

April 2021

Newsletter

Dear All,

I hope you have all enjoyed your well-earned break over Easter and enjoyed sunny, rainy and snowy days alike! It really has been a mixture of it all! Having said that the rest will have been appreciated, I am sure.

The year continues to bring challenges with the announcement of the Duke of Edinburgh's passing and a time of national mourning. This was, however, an opportunity to celebrate the significant amount of young people who benefitted from his endeavours through many schemes and initiatives, particularly the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. It was uplifting to hear the many young people talk about their experiences and the impact it had on their lives and aspirations.

We enter the summer term of this memorable academic year and preparations for the Autumn Term will begin. Let us hope that life, as we know it, will be resumed as much as possible. In the meantime, the Trust is advising all academies to abide by current procedures clearly led by the risk assessments in place and to maintain the vigilant attention to maintain safety for everyone.

The Trust is maintaining virtual meetings during the summer term but will constantly review the situation in line with government guidelines and local intelligence. Whilst things improved at the end of last term, we did experience an increase in positive testing across the Trust and one incident where an academy had to close early, for Easter, due to lack of available staff. The message is clear -carry on as before to maintain a good level of safety.

You will have heard of the successful appointments of Karen Taylor to the Executive role at Havergal and St Matthew's and Rod Dickson at Brewood and St Mary's. Early this term we shall be interviewing for posts at Bishop Lonsdale and Stoke Minster and will share the outcomes of the interviews with you all.

We have also heard that Jeni Mountford, Head of School at St Matthew's, has given birth to a beautiful baby boy – Lincoln, 7lbs 5 oz. Congratulations Jeni!



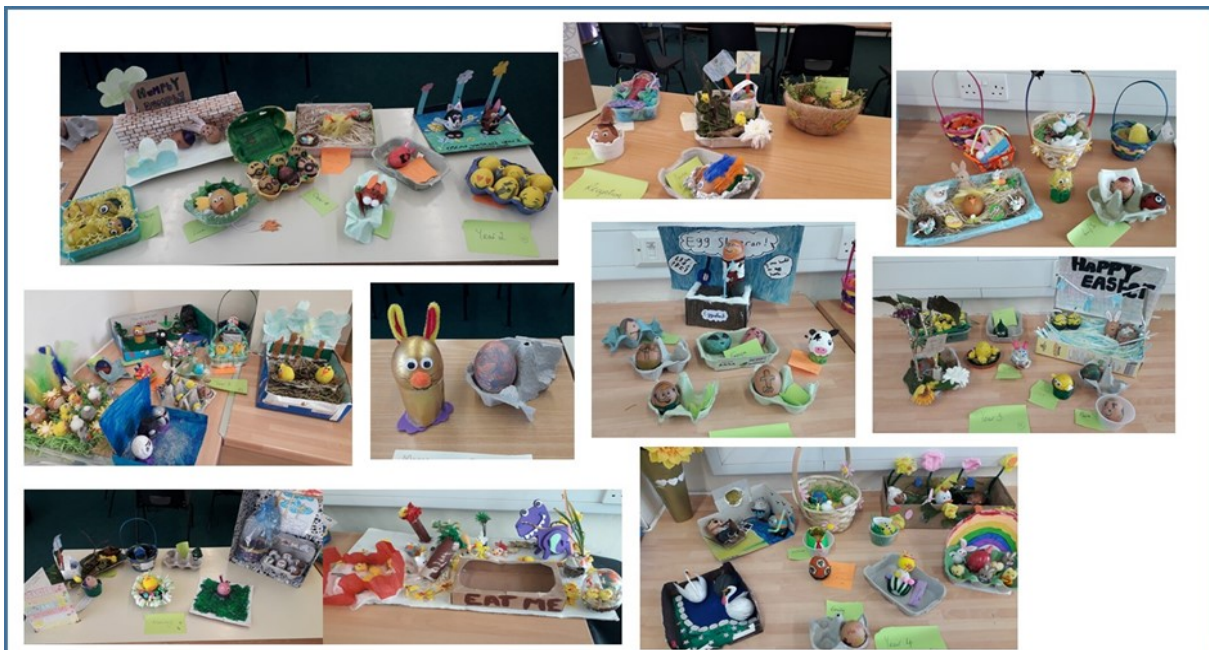
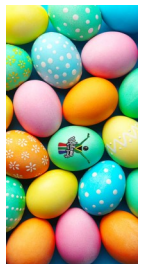
I look forward to seeing you all very soon! You know the drill, if you need anything – we're here to help!

