



Newsletter No 19 – 2nd November 2020

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for 20/21 – and the first for Amesbury Archer Primary School staff, parents and pupils. Many of you will know that Amesbury Archer became our eighth MLP school on 1st October. We are delighted to have four primary schools in the MAT now; our pupil and student numbers are almost 4000 and as an organisation we employ over 450 staff, making us one of the larger employers in the Salisbury area.

The first term of the new academic year has been a strange one, inevitably, but also a very uplifting one. It has been a real pleasure to see all our children and young people back in live learning; they have clearly been pleased to be back and all, even the very youngest, adapted tremendously well to the new ways of working through the Covid safety procedures. At the time of writing we have had only one confirmed case of Covid-19 in any of our schools; this isolated incident was dealt with very well indeed and no children needed to be sent home. The school concerned was praised by Public Health England for its efficient and safe handling of the case.

Covid-19 and safety

I do, however, think it likely that we will see more Covid cases in schools over the coming term. As you will be aware, the numbers of cases in Wiltshire are on the rise and it is perhaps only a matter of time.... Hopefully, the imminent lockdown will halt the rise in cases. Please rest assured that all the MLP academies are continually revising their risk assessments and their safe working practices so that as and when a positive test is reported, procedures are put in place for communication and for the continued safety of our children, young people and staff. We work closely with PHE, the Department for Education and the local authority and take advice on the appropriate action required for any case. Should you have any concerns at all, please contact your child's school.

Breakfast Clubs and After School Care

These will continue as normal in schools but please take note of the arrangement in place at your child's school as

most additional extra-curricular activities will be suspended during the period of lockdown.

Attendance

What has been really pleasing over this last term has been the attendance in our schools and college. In some cases, attendance in October matched the school levels for October 2019 and in a couple of schools it has been even higher! Thank you to all parents who have supported their sons and daughters to remain in school; this will make such a difference to their learning, their social interaction and their general well-being. (At this point we should spare a thought for some of our class of 2020 MLP students who are now at university – we have heard a number of stories of young people isolating owing to local restrictions. It's not the way we would have wanted them to begin the next stage of their education).

A new Headteacher for Pembroke Park Primary School

Just before the half term break we appointed a new permanent Headteacher for Pembroke Park Primary School. Some additional funding secured from a bid to the Department for Education allows us to keep our current Interim Headteacher, Miss Aliki Constantopoulou, until the Easter holiday and she will work from February with Ms Sara El-Janbey to ensure a smooth leadership transition for the school.

Governance

You may have seen our recent adverts for governor roles in our schools and college. If you would like to offer yourself as a governor in any of our academies we would be delighted to hear from you. It's a rewarding role and one that need not take up a huge amount of spare time. I'd like to also (perhaps quite cynically!) plug the fact that having that you are a governor on your CV or a job application form is quite a positive thing. If you would like to have a chat about it, please contact Carina Sawyer, Company Secretary at compsec@magnalearningpartnership.org.uk

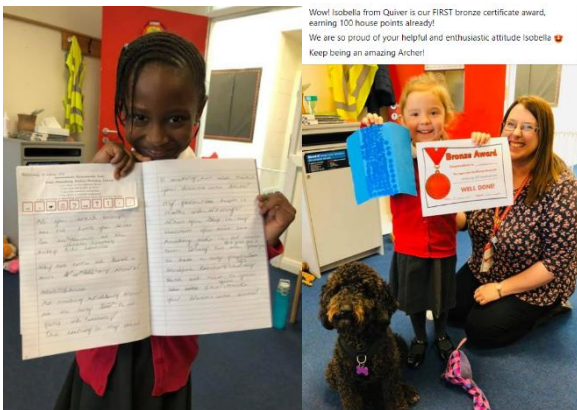
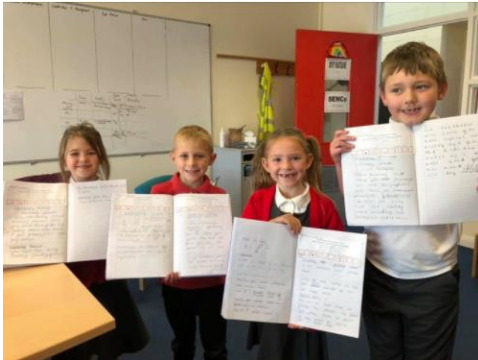
Sarah Busby, Chief Executive Officer



Amesbury Archer

Term 1 was a focus on our first school value: 'Archers are Aspirational'.

