

Issue 2 Summer 2019



From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer Welcome to the second edition of our Termly newsletter.

As our first anniversary approaches, it has been an invigorating and busy first year across the Trust. Life in the Trust over the past 11 months has been exciting and challenging in equal measure! This newsletter includes a round up of events and news from each school and from across the Trust.

Our clear shared vision, values and principles have already started to drive all aspects of Empower Trust behaviour. There has been a real sense of purpose in all Trust schools as they work tirelessly towards their goals and aspirations not only for their own school but collaboratively across the Trust. Thank you to all parents, staff, governors and Trustees for playing your part in ensuring that we are enabling every child to be the best they can be.

This term brings with it a range of statutory assessments, SATs in KS1 and KS2, Phonics screening in Year 1 and Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessments in Reception. The Trust has a full agenda this term with a key focus on promoting collaboration between schools to improve outcomes for all our children as well as providing a challenging and exciting curriculum that inspires children to learn.

Also, some of the Trust's collaborative staff training activities are coming to a close this term, including our unique Innovation Programme in which teachers from all schools are collaborating to develop exciting new approaches to promote effective learning, and our training programme to support teachers in their first few years of teaching. Both programmes have been warmly received and have already started to have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning. We look forward to introducing new programmes in the new school year.

I thoroughly enjoy visiting each Trust school on a half termly basis. I have the opportunity to see for myself the hard work, dedication and commitment of staff in each school. I have spent time in classrooms observing teaching and learning and talking to children. I have been working with Headteachers, leadership teams and staff and I am confident the Trust's family of schools will continue to improve and develop as we move into our second year.

If there are things happening in your school that you would like to share across the Trust, please get in touch. Please send your stories and accompanying photographs to michelle.johnston@empowertrust.co.uk.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer.



Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure that we give every child the very best education possible – socially, morally and academically. We believe that education needs to be exciting and motivational.

We aim to support all children to become successful learners and to develop into young people of whom the family, academy and community can be proud.

We are dedicated to ensuring the provision of an outstanding education for every child within the Trust.

We demonstrate the courage to innovate and empower every member of the school community to play their part in developing exciting and imaginative child-centred learning experiences.

We champion a collaborative approach to school improvement and develop and promote innovative and dynamic approaches to learning, combining levels of expertise across our academies.



World Book Day



On World Book Day, over 500 children from Woodfield and St George's took part in shared reading. This session was lovely and enabled the children to get to know each other before they embarked on further work together - more about our joint projects can be found on P5.

It was really nice to see the children talking and working together so well and it was clear that children of all ages gained a lot from this activity as did the staff!

Pictured are Cathy Rutherford (Headteacher) and Beck Preece (Deputy Head) getting into character!



Playtime!



After the playground had been resurfaced in the Autumn Term, we spoke to the children in an assembly about new playground markings. We felt it was important to find out what the children would like and what sort of games they would like to play.

Mrs Rutherford showed the children and staff various different designs in a special assembly. Each child and member of staff were given three counters and they used them to vote for their favourite three designs. The designs with the most votes were chosen to be marked on the blank canvas.

The children and lunchtime staff have been making the most of our new markings and enjoying the glorious sunny weather since our return to school. The children are over the moon being able to enjoy a game of snakes and ladders, an activity trail with maze, long jump, hopscotch and throwing target game. Some of them have also been making up their own games on the map and compass.

As you can imagine, all of this has really helped to make play times and dinner times more fun!





ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY

Year 5 Groundforce Day

Pupils at St. George's Junior School are on their way to developing an inter-generational allotment project. The project aims to bring together older people within the community to share their passion for gardening and growing with the pupils.

Whilst inspiring young people to grow their own vegetables and maintain planting areas, the project also offers opportunities for older people who may no longer have access to a garden or those who would welcome the companionship of joining a community team.

The first planned session took place with Year 5 pupils on 19th March whereby a variety of vegetables were sown into the new raised beds. Pupils are excited to record their growth and development over time and plan to sell the produce as part of a mini-enterprise at the summer fayre.



Year 5
Groundforce
Day - 19.3.19



Half Marathon Challenge



On Saturday 6th April, 150 pupils from St. George's Junior School joined with up to 2000 children from the local primary schools to complete the thirteenth mile of their half-marathon. All the pupils had taken on the challenge to run a half-marathon, twelve miles to be completed at school, throughout the spring term and running the final mile as a community event held at the show grounds. Pupils focused on their resilience and determination to achieve the challenge and were rewarded with medal, water bottles and a great sense of achievement. Have a look at the attached link to view the children setting off in their final mile.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlc-u95PSZY>





Joint Projects

Over the last few years, Woodfield and St George's have been working on different activities which have involved the staff and children of the two schools working together.

