

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

FLOURISHING AND THRIVING

**TRUST NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2 2024**



Wilfred Owen
Primary School



Market Drayton
Junior School



Greenacres
Primary School



St Mary's
CE Primary & Nursery School



Woodfield
Infant School



St George's
Junior School



Shropshire
Primary Partnership



Market Drayton
Infant & Nursery School

Collaboration • Appreciation • Respect • Creativity



St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School



People Force

We will focus on developing high performing staff by continually developing and supporting our people.

We will develop a culture of growth through a structured Trust-wide professional learning programme. We will always emphasise the importance of the health, wellbeing, care and empowerment of our people.

We are a team

FLOURISHING AND THRIVING

IN OUR WORLD, HOW ARE WE...

Ensuring we are all flourishing and thriving?

Helping each other and being kind?

Growing and encouraging others to grow?



Sam Scott
Director of Education

In today's fast-paced world, our work environment plays a crucial role in our growth. Every day provides a chance to learn, staying true to the idea that "every day is a school day."

Collaborating with our schools within the trust has been a rewarding experience and contributing to the education of our young people is something I value greatly.

Considering our reception pupils will leave in 2040, the efforts we make now truly count.

It's also essential to nurture our wellbeing outside school. I strive to keep in mind the five ways of wellbeing: connecting, learning, being active, noticing, and giving—though I don't always succeed. By focusing on these aspects, we can support one another to thrive.

As Trust SENCo, balancing the operational and strategic aspects of my developing role has been a key focus this term.

I have been fortunate enough to be given multiple opportunities to grow professionally within this new role. For example, attending St. Bart's MAT SEND and Inclusion Conference in October and SEND Law and Funding training by Gary Freeman, hosted by Empower Trust and Aico in November.



Rachel Butterfield
Trust SENCo

Working with the University of Derby in collaboration with NASEN to undertake a SEND focused Action Research Project has also been keeping me busy this term. This has helped me to consider the commonality of need across our schools and how to think strategically in order to ensure inclusivity is at the heart of everything that we do for our children.

I am looking forward to what the spring term will bring!

FLOURISHING AND THRIVING



Michelle Harrington
Director of People & Culture

Continuous professional development opportunities are so important to me and I really value opportunities for growth. I thrive and flourish when I am able to develop my knowledge, learn new skills and have new experiences that support me in my learning and allows be to better support our schools and colleagues. This half term I was very fortunate to attend the 2 day ISBL (Institute of School Business Leaders) conference with Tricia Slater (COO).

The theme of the conference was Operational Excellence and school business leaders from across the country came together to attend key notes, workshops and networking to develop operational excellence in their schools and Trusts. There were so many key takeaways from the event on the importance of sustainability and the impact of not acting, key ingredients for operational success, professional development of colleagues, discussions on the funding crisis, estates management, marketing and engagement of stakeholders and supporting neurodiversity in the workplace to name just a few. A highlight for me was Dean Coomber a motivational speaker talking about Chimp Management and how we can better manage our inner Chimp and optimising performance of our minds - it was such an interesting session and a very funny and engaging speaker.

We came away heads buzzing with so many new ideas and ideas for improving our current practice so that we can better serve our schools, pupils and colleagues across the Trust. We made some wonderful new connections with business leaders from Trusts around the country and were even presented with a hamper of Dutch goodies! Sometimes it is hard to justify a day or two away from the office attending a conference or a course but ultimately the personal and professional benefits of the learning, knowledge and connections made during this time makes the overflowing inbox and to do list (or Tah-Dah! List, shared with me recently!) a small price to pay!



FLOURISHING AND THRIVING



Jess Shore
Trust Business
Administration Apprentice

I ensure that we are all *flourishing* and *thriving* by believing in myself and my colleagues in everything we want to achieve.

I ensure that I help others and always be kind by making sure that everyone knows I am here for that extra support if it is needed, I will always go out of my way to help others.

I am growing by seeking for ways to grow my own personal development whether that be booking onto courses or going out to shadow others.



Lucy Copson
Trust Administrator

I feel I am taking steps to *flourish* and *thrive* in my current roles as Trust Administrator for Empower Trust, administrative support for the Shropshire Primary Partnership, and communications and engagement support for STEP. This multifaceted role is helping me to develop a diverse skill set and contribute meaningfully.

