



From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer
Welcome to the third edition of our Trust termly newsletter.

The aim of this newsletter is to give a glimpse of some of the activity that has been taking place across Empower Multi Academy Trust since our launch in June 2018. Empower Trust is committed to providing the very best opportunities and education for each and every one of our pupils, and we have developed the vision and values for the Trust across our schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the incredible children, teachers and staff we have in our schools – we know how much effort they have put into every single day this year. I hope that everyone manages to take a well-earned rest over the summer break.

The benefits we've already seen in year one as a Trust have already exceeded our expectations – and we know that will only continue with our increased capacity next year. We already have a lot planned for next year including new professional development and training programmes, and the introduction of our Trust Values, plus plans to promote curriculum development, further strengthen teaching and learning and promote wellbeing for children, staff and the broader school community.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Ally Brown, who has been appointed as the new Headteacher of St Peter's CE Primary & Nursery School from January 2020. Ally intends on being a familiar face at the school during the Autumn Term so that children and staff can get to know her before she officially starts in the Spring Term. You can find out more about Ally in the Newsletter.

Finally I am delighted to announce that Empower Trust will be welcoming our eighth school to our family of schools during the Autumn Term. St Mary's CofE Primary School in Shawbury will be joining us around 1st October 2019. St.Mary's was one of the original group of schools who worked together to form the Empower Trust vision and have worked with our schools for some years as part of the North Shropshire Teaching School Alliance. I know everyone is looking forwards to working with their staff and children over the next academic 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 admin@empowertrust.co.uk.

I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer.





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.



The Great Junior School Bake Off

On Monday 3rd June we held our annual 'Bake Off' competition, which is always a popular addition to our annual calendar of events. Children could submit entries into one or more of three categories, cupcakes, biscuits or a showstopper. Each entry had to have a 'Summer Fun' theme.



Many thanks to all those that supported the event and to the guest judges that helped to choose our upper and lower school category winners, who were as follows:



Congratulations to all of our winners!

The following day a cake sale was held at break time and the children were able to sample the selection of delicious entries.

The proceeds will be spent on cookery items and ingredients for DT projects within school.



MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

TOM PALMER AUTHOR VISIT

The school had a great day with author Tom Palmer on 20th June. He shared with us his passion for reading and writing, his main message being, "It doesn't matter what you read, JUST READ!"



Tom spent time with each of our year groups, answering questions and sharing his stories and his inspirations for writing. He signed a lot of books for us and we are going to keep them safe as we're sure he is heading for the book awards soon!

YEAR 4 LIVERPOOL TRIP

On 18th & 25th June the Year 4 children embarked on a visit to the Liverpool World Museum. The main focus of the visit was to practically experience the year's context for learning; the children explored Egyptian artefacts and mummified bodies, linked to their Tomb Raiders topic.



In addition, to link to their Charles Darwin theme of Daring Discoveries, the children were given the opportunity to examine fossils, specimens, bones and plants.



The visit increased the children's wonder and awe and helped to deepen their understanding of the topics being studied in class.

YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY

At the beginning of June a large number of our Year 6 pupils participated in a Bikeability course. After all passing the level 1 course (on the playground) with flying colours, they moved onto the level 2 course, which saw them cycling off around Market Drayton, demonstrating their skills.

They had to show that they were able to ensure that their bicycles are road-worthy and that they could apply all the safety rules of the Highway Code. The children were an absolute credit to themselves and the school. The instructors were full of praise for the way that they focused and for their excellent manners throughout, so much so, that they arranged to return to school on 10th July to carry out an additional day's workshop with the children, to help them plan a cycle route from their homes to the local secondary school, in preparation for September!



Sports Day 2019



This year saw another fantastic Sports Day for both lower and upper school events. All children thoroughly enjoyed competing and represented their house team brilliantly, demonstrating the six school games values (honesty, passion, teamwork, self belief, respect and determination). We had some extremely close finishes, even having to use camera footage at one point to determine 1st and 2nd place! The talent amongst the children was clearly evident and everyone commented on how well the children performed.



We also had a team of dancers who performed at the closing ceremony of the School Games Festival at Shrewsbury Sports Village on 2nd July.

BFF, Perla, Jesse-Ann, Maisie, Olivia and Maisie (all in year 3) attend various dance schools in Market Drayton and all take part in different styles of dance. They worked together to choreograph their own routine by mixing their dancing talents together. A super achievement girls and a real credit to our school - well done girls!





