

Newsletter No. 33: 20 February 2023

Dear all

I hope you have all had a good half term break and welcome back to Term 4, which will be another short but busy term, I'm sure.

Thank you to all of you who completed the parent survey over the last few weeks; questionnaires for staff, parents and learners closed at half term and we are now in the midst of collating the results, the detail of which will be communicated back to you by your child's academy in the coming weeks, along with the actions prioritised for continuing improvement. Our annual stakeholder surveys are an important way for the Trust Board to hear the views of the people who form our partnership and we are all keen to use the information well to make sure that we do an even better job of educating your sons and daughters.

One of the highlights of Term 3 was our Trust-wide Charity Day, which this year provided goods for the Salisbury Foodbank. All ten academies in the Trust took part and children and young people brought in a range of priority foods and other items to support the work of the charity. Below is an extract from Maria Stevenson's letter to the Trust; Maria is a governor and parent at Old Sarum Primary School and the Deputy Manager of the Salisbury Foodbank:

"The donations have been collected, weighted and now mostly sorted in our foodbank warehouse! I wanted to pass on my thanks for the MLP charity day initiative and support all the schools have given us.

Collectively, **MLP donated 1175kg of food**, which is about the weight of **100 Single Emergency food parcels or 900 meals**. This food is already being picked and packed up ready for local people, our aim key aim goes back to the origins of The Trussell Trust when Paddy and Carol Henderson set up the foodbank network...
"No one should go hungry tonight".

*The Gold Star goes to **Amesbury Archer Primary School** for collecting the most food by weight: **221kg**.
Special thanks to Old Sarum Primary School for collecting the most Angel delight!*

All the schools really got behind the challenge and it's been a pleasure for me to take part, especially at Old Sarum where my daughter attends".

Our thanks go to Maria and the team for helping us set up the day, for the assemblies she led in some of the academies and for her offer to provide a learning day at the Foodbank for the school council of Amesbury Archer Primary School. A huge thank you to all of you for what you contributed; we all know just how much difference this will make to families in need across the area.

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer



Amesbury Primary School



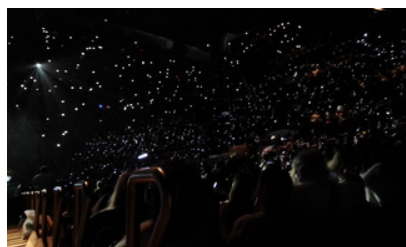
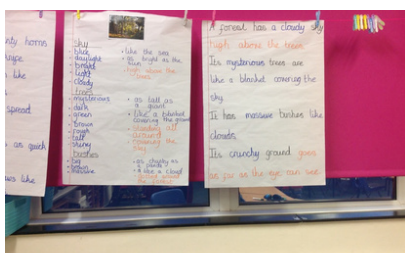
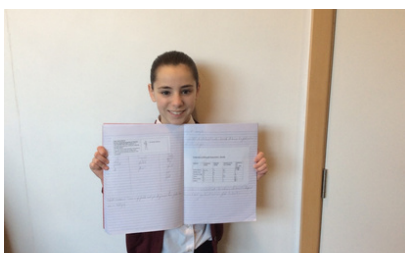
Term 3 started with some exciting curriculum developments as children were introduced to our new 'Talk for Writing' approach and teachers have received specialist training. It was fantastic to see the children so engaged in their learning and we know they have really enjoyed making videos and story maps to share with their families at home. It was wonderful to see their determination and focus which really illustrates our school value of Ambition.

During our Collective Worship, we thought about the Christian Value of Perseverance. We explored what helps to motivate us and how we feel after we have achieved something we have tried hard at. We looked at stories such as the 'Snail and the Whale' and learnt about how Jesus showed perseverance when spreading the word of God.

Our Year R Children had a very exciting visit from the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Trust. They spent all day making dens to keep cosy and protect themselves from the weather. They told Winter stories to each other and learnt about how animals survive, we even had hot chocolate and S'mores around the camp fire.

Amelia and Mollie were the first two winners of our termly reading raffle. They won a £10 voucher to spend at The Rocketship Book Shop in Salisbury and were treated to a hot chocolate from Cafe Nero. Both girls were very excited to explore the shop and peruse the different books on offer. Children have to read 3 times per week to earn a raffle ticket. We hope the girls like their books and we can't wait to take some more ACE readers next time.

