



**CASE
STUDY**

**THE
GROWING
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM**



Meadow

Perranporth County Primary School, Cornwall

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Why we got involved

Our school has a statue of St Piran, manikins and banner which are used on the 5th March each year to celebrate St Piran's Day. St Piran is our local patron saint as well as for the whole of Cornwall. We were invited to make new versions to bring to the Hampton Court Flower Show, and to perform our traditional dances, then leave the newly made artefacts behind to be a lasting part of the garden.

We are immensely proud of the way in which the school brings the whole community together each year for this celebration and welcomed the chance to both share this and place Cornwall's Patron Saint at the heart of the garden.

What we made for the Meadow

The statue and manikins are based on those used in the St Piran's Day ritual. As well as the life-sized statue of St Piran, the manikins depict a miner, a bal- maiden and a fisherman to represent the traditional occupations of the town. The banners represent the patron as well as the sea and tide line which are very strong features of the locality. (See the Film in the Meadow garden zone.)

For other areas of the garden the children have prepared mosaic floor tiles based on the children's ideas of the uniqueness of our home on the Atlantic coast here in Cornwall. Surfing, breakers, glorious sunsets as well as the cross of St Piran all feature in the design ideas. Younger children have created a terracotta army of meadow creatures. Woodland spirits have also been fired out of clay. Other garden creatures have been created using willow. The school regularly employs all of these techniques in the designing- and-making work so enjoyed by the children.

What we learned

Since the beginning of April a dedicated team of children and parents has worked together after school to create all of the artefacts for the St Piran's ritual. The techniques used were originally taught to the parents who came into school some five years ago to make the originals. It has been wonderful to see those parents sharing their skills with others and teaching them to the children. The whole enterprise has brought school and community together to work feverishly towards one aim: sharing just a few of the things about our school and its activities about which we are so proud.

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Picture gallery



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Quotes

'I have never been to London before and I am very excited at the thought of going to The Hampton Court Flower Show. It is a great honour and privilege to be invited and I have really enjoyed making a new statue and working on the dances. I am also very proud of all the work everyone has done. It is going to be great.' Zennor, aged 10.

'It is wonderful that what we have achieved here in Perranporth has been recognised. We must do everything we can to make the event a great success and a truly memorable occasion.' Karen, parent.

Other information

Over the last twelve years, the school grounds have been transformed from a bleak and desolate environment to one which has many opportunities for physical activity, imaginative play, performance and for learning about the environment. Our wildlife area at last provides one of the few environments in the locality where children can walk beneath trees and safely study pond life. All of this has been done in partnership with Learning through Landscapes and we are very grateful for the support they have offered over the years.

Contact details

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