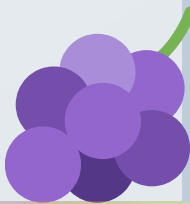
Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

Nursery Visit to Woore Fruit Farm

The children in the nursery have had a really exciting Summer Term! To enhance the children's learning about 'Days Out' and 'Growing' the Nursery aged children went on a trip to Woore Fruit Farm.

The children really enjoyed a tractor ride around the farm, spotting lots of different fruit trees and went on to pick the strawberries that were growing in the poly tunnels.

By the end of the day, all of the children had a clear understanding that fruit grows on farms and can then be bought from the supermarket. They loved tasting all of the different fruits they had picked and happily shared their strawberries with the younger children in the setting.



Year 1 Wellbeing Afternoon

This term the year 1 children were excited to welcome in their parents to share examples of wellbeing activities with them. Having made Mental Health and Wellbeing a priority this year, the children have engaged regularly in activities that promote the Five Ways to Wellbeing. They have learned about these strands through the invention of a school character, CLANG, and are able to discuss them confidently.

Active learning is an important way of developing wellbeing. Since September, all children have been participating in the Daily Mile so as part of our afternoon we were thrilled to welcome ex-pupil Ben Garratt, former goalkeeper for Crewe Alexander Football Club to officially open our Daily Mile track. The year one parents all got involved, having great fun running, jogging or walking around the track with their children for 15 minutes.

During the afternoon, the children worked with their parents to use Lego to explore their feelings and emotions. This was positively received by all, and demonstrated how fun, non-judgemental activities can be used to promote positivity.

In addition, Deputy Head Kerry Simmons held an information session to inform parents of the importance of promoting positive mental health, how we are doing this at school and how they can do it at home.

A fantastic afternoon was had by all!





Market Drayton Infant & Nursery School

The Daily Mile

The Daily Mile track at Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School was officially opened on 10th June by Ben Garrett, former Crewe Alexander goalkeeper and ex pupil of the school.

The school had the track installed in the spring term after putting a bid in for some funding from the local authority that was linked to money obtained from the sugar tax being put back into the community.

The aim of The Daily Mile is to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances.

Samantha Scott, Headteacher, said, “ The children started to run the Daily Mile in September. It gives them the opportunity to go outside, get some fresh air and exercise and return to class ready to learn; it also helps with mental health and wellbeing. As a former pupil, it is great to have Ben come and open this for us.”



Ourselves Compared to Others



The children in Year 2 have been super excited about their current science topic 'Ourselves compared to others'. They have explored the different animals groups through a visit from 'Zoo Lab'. They were introduced to the basic needs for each animal to survive and ask any questions they may have along the way.

Within their classrooms each class has been able to watch the life cycle of a butterfly and have kept a diary of the changes that occur. The excitement continues for the children as currently within each classroom the children have eggs ready to hatch in a months time into ducklings!

We have been using all this fantastic knowledge around animals and their needs to influence our Literacy writing 'Snake needs a friend'. Here we are innovating the original text and using what we have discovered through our science learning to write what friends snake could meet and why they cannot live in the desert with him.





Market Drayton Infant
& Nursery School

Achievement For All



Market Drayton Infant and Nursery School are pleased to announce that at the end of June they were awarded the 'Achievement for All Quality Mark' in recognition of the work they do in enabling every child to be the best they can regardless of background, challenge or need.

Sue Burrows, Regional leads for Achievement for All described the school as a 'hive of activity', where children were highly motivated and engaged in their learning. She said the 'caring ethos which abounds' provided a safe and secure environment in which children are able to learn, be challenged and encouraged to shine both academically and socially. The school is changing mindsets and removing ceilings for children who may previously have been regarded as having little chance of succeeding.

Parents described their children as 'more confident' and have great trust in the school saying, 'everyone goes above and beyond', with staff 'going the extra mile' in order to help their children, whilst also supporting them to help their children at home.

Samantha Scott, Headteacher, said, "The school prides itself on the work that it does to support children in all aspects of school life, helping to raise aspirations and encouraging them to flourish, regardless of their starting points. This is a recognition of the efforts of the whole school community, including teachers, governors, parents and most importantly the children."

Ian Nurser, CEO of Empower Trust said, "I would like to congratulate the school on this tremendous achievement. I wish to pass on my thanks to the Leadership Team, link governors and staff for their support and commitment to enabling every child to be the best that they can be! This is a fantastic example of Empower Trust's values and principles in action."



Ground Force!

