

Newsletter No. 34: 17 April 2023

Welcome back to Term 5 and I hope that you and your families enjoyed a good Easter break. There is plenty to read about from the schools and college in this edition of the newsletter and as you can see, children and young people have been involved in a wide range of activities.

We are always happy to welcome guests to our academies, whether they are parents choosing a new school, professionals coming to work with our staff or visitors supporting our work with pupils and students. We are also keen to secure outside views of the quality of our work with children and young people; because of this we are members of an organisation called Challenge Partners, through which senior education leaders from across the country review schools and colleges to give us a view of what we do well and what we could do even better. A number of our academies have received Challenge Partners' Reviews over the last term or so, including Bemerton St John, Pembroke Park, Amesbury Archer, The Trafalgar School and S6C. Others have visits planned before the end of the year. The outcome of these reviews will be shared with you through school and college newsletters; there is much to celebrate in every report.

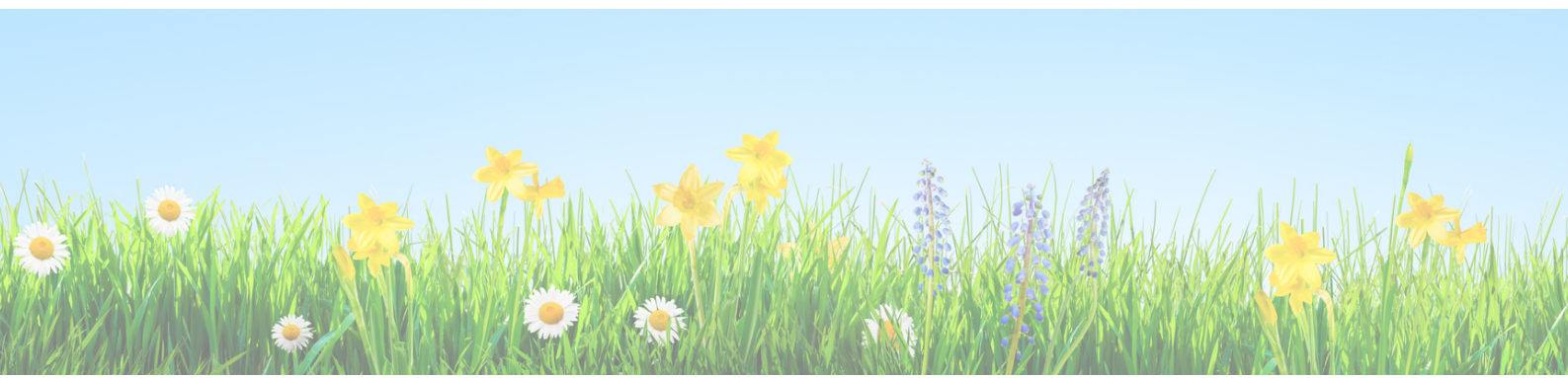
Also well worth celebrating is Sarum Academy's Ofsted report which will be published at the start of term after an inspection that took place in February.

We also congratulate two new Headteachers, appointed last term. They are Mrs Claire Pearce who was appointed as permanent Headteacher for Bemerton St John Primary School last month and takes up her post this week, having been Acting Headteacher since September. A former pupil, Mrs Pearce's 5-year-old self didn't foresee that one day she would lead the school! We will also offer a warm welcome to a Headteacher joining us from the Hamwic Education Trust in Southampton. Mrs Sarah Barwell was also appointed last month and will join Old Sarum Primary School as Headteacher at the start of Term 6.

You may have read that I will be retiring from my role as CEO at the end of August and my successor has now been appointed. He is Mr Ian Tucker, currently Executive Principal at St John's School in Marlborough. He has already visited most of the Trust academies and he and I will be working closely to ensure a smooth handover for September.

Finally, Term 5 has a clear focus on external tests and examinations. To our pupils and students in Years 6, 11 and 13, the very best of luck. With your good preparation and the close support from your teachers, as well as your parents, you should achieve really well.

Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer



Amesbury Primary School



It was another busy term at Amesbury CE Primary School. The children and staff really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and we took part in a whole school project to write our own ACE novel. We invited some special guests in to celebrate Mother's day where they took part in craft lessons with their children and on the very last day, we even had a visit from the Easter Bunny, who delivered an Easter Egg for every pupil!

Earlier in the term, we took our Student Leadership Team to London to visit The Houses of Parliament. The children travelled there by train and enjoyed seeing famous landmarks as we walked along the Embankment. The children were amazed by the striking architecture of the Houses of Parliament. Once inside, we were given lots of information about the history of democracy in the United Kingdom and learned how Parliament operates today. We were given a tour of the House of Lords and even managed to meet with our Local MP, John Glen. The children had the opportunity to ask him lots of questions about topical issues such as school funding and Ukraine.

