

Pupils quiz the experts on A38 safety



Staff and children from Sir Robert Geffery's Primary School in Landrake welcomed experts involved in the A38 road safety scheme who ran a series of workshops

ED O'HARA

SCHOOL LEARNS ABOUT PLANNED ROAD SCHEME

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CHILDREN at a south-east Cornwall primary school learned about the expertise behind a planned safety scheme for the A38 in a series of workshops from experts involved in the programme of work for the key road.

Pupils and staff at Sir Robert Geffery's Primary School in Landrake welcomed visitors from fields such as traffic management, air quality and even civil engineering as part of a series of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) workshops.

The A38 runs directly through the village, meaning that the planned National Highways A38 road safety scheme, running from the Carkeel

roundabout in Saltash to the Tre-rulefoot roundabout, will have a direct impact on the children, parents and staff from the school.

Children across the school had been asked for their opinions linked to the public consultations for further safety measures on this busy stretch of road last summer.

New head-teacher Ed O'Hara said he was impressed with some of the ideas and questions from the children on the core issues, and said pupils showed an interest in learning more.

So the school jumped at the chance to invite experts who ran a series of workshops covering many STEM subjects which are linked to the road safety proposals.

They included Shaun Joyce of Pell

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Ed O'Hara, Head



Frischmann Civil Engineering Consultants, Janine Bisson and James Peck from Cornwall Council, National Highways Road Traffic Officers Angela Fenne and Greg Fenne, and Ed Halford who is National Highways' South West Operations Route Manager.

During the workshops, pupils were given a background to the A38 safety scheme and investigated how

different surfaces affect speed using toy cars, giving them an understanding to why high friction surfacing is used in certain locations.

The children were enthusiastic about learning ways to improve the local air quality, including discussing the importance of encouraging parents to switch off idling engines and even learnt about the greenhouse gases that could come from

animals that are nurtured on the school's own 2.5 acre farm.

Fascinating facts were learnt by the children enquiring about the equipment used by the traffic officers and the pupils reported that the event helped them learn about the many STEM jobs, such as engineering that are open to them locally and nationally.

At the end of the morning, the children of the School Council met with the visitors, who also included Isla Jago, a representative from the office of South-East Cornwall MP Sheryll Murray.

Mr O'Hara said: "It has been great seeing the children take such an interest in issues of local importance.

"The pupils of the school council are keen to continue to get involved in ways to help make our local roads safer and our air cleaner.

"We'd like to thank all of our visitors for helping to inspire the children to take further interest in STEM careers."

■ Sir Robert Geffery's School has spaces in its current and next year's reception classes and welcomes calls to arrange visits for any prospective parents.