



Caritas Plymouth Intergenerational Project December 2021 Update

The intergenerational linking project is Caritas Plymouth initiative in partnership with Plymouth CAST, funded by a grant from the Dunhill Medical Trust. This project is part of a national initiative: [Care Home Friends and Neighbours: Intergenerational Linking](#)

The project has connected ten schools from Plymouth CAST and ten care home partners and it is great to see some of the activities already underway. Despite the challenges still posed by Covid, many pupils and residents are getting to know each other through letters, drawings and online.

We have had meetings with the schools and some of the Care Homes were able to attend a Zoom meeting in November. It has been wonderful to hear already about the positive difference that this project is making to school children and Care Home Residents.

This update offers some insights into the work which has already taken place and the plans for future activities.

The children from St Mary's Swanage drew the hands below to tell the Care Home Residents a little bit about themselves and are looking forward to receiving the residents hands in return.

Caritas Project Resources

- Grants to Schools
- Funding for equipment and resources
- One to one visits and online meetings to share ideas and resources
- Ideas for virtual links with Care Homes
- Intergenerational library resources

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

338 children have participated in 9 activities with 7 schools and care homes .



Intergenerational linking project

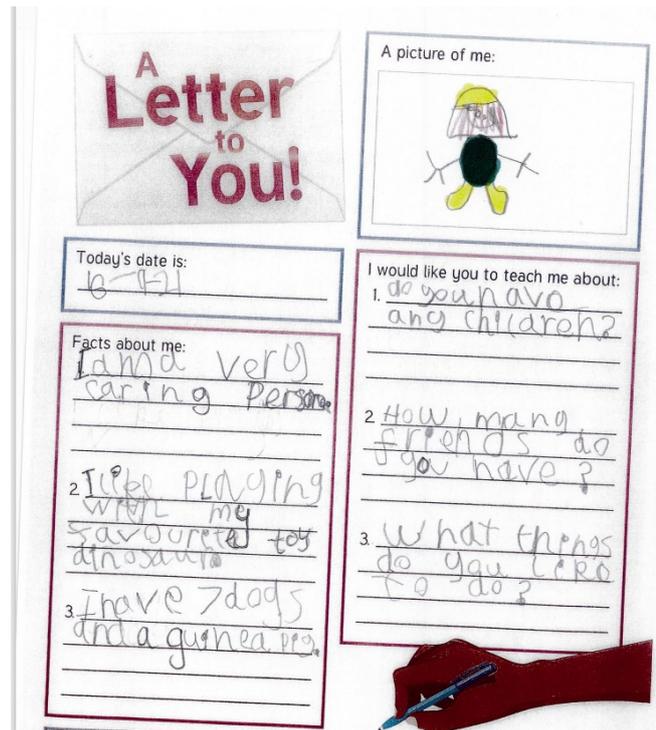


We are pleased to be working with primary schools from Plymouth CAST multi-academy Trust from Plymouth, Devon, Torbay and Dorset. Another Care Home project is being offered in Cornwall through the Eden Project.

School	Care Home link
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Plymouth	Bethany Christian Home
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Paignton	Primley House
St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wool	Upton Bay Care home
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Swanage	Clifftop Care Home
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Higher Park Lodge
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast	Redmount Care Home
St. Paul's Catholic Primary School, Plymouth	Ernstell House
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School, Plymouth	Underhill Care Home,
The Cathedral School of St Mary, Plymouth	Nazareth House
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole	Magna Care home

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Year 1 and Year 4
at St Mary and
Joseph's, Wool
are really keen
to get to know
the care home
residents



RESEARCH

This project is backed up by national research which aims to focus on what works well in these intergenerational links and how we can build on success. An 18-month evaluation study will follow the journey of 11 organisations across the England as they establish intergenerational linking activities between local schools and youth groups with older people living in care homes. The main research question is:

When local community-based organisations, working together in a cross-regional network, support the setting up of new intergenerational links between care homes for older people and children aged 5-14 in less socio-economically advantaged areas, what benefits occur to:

- Children and older people taking part
- Participating teachers, youth leaders, and care home staff
- Institutional relationships between care homes for older people and schools and youth groups at community level.

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FEEDBACK FROM THE CARE HOME PARTNERS

At our meeting with Care Homes in November we received lots of great feedback:

The residents received handprints from the children which was lovely for the residents, and they are going to do the same thing back for the children. There will be children from year 6 to sing carols for the residents in the garden.....it has probably felt quite insular for many of the residents recently and so it is lovely for them to connect with the outside world

Letters from the children were read out to the residents. The residents wrote about their own school days and gave the children some advice. They have also linked via Zoom in their cinema room. Their next activity will be to invite the school to come and meet Santa at the home in the garden.

Residents had fun painting and exchanging the pebbles, not only involving the residents and pupils but also the staff and parents too. They found that sharing the artwork got everyone interested and excited. The next thing will be getting a 7ft Christmas tree which will be a community tree outside the home, where the children will make laminated messages to decorate the tree.

We are really looking forward to seeing how these relationships grow and develop in the coming months and years but we just wanted to share with you this Covid secure meeting between pupils and residents in Wool. Having linked together via Zoom, the residents visited the children in their minibus for Children in Need. The children came outside and waved to them and the residents made some special gifts for them.



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