Our Year 4 pupils had an exciting trip to River Bourne Farm as a part of their Geography enquiry. The children learned all about how farms run, and how staff look after the animals. They loved being able to feed the animals too.

In collective worship, we have been considering the theme of Justice. We have been thinking about equality and how we need to act in a fair way so that everybody feels happy and safe. We have looked at the Bible Story, Jonah and the Whale and explored the themes of Justice within it.



Amesbury Archer Primary School



Term 4 highlights included launching our wonderful cookery room, Year 6 visit to Harnham Water Meadows and World Book Day.

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) saw the grand opening of Amesbury Archer's new cooking room, with all 410 children going in to cook, flip and eat their pancake. An ambitious venture, but it was important that everyone had the chance to go in and use their new room on its first day of opening. Every child had a smile on their face and the buzz in the school was fantastic. The chat coming from the children as they sat together adding their toppings and eating their pancakes, was enthusiastic, positive and heart-warming. The room is not only for pancakes, with Easter biscuits, Mother's Day cakes and scones also being designed and made by the children.

Year 6 in Geography, have studied rivers and their importance. This was complemented by an exciting, if rather wet, trip to Harnham Water Meadows where the children learnt the value of the meadows and the geographical history of our local area. They were also lucky enough to observe a drowning of one of the meadows and enjoy a splash about!

The children also enjoyed World Book day and it was fantastic to see their variety of costumes. They also had a go at making Harry Potter potions with some explosive results!



Bemerton St John Primary School



Term 4 was full, fun and fabulous at Bemerton St John!

The Year 6 children enjoyed a fantastic few days away on their residential trip to PGL Liddington in Swindon. They impressed us all with their perseverance, resilience and general positive attitude by challenging themselves to try something new. In addition, their kindness and consideration alongside the encouragement they provided one another was outstanding; they represented Bemerton St John wonderfully whilst away and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them—well done Eagles!



Kingfishers, Woodpeckers and Nightingales received an extended talk from visiting speaker Peter Nutsford. A former teacher at Pembroke House School in Kenya, Peter came to tell us about his incredible experiences living in Africa. Peter is an accomplished orator and photographer and he had the children enthralled with tales of treks up volcanoes, interactions with mountain gorillas and first-hand recounts of the customs of the Tribespeople of Ethiopia. Peter brought along the most amazing presentations along with physical items such as masks. Peter loved working with our children and has agreed to return to present his talks on the Africa's 'BIG FIVE' animals.



A selection of our Year 5 pupils took part in an intergenerational art project with members of our local community. The project was based around the theme of 'Spring' and each participant created a spring garden book. The sessions were run by a local artist, Tamsin Loveday, who encouraged everyone to imagine all the things which could grow in their dream garden - there were some brilliant ideas all round!



The term ended with Years 3 and 4 leading the Easter Service with a captivating performance of the Easter Story. The children's colourful work was projected within St John's Place as the children explored the major themes of Easter. The children wowed their audience with songs and the Church Council wrote and delivered prayers to those gathered. The children spoke so well about faith and the meaning behind the events that we remember at this time of year; all staff, parents and carers were left feeling very proud.



Old Sarum Primary School



Old Sarum Primary had another busy term and we are looking forward to the warmer, sunnier weather to come. However, the children had a wonderful snow day at school, building snowmen quickly before the snow disappeared.

Year R finished the term by making and baking hot cross buns. It was wonderful to see them measuring the ingredients carefully and their joy at eventually tasting all their efforts!

They also received their eggs in the final week of term and we are all looking forward to watching the chicks hatch and grow over the coming weeks. It is a favourite part of our Early Years curriculum.

Year 1 created aerial maps of their classroom. The children had to use Numicon pieces and be creative in using other items from around the classroom.

Year 3 welcomed Zoology into school to support their topic about Rainforests. The children held the animals brought in, such as a corn snake, a tree frog, a hissing cockroach, a tarantula and a giant African snail!

Year 5 pupils have been learning about states of matter. They enjoyed completing some investigations and experiments into the properties of solids, liquids and gases and also reversible and irreversible changes.

We ended Term 4 with two fantastic days of circus skills. All the children had an opportunity to take part in a range of activities, building confidence and resilience. A fantastic celebration of another hard working term!



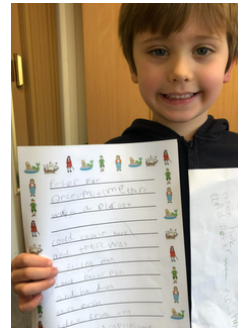
Pembroke Park Primary School



Term 4 seems to have flown by! A term full of thinking hard and having fun. It has been so exciting seeing children making great progress within their learning and enjoying such a wide range of subjects. Reception enjoyed a trip to the farm and were incredible ambassadors for our school and Year 4 have benefitted from weekly swimming sessions – developing skills and confidence.