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children have been busy developing our courtyards this term. After previously being overgrown and inaccessible, the courtyard area has had a section of artificial grass installed and two wetpour 'bouncy' safety surfaces.

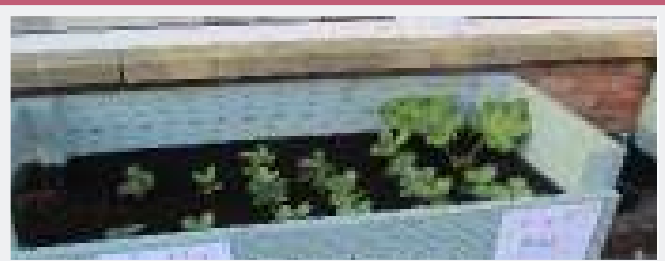
The children have been collecting natural objects to use in this area and have developed a raised flowerbed to be used for growing fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The Secret Garden has been developed to resemble a natural exploratory environment with a willow arch, flower bed and mud pit!



Joint collaboration

With the growing and gardening element in mind, we have arranged to work with Year 6 children from St George's to plant our own seeds.



This project will begin with Year 6 children teaching EYFS the steps needed to make a paper pot and look after seeds and it will continue with EYFS sending updates to Year 6 on the progress of our plants.

This activity will be extremely beneficial for all children involved and will help enhance and foster our drive to encourage language development.



Long, Long Ago....



During the Spring Term, the topic for Key Stage 1 was 'Long, Long Ago'. Year 1 and Year 2 children were able to be hands on and had many opportunities to play with the large selection of old toys and games borrowed from the 'Land of Lost Content' in Craven Arms.

The children were encouraged to bring their own toys into school to play with and to compare them with the older toys. Many children and staff have spent a happy few hours playing with them!

Family members were encouraged to bring a toy from their childhood into the classrooms and children had help to come up with questions to ask the visitors.

We took a closer look at a painting by Pieter Brugel titled 'Children's Games' and discovered that even 450 years ago, children were playing familiar games such as football, tag and leapfrog. Some children were so inspired they played leapfrog during playtimes!



History is interesting, it's exciting!
It tells us why we live as we do now.

Without the arrival of that first Teddy Bear in 1903 - named after President Theodore Roosevelt - children might not have such a wonderful range of soft and cuddly friends.

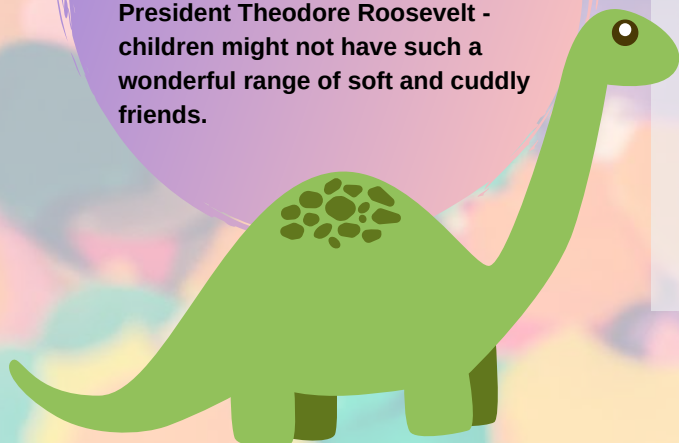


Old Bones!



Early Years Foundation Stage had an exciting time earlier this term. The three classes visited Shrewsbury Museum as dinosaur detectives where they dug for fossils - they found all sorts of bones!

Not only did they learn dinosaur names, one of the aims was to help the children realise that lots of events have happened prior to their arrival in the world.





St Peter's CE Primary and Nursery School

School Games Gold Award 2019/20 and a new Daily Mile Track

CONGRATS



We are delighted that the school has been accredited with the gold School Games Award for the second year in a row. This reflects the wide array of PE opportunities available to all the children at St Peter's and re-affirms the school's commitment to promoting healthy and active lifestyles.

The daily 15 minute walk has been a key part of this and we are now very excited to have a completed Daily Mile Track here at St Peter's. The track was finished on Friday 5th July and the children couldn't wait to make use of it, literally queuing up to use it as the workmen from Shropshire Council were packing up their equipment!



Active Travel to School Week 24th - 28th June

Through the School Eco Committee an Active Travel to School Week was organised and promoted.

