

Peninsula geography southwest's primary newsletter

Issue 6 - April/May 2023



"I value the idea of getting lost in looking.

A type of looking that is not motivated by trying to identify, find, discern, or discover something, but is looking just for its own sake."

Uta Barth (2007)

Welcome to the sixth edition of our monthly newsletters, which is aimed at providing ideas and inspiration for primary geography colleagues whether you are based in the south west region of England or otherwise. As always, your feedback is very welcome.

Compiled by Alan Parkinson and Emma Espley.

#0523.01: Walk to School Week 2023



Walk to School Week takes place every year. This year's theme is Walk with Wildlife. The event is organised by Living Streets, who began life as the Pedestrians Association ninety years ago!

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/about-us/our-history>



This five-day walking challenge is a celebration of the walk to school and the perfect activity to run as part of National Walking Month this May.

This fun and engaging week-long activity for primary schools has been built to make pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Through this challenge, children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended 60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates!

A classroom pack of activities is available and priced at £12.50 for Key Stage 1 and 2. This can be ordered from the Living Streets website and any orders placed before the 9th May will arrive in time for the week itself, **which runs from 15th to 19th May.**

<https://livingstreets.shop/products/five-day-walking-challenge-classroom-pack>

#0523.02: Outdoor Classroom Day

Outdoor Classroom Day is held twice a year: once in May and then in November (to allow schools in other parts of the world to enter in 'their' summer months).

The event takes place in the same week as the previous event, and the two could be combined if the weather is kind. Some years ago, the Mission:Explore team produced a short booklet of activities to assist with the event. These are still available as part of a suite of resources, which also includes a downloadable certificate to award to those that take part:

<https://outdoorclassroomday.com/resource/explore-outside-classroom/>

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DAY

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ABOUT

RESOURCES

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NEWS



The main website is here: <https://outdoorclassroomday.com/>

Resources: <https://outdoorclassroomday.com/resources/>

#0523.03: Geographical Association (GA) Conference 2023

Thanks to all those who came along to the **Geographical Association (GA) Conference** in Sheffield in April 2023. This was a hybrid event once again. If you did come along, the recordings of primary-focused sessions (and others) are now available to view again from the link on the GA website and you should have been sent the password to access them: <https://geography.org.uk/conference-2023-recordings/>

Each year, those who present are asked to submit their presentations and these are appearing on this page on the GA website too, including several from Alan Parkinson, which may be of interest: <https://geography.org.uk/sheffield-2023-session-downloads/>

Next year's conference has the theme of '**Geography for Everyone**' and will take place at the University of Manchester. The theme has been chosen by Denise Freeman, who will take over as President in September 2023. Denise teaches geography in East London.

Why not consider submitting a session for this conference? The proposal form will be available on the GA website shortly. This could be done individually or with a colleague and would be a very useful subject development opportunity.



Why not apply for £100 from the Sheila Jones Legacy Fund to help organise a primary network meeting or event too?

<https://geography.org.uk/sheila-jones-legacy-fund/>

#0523.04: Primary Geography Subject Leader Online Network Meeting

The final of Emma Espley's regular Primary Geography Subject Leader meetings for this academic year takes place on Thursday 25th May, from 9am until 11.45am.

Tickets are available here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/primary-geography-subject-leader-network-pgsln-meeting-tickets-604842850247>

The focus will be on revisiting **Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework (EIF)**, focusing on one of its three Is in more depth (**impact**).

When contemplating the notion of curriculum making, the interconnectedness of intent, implementation and impact must remain paramount. The meeting will begin by considering **a number of key questions relating to impact**

e.g.

How do geographical knowledge and skills prepare all pupils for the next stage of education?

What do pupil outcomes tell us about the appropriateness of the curriculum intent?

To what extent have pupils progressed towards curriculum 'goals' and evidenced what they can remember about the content studied?

Inspectors are no longer using internal data to assess the attainment and progress of pupils. Instead, there is a greater focus on **first-hand evidence** gathered from **interviews, learning walks, lesson observations and book scrutinies**. These will be discussed in turn, integrating a **practical activity** too.

The second part of the meeting will focus on **assessment and progression in geography**. An **overview** will be **provided**, with the aim of looking at these aspects in more depth during the first meeting of the next academic year. **Time** will be built in **to explore** some of the **recommended websites and resources** as well.