Two weeks ago, we took the School Choir to the O2 in London to sing along with 9,000 other young people as part of Young Voices. The children had a fantastic time and demonstrated our ACE values, of Ambition, Courage and Empathy throughout the whole day.



Amesbury Archer Primary School



To begin 2023, the children at Amesbury Archer have experienced a number of memorable events to help consolidate their learning and provide wider opportunities for discovering new knowledge which they are always eager to share.

Arrow and Quiver celebrated Chinese New Year by tasting Chinese food using chopsticks, learning why the years are named after animals, counting money inside lucky red envelopes and buying food in a Chinese takeaway. A real highlight for the children was a performance of their own dragon dance with a procession of musicians!



There was an exciting Zoom call from history in Year 2, where Florence Nightingale talked to the children about her life. As well as learning about how she was a pioneer for women in nursing, we crafted lanterns and compared hospitals in the Victorian times to now. The children definitely think Salisbury hospital is much cleaner than Scutari hospital!



Year 3 made a fantastic effort dressing up for the Egyptian workshop and the children thoroughly enjoyed their time on a journey through the Ancient Egyptian afterlife and exploring the process of mummification.

Bluestone and Sarsen, in Year 5, enjoyed a visit from a STEM ambassador who spoke to us about her work to send astronauts to the moon as well as how she got into engineering. The children were inspired, and it was a fantastic opportunity for the children to speak to a real-life scientist.



Term 4 is an equally exciting prospect, with the opening of our new Cookery Room and World Book Day, on the horizon.

Bemerton St John Primary School

We enjoy promoting a love of reading at Bemerton and we have a wonderful culture of reading for pleasure throughout the school. Each time children complete five reads per week, their name goes into a box in their classroom. Three times a year, children's names are selected at random from this box during a collective worship. These lucky readers are then taken on a trip down to Salisbury's Rocketship Bookshop where they select a new book and enjoy a hot chocolate. Our most recent winners had a wonderful time and their classmates have benefitted from some new well-chosen books on their bookshelves.

The main goal of Safer Internet Day is to raise awareness and start a conversation about online safety and this year's work centred around the prompt 'Want to Talk About It?'. Having conversations with children about their online lives helps us to gain a deeper understanding about what they love doing and what they are concerned about. It also gives our children the confidence to open up if things go wrong and thus the opportunity to support them when they need it the most. This year's Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday, 7th February and all our children took part in activities and conversations about their internet use, their digital footprint and how to discuss online matter with adults.



Mabel, fresh from her dog mentoring training, has been very busy this term. She has been listening to children reading, coming outside to meet children in the mornings, completing maths activities and having walks with pupils. Mabel really is becoming an important part of school life for the children and, since completing her training, she has helped many children to communicate their feelings and make progress in their learning. She has been working so hard and really deserves her big naps in the afternoons!

On Friday 10th February, the children were treated to a musical theatre production of *The Wind in the Willows* as a reward for all their hard work. The children followed the lives of loyal friends Mole, Ratty and Badger in their attempts to help the exuberant Mr. Toad become a better creature. The first part of the production was a light hearted half hour rehearsal in which children were taught the choruses of five songs and ten children rehearsed small parts in the play. The show (which lasted 1 hour) ran seamlessly with everyone taking part and having a brilliant time – what a great end to the term!



Old Sarum Primary School



Our pupils returned to school at the start of 2023 ready and eager to learn. As a whole school, children have been thinking about the power of “yet” which helps them be more positive about their learning by understanding that they may not be able to do something “yet” but there is the possibility they can achieve with practice and determination. We put great emphasis on ensuring that children are given strategies to overcome barriers to their development and build their resilience, therefore working on Growth mindset is a priority for us.

Sports

Some of our pupils have really enjoyed representing the school as part of different sporting events. In particular, some of our Year 5 pupils enjoyed visiting Wyvern St Edmund's Academy to take part in a kurling tournament. We love the opportunity to visit other schools in the Trust and to introduce our pupils to different sports.



Year 1 visit to Old Sarum Castle

Our Year 1 pupils braved the cold weather by wrapping up warm and marching up the hill to visit Old Sarum Castle. The children enjoyed exploring the site and finding out what life would have been like in times gone by. On their return to school the children enjoyed telling staff the story of the reason Salisbury Cathedral is built where it is now.



MLP Charity Day

We were thrilled at the supportive response from our families in support of the Salisbury Foodbank.