Furthermore, I am currently undertaking an apprenticeship in Multi-Channel Marketing, which will increase my knowledge and enable me to bring fresh strategies to our initiatives. I am excited about the future and look forward to continuing to *flourish* and have a positive impact.



Ria Westwood
Director of Finance

I want to extend thanks to everyone for their support and collaboration throughout the audit process. Your willingness to assist at every step made a significant difference.

The seamless communication and teamwork were instrumental in ensuring a smooth and efficient audit. Thank you for your invaluable efforts and for being such an integral part of this process.



St Mary's

CE Primary & Nursery School

Where Every Day Matters & Everyone Counts

Enrichment Friday

At St Mary's we feel that it is important to develop the whole child and to allow children to flourish and thrive in all different areas. Our Enrichment programme provides the children with a choice of activities such as first aid, cooking, sewing, safety squad, debating and many more.

Working in mixed-aged groups fosters a sense of community, responsibility, and mutual respect among our children, with older children mentoring younger ones. It will also develop communication and collaboration skills, as students learn to work with peers of different ages. Following the hour-long session, children then come together and read books together to foster a love a reading

Finance



Newspaper



First Aid



Mindfulness



Arts & Crafts

EMPOWERING EDUCATION



Wilfred Owen
Primary School

Aspiration • Opportunity • Knowledge

Staff in school are the key to allowing all children flourish and grow, but here at Wilfred Owen Primary School, we are lucky enough to have a small team of volunteers, who give up their time, to listen to our children read.

They are part of the school reader Volunteer Scheme, which has been such a precious resource to us here in school. The volunteers get enormous pleasure from seeing the difference that a few hours of their time can make to our children's reading ability, confidence and enjoyment. It is also fantastic for our children to be able to develop a positive relationship with the school reader volunteers.

The impact of seeing the same person weekly and chatting together has been immeasurable for some of our more vulnerable children who don't get to read at home regularly with a parent.



Year 3 and year 5 have been thriving in Computing by collaborating on stop-frame animations using iMotion. They used onion skinning to refine their animations, enhancing precision and creativity. Their teamwork, problem-solving, and attention to detail shone as they worked together and celebrated their amazing final creations.

Year 4 cooking focus. Children worked in groups to make simple biscuits. They were very kind helping one another with the different tasks.

Year 4 working collaboratively in English. They had to read aloud a diary entry to each other, then they identified the features together. Children were kind in helping one another read aloud and encouraging one another when they found reading some of the words difficult.





In the run up to Christmas, we have supported our school and local community in following ways:
Singing at Severndale Specialist Academy school for their school fair

A jolly sing along at our local care home, including taking our school dog for residents to spend time with

A Christmas carol performance to Severn Hospice
Working together to give messages of respect, empowerment, kindness and care.



Empowering our staff:



Staff voice has been gained around the value of our trust Teaching and Learning Framework and 100% agree it aligns with their professional practice. Feedback from our recent shared professional training has shown strength in the power of collaboration and a thirst for more. An overwhelming amount of staff have commented upon the success of this and wanting to build and work together more collaboratively to share expertise and learn together.

Some staff feedback quotes from recent staff voice.

Following the recent staff feedback around professional learning, staff were asked to explain an area of professional learning that had helped enhance an area of their practice

'The recapping of research was useful and has helped me further my understanding of the learning process.'

'I have also found the focus on leading staff useful as it followed on from my NPQSL course and has helped me refine my leadership skills even further.'

'The notion of I do, we do, you do has been very useful and we have planned it into our maths lessons. It allows all the children to keep on the same page and work through concepts step by step.'

