

# March 2022 Update

## Caritas Plymouth Intergenerational Project



Pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Devonport with Christmas cards they made and sent to Higher Park Lodge.

The intergenerational linking project is a *Caritas Plymouth* initiative in partnership with Plymouth Multi-Academy Trust (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](#)

We already have ten school partners but are pleased to welcome another school to the scheme: St Joseph's RC Primary in Poole and Richmondwood Rest Home. A warm welcome to both! We are thrilled to have so many schools from Plymouth CAST developing relationships with care home partners.

We have an Advisory Group in place to help guide and shape our work and in March heard the thoughts of Year 6 children from St Mary's in Swanage about how the project is going and why intergenerational linking is so important. You can hear their thoughts [here](#). It was also wonderful to be joined by Karen and Sophie, the Home Services Advisor and Wellbeing Lead from Upton Care Home in Wool who talked about what the Intergenerational project means to them and their residents: *"both parties get something out of it"*.

Zoe Batten, Chief Executive Officer of Plymouth CAST, a member of the Advisory group and said that this project is *"really inspirational."*

### WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

*We have 11 care home and school partners*

*We have an advisory group with representatives with education and care home expertise to advise and guide our project*

*We have awarded over £20,000 of grants to participating schools*

*We are part of a national project sharing expertise, ideas and resources*

*705 children have participated in 18 activities*



Proudly supporting youth social action

#iwill



Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport



Remarkable research for healthy ageing  
THE DUNHILL MEDICAL TRUST

# Intergenerational linking project

*“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*

*Galatians 5:6*

We know it isn't all plain sailing and that relationships take time to develop. Some of our schools have found it very difficult to make a strong connection with their care home partner and we appreciate all that the children have done to reach out.

We know that many care homes continue to struggle with the impact of Covid and this has affected their capacity to engage with schools and outside activities. There is high staff turnover in the care sector generally. Despite the importance of care homes, particularly in providing care for older people with increasingly complex care needs, they are often a sector that is disadvantaged or overlooked. In the UK there are now some 20,000 care homes, nursing homes and residential homes that are the first port of call for adult and elderly care around the country. With demand expected to rise steadily over the next decade, this project offers a great opportunity to make a positive difference to the lives of those who find themselves needing care.

We are encouraging schools which are finding it difficult to continue to reach out, but will also be looking for other care home partners who might be interested in linking in with one of our lovely schools.

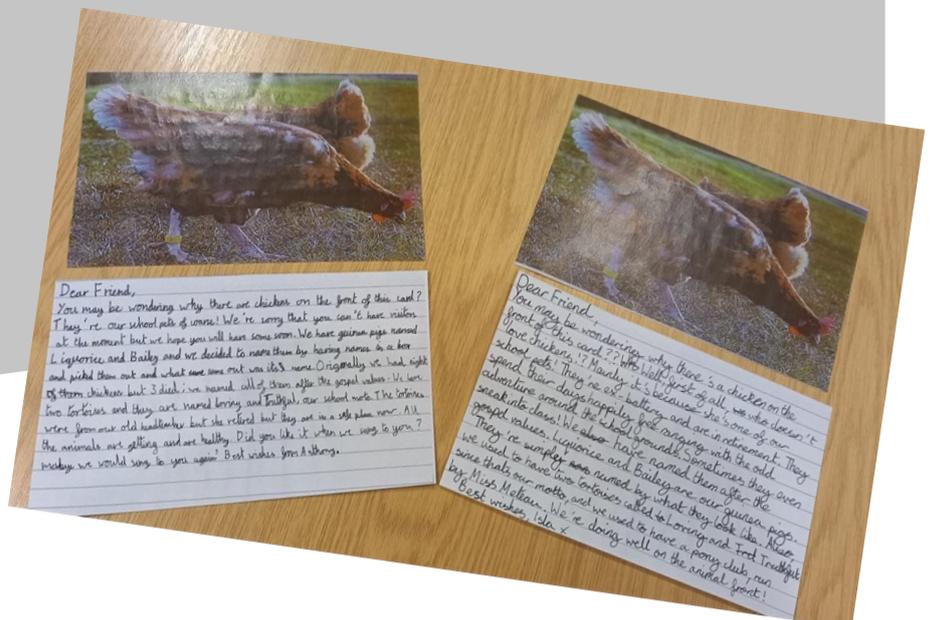


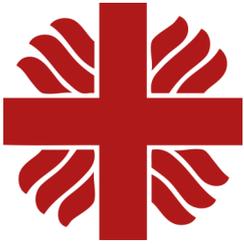
St Mary's Swanage's Year 6 class visited Clifftop Care Home to sing Christmas Carols to the residents from the garden.

They also sent letters telling the residents all about their school pets because they hoped it would make them smile.

**A new command I give you:  
love one another. As I have  
loved you, so you must love  
one another.**

**John 13:35**





Christmas gave the pupils an excellent opportunity to share their Christmas crafts and performances with their partner care homes, and we have had many lovely photos and posts about the Christmas activities the schools and care homes have been involved with. We don't have space to include everything but the following are a few examples:



St Peter's, Plymouth sent a video of their carol service and nativity play to Underhill Care Home . Year 1 children at St Joseph's in Devonport made and sent Christmas cards to Higher Park Lodge (see photo on the front page), as well as sending postcards and pictures.

St Mary's in Poole made some beautiful Christmas cards and Christmas tree decorations for the residents and staff at Magna Care Home. They also recorded a concert for the residents to enjoy.

***"Learning to "honor" the elderly is crucial for the future of our societies and, ultimately, for our future." Pontifical Academy for Life, Feb 2021***



Our newest school to join, St Joseph's in Poole, have already made hands to send to their care home and the care home have posted on Facebook images of their residents responding. This exchange involves children and residents drawing the shape of their hand on a piece of paper and then writing some details about their lives: what they like and dislike and what are their hobbies and interests. This is a great way for the residents and children to get to know each other before they plan some joint activities.

And now as the spring beckons, schools are starting to plan more outdoor activities. St Mary's in Buckfast plan to brighten up a care home garden with pots full of bulbs; others hope it will be possible to meet in the gardens of care homes. This will be an exciting opportunity for pupils and residents to finally meet face to face in a safe way.

St Mary's, Swanage, also sent suncatchers which the children made, for the residents to hang in their windows. We made a case study showing how to make them [here](#).



# Intergenerational linking Project Reflections

*“Some residents don’t have grandchildren and vice versa so you do get a different aspect, especially with different age groups as well.”*

Karen Grant  
Well Being Lead  
Upton Bay Care Home

*“The potential for this project is huge. It is really exciting and I think we can make it a sustainable project very easily.”*

Zoe Batten  
Chief Executive Officer, Plymouth CAST

**“Life is a gift, and when it is long it is a privilege, for oneself and for others.”**

**Pope Francis**

*“it’s good that we get to connect and meet up with residents”*

Pupil, Year 6,  
St Mary’s, Swanage

*“We have really enjoyed it. The children have been really engaged right from the beginning. They came up with so many different ideas.”*

Rebecca Meteau  
Year 6 Teacher  
St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

*“I think the residents just love seeing how enthusiastic the children are about it. They were talking about it hours later and that’s how you know that it’s resonated with them.”*

Sophie Payne  
Home Services Advisor  
Upton Bay Care Home

**Old-age is “a precious treasure that takes shape in the journey of every man and woman’s life, whatever their origins, background, or economic or social conditions.”**

*“When we went to do the singing it was really nice to see them inside and we could see them smiling.”*

Pupil, Year 6,  
St Mary’s, Swanage

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