Children in Reception and Year 6 have begun an environmental project which will span the remainder of the year.

The Year 6 children have learned how to make a plant pot out of a sheet of newspaper (this is more tricky than it sounds!).

They then came over to Woodfield and have helped their Reception partner to make a newspaper plant pot, plant different types of seeds and do a range of plant based activities.



In the last couple of years, the children have worked together on special charity days, such as Children in Need, when children from St George's visited Woodfield to run various fundraising stalls.

We have of course also done lots of transition activities with children moving from Year 2 to Year 3 which have helped to settle the children in their new school.

However, we are now building on this work and have planned several projects where the children from both schools will be working together over the next few weeks and months.



Summary Vision

We will ensure every child receives a high quality education within an inclusive, caring environment by:

Enabling each child to become a happy, confident and enthusiastic learner, willing to take risks with their learning - to be the best they can be.

Fostering life skills, hard work, resilience and conscientious application of study skills.

Providing an excellent academic and holistic education inclusive of access to sporting, cultural and artistic activities.

Guiding, supporting and inspiring every child to fulfill their potential, emotionally, physically, spiritually and intellectually, both during their time at school and in their life ahead.

Developing a culture of inclusion and diversity in which everyone - children, parents, staff, governors and members of the community - is welcomed and valued.



**Greenacres Primary
School**

Weekend Adventures

Twelve of our Y6 children spent the weekend at PGL at Boreatton Park, just outside Baschurch. They took part in a range of activities on land, in the air and on water. It was a full two days with seven different activities in the daylight hours and a camp fire and night game of Ambush once it got dark. Although all such residential visits result in everyone feeling tired it is a good tired, largely created by a great deal of activity and lungs full of fresh air. Just to note, everyone was busy throughout and there was not an X Box or PS4 in sight!

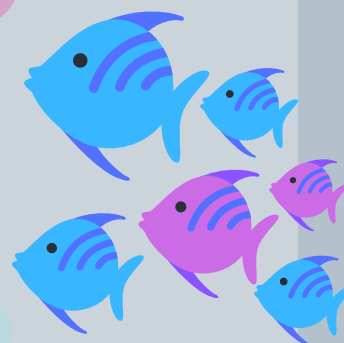


Maths Challenge

Four of our Y5 children enjoyed a day at Wrekin College where they took part in a maths challenge against teams from dozens of other schools. Once again, we were delighted with their enthusiasm and attitude throughout what was a challenging but rewarding day.

SOMETHING FISHY

Base 6 have been keeping fish for some time and now, following success in a competition, they have been given a second aquarium and fish to populate it. The children enjoyed the chance to go to Maidenhead Aquatics at Percy Thrower Garden Centre a few days ago where they collected another living instalment of creatures to go in the new tank. Not only is it a decorative object to have in the classroom, but a tank of tropical fish provides the children with an opportunity to see some of the wonderful variety of wildlife that exists in this wonderful world of ours. It also allows children to develop the habits of caring for living things.





**Greenacres Primary
School**

Library News

Congratulations to the children of B4 who walked to the Lantern Library last Thursday and collected a library card to join Shropshire Libraries.

Libraries remain a very important FREE service, providing a great deal in terms of knowledge and culture and enjoyment, and by using them we enrich ourselves and the community by encouraging the authorities to continue to operate them. If you take your children to the Lantern there is even a very nice Café there so you can make an outing of it.



ORIENTEERING

On the subject of finding your way to places, a number of our children were taken to participate in an Orienteering competition last Wednesday afternoon at Sundorne.

They had a great time and the weather was perfect for the event. All of them completed the course and represented the school very well indeed.

Easter Fundraising Fun!

Rabbit Run and Bunny Hop

The children from Y1 to Y6 will have the opportunity to take part in an exciting Easter fundraising event on our own school field. The 'Rabbit Run' will see children selecting to run one, two or three laps of a defined route around the field and each child completing the route will receive a certificate depending upon the distance run.

Donations will go to Hope House Hospice



Learning Outside the Classroom

Our youngest children are already used to working outside the classroom in the outdoor areas next to their classrooms and also Forest School, but last week they were able to pay a visit to Shrewsbury Museum to investigate the bear exhibition. As well as the museum exhibition itself, the children benefit from the experience in terms of going out of school with friends and travelling by bus without parents and family.





St Peter's CE Primary and Nursery School



Mr Mark Michaels came to visit Y2 to talk to us about his Jewish faith.

We learnt about the Jewish holy book called the Torah, how Jewish people pray, about special clothing they wear and how important the Sabbath is. We discovered how the Sabbath is celebrated and what you can and can't do during the Sabbath, for example you can't make a spark so you cannot drive.

We even learnt some Hebrew words. Did you know you read Hebrew from right to left?



