



Newsletter 21: Spring Term 2024

A Message from Susannah Connell, CEO, The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust

Easter is now upon us. We have had a very busy month and I know you will all be looking forward to a break, ready to return to school feeling refreshed on Monday 15th April to start the Summer Term.

This spring term has not been as we expected for all the pupils at King James. The damage to the roof of one of the school buildings on the 2nd January resulted in Year 7 to Year 10 not being able to return to the school until the 6th March. It cannot be underestimated the herculean effort that everyone put in to firstly finding places large enough to house the pupils to redesigning the entire curriculum so that it could be taught either in the weekly face to face or learning virtually. I would like to thank all of King James staff, they went above and beyond for the pupils in their care.

There has also been lots of positives such as the Year 6 children from across the Trust travelled to London for the Young Voices concert at the O2. World Book Day across the Trust. I know that everyone was very creative with their costumes and all the children and staff looked fantastic.

I would like to thank the children for working so hard and being a credit to their school, which leads me on to thanking you as parents for having such wonderful children. I would also like to send my appreciation to all of the staff in the Trust who work tirelessly to ensure every child has the education they deserve.

Regards



Braybrook

It has been another busy but wonderful term at Braybrook Primary Academy this spring full of exciting learning, a variety of trips and visitors, and a number of school events.

In Reception, the children's learning has focused around traditional tales, including Jack and the Beanstalk. The children could retell the tale and act out part, as well as using the story for inspiration across the curriculum.

In Years 1 and 2, the children have been reading the book 'One Day on Our Blue Planet' and writing a number of pieces linked to this. As part of their learning, they took a trip to Hamerton Zoo for a brilliant day up close with a number of fascinating animals.

In Year 3, the children have been learning about the Romans and held a Roman Day, where the children dressed up and completed a number of activities, including handling Roman artefacts and making their own Roman shields. They even had the chance to get into tortoise formation on the playground!



In Year 4, the children have been learning about Rivers, and as part of their topic, took a trip to Nene Park to take part in a 'Living Rivers' workshop, including pond dipping, mapping the area and completing a fieldwork study. They were also visited by Anglian Water who ran a workshop on keeping our sewers clean.

In Year 5, the children have been learning about Space and our Solar System, and visited the National Space Centre in Leicester as part of their topic. They were able to enjoy a show in the planetarium and enjoy the exhibits including a number of rockets.

Both Year 5 and 6 have been involved in a number of STEM projects this term, which included a visit by KNEX to run an engineering competition, and they also took part in the Microscopes4Schools competition which included a zoom workshop with the science team.



Year 6 attended Young Voices 2024 in January, where they sang and danced as part of the world's largest choir celebration. The children found it an experience they would never forget. In March, they were invited by the Lindemann Trust to visit Magdalene College in Cambridge as part of a science outreach event. The children were able to listen to talks from a number of scientists and ask a variety of questions. As part of the day, they also visited the American War Cemetery which linked to their learning on World War 2.

The school has also enjoyed a number of events and initiatives, including World Book Day celebrations. During the week, the children took part in a number of book sharing events, including guessing who the 'Masked Reader' was. The PTA also sold Wonka bars, with golden tickets being found to then exchange for a book and afternoon tea. The school also held another Passport to the World day, where each class celebrated another country by learning about their language, culture and even tasting food. The day was topped off with a fantastic rendition of 'The Haka' (a ceremonial dance in Maori culture) from Year 6.



We have lots to look forward to in the summer term after such a productive and exciting spring term.

Burrowmoor

Starting the term as Diamond was different and reassuring. We started the term with our **"Our World Week"**. Children spent the week learning all about how their lives would impact and shape the world that they lived in. After starting the week with an assembly, the children spent time researching, discussing and challenging the huge topic of global warming. A visitor from Anglian water came to speak to the Year 3 children about how we recycle water, our youngest children thought about global pollution of the oceans. The year 5 children spent time building a city that was carbon and energy neutral. The end of the week was used to host a celebration assembly where children spoke to the whole school about their learning.

Our Year 6 children were visited by the Healthy Schools alliance during Anti-Smoking week and they all took part in a very interactive and informative workshop.



The year four children hosted their parents at a Times Tables ROCKATHON. Parents were invited into school to watch a times table competition and also given the chance to race their children. Every week we announce who wins the competition – one-year group class against another year group class – the most valuable players are also announced. The most valuable players played against Mrs Bailey and won! It was great to see so many parents visiting school. Previously we had also hosted a Maths briefing session for parents.

Hamerton Zoo was the destination for our Year 4 children this term. They saw the animals being fed, they got to hold a very large snake, learned more about the reptiles in the zoo and all had a fantastic time.