Safer Internet Day

The school has spent a lot of time working with children to learn about how to stay safe online. For our pupils, we wanted to focus on interacting safely online with others, and how to understand the impact social influencers have.



School Disco

We finished the half term with a very well attended school disco. Our pupils always love to take part in the dancing and games, led by Disco Dion. What a lovely way to end the term!

Pembroke Park Primary School



At Pembroke Park Primary, we have been focusing on embedding our broad and balanced curriculum and ensuring our children are taught a wide range of subjects well. We have been really pleased to see so much passion and enjoyment for learning and some fantastic work being produced and discussions being had.

Our SEN coffee afternoon this term included a talk from CAMHS about the services they offer and we have also engaged with Wiltshire Family Learning and have some exciting courses lined up for our community to access.



A group of Key Stage 2 children were incredibly lucky to receive a fully-funded trip to the O2 arena in London to sing as part of the UK's largest choir at the Young Voices concert. It was an incredible experience, and the children were fantastic representatives for our school being impeccably behaved all day.

We continue to celebrate our reading culture through our weekly reading assemblies and raffles. We also celebrate our school values through weekly Hot Chocolate Friday with our Headteacher and Friday's celebration assembly.



Salisbury 6th Form College



We are delighted to announce that the number of applications to study at S6C in 2023 is better than ever! We are all incredibly proud of our high quality teaching and excellent results and when combined with our welcoming, friendly atmosphere, we believe we can offer our students a truly unique and rewarding college experience.

During Term 3 we had two external reviews, welcoming colleagues from Woking and Farnborough Colleges who conducted an External Quality Review (EQR) in the areas of personal development and careers and an Education Consultant, who spent the day at S6C speaking to staff, students and conducting learning walks. Our visitors' feedback will be invaluable as we consider and develop the ways in which we teach our courses and support our students.

We were all extremely pleased with how well received the Apprenticeships Fair was by both visitors and employers alike. The atmosphere was tremendously positive and the event affirmed our commitment to giving our students a comprehensive careers education along with promoting local businesses and the wealth of opportunities that are available. Following this hugely successful event, we took part in National Apprenticeship Week, which was a great opportunity for us to link careers to the curriculum in lessons and work towards Gatsby Benchmark 4.

Our students continue to work hard in their studies and our spring term began with Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQ) exams in Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Applied Law, Sport and Business. A huge well done to all our students who showed fantastic commitment, focus and maturity. Beyond the classroom, on Holocaust Memorial Day, five students were honoured to be invited to contribute to the city's commemoration event at the Guild Hall and Year 12 sports students spent an afternoon taking part in an elite skills building session with the Army.



Extended Learning Day

On Thursday, 2nd February we had the second of this year's Extended Learning Day and what a varied and amazing day it was!

The day saw huge amounts of #Careerslearning going on with mock interviews for students in Year 10 and 12. Over 20 people from local businesses came in to support with practice interviews. Students were really positive about their experiences with the familiar refrain that they would not feel so nervous in the future! Ably supported by the Wessex Inspiration Network who ran interview workshops before the interviews themselves, feedback from business was also amazing. One interviewer commented, *"everyone I saw was a credit to the Academy and the hard work you all put in. I didn't see anyone who didn't want to be interviewed - they may have been nervous, but it didn't show"*.



The Extended Learning Day in Art provided a fantastic opportunity for Year 9 students to experience a whole range of new techniques and skills. There were 5 workshops that students visited in turn.

The first workshop was led by Katy England from Salisbury Museum who introduced students to an extensive fashion collection and explained how artists and designers have a responsibility to sustainability in fashion. This then inspired the making of a newspaper dress based on historic sources and ideas about how students could re-purpose garments.

In the second workshop visiting artist Sam Perry, who has previously worked and exhibited at some of the biggest London galleries, worked with our students to create a surrealist inspired head.

Workshop 3 was led by Miss Shields who introduced the students to embroidery and they created their own bespoke badges.

In workshop 4 Mrs Millidge, helped the students weave with recycled clothes onto scrap bike wheels, all donated by the Trussell Trust and Rise:61's bike hub. These will eventually be installed on fences around the school.

The last workshop was paper shoe making with Mr Humphrey which completes our head to toe fashion and textile ELD.



The New Forest Primary School



Learning is the heart of the work that we do at The New Forest School and Term 3 was no different.