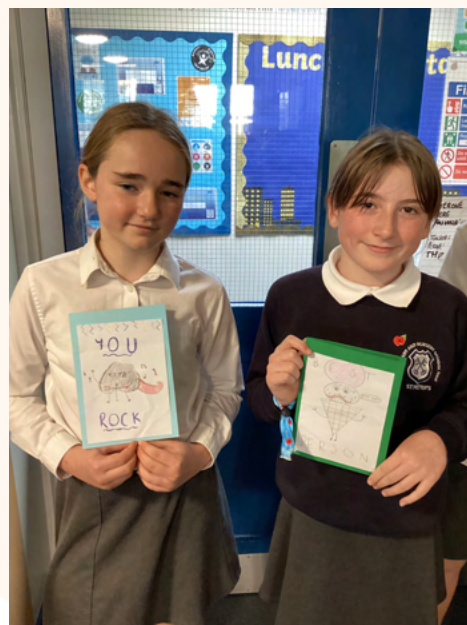
'After looking at the different forms of questioning I have adapted this into my classroom. Using dojo for random and lollipop sticks for cold calling questioning. I have used think-pair-share more and the children have engaged with this because they know they need an answer whereas before some children would take that time as an excuse to chat! So this has helped children focus more and to gain more in-depth answers.'

Having an opportunity to work as part of a team to develop schemes of work that support raising standards in writing. Professional discussions surrounding the development of skills, the teacher input needed for a successful writing output, the adaptive teaching techniques that can be put in to support all learners to be successful and the sourcing of quality texts that underpin our writing offer.

'Adaptive teaching- this has supported me to ensure all children access the learning, with different resources, scaffolds or supports. All children have the opportunities to achieve.'



"We are good at learning." - Iyla
"If someone is alone, offer to play with them." - Kit
"We try our best." - Sienna
"We are really happy and well behaved." - Harri
"We show respect, and we are healthy." - Hallie



"By showing others that I follow the school rules, I am then a positive role model and they try and do the same."
 - Jess
"I go litter picking with my grown-ups to help the community." - Maisie
"We show our school values, we are honest, we own our mistakes. We show respect to all." - Ruby

When our Year 3 children were asked "How we can support each other to succeed?" They replied:

"We can give our friends advice to help them to succeed."
"I could show them how to do something to help them".
" We need to persevere to succeed."





Woodfield
Infant School
Kind • Responsible • Hardworking

A group of heads are currently taking part in the NQual Coaching Qualification. This is all about developing ourselves as leaders but also about developing others. Helping others to be the very best version of themselves; building upon their positive traits, enhancing their self esteem and banishing their imposter syndrome!

Experiences like this are absolutely at the heart of Flourishing and Thriving. The course is enabling us to grow & to grow others. Other SLT members across the Trust are going to be undertaking the same training in Spring; they can then use this to enable their teams to Flourish and Thrive.

No matter how long you have been in the profession, there is always more knowledge to learn, more skills to acquire and different ways to apply it all to develop yourself and those around you. Every day is a school day!

Part of the first session of the course asked us, 'which hedgehog do you most relate to?' What is your answer?





Year group teams develop collaboration, skills sharing and strengths amongst staff. As a school team we are stronger and thrive because of the power of collective thought and working to our individual strengths. The sharing of ideas, the creativity which is generated by working alongside colleagues opens new perspectives and possibilities as we continue all to learn from each other and develop our practice.

Working alongside others, in year group, whole school teams give us a sense of belonging, security and a knowledge that we are we creating something which has the potential to evolve. It also gives us the confidence to know that we are not working alone, and that support and guidance is on hand if and when it maybe needed. Through subject specific CPD, staff have opportunities to exchange ideas, meet colleagues with shared expertise and magpie initiatives with can support their own subject leadership giving it new impetus and added vigour.

All teaching staff and some LSA's are engaging in the NPQLT. We are applying our learning by ensuring that metacognition is at the heart of our curriculum and that we are considering how to reduce cognitive overload in all lessons.

Six members of staff and two people from the wider community gave up their time to accompany the Year 6 pupils on their annual residential. A wonderful time was had by all concerned – helped considerably by the beautiful weather that greeted us in early November. It is a tremendous responsibility looking after 72 lively Year 6 children and everyone played their part in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all concerned. Children relish the opportunity to work with Learning Partners across the curriculum as it promotes confidence, discussion and at times the opportunity to come to a compromise and listen to the views of others. Schools positively encourage children to share, Think, Pair, Share. Share expertise, peer tutoring. Buddy reading and Fluency Partners. Interaction with others stimulates curiosity, gives added momentum to a task and lessens the individual load. Opportunities to share expertise gives children a great boost and heightens self-confidence. Children thrive when modelling skills and techniques in sport, DT and music, which raises self -worth and self-esteem.