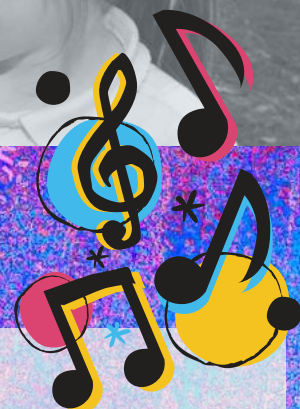
Ray Hughes came in and delivered an assembly to the whole school about the benefits of leaving the car at home and being active on the journey to school. There was a daily class competition and the children responded brilliantly by walking, scooting and cycling to school in great numbers.

Over the course of the week 1336 journeys to school were made without the car. This was a fantastic effort by the whole school community. The staff car park was noticeably emptier too!





St Peter's CE Primary and Nursery School



Arts Week 2019 at St Peter's



Arts Week 2019 was a roaring success with a 'decades' theme. All children in the school had the chance to work with a resident artist in our Creative Hub, introducing them to workshops on Kandinsky, Keith Haring, Banksy and Pop Art.

There was 'Dance through the Decades', 'Sounds of the Decades' and 'Fashion from the Decades'. Each year group chose a different decade and on Friday dressed accordingly which was a fabulous sight. Even the food for the week was themed on a different decade each day!

Ukulele at St Peter's

Ukulele classes are happening throughout the school with the help of 36 new Ukuleles funded through a grant from Universal Music UK Sound Foundation.

Here Year 3 are engaged in a whole school lesson led by an expert musician. Clearly the children were engrossed and they sounded great!





New Headteacher Appointment

St Peter's CE Primary & Nursery School are very pleased to announce the appointment of their new Headteacher, Ally Brown.

'I am thrilled and delighted to have been given the opportunity to take on the headship at St Peter's from January. I am very much looking forward to the challenge of building on the excellent work of previous leaders at the school and working with new colleagues both within the school and across the Trust.'

It is an exciting opportunity to be part of the newly formed Empower Trust and to have such a strong network of schools and head teachers as a support. I cannot wait to join you in January and look forward to getting to know you all- it seems a long way away but I know that the time will fly.

During the Autumn term I hope to spend time introducing myself to everyone and getting to know the school and pupils as much as possible so that I can hit the ground running in the Spring term'.

During her teaching career, Ally has worked in a number of local authorities including Powys, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. She has been a Head teacher since 2006 and began her headship career at a small Church of England village school on the outskirts of Telford. She then moved to Apley Wood Primary School in Telford, a larger than average two form entry primary school with 420 pupils on roll, where she spent 10 years as substantive Head before joining St Peter's CE Primary School in January 2020. During her time at Apley Wood Primary School she secured considerable change and improvement which led to the school being awarded National Support School status in February 2017 and Ally becoming a National Leader of Education (NLE).

In addition to her Headteacher role, she became a primary school improvement adviser for Telford & Wrekin LA in 2014 and, from September 2016 (following the restructuring of the LA), she then worked for the Severn Teaching School Alliance (STSA) in the same role for six years. Ally has also undertaken three Head teacher secondments to schools causing concern- managing one through forced academisation and the implementation of an interim executive board (IEB).

Ally is an accredited Pupil Premium Reviewer and was commissioned to undertake pupil premium reviews for all schools within a West Midlands academy chain in 2018. In her role as an NLE, Ally has worked for the DfE to deliver the Tailored Support Programme which focuses on supporting leaders to implement workforce reform strategies in order to support recruitment and retention of early career teachers in primary schools across Walsall, Dudley and Birmingham. In addition, she also supports schools within Telford and Shropshire who are eligible for the DfE school improvement programme and is also an accredited PREVENT facilitator.

Ally's passion is to ensure that strong leadership and management secures excellent outcomes and opportunities for all pupils. For the success of any school, it is vital that all staff share the same vision and core values in relation to what is to be achieved; instilling some very specific aims based on a vision of inspirational teaching and high aspiration, informed by current educational research and strong links with other schools. As leaders she believes we should strive to ensure that all pupils achieve their own potential, regardless of their barriers to learning, and drive standards, accelerating pupil progress through quality first teaching. This should be delivered through an inspiring curriculum with many opportunities for visits and visitors and hands on experiences related to real life contexts. In addition, to secure excellent teaching in a well-resourced and fit for purpose school environment which is supported by responsive, pro-active and effective monitoring systems. As part of that drive for continued self-improvement Ally has completed the National SENCo award and has a post graduate certificate in Inclusion and vulnerable learners.