Easter Chicks

In Year 5, we have been learning about and comparing the life cycles of different living things including birds, mammals, reptiles and insects.

As part of our learning, we have incubated and hatched chicks. We learnt about the difference between fertilised and unfertilised eggs and how they develop when provided with the correct temperature and humidity.

In order to identify if an embryo was developing, we candled (shone a light into the egg) to see if there was any evidence of growth. We then patiently waited and monitored the eggs for 21 days, until finally 21 chicks joined our classes just in time for Easter!



Visit from The Imam

Having studied the Islamic faith, it was a great honour to welcome The Imam to school.

He gave us a deeper insight into the Muslim way of life and the children had a much greater understanding of the religion. The children asked challenging questions and showed maturity and respect throughout.



Trust News

Trustee Michael Revell awarded St Chad's Medal



Congratulations to our Trustee Michael Revell who was recently awarded one of the first St Chad's medals during a ceremony at Lichfield Cathedral.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, recognised the inspirational work of volunteers throughout the Midlands during the inaugural awarding. The medal is given to lay people who have made a particularly valuable contribution to Christian life in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Michael received his medal for outstanding voluntary service, especially in the field of education. Michael is a committed and much-valued member of his local church, St Mary's Market Drayton. He is also a Member of four Academy Trusts, a Trustee of Empower Multi-Academy Trust and a Governor of a primary school and nursery, and has been Acting Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education since Summer 2018.

Michael serves on Deanery and Diocesan Synods as well as Bishop's Council, and senior Diocesan staff have valued his wise guidance and advice. Michael somehow finds time also for a wide range of voluntary work, including but far from limited to, President of Market Drayton PROBUS, an Area Councillor for the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA), Chairman and Secretary of Market Drayton RAFA branch, President, and interim Civilian Chairman, of 24 (Market Drayton) Sqn, RAF Air Cadets and President of Market Drayton Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.



Class Trip to 'Meet The Romans'

As part of their history work, Longmynd class visited Shrewsbury Museum to take part in a 'Meet the Romans' workshop.

The children got the opportunity to handle a range of real Roman artefacts from the Roman invasion of Britain and learn about archaeology and how it can teach us about the past.

They also got the chance to visit the Roman Gallery where they will be returning in a few weeks time to work as Curators.



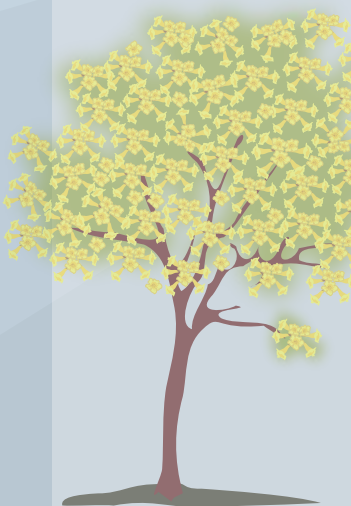
Residential Visit to Bryntysilio, Llangollen

Caradoc and Grinshill recently went on their residential visit to Bryntysilio in Llangollen. All the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves! They experienced many different activities such as rambling, raft building, gorge walking and canoeing, all the time boosting their confidence and team working skills.

Romany Wood

A group of children from Wilfred Owen took to the stage at Theatre Severn as part of a performance to mark the tenth anniversary of the theatre.

Over 200 Shropshire school children were involved in the production of 'Romany Wood' a musical based on a children's story by Beshlie, a Romany that lives in Shropshire, and was the same show that opened the venue ten years ago.





Market Drayton Infant
& Nursery School

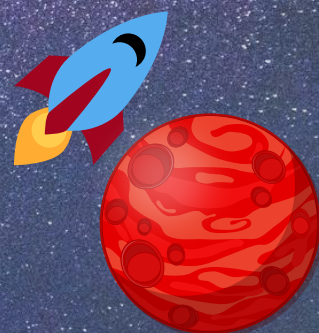
Year 1 Visit to Jodrell Bank

Year 1 have recently visited Jodrell Bank, as part of this terms topic on 'Space'.

Whilst we were at Jodrell Bank we were lucky enough to take part in a workshop titled 'A Journey into Space'. This workshop taught us all about the things that we would need as our 'essentials' if we were to become astronauts for NASA We were very shocked to find that nappies would be one of our essential items!

We also had a go at creating our very own rockets, and even had a go at launching these together. We then explored the rest of the exhibits that Jodrell Bank had to offer.

A great day was had by all children (and adults!)



Year 2 Visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town

On Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th February Y2 visited Blists Hill as part of their history learning in topic.

During the day the children experienced a Victorian School lesson and were able to dress up! All the children had a lovely time and a chance to go back in time to explore what life was like in the Victorian period.

The topic will continue for the rest of the half term and will influence other areas of the children's learning such as recount writing.





MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL



'Wow' Basketball Day

Children and staff were very excited to welcome Paul Sturgess, Britain's tallest man, to spend the day with us on Tuesday 19th March.

Paul is a professional basketball player, who last played for the Cheshire Phoenix team in the British Basketball League. He was officially measured by Guinness World Records, in November 2011, at 7 ft 7.26 in. tall!



The day started with a very upbeat and exciting whole school assembly, where Paul talked about himself, his career and some of the amazing experiences he has enjoyed as a professional basketball player, including playing for the Harlem Globetrotters in the U.S.A.

He showed some fun videos of his experiences to inspire the children.



Paul explained to the children how important it was to live a healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly and getting enough sleep. He talked to them about the importance of embracing your differences and making the most of your talents to help you achieve your best.

During the rest of the day, the children had the opportunity to take part in some energetic basketball sessions with Paul.

It was a very enjoyable, inspirational day and we would like to say a big thank you to Paul for making the day so memorable and informative.



MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

children's
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION



On Tuesday 12th March, the school held the first of its two annual graduation ceremonies for the Children's University.

During the ceremony, thirty three children graduated with a variety of awards being presented. We wish to thank both the children and their parents/carers for supporting this event. As a school we hope the children continue to attend the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities available to them both within and outside of the school.

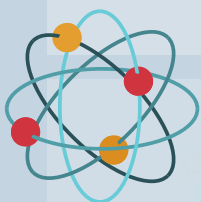
We are now looking forward to our next ceremony during the Summer Term when, in addition to our traditional graduation, the 'gold' award graduates will be honoured.



British Science Week

On Thursday March 14th, the school marked British Science Week, celebrating the event with a day which was designed to not only promote the children's scientific enquiry but also to foster a love of science, encouraging children to see the impact of scientific endeavours on all our lives.

The team from Fizz Pop Science launched the day, with a captivating interactive assembly designed to inspire the children for the day, which lay ahead.





Our Values



EMPOWERMENT

We actively promote opportunities for every child, adult and school to influence their own practice and future.



AMBITION

We encourage and support every child, adult and school to aim high to achieve their aspirations.



COLLABORATION

We work together to support everyone to achieve their aims.



POSITIVITY

We adopt a 'can do' attitude and an optimistic approach.



RESPECT

We are thoughtful and considerate to ourselves, others and the environment.



INTEGRITY

We are honest, transparent and fair in everything we do.

Learn more www.empowertrust.co.uk





Current CPD Opportunities for the Summer Term

St Peter's Learning Centre offers a range of high-quality professional development opportunities for school staff. Operating a joint practice development approach to professional development, participants are encouraged to reflect on what they do in the classroom and work with colleagues in order to enhance their practice.

St Peter's Learning Centre is offering the following courses this term:

Effective Governance - John Hemmings

Monday 20th May 6pm - 8pm

This session is for all School Governors.

Purpose: To support Governors in monitoring and self-evaluation of school performance

Challenging Behaviour - Why it Happens & What to do - Spectra

Tuesday 21st May 9.15am- 12 noon

This course considers reasons for challenging behaviour and suggests a wide range of practical approaches that can be used to support children throughout the school day.

How Designed is Your Curriculum?

- Chris Quigley

Thursday 6th June 9.15am - 3.30 pm

From September Ofsted will be asking schools to provide a detailed explanation of how their curriculum is designed and why it is designed as it is. This is in response to the narrowing in some schools of the curriculum over recent years due to the pressure to raise standards in core subjects. They are now interested in all aspects of the curriculum.

Coping with Conflict, Difficult Conversations & Leading Challenging Colleagues (Day 2)

- Angela Hannan

Tuesday 11th June - 9.15am - 12.30 pm

Day 2 of Coping with Conflict, Difficult Conversations and Leading Challenging Colleagues invites delegates to reflect on their practice and experiences since training day one.

Using Play-based Activities, Puppetry & Drama to Develop Social Interaction Skills

- Spectra

Tuesday 25th June 9.15 am - 12 noon

Aimed at Teachers and Teaching Assistants.

Explore a range of practical approaches to develop social interaction and communication skills using play, drama and puppetry.

Powerful Vocabulary Instruction - Kelly Ashley

Thursday 27th June - 9.15 am - 9.30 pm

Aimed at Primary phase Teachers and English Leads.

WORD POWER is a CPD programme designed to boost vocabulary instruction by developing teachers' and pupils' awareness of the power of words; practical, evidence-based strategies for amplifying word-learning in the primary classroom and helping pupils to notice and investigate language within a word-rich environment, through direct instruction of word learning strategies.

For further course information and details on how to book your place, please visit St Peter's Learning Centre website:

www.st-petersprimaryschool.co.uk/topic/learning-centre

St Peter's Learning Centre

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