In house teams for sport, generates competition and drives children forward to be the best that they can be. Instilling both stamina and endurance skills which are key skills for future careers and ultimate success. Boogie Bounce sessions aimed at both pupils and staff as a wellbeing after school club. Social events outside school are open to all staff are encouraged. Staff celebrate their birthdays by sharing cakes in the staffroom and the bakers amongst us occasionally treat us with their baking talents.





Shropshire

Primary Partnership

Aspiration • Collaboration • Knowledge

Shropshire Primary Partnership: Exciting Developments and New Opportunities

We are thrilled to share some fantastic updates and opportunities available through the Shropshire Primary Partnership.

New SEND Courses

We are proud to introduce a range of new courses designed to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These courses include:

- **SEND: Practice and Funding for Schools:** This course focuses on the correct identification of SEND, the processes to support children, and how to apply for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- **SEND: Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD):** Aimed at educators, parents, and professionals, this course provides an understanding of SPD, its impact on children, and effective strategies for support and intervention

New Collaborations with AmazingCPD

We are excited to announce our new collaboration with AmazingCPD, enhancing our continuous professional development (CPD) offerings. This partnership aims to provide: Networking Opportunities: Facilitating collaboration and resource sharing among schools to help them thrive.

- Robotics and Storytelling: Integrating technology and creativity. Click here to book **Robotics and Storytelling**
- 7 Strategies to Increase Creativity in Music through Technology: Innovative approaches to music education. Click here to book **7 Strategies to increase creativity**
- Exploring CAD to Enhance the Primary Curriculum: Bringing design and technology into the classroom. Click her to book **Exploring Computer Aided Design**
- Enhancing the Maths Curriculum: New methods to make maths engaging and fun. Click here to book **Enhancing 2025 Maths Curriculum**

Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

Our Initial Teacher Training (ITT) program is designed to equip future educators with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to inspire young learners. In collaboration with the University of Chester, we offer a one-year Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) program. This course includes:

- School-Based Learning: Trainees spend a minimum of two days per week in classrooms, gaining hands-on experience from the start
- Comprehensive Curriculum: Covering subject knowledge, the Early Years and National Curriculum, and effective teaching strategies across all primary stages
- Multiple Placements: Trainees experience teaching in different key stages, ensuring a well-rounded training experience

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to engage with our community.

Together, we can empower every learner to reach their full potential!

Join us on this exciting journey of growth and excellence!

EMPOWERING EDUCATION

Do you know someone that would make an amazing teacher?

Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership are holding a 'Get into Teaching' recruitment event covering early years, primary and secondary phases. Please encourage them to come along to our recruitment event, for the opportunity to apply for an accredited full or part time initial teacher training course starting in September 2025.

Train to Teach with

www.shropshireprimarypartnership.co.uk



Shropshire
Primary Partnership

Aspiration • Collaboration • Knowledge

2025 - 2026 INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING APPLICATIONS

NOW OPEN!



Information Sessions

Every Wednesday 5:00 - 6:00pm

Online - Email to book your place:

admin@spp.empowermat.co.uk

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A CAREER IN TEACHING WITH **STEP**?

Shropshire and Telford Education Partnership are holding a 'Get Into Teaching' Recruitment Event covering Early Years, Primary and Secondary phases

The event will provide you with all the information you need to help you decide if teaching is the career for you. The Initial Teacher Training leads for the four **STEP** providers will be available to answer any questions you may have.

3rd March 2025 - 4-7.00pm.

This event will take place via Microsoft Teams. Email the below to book your slot

10th March 2025 - 4-7.00pm.

This event will take place via Microsoft Teams. Email the below to book your slot

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT GETTING INTO TEACHING - BOOK YOUR PLACE...