The meeting will conclude with a **period of reflection**; time to formulate an **action plan** for the remainder of Terms 5 and 6 and the academic year ahead.

Throughout the morning, there will be **opportunities to interact with others** through various activities and open discussions, as well as the **chance to ask any questions** that you may have. It is hoped that you will feel **well-versed to reflect upon your whole school geography curriculum offering and confident about discussing this with an Ofsted inspector, member of SLT, school's Governing Body, etc.** should you be required to do so.

#0523.05: Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2023



This is an annual competition organised by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The theme of this year's competition is 'A blueprint for the future'. The RGS are looking for innovative ideas to address problems in areas such as food production and supply, energy and sustainability, water security, resources, population growth, economic stability and environmental management. The competition has four age categories, which includes one for Key Stage 2 (pupils aged 7-11). Entry is in the form of an A3 poster, which should focus on possible solutions to one of the world's problems.

Details here:

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2023-competition/>

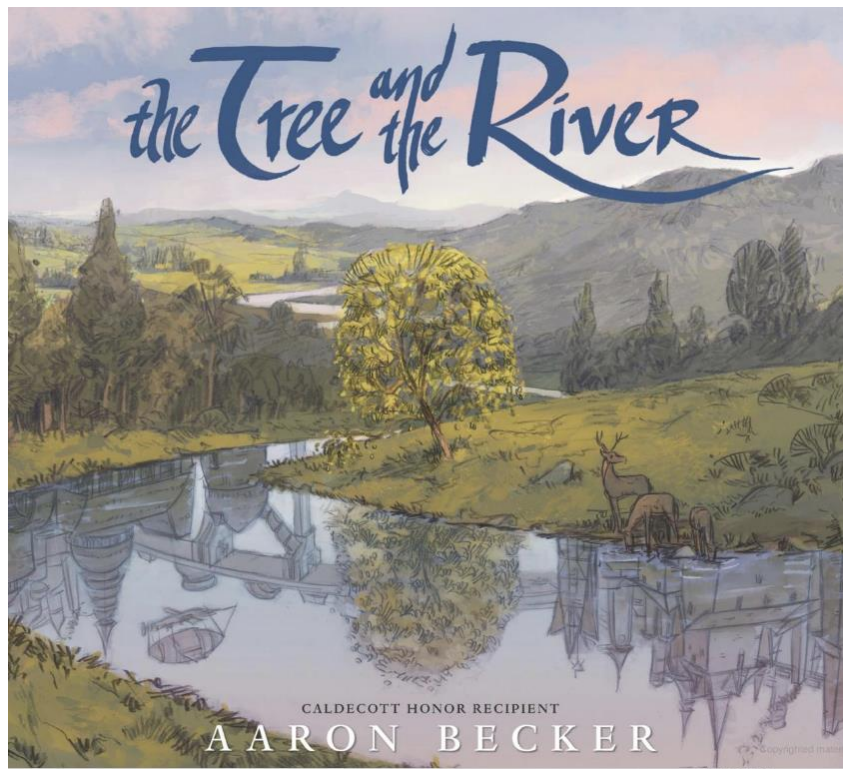
Twitter Suggestions

Account	Who they are	What they tweet about
@livingstreets	Living Streets	The national charity for everyday walking and organisers of the Walk to School Week. A range of resources around the benefits of walking.
@PoletoPoleEV	Pole to Pole EV	Follow husband and wife team, Julie and Chris Ramsay, as they attempt to be the first team to drive the 17 000 miles from Pole to Pole. They are currently in North America and you can follow their journey over the coming months here:

		https://poletopoleev.com/ This may be a good context for exploring global geography.
@OakNational	Oak National Academy	During the pandemic, Oak National Academy was set up to provide support for teachers with remote lessons. The Geographical Association (GA) has been awarded the contract for creating a whole primary geography curriculum. Resources, lesson plans and a curriculum plan will be appearing over the next year for all primary key stages.
@GlosGeog	Gloucestershire Branch of the Geographical Association (GA)	One of the newest GA branches, and already active in providing events for teachers.

Reading List

There have been a great many reads for primary-aged students released in recent months. This is a 'golden age' for such literature in many respects. This picture book focuses on a theme which is common to many of these books: the impact of people on the environment over time.



