

17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is always an especially busy one across all our schools but has concluded positively for all the children, across Bridge Schools, thank you for your support this half term.

### Christmas Festivities

Christmas activities have been in full swing across the schools the last few weeks. Thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents that have joined the children to create wonderful arts and crafts. Many of you will also have enjoyed watching the children perform in nativity plays, carol concerts and open afternoon showcases of children's wonderful work. Please continue to check your school website, Facebook page and school messaging system to view latest learning, news and upcoming events to go along and support when you can.

Here are just a few highlights of the festivities that have been taking place across Bridge Schools.



Lanlivery were delighted to welcome parents into school for a festive Christmas craft session. Little Foresters (Pre-School to Reception age children) got creative making hand-print Christmas trees, while Jays and Eagles (children from Years 2-6) focused on crafting bird-feed decorations to brighten the tree structures in the school garden.

In the lead-up to the lantern parade at the Polperro Community Christmas Festival, classes were hard at work, using a variety of materials to create their glowing works of art. From simple paper lanterns to intricate designs, each one reflects the creativity and holiday spirit of the children. The parade was a beautiful sight, with the glowing lanterns lighting up the winter evening as they made their way through the town.

The children from Brunel absolutely loved making Christmas stockings. It was heart-warming to see families sharing skills and moments together during this special activity. Whether they were helping with threading needles, tying knots or guiding little hands to learn new skills the children and staff were extremely grateful to those who were able to join in with this festive activity.

### Partnerships between home and school

It has been cold and flu season but a big thank you to everyone for helping to ensure your children attend school. As of today, Trust-wide attendance is 94.68% - better than this time last year, but still slightly below the national target of 95%. We continue to review our approach to attendance and welcome conversations with you about how we can best support good attendance.

We recognise that families are facing financial challenges, particularly at this time of year. If you are finding things difficult, please talk to staff at school – as we can often help. We have links to many organisations that can support with food, transport, and other essential needs.

### **Digital learning and IT investment**

We have continued to invest in IT updating our iPad provision in schools. We have spent over £175k this term. We already provide 1:1 iPads in small schools and a minimum of 1:2 in our medium and larger schools. This additional investment this term will enable us to further enhance our IT infrastructure and resources across the Trust.

### **Premises**

We continue to invest significantly in our school buildings through an extensive programme of compliance management, capital works and maintenance. A capital project is underway at Pelynt to replace the existing oil-fired boilers with air source heat pumps funded through a DfE capital grant and minor capital works totalling over £208k have been completed across all sites this year. A further 11 applications for major capital projects at 8 schools have just been submitted to the 26/27 Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) totalling £3.05m. There is always more to do, but we are pleased with the progress and improvements achieved.

### **Financial Pinch**

While school budgets continue to face increasing pressures, we are fortunate to have secured a central reserve, which provides support for schools should difficulties arise – a clear benefit of pooling resources. The reserve allows us to reinvest into premises and IT, as mentioned above, as well as provide additional learning resources where needed.

### **Central Team**

Our small central team supports all 15 schools with Finance, HR, IT, Premises and general enquiries around legal queries, contracts and information management. We are pleased to welcome Vicky Grochowalski to the HR team and Martin Jenns to the Premises Team. We also say a fond farewell to Sarah Spence, who has been with the Trust since August 2016, we wish her every success in her new role, as Finance Technical Specialist with Cornwall Council.

### **Appointments/Farewells**

Earlier this year Katie Grinsted was appointed to the role of Assistant Head at Brunel, and this term we have seen Tom Hodgins become Assistant Head for Duloe and Pelynt. Congratulations to you both on your leadership appointments. We also say a fond farewell and wish all the best to Jonathan Langton, Teacher at Wadebridge after 19 years of teaching and mark the retirement of Lorraine Sanchez-Cabello from Brunel Primary, who retires this Christmas after an exceptional teaching career spanning over 40 years. We thank all our leavers and wish you all the very best for the future.

### **Trust News**

I will have worked in education for 36 years at the end of this academic year. In the last few weeks, I have told the trustees of my intention to retire in the summer. Creating Bridge Schools has been an amazing experience. I have loved working in schools from the outset, seeing children enjoying their time in school, learning from capable staff who are invested in their future. The trustees have appointed Louise Gilbert as Interim Chief Executive for September 2026 after I retire in the summer.

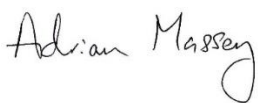
### **End of the Autumn Term**

As we near the end of another busy term we have added more of the children's Christmas contributions to the [Trust website](#) (click link to view). Please do visit your child's school website for more stories and news.

We will close for the Christmas holidays this Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and all schools will reopen on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support for our schools and to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With all good wishes,



**Adrian Massey and everyone in Bridge Schools**