

# Curnow School

# Newsletter



## February 2022

What a busy half term it has been, we are slowly getting back to being able to offer swimming and the water skills pool to some pupils, although this continues to be a bit 'trying' with inevitable staff shortages linked to Covid but every session makes us so excited for the future!

I would like to thank Matt (our wonderful site supervisor) and Dee and Lyns for all of their hard work in transforming the water skills pool into a rainforest oasis—the pupils are absolutely loving it and we have all been blown away by the difference it has made. We will pop some photos on the website for you to see in our 'latest news' tab.



I hope you all have a lovely half term break—Spring is hopefully well and truly on it's way!

## Dates for your diary!

**Feb 21st—Feb 25th**  
**Half term**

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TR15 1LU

Telephone: 01209 215432

Email: [secretary@curnowschool.org.uk](mailto:secretary@curnowschool.org.uk)

Website: [www.curnowschool.org.uk](http://www.curnowschool.org.uk)

**Please see the website for the Upper School newsletter**



# Lower School News

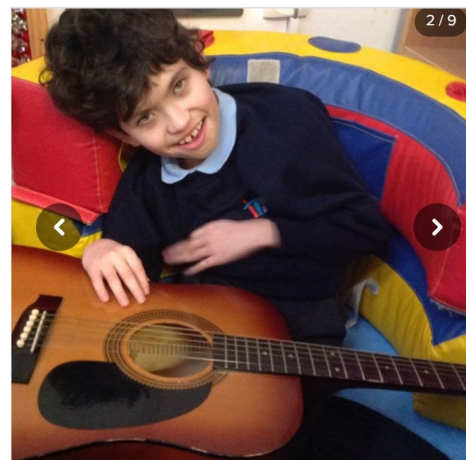
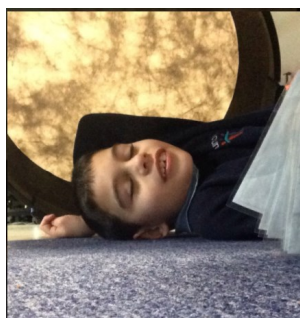


## News from Crofty Class!

This term our science theme has been sounds and vibrations



We explored vibrations using instruments and our voices. We could feel the vibrations in different ways and very much enjoyed the excuse to be extra noisy!





# Lower School News



We have been learning all about our feelings including wellbeing and mental health week. Everyone enjoyed our feelings bucket story within which we have been learning to express the things we love and things that make us feel calm.



Some of us feel calm when we get a great big hug.



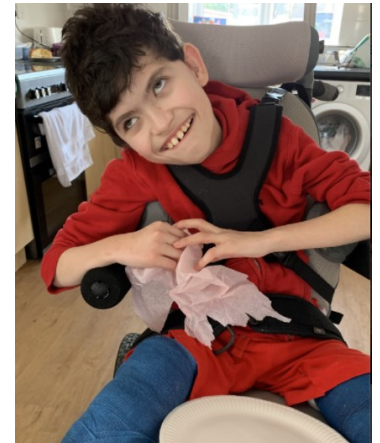
Having time outside is good for mental wellbeing but also helps us to be ready for focused learning activities .



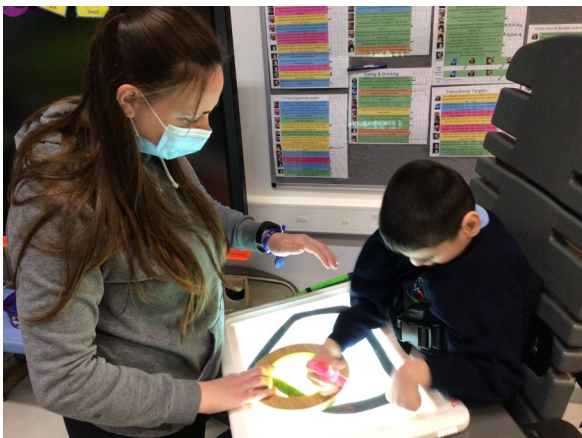
# Lower School News



We celebrated Chinese New Year by exploring and tasting traditional Chinese foods including noodles and fortune cookies!



We decorated (and dedecorated) the classroom, reaching and balancing for our therapy targets. We made sun catchers and explored red and gold sensory resources.



We decorated our own Chinese lanterns using light boxes.





# Upper School News



## Key Stage 4 Work Related Learning—back out in the local community!!

This term, KS4 have been part of a volunteering project at Gwealan Tops to assisting to make raised beds for their garden area. We have had loads of fun and learnt lots of new skills. We have loved learning to use all the tools and we even got to have marshmallows and hot chocolate around the fire one week.



The students have been working really hard on various practical tasks—clearing the weeds, putting down a liner and creating a raised bed





# Upper School News



The students have been working alongside the staff from Gwelan Tops, following instructions and learning a range of new skills related to gardening and landscaping. The gardening area will be used by the local community and children from the local Redruth area.