Severn Training and Schools Alliance: Primary and Early Years - Telford & Wrekin
To book, please email - stsa@taw.org.uk



Shropshire Primary Partnership: Primary and Early Years - Shropshire
To book, please email - admin@SPP.empowermat.co.uk



Salop Teaching Partnership: Secondary - Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin
To book, please email - heather.brown@pri.318education.co.uk



Alliance of Leading Learning: Early Years, Primary and Secondary - Shropshire and Mid Wales
To book, please email - claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk



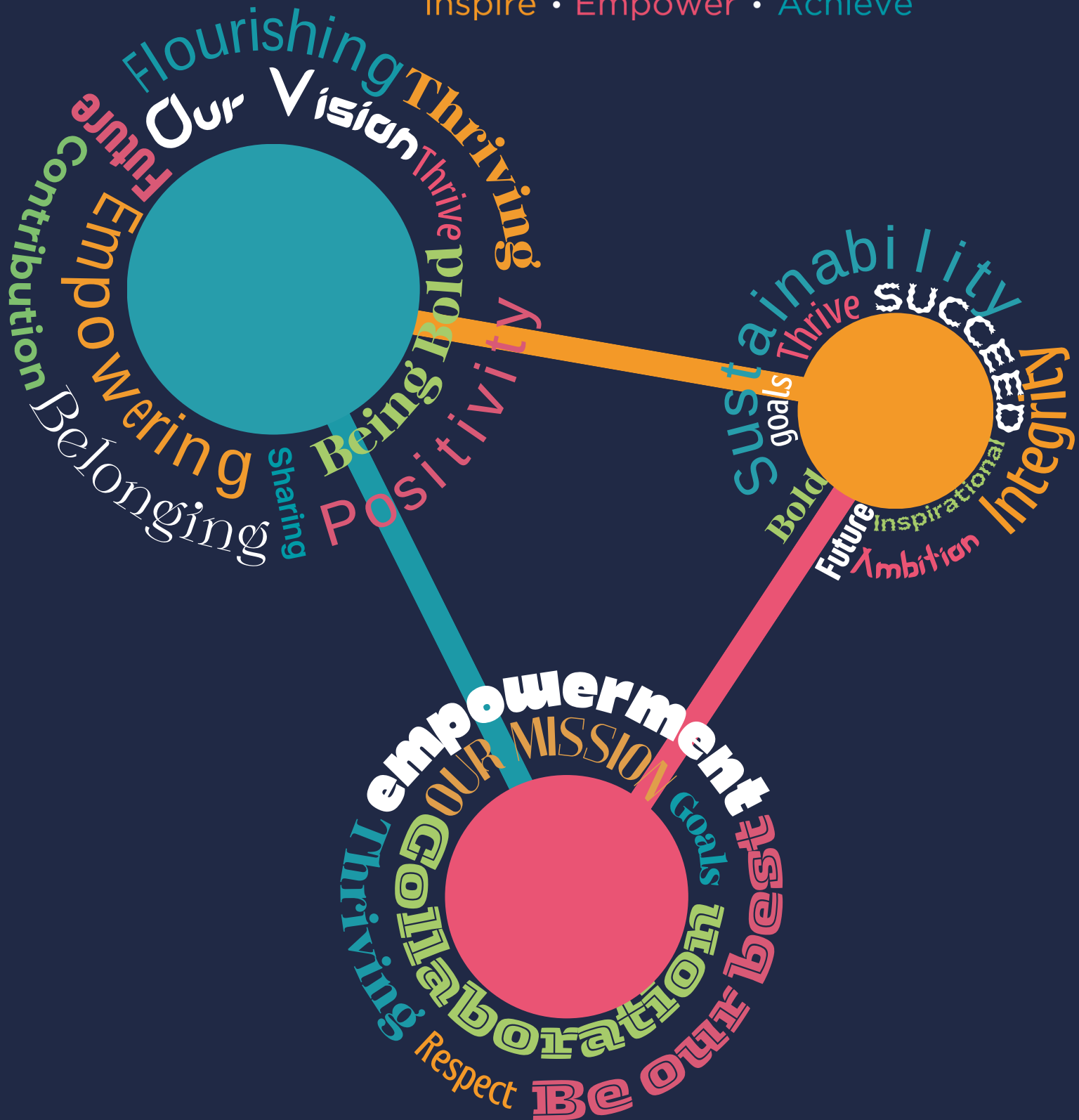
ANY QUESTIONS - PLEASE CONTACT INFO@STEPWM2.CO.UK



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Inspire • Empower • Achieve



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#choosetobekind

#togetherwehavegotthis