Best wishes

Sue Wedgwood

Churchfield Church of England Primary Academy

To celebrate Easter, the Academy asked all the children to decorate an egg and bring it to school. The Academy had an amazing range of entries, from Egg Sheeran and How to Train your Dreggon, to Minnions and Star Wars. They've also had eggs reflecting the Easter story and the coming of spring. The Trust is really proud of the children (and their parents!) for all of the efforts made!





Bishop Lonsdale Church of England Primary Academy



Below are some of the activities that have taken place at Bishop Lonsdale on the first week back, such as tree planting, den building, art activities, celebrating International Women's Day and team building games.

The tree planting was organised by Mrs Simcox who approached the Tree Council, which resulted in the Academy having free trees and hedges and the opportunity to become part of an inspiring new network of Young Tree Champions. This meant that each class was able to plant a tree near the EYFS playground and learn more about plants, helping our environment and the importance of leaving a positive legacy. The area will also contribute to our Forest Schools provision, which will be starting to be part of the learning in the summer term. A huge thank you to Mrs Simcox.

All children have taken part in a variety of activities and games that have been planned by staff to support their reintegration back into school and rebuild their relationships with each other.



BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK

LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

Thank you to staff at Central Office for raising funds for the Black Country Foodbank Easter Egg appeal. 38 Easter Eggs were donated in total.

The Black Country Foodbank helps vulnerable individuals and families in crisis through the provision of 3 days emergency food supplies while a longer-term solution is developed. The services have an enormous impact on the people who use the foodbank, giving them an important breathing space at a time of great need.

A Christian-based charitable organisation set up in June 2006, to feed local people experiencing real hardship by meeting their most basic need for food. Local people, churches and other organisations in and around the Black Country are joining together to be part of a project that makes a real difference to the lives of those in crisis.

GET IN TOUCH;

Need some help or want to help? Contact: Black Country Foodbank, Albion Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3EE. (Open Mon-Fri 9am-2pm)

Tel: 01384 671250 telephone line is open Mon-Fri 9am -1pm

email: admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk



Lichfield Music Share; Year 5 and year 6 pupils have had a thoroughly enjoyable 6 weeks of singing tuition as part of the Lichfield Music Share initiative. The Academy were very ably supported by David Werry, who chose songs linked to the Year 6 geography work on biomes. These included: Ain't No Mountain High Enough; Si Si; The project finished with a virtual concert which was performed to the whole school.



Easter Bonnet Competition

As part of our Easter celebrations we held an Easter bonnet competition in school. There were some wonderful Easter creations.



St John's Church of England Primary Academy

Specialist leader of education

We would like to congratulate Mr Downward on achieving the position of specialist leader of education. Mr Downward will still be working at St John's as a teacher but will be supporting teachers in the teaching of science across the Trust and the county. Well done Mr D!!

Carnegie Award

We are pleased to announce that St John's have achieved the Bronze Carnegie award. This is for emotional well being provision for staff and



pupils in school. Special thanks to Mrs Connor who has gathered all the evidence for us to submit in order to achieve the award.

St Marys Church of England First Academy

The Academy sent a little bear home (with a poem written by the Y3/4 children who were in school, see below) to every child and member of staff during lockdown as a little token to hug, cuddle and love while we have to stay socially distanced. It has been a real success and the feedback from children, parents and staff was that they felt appreciated and part of the St Mary's family. Many staff are wearing their bears on school lanyards now all staff are back in work together.

This little bear is just for you

He'll listen and cuddle and help see you through.

Although we're in lockdown hopefully with this ted you'll see That you are still an important part of St. Mary's family.

So when you feel lost, mad, frustrated or alone Give this teddy a cuddle knowing you are safe staying home.

Lockdown 2021

We had to stay apart but still belonged to each other.





Birchills Church of England Community Academy



Birchills Church of England Community Academy had a fantastic first week back;

The little boy, Rumaan - Nursery, has been learning about new life for Easter. He has completed some home learning and produced a bird house. He said, 'I have made this house for birds to lay eggs. It is made from lollipop sticks, glue and love'.

The remaining images are samples of learning from Holy Week. Children have created Easter Story wheels, a recount of the Easter Story and made crosses out of wooden pegs.



The staff and families at Birchills donate Easter Eggs/treats and the children had a chance of winning one. The children acquire the raffle tickets through excellent work, demonstrating our academy values and for accumulating the most Dojo points over the course of a week.

The children got very competitive and excited by the draw. It covered all classes from Nursery through to Year 6.

Great news from Birchills - The Academy have four children going to grammar school this year. The highest number of children and being successful during a pandemic.