Great Volunteering key stage 4!!





# Upper School News



Learning to lay the table in the restaurant—making sure it is first class for the guests



The Headland Hotel is huge— It even has 7 s swimming pools as one pupil was keen to let everyone know!

# Upper School News



As part of our Careers and WRL curriculum, KS4 and Post- 16 were lucky enough to be invited to The Headland Hotel in Newquay to experience what it would be like to work in the hospitality industry. We have a very busy day exploring the different areas of the hotel and learning about the different jobs. We worked in the restaurant learning how to lay the tables for the next service and help in housekeeping making the beds ready for the new guests.



Making beds to a very high standard  
—not an easy task!



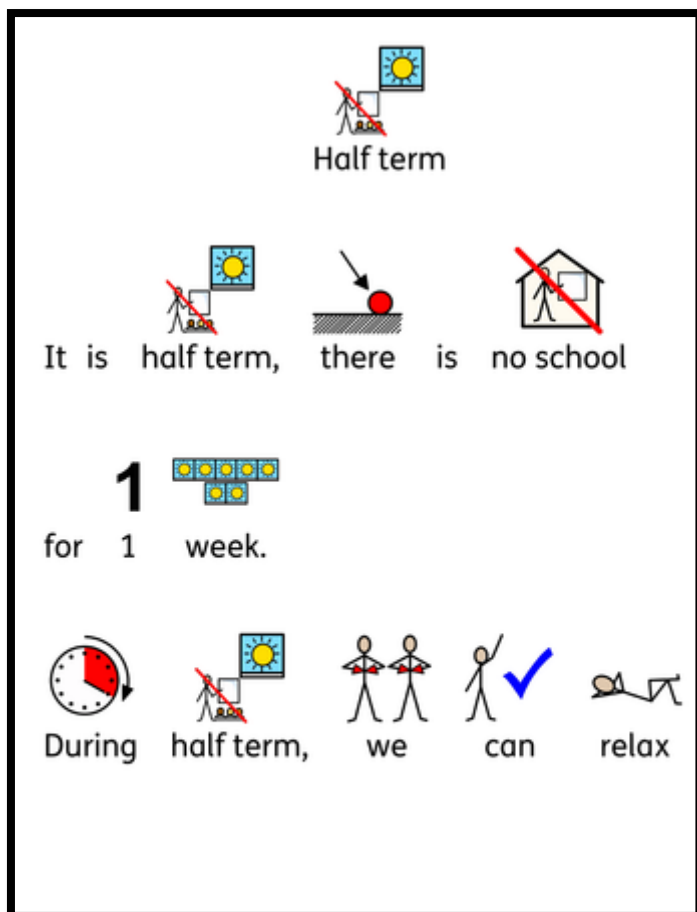


# Communication focus



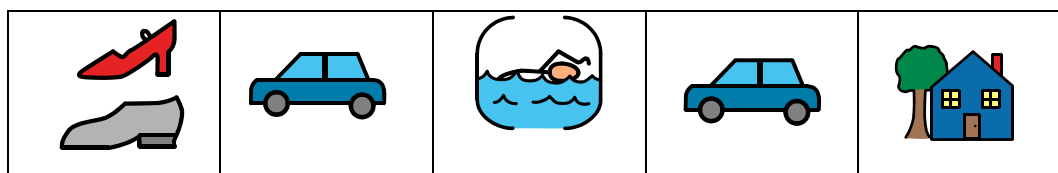
## Holidays and changes in routine.

We know that for some of our pupils it can be a struggle to get used to being off of school due to the change in routine. We would like to share some ideas that might help when preparing for changes or while on holiday. We hope this helps.



Social stories can help some pupils. A social story is a simple description of a situation, concept, or social skill. It is individualized for each child, and features the child as the main character. Social stories help explain situations that children find challenging.

Social stories can be as simple as the one shown or more complex depending on what is appropriate for your child. Google searches will bring up lots of information and examples.



Visual strips can be really useful when going out and about. They can support with understanding what is happening, what you need to do next and what will happen when something you like is finishing.

They do not have to be pretty, or printed. They can be roughly drawn or for children who can read written in words.