We saw so many children really pulling out all the stops and challenging themselves in their learning. We were really proud of their great learning attitudes. The photos show a selection of learning across the school:



At the start of term all year groups spent some time focusing on the 'Recovery Curriculum'. This gave the children the opportunity to talk about being part of a local, as well as a worldwide community as well as the opportunity to help them to settle back into school after what has been a very challenging few months for them. For this project, we used the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers and children across the school did a variety of age related activities based on this story. You can see below, some of the super learning we got from it!

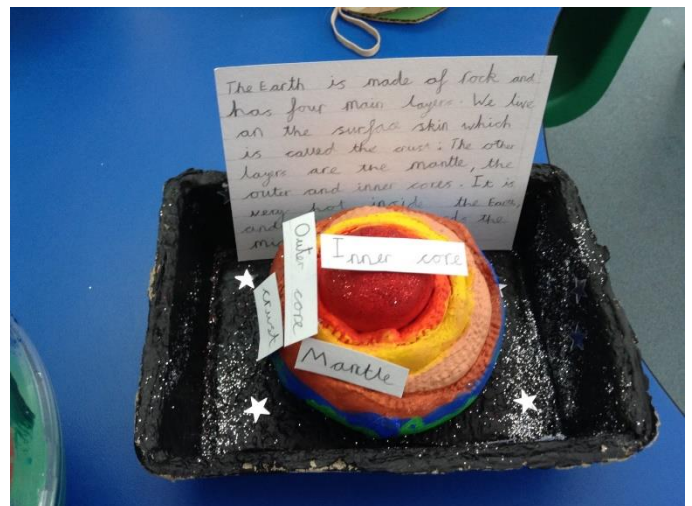


Bemerton St John

Recently, our Year 6 attended an Art/DT day at Sarum Academy. They found it informative and fun. Lyla (Year 6) explained, "We had a great time. Not only were the activities and the staff really helpful, it was an excellent opportunity for those who plan to go to Sarum Academy in September to meet the teachers and familiarise themselves with the surroundings."



Year 3, have been studying volcanoes in Geography. They were set a homework task to produce a representation of the layers of the earth. They all put in so much effort and we are proud of them.



Pembroke Park

At Pembroke Park Primary School, we decided to use the book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse*, as the basis of our Recovery Curriculum following lockdown. The book, written by Charlie Mackesy, tackles issues such as love, friendship, and resilience. All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the powerful narrative and the beautiful illustrations. Every child produced a piece of writing and some artwork inspired by the book, as well as participating in some focused PSHE lessons. Here are some of the wonderful final products and displays:



Activities included outdoor sport, playing with clay, mindfulness, yoga, relaxing colouring, an interview on coping skills with a local doctor, an illustration of mental health using a backpack, a video on kindness provided by the Student Union, and making lists of unhelpful and helpful strategies. The newly created MHST (mental health service team) - which we are linked to as part of a national trailblazer test programme - delivered a talk on exam stress, how to manage panic attacks, strategies for minimising anxiety and tips on healthy sleep. It was so good to be able to facilitate the day for students in a Covid secure way and know they have what they need to be able to get advice, information and help, 24/7, whenever they or a friend may need it, now or in the future.

We all need a little help sometimes and being able to discuss mental health issues calmly, positively and practically is healthy and helpful. More information on the extensive pastoral support systems in college can be found on our website or by contacting the Pastoral Lead.



Sarum Academy

September saw the return to our normal quiet and purposeful lessons and children working hard at Sarum Academy. We have welcomed a number of new staff this term, all of which have all settled in well and are now positive additions to the Sarum family. In the absence of being able to host a full Year 6 day as usual Sarum have embraced the virtual world and have gone 'live' across Salisbury delivering a Science lesson to over 300 Year 6 students which was a huge success with more to come next term.



Salisbury 6th Form College

On Wednesday 6th October S6C held our annual mental health development day - full of positive messaging, resources and activities to promote mental and emotional wellbeing, so students are empowered to look after themselves and others.