'The Tree and the River' is the latest offering from Aaron Becker. A mighty tree stands on the banks of a winding river, bearing silent witness to the flow of time and change. A family farms the fertile valley. Soon, a village sprouts, and not long after, a town. Residents learn to harness the water, the wind, and the animals in order to survive and thrive. The growing population becomes begins to bend nature to their will and ambition. What will happen to the tree? The pictures tell the whole story and will provoke discussion.

What's On

As summer approaches, there will be plenty of opportunities to get outside. The Geographical Association (GA) is, once again, encouraging schools to spend time outside by organising the National Fieldwork Fortnight (after the success of last year's event). There is a special page on the GA website where you can download all the relevant resources for your school to take part.

Fieldwork Fortnight runs from 26th June to 7th July 2023.

Access all the resources here:

<https://geography.org.uk/National-Fieldwork-Fortnight/>



You can also download a specially created MS PowerPoint presentation to raise awareness of the event and encourage people to become involved, as well as a selection of articles from the GA's Primary Geography journal:

- Using story stones in geography
- Material mapping
- Nature noticing and naming: pausing to reconnect
- Capturing Croydon
- Progression in geographical fieldwork experiences.

It is not too late to sign up for the latest **Wicked Weather Watch** event as well. There are two more events taking place in the summer term.

Booking details are on their website: <https://wickedweatherwatch.org.uk/>

Further details can be found on the flyer below:

The flyer is titled 'Arctic virtual multi-schools event' and 'What is so cool about the Arctic?'. It features a blue header with a 'WICKED WEATHER WATCH' logo. The main text describes a virtual multi-schools experience led by Emma Espley from Create2Inspire, where pupils and teachers go on a virtual journey to the Arctic. It mentions a real-life explorer, Nanou Blair Gould, and the event's focus on geography, numeracy, literacy, and critical thinking. The cost is £150 per school. The event dates are Monday 15th May 2023 and Wednesday 12th July 2023. Contact information for Rhianna is provided. There are three images: a woman (Emma Espley), a large sailing ship, and a group of children. A quote from a Y6 pupil and a Y6 teacher is included at the bottom.

Arctic virtual multi-schools event
What is so cool about the Arctic?

Wicked Weather Watch is collaborating with Emma Espley from **Create2Inspire** to bring schools a whole day, highly engaging, interactive, virtual multi-schools experience that will take pupils and their teachers on a journey to the Arctic. Schools throughout the UK and Europe are welcome on board!

Pupils will learn about the Arctic, the tundra biome (climate, soils, flora, and fauna), the people that live there, the impacts of climate change upon this fragile region and its inhabitants, and how we can reduce our own carbon footprint here in the UK to ensure the sustainability of our planet.

The day will even provide an opportunity to hear from a real-life explorer, Nanou Blair Gould, who travelled to the High Arctic Archipelago by tall ship. Among many extraordinary things, she witnessed the effects of global warming first-hand. Nanou was so invigorated by the adventure – the people, life outdoors, the sense of purpose – that she joined the ship again, working among the small crew for almost four months.

Targeting upper KS2, and supporting a transition to KS3, this event will cover many different areas of the curriculum and key skills, especially geography, numeracy/maths, literacy/English, and critical thinking. We will develop key aspects of substantive knowledge, such as place and locational knowledge, physical and human geography and geographical skills, as well as nurturing disciplinary knowledge, e.g. working and thinking like a geographer, in the process.

The cost for each school is £150 (you can involve as many upper KS2 teachers and pupils as is feasible your end). The next available dates for this event are **Monday 15th May 2023 and Wednesday 12th July 2023**. Check out what we have done in previous sessions by exploring these blog post reports: [February](#), [March](#), [April](#).

If you wish to reserve a place for your school, then please contact Rhianna at schoolswickedweatherwatch.org.uk. Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

"It is everyone's job to tackle climate change. Just because we are over ten hours away by plane doesn't mean that the plastic that we drop won't work its way to the Arctic Ocean" – Y6 Pupil

"Amazing; fantastic; interesting; super and informative" – Y6 Teacher

create 2 inspire

If you have an idea that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, then please get in touch and tell us more via Twitter @GeoBlogs or email: a.parkinson@gmail.com

The deadline for Issue 7 is 20th May 2023. This will include some ideas for the final months of the summer term.

We would also love to showcase your work in future issues as well, so please feel free to share if you have been inspired by something you read within these pages.