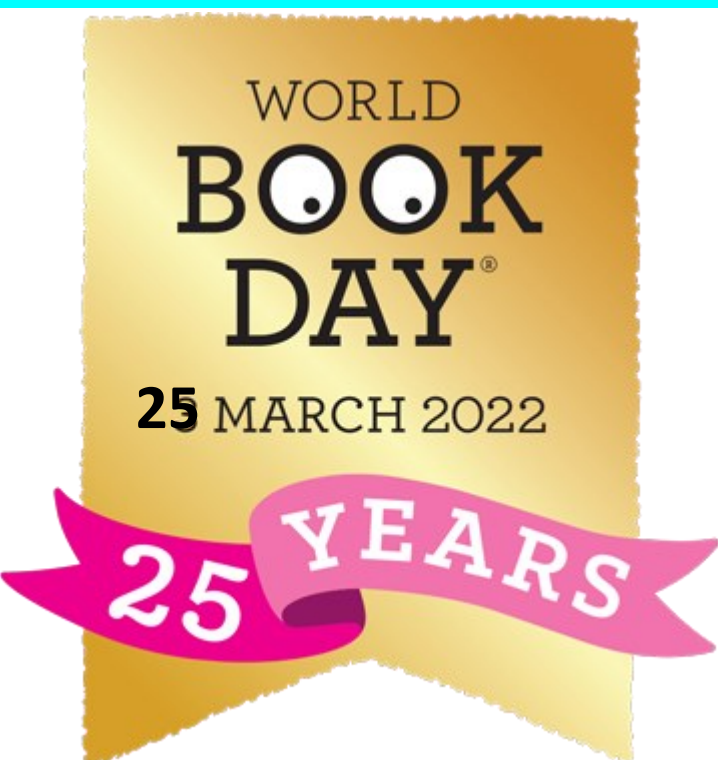
# Communication focus



## **The following tips may be useful for planning the holiday time:**

- It is important not to overwhelm yourself or your family with copious amounts of activities. Remember to timetable in opportunities for relaxing at home, having a break, and some time for your child to access preferred or calming activities each day.
- Try to include your child/ren in the process of choosing, planning and recording on the calendar. For some children this may be selecting an event or outing, for others it may be selecting a fun activity for afternoon play. You may also wish to provide a choice within boundaries such as offering two or three activities for your child to choose from.
- If you are planning an activity that is at a new location, is a new experience or novel in any way, it is important to prepare your child as much as possible for the experience. There may be specific rules children will need to follow and it is important to prepare children in advance (e.g. "At the movies, we use our whisper voice and we sit in our chair while the movie is playing").
- When you leave the house during the holiday period to go on an outing, be sure to pack items to keep children entertained in case you are stuck in lines or need to wait. Items might include: familiar snacks and drinks, communication aids, fidget toys, engaging activities or distracters, reinforcers or rewards.
- Use your support network to organise activities and events, for example visiting the park with friends or a small group.
- If it is difficult to get out of the house, invite another child or family to your house for a play date. Consider packing away or removing beforehand any toys or items that your child may find difficult to share with visitors.
- Try to plan one small at home activity each day, for example chalk drawing on the concrete or baking cupcakes. Repeating activities can be calming and predictable for some children.





Please note that we will be celebrating World Book Day in school but at the later date of **Friday 25th March**.

We will send details after half term of how you can join in, in the mean time enjoy spending your World Book Day tokens on a book of your choice from the range.

There are 6 elements which support a child reading for pleasure:

1. Being read to regularly
2. Having books at home and school
3. Having a choice in what to read
4. Finding time to read
5. Having trusted help to find a book
6. Making reading FUN!





# What's On...



**Please complete  
an online  
registration form  
for all children  
attending the  
sessions - find it  
on our Facebook  
Page or Website**



**For 7's  
and  
overs -  
free and  
no need  
to book!**



**GWEALAN TOPS**  
ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

## **FEB HALF TERM**

**MON 21 - FRI 25  
FEBRUARY  
11AM - 4PM**

**Food provided  
for all children  
who attend**



**GWEALAN TOPS ADVENTURE  
PLAYGROUND**

**School Lane**

**Redruth**

**TR15 2ER**

**manager@gwealantops.org**



**BIG  
LOTTERY  
FUND**

**NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDED**

**See [www.gwealantops.org](http://www.gwealantops.org) for more info**

# What's on....



**FREE TO ALL 7-16 YEAR OLDS  
COME ON IN!**

*Parents please complete registration form at [www.gwealantops.org](http://www.gwealantops.org)*



## **Spring 2022 Opening Times**

**Term time February and March opening hours are:**

**Tuesday - Friday: 3.15-5.30pm**

**Saturday: 12-4pm**

### **February half term**

**Mon 21st - Fri 25th February, 11am-4pm**

**(lunch provided)**

**Please note: We will be CLOSED on the Saturdays at start & finish of school holidays - Sat 19th & 26th Feb & 9th Apr**

**We will also be CLOSED on Tues 1st & Wed 2nd March to attend the National Playwork Conference**

### **Youth Club**

**Free to 13s and over**

**Fridays 5.30-7pm term time**

**TEL: 01209 697717      WEBSITE: [WWW.GWEALANTOPS.ORG](http://WWW.GWEALANTOPS.ORG)  
EMAIL: [MANAGER@GWEALANTOPS.ORG](mailto:MANAGER@GWEALANTOPS.ORG)**