We continue to be passionate about sports and have used our Magna Learning Partnership minibuses to transport a number of teams to local tournaments – a special mention to our Tag Ruby team who not only played incredibly well but demonstrated great sportsmanship which was recognised with 3 out of 12 sportsmanship certificates given to Pembroke.



We celebrated Poetry week by learning and performing a range of poems. Each class chose a finalist who performed their poem to the whole school in our assembly. These activities provide great opportunities to develop confidence and public speaking skills and are a crucial part of our whole school vision of developing well-rounded citizens.



Our new free Pembroke Toddler Group runs every Friday morning and has been a great success for the community. It is open to all and we look forward to welcoming even more new faces next term.



Finally, the term ended with celebration, positivity and giggles. A trip to the bookshop and a hot chocolate for our term 4 reading raffle winners, weekly hot chocolate for our PPARC pupils, over £700 of books sold at our Book Fair and a surprise whole school Easter egg hunt with the Easter bunny! A big thank you to Astrella Academy for sponsoring the egg hunt which saw every child go home with an Easter egg and to The Bridge for very engaging Easter workshops.

Salisbury 6th Form College



Well done to our students for working so hard in their mock exams and congratulations go to 11 Sport students who passed their Emergency First Aid at Work certificate - a six-hour course! To end the term, all students approached our Healthy Relationships and Sexual Health Development Day with enthusiasm and maturity.

This term, visitors to S6C have included John Glen MP who toured the college and took time to meet our Business students; Governor John Hawkins joined us for a learning walk and to meet with members of staff; two representatives from Challenge Partners met members of the S6C faculty and students; a Student Finance Adviser from the University of Portsmouth came to speak to Year 13; Year 12 had talks on Labour Market Information and researching university choices.

Beyond the classroom, four History students took part in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, travelling to Poland to witness for themselves the scale of the horrors which took place; our Year 12 Art student's work was exhibited at the Salisbury Young Gallery; English Language and English Literature students travelled to London to visit the Treasures of the British Library exhibition; the Change Your Mind Team delivered an assembly to Year 7 at Wyvern St Edmund's and a workshop on basic first aid at Harnham Junior School.

We have celebrated International Women's Day, dressed up for World Book Day and our students met snakes, tortoises, a bearded dragon and a tarantula during Science Week.

All the above is testament to how well S6C works as a community and how dedicated and committed everyone is to our students' learning experience. Thanks to our teaching staff, Governors, support staff and students for creating such a wonderful environment in which to study and work.



Sarum Academy



Check it Out Week was simply amazing!

The theme this year was 'where is the love?'

All students thoroughly enjoyed the week and were keen to take part in all the activities.

Every Religious Studies class visited the Connect Cafe which was set up especially so that students could learn in a chilled environment and focus on loving self.

We converted the Chapel into an art room where willing participants dropped by to paint pebbles with positive messages for people in the community and learn the importance of loving our neighbours.

Finally, DJ Jozzy showed us the meaning of God's love through our collective worship and even gave us a special live performance in the form of a rap.

Everyone at school arrived early each morning and took to the dance floor. Jozzy treated us to a live DJ set which was enjoyed by students and staff members. Even Mrs Moore took to the floor for the cha cha slide!

The silent disco ran each lunchtime and DJ workshops happened across the week.

The Cafe was open each break and lunchtime where nearly 600 hot chocolates were given out. Big thanks to the school's Ethos group for helping serve all those drinks!

All there is to do now is to place all those beautiful painted pebbles out into our amazing community.

Thanks again to everyone involved. We can't wait until next year!



The New Forest Primary School



World Book Day was a real celebration of reading for pleasure. The theme for the day was 'Traditional Tales' and we read 'Once Upon a...Fairy-tale'. The children then got to work writing, and developing characters, settings, and plots for new and wonderful stories. The Year 6 children enjoyed creating 'choice' stories on the computers, where the user chooses the story line. In year 5, the children used the ancient 'Willow' pattern as inspiration to represent their stories in a different way. At KS1 the children dressed up and acted out their stories and loved every minute of it.



During Science Week, the children enjoyed a fun workshop of 'Silly Science'. There were all sorts of loud bangs, crashes and experiments. More seriously though, the children delved into the application of the three main sciences to connect science to real life. The children explored science in the home and how it makes our lives easier.



The New Forest School continues to enjoy sporting achievements and the KS2 pupils have taken part in cross country, orienteering and rugby tournaments. The cross-country teams came first in their events, and we are very proud of that.



Years 3 and 4 have spent the term preparing for their show, 'Bee Musical'. The children really enjoyed all aspects of preparing for a performance and it was certainly a special evening when it all came together. It is important to us at The New Forest School to ensure that we develop the whole child and to fulfil our curriculum aim to be aspirational for our children academically, spiritually and emotionally.