The New Forest School

At The New Forest Primary School learning is at the heart of the return to school after lockdown. All of our children were absolutely thrilled to be back in school and they have loved being back with their friends after so much time away from them.

During Term 1 the children were immersed in their new topics - building skills and knowledge across the curriculum. As a school we love to get outside to learn and all of the KS2 children walked up to the forest to enjoy some outdoor learning. The Year 5 and 6 children took part in an Anglo Saxon treasure hunt and then used their History skills to ask some key questions about what they would like to find out. Year 3 practised their map skills and some outdoor 'Andy Goldsworthy' art.

Our very youngest children transitioned from their pre-schools happily. They settled into the new routines and enjoyed the time to share their interests with the adults in the class. In Year 2, the children enjoyed finding out about the history of the Titanic - they were so immersed in the subject to such an extent that their learning wall is now full of pictures and facts from home.



Year 6 pupils have been voting for our prefects and House Captains. The children have already shown great leadership - leading worship and organising the library. The Eco and Spiritual prefects had a great day at the Trussell Trust delivering our Harvest donations to help support the food bank. Although Marcus Rashford MBE wasn't there, the children knew what an integral part he has played in the halting of childhood hunger.



The Trafalgar School

It was great to welcome the students back in Term 1 and to work with families in such a positive way. Students really enjoyed being back and appreciated the efforts staff put in over lockdown and continue to do so now. Attendance is currently running at well above the national average of secondary schools this term. Thank you to all our parents and carers for making sure that their child feels happy and secure in coming to school.



It is important that we continue to look after every single one of our students and staff members - we totally understand the pressures and the anxieties of students, staff, and parents around the current Covid situation. Rachael Faulkner (Deputy Headteacher) and the School Council, under the able leadership of Head Students, Thea and Harvey, have created a strategic wellbeing plan for the school to ensure that everyone continues to feel supported and happy within school and is ready to take their learning to the next level.

During Lockdown, teachers at The Trafalgar School developed a resource for students known as a 'Knowledge Organiser'. Released to each student, these high-quality books are a really useful tool for students and parents in bridging the gap between home and school so that students have the knowledge they learn in classes at their fingertips at all times.

'Knowledge Organisers' will continue to be sewn into learning around the school – from lessons to home and back again – with students being able to add their own notes and highlight keywords so that they become a highly effective tool for learning.

Here are some lovely quotes from parents:

"Wow! These look so impressive and have clearly taken hours and hours of work - thank you."

"Can I just say how impressive the 'Knowledge Organiser' is. I feel so reassured that you have forward planned for any individual or group Covid isolation that may be required. I particularly like the return to needing to use a book resource, alongside the obvious IT use."

Wyvern St Edmund's

Our School Vision

At Wyvern St Edmund's, our aim is that every student becomes the best version of themselves that they can be. Our vision is enacted by way of every member of staff, whatever their role, working to safeguard the wellbeing of our students and to maximise their progress. Of equal importance for us is their personal growth, self-discipline and the self-discovery of their passions and God-given gift:

"Each one of you has a special gift from God. Use it to serve others well" 1 Peter 4; 10

We support every student to find their special gifts and talents by way of a curriculum that is rich and broad, and by offering an extensive range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

This term our focus will be on introducing the WSE core values that underpin our Christian vision. We will be exploring what each means in both a Christian and personal context, keeping a focus on how each value supports the ambition to use our individual gifts in the service of others.

Our school values are:
G.R.A.C.E.

- Generosity: of spirit to ourselves and to others, to give with grace
- Respect: for ourselves and others, accept and celebrate diversity, listen to opinions
- Aspiration: to be the best version of ourselves, to achieve all we can as best we can
- Courage: to make the right choices, to speak out, to keep going when it's tough
- Empathy: to show compassion and understanding and to be an ally

English News

The English Department are pleased to announce that Karis M in Year 11 has been awarded the ESU Prize for Excellence in Spoken and Written English.

The English Speaking Union are passionate about the importance of oracy and believes every child should be able to make their voice heard. Karis has been doing just that by raising awareness about environmental issues and campaigning to make the school and local community a greener place.

We are delighted that Karis' passion and hard work have been recognised in this area. Enjoy spending those book tokens, Karis!