In an ever-changing educational climate it is vitally important that all schools are outward facing and work together in a mutually beneficial way. Every school, no matter where they are on their school improvement journey, has something valuable to offer to others. As a Head, Ally's philosophy is to never 'rest on your laurels' and is always seeking ways to improve and develop practice in partnership with other local schools and beyond.





CONGRATULATIONS

KS2 Primary Stars Tournament at Shrewsbury Town FC

Congratulations to our team who came third in the Primary Stars Tournament, which was held at the Montgomery Water Stadium, home of Shrewsbury Town FC.

The team did magnificently well, they played fairly, showing determination and embracing the spirit of the game.

Well done to all the players involved for representing the school so well!



School Games Day

Congratulations to the overall winning house which this year was 'Yellow!'

A huge well done to all of the children who participated on the day and tried their best; they all displayed an excellent team spirit.

Thank you to all family members and parents who joined us for the events and family picnic at lunchtime, a lovely day was had by all.





Trip to The Abbey

Hawkstone class visited Shrewsbury Abbey during the summer term and had the opportunity to dress up as monks.

They had a great time and really enjoyed looking at the symbols in the stained glass windows. They also learned about the history of the Abbey itself.

Upon their return to school the children created their own stained glass windows which will be displayed in Shrewsbury Abbey for visitors to see in the summer.

Sixties Days

During the summer term the children in Year 4 have been studying the history of 60's Britain.

Their classroom was transformed back in time to this period, with their lessons reflecting the curriculum of the time.

The children had to adapt to electronic devices and everything was written on a blackboard.

The children played cat's cradle and jacks at break and sampled authentic schools recipes from the sixties. The 'school nurse' even paid the children a visit to check for clean fingernails, teeth and nits!



Visit to Greenacres Forest School

Despite having to rearrange the visit due to the weather, Grinshill class were able to visit Greenacres school to take part in forest school activities.

They had a great time cooking their own lunch, exploring the forest school area and even gutting a fish!

The children had a fantastic day and all really enjoyed the experience.





Greenacres Primary School

Forest News

Earlier this term we were able to welcome children from The Wilfred Owen school to our forest area for a day of activities - you may have smelled the smoke from their camp fire! We were delighted that another school from Empower Trust has been able to share our wonderful resource.

Linked to the latest evidence that planting trees is an excellent way to combat climate change, we are ahead of the game here at Greenacres having planted almost two thousand trees over the past twenty years!

A Grand Day Out

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a wonderful day in Shrewsbury last week looking at the facilities The Quarry has to offer.

They took art equipment with them so they could do some on site artistic work, and they also studied the equipment in the park and compared it with their own designs from Design Technology.

The children in Year 1 also enjoyed a visit to Attingham Park recently. They gained a great deal from spending time at this significant place so close to Shrewsbury. Although the house is well worth a visit and contains many items of interest, the children were concentrating on the grounds, parks and gardens. As the school is a member of the National Trust, we are able to visit many such interesting places.



Going Back in Time

As part of our study of Britain before the Romans the KS2 children will be travelling to Wrexham and also back in time to spend the day as Celts.

The children created walls for houses using wattle and daub, a widespread traditional building technique using naturally occurring materials. It is important that children have the chance to experience the sights, sounds and even smells of the past in order to provide greater insight into some aspects of the lived experience of people in the past. Children also discovered how people managed to live their lives without modern comforts and created almost everything for themselves within small communities.





ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY

Netball World Cup



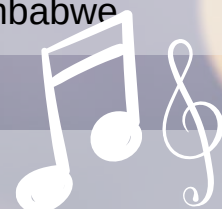
A group of year 5 and year 6 girls travelled to Liverpool to the Echo Area on Friday 12th July to watch the heats for the Netball World Cup. The pupils had the an excellent view of the following competing teams and even managed to spot themselves on the main screen!



The teams playing were:

Northern Ireland v Australia
Singapore v Barbados
New Zealand v Malawi
Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe

Earth Little Heroes'



The Year 5 cohort has a fun-packed day in Llangollen as they participated in a number of multi-cultural music and performing arts workshops. They were entertained by a diverse group of talented artists and had the opportunity to engage in drumming, dancing, singing and circus skills whilst also appreciating and appraising the performances from the different countries.

The theme for the day was 'Earth Little Heroes' in celebration of the festival's continued efforts to reduce plastic waste. As a result of the messages heard throughout the day, two Year 5 pupils requested that the school purchase specific bins for recycling plastics during the lunch hour. These are now in use in the dinner hall.

