this comprehensive scrutiny. I don't know of another school that has had an Ofsted and a SIAMS inspection just two days apart, and our congratulations go to the team there for their good work and a great result. "One of the best things I have seen about this intense period of scrutiny is the support that colleagues have shown one another across the trust. They really have helped one another a great deal – we have subject champions and a lot of mentoring work across the organisation, all of which shows the real benefits of being in a multi-academy trust. Nobody is afraid to roll their sleeves up and get stuck in to help a colleague.**

"Each of the inspections picked up on areas in which being part of the wider trust has benefited the schools. The Ofsted inspector saw these benefits in action – not least because we had

been able to second an experienced head across to that school when it needed some help.”

Trust chairman Richard Best said: **“I know members of the board have been delighted to see the tremendous progress our schools have made, especially since we were joined by Mark Lees one year ago.**

“Ever higher standards are demanded in the classroom, with rigorous testing and monitoring regimes – and that’s not easy to deliver while ensuring school remains an enjoyable experience for pupils. Our thanks go to all our staff, who together manage to achieve this.

“There is understandable criticism of some models of multi-academy trust – especially the big, faceless, corporate models, and fears that in some parts of the country they are being used to build empires. But a modest trust, with shared common values and some shared resources, can be a powerful force for good and help to support smaller schools which are under ever-increasing financial pressure – despite what some politicians might have you believe.”

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M.J Lees
Executive Principal

Trust Committee Vacancies

The MAT’s Audit and Risk Committee is seeking to appoint two additional members. The role of the Committee is to review the risks to internal financial control at the Trust, to agree a programme of work that will address these risks, to inform the governance statement that accompanies the Trust’s annual accounts, and to provide assurance to the external auditors. The Committee meets three times a year (one meeting per term). If you would be interested in joining this Committee, or would like more information regarding its role, please contact Kathryn Trudgeon on 01726 250260 or email

ktudgeon@stpiranscross.co.uk

Thank you.