January brought the cold and wintery weather, which the children love and enjoy spending time in the playground. It has been a joy to see the learning in all classrooms. At KS1, the youngest children are not only exploring ice but are enjoying learning about the wider world. The nursery is now full most days and the children have enjoyed exploring their outdoor areas.

Woodside have been immersed in the world of fossils and dinosaurs and they have loved sharing books and stories about them. In Year 1, they have loved reading and writing traditional tales using Pie Corbett's 'Talk for Writing'. In Year 2, they have been finding out about the world through the eyes of explorers including Shackleton and Scott.

Years 5 and 6 have been learning about Darwin, Evolution and Adaptation; they enjoyed a trip to Marwell Zoo to support this work. They are also using their time in R.E. to debate their ideas about creation and how these fit in with their beliefs.

Year 4 children are looking at the age of invention and their inspirational person this term is Ada Lovelace. Ada Lovelace was an English Mathematician and founded 'mothers' of computing. Year 3 are really enjoying finding out about the Egyptians and how historians use clues about the past.

Lots of inspirational learning and deep thinking across the school.



The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School
at Downton

It's been a very busy Term 3 at The Trafalgar School!

The Great Big Plan

Our Year 11 students had a great day early in January working through their Great Big Plan. This off-timetable day is to carefully plan their final few months before the summer examinations. The aim of the day was to give students the time to consider the following 'Where am I now?', 'Where do I want to get to?', 'How am I going to get there?' and 'How can I look after myself on the way?'

Students started the day by reviewing their recent Progress Report and evaluating the revision techniques they used for their November mock exams. They then mapped out and planned their revision on their own Trafalgar wall planner. Other sessions included identifying which subjects to prioritise, trying different revision techniques, stress management and understanding cognitive load. After lunch students took part in an activity to increase their wellbeing, these included crafting, martial arts, yoga, circuit training, mindfulness or a cardio workout.

Frontline Living History

On Friday our Year 11 GCSE History students had an opportunity to get up close and personal with the medicine of the First World War.

We were visited by David and Richard from Frontline Living History who gave a talk on the weapons, wounds and treatments of the war.

Students had some great questions and David and Richard were impressed with their knowledge and attitude in the session.

Students also had an exam practice session with Mr Whitelock and Miss Churchward, they have plenty of revision material to now get on with!

We would like to thank the TSA for helping fund the visit, it was a really worthwhile opportunity for the students.

Baptist Church Visits

Year 7 have made their annual pilgrimage to the Downton Baptist Church to learn how a church supports its community through faith in action.

They learned about the work the Baptist Church does to support food banks, clothes banks and community meals for the elderly.

They spent time with the Reverend Philip Rhoades and the Reverend Katy Ulliyatt learning about the differences between Baptist churches and other denominations, as well as how a believer's Baptism is different to an infant Baptism.





WSE Year 11 Revision and Resources Evening

On 2nd February, WSE hosted our first Yr 11 Revision Event since 2019. Students and their parents filled the main hall for a series of presentations given by members of the senior leadership team as well as the heads of English, maths and science. The first objective was to ensure that parents were clear on what their sons and daughters should be doing in school and at home in the run-up to the formal exams in the summer. Secondly, the evening was a chance to remind students of a number of important ideas that have been covered already this year. These ranged from how to find your motivation, to how best to go about revision as well as entry requirements for colleges and a reminder of the critical exam regulations.

In addition, subject leads covered how best to approach revision in English, maths and science in particular. In the interval between sessions guests enjoyed a delicious curry prepared by the school canteen and students could pick up a huge variety of revision materials for their KS4 courses. WSE's self-produced knowledge organisers were available as well as a wide variety of revision guides.

The evening concluded with a motivational talk from Head of Year, Mr Elliott, and Assistant Headteacher, Mr Adams, demonstrating how to get knowledge secured in your memory by repeated self-testing.

All in all, a highly successful and enjoyable evening.

One year 11 parent said:

"I just wanted to say how grateful we are for the time you all clearly give to support our Year 11 children, as demonstrated by the excellent event you put on this evening; it was very informative and much appreciated - coming at exactly the right time to reiterate what we've been trying to say at home for months!"

"It was clear to see your commitment to each and every one of your young people and I am sure both students and parents were blown away by the investment you have put in and the resources you have created to support them through this challenging period".