The Trafalgar School



The Trafalgar School
at Downton

Trafalgar had an extremely busy Term 4. We ran competitions for World Book Day, participated in sporting tournaments and matches, been on overseas visits, took part in the Salisbury Book Awards, raised awareness of Neuro Diversity Week through activities and information workshops, held classroom science challenges in British Science Week to name just a few. We've also been busy setting up our Outdoor Classroom and planting raised beds.

On 10th March, Year 9 students headed to Belgium for our annual battlefield trip to Ypres. We started at Lijssenthoek cemetery, the site of a Field Hospital, where we learnt about a number of individuals buried there, including Staff Nurse Nellie Spindler. We also visited the site of a Dressing Station and the grave of Rifleman Valentine Strudwick, one of the youngest casualties who died at only 15. Our visit to the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world at Tyne Cot was another poignant moment. Our final visit of the day before spending time in Ypres was to Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood and the preserved trenches.

Term 4 marked a highlight in the school year for the science department, British Science Week. Students participated in bespoke tasks during their science lessons. Year 7 students questioned the feasibility of inhabiting Mars and how best to get there, by researching the effect of streamlining and the efficacy of jet propulsion, using balloon rockets. Year 8 students were set the challenge of how to address the lack of housing and current world population explosion by creating the tallest, free-standing structure they could from the materials provided, whilst also considering budget.

The week's events culminated with the Science Fair, on 14th March. Students had been busy researching, experimenting or creating a project that interested them, before writing up and presenting their findings. The judges were impressed by all 38 entries this. Thank you to our Judges Jake Lean and Ricky Harris for giving up their time. Overall winner: Harry K in Year 10: Radio Astronomy – for creating his own radio telescope!



The last weekend in March saw 45 Bronze and 7 Silver students undertake their practice expeditions of DofE Awards. In very muddy and wet conditions, they performed admirably. As ever, the success of the weekend was facilitated by an amazing staff team supporting the students.

We have gone from strength to strength with sport this term. Girls hockey played competitive matches for the first time at Trafalgar. Teams also participated in netball matches, indoor cricket, basketball and boccia.

In all age groups, football and rugby have excelled. We saw Year 11 represent the school in their last matches for these sports. Their effort since year 7 has made them be the best they possibly can. We recently won the Year 7/8 girls touch rugby tournament at Marlborough; the team will now go forward to the Wiltshire Games Finals!

Wyvern St Edmund's Academy



Wyvern St Edmund's
Academy

Outstanding Sporting Excellence

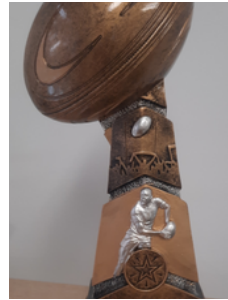
The curriculum offered at WSE is broad and wide and this term we have been spotlighting different parts of our curriculum in more detail. Sporting activities offered at WSE is exceptional and we have a host of expertise within the PE department.

We are delighted to be launching our new Sports Academies from September for WSE and S6C. WSE and S6C have partnered with AFC Bournemouth to launch the Football Academy. Professional coaches from Bournemouth FC will be on the WSE site coaching academy students 4 days a week. On match days the squad will be wearing AFC Bournemouth kits representing the college against other 6th form colleges in the EFL league associated with premier league teams. Some of the academy's home games will be played at the new Dorset FA 4G pitch in Ringwood.

The new Rugby Academy will see specialist rugby sessions taken by professional coaches from Bath Rugby Club. This will include position specialist sessions for forwards and backs. We can announce an exciting new partnership with Salisbury Rugby Club which will see the KS5 squad playing their matches on Salisbury Rugby Club's first team pitch.

Plans to launch the new Netball Academy are now also under way and we look forward to sharing those details shortly.

We know our KS3 and KS4 students will draw huge inspiration from seeing the KS5 athletes training at WSE and will aspire to be part of the Sports Academies in the future.



We have had some huge successes in sports this term. Most noticeably was the under 15 Boys Rugby where WSE became Champions of the Wessex League! Other sporting successes include:

- Under 12 Girls Football team who were Champions of Salisbury School Games
- Under 12 Girls Football team who came 3rd in EFL Regional Finals
- Under 13 Girls Touch Rugby team who came 2nd in School Game Qualifiers
- KS3 Badminton team won the Silver Medal in their recent competition
- Year 8 Boys Rugby team are in the semi-final of the Regional Cup, after going through the group undefeated with 3 wins and 1 draw
- Year 7 Boys had their first Rugby game and came second to a very strong Trafalgar team, however, they gained lots of confidence from the second half performance

Here's hoping for another successful season during the summer term.