In Year 2 this term they have been using the book *Granddad's Camper* by H Woodgate. They read the book, discussed it and had so much fun writing their own version. To celebrate all their hard work, the children were then treated with a visit from a real life Camper. They were able to climb on board and also speak to the owner, asking all the questions that they wanted. So exciting and we are so appreciative of our links with our community.

Our School council hosted their first event at Burrowmoor. The children organised a cake sale – they spent one lunchtime creating posters which they then posted up around school. The cakes arrived, some were sold at breaktime and the rest was sold at the end of the day – we raised £300. We shared this money £150 for Cancer research and the other half went to the Gardening club to buy new planters. The children wrote to Cancer research to send off the cheque.

We are now looking forward to a busy and exciting Summer term.



Glebelands

This term at Glebelands has been a busy one! Year 4 went off on their residential to Burwell House. The children had a brilliant time and behaved impeccably. The children took part in lovely activities such as: enameling their own key rings, The Burwell Challenge where they were blindfolded and guided through an assault course and The Great Eggscape where they designed something to protect an egg before dropping it to the ground! They also had an opportunity to go on a walk around the village and learn the history of Burwell. It was lovely to see them working so well as a team, supporting each other and for many of them, enjoying their first trip away from home!



We have also started our new playtime scheme this term. OPAL has been introduced at lunchtimes and we have been busy training and learning about the programme so that playtimes are more fun for all. We have a long journey to go on with this but have introduced small world areas, chalk, art and crafts, sport areas and most importantly, cardboard boxes – the children have had the most fun with these. The idea of the scheme is to allow opportunities for lots of different styles of play and we have plans for mud kitchens, sandpits, scooters and digging areas. We have been very thankful for all the donations that we have received too.

A team from Year 6 have attended the English Challenge at Lionel Walden and worked really hard as a team to complete each section of the challenge. We will have a team from Year 5 attending the Maths Challenge next term. It has been lovely to see parents in for class assemblies and we are looking forward to the Year 3/4 performance at the end of this term. Classes have been out on trips to Flag Fen, Duxford, Young Voices and there are plenty more exciting opportunities planned for the Summer Term.





Gorefield

A fantastic Spring term has been enjoyed by all at Gorefield! We have worked hard on improving the reception area of the school to ensure it is both welcoming and informative. A gallery of children's art work, current news and a 'one-stop book swap' now welcomes parents and visitors.



During the Spring Term, the children of Gorefield have taken part in a variety of sporting events and tournaments. Their conduct and representation of the school has always been exemplary and they have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the rugby, hockey, football and Panathlon (an all-inclusive event) where Gorefield Primary Academy came first in their heat.

Throughout February we took part in Children's Mental Health Week by writing poems focusing on children's voice, made worry dolls and took part in a whole school video promoting awareness of mental health. During the same month we also encountered the NSPCC number day. We had a great time tackling maths investigations, problems and puzzles whilst being mindful of those who may not be as fortunate as ourselves.



Our Year 6 girls also participated in the 'English Challenge' held at another local school. The group of 4 answered questions on all things book related! Although they didn't come first, they had an absolutely fantastic time and were again recognised for their good behaviour and perfect manners!



During this term, Year 5 and 6 pupils are becoming Rock Stars! Each child has chosen an instrument: bass guitar, drums, keyboard or electric guitar and are working on creating their own version of Green, Green Grass by George Ezra. The end result will be an amazing music video that will be performed, and recorded, to the rest of the school – rock on dude!

Finally, all the children of Gorefield took part in 'Red Day', dressing in red for Valentines. We raised £81.90 which will be put towards an Easter Disco for all the children to enjoy.



Great Staughton

It has been a busy Spring term for us at Great Staughton!

As an introduction to our topic for this term, India, our Year 3 & 4 children have been lucky enough to take part in an Indian dance workshop. This workshop was to help the children gain an understanding of Bollywood and learn some facts about India. It also gave them an insight into the different meaning for each Indian hand movement in the dances. The children all really enjoyed their morning, with them all having the opportunity to learn an amazing Indian dance.



Our Year 6 children attend the London O2 arena to perform alongside thousands of other children as part of the Young Voices choir. They had an amazing time singing along to a variety of songs, including a walking medley, Matilda medley, pop medley and a Moana mash up. It is a once in a lifetime experience and we were all so proud of their behaviour and performance.

We are extremely proud to have had some of our children's amazing artwork displayed at the Cambridge Area Young Artist competition at St Peter's School. It was so lovely to be able to recognise some of our children's artistic talent and be able to invite their parents to the exhibition.



We celebrated British Science week by focusing on this year's theme of 'time' and what time may mean in Science and our own experiences of time. As a part of this, we have been investigating biscuits, with child led investigations into the durability and structural integrity of different biscuits through a range of different methods. We have also been looking at changes over time, from looking at changes to the environment over the year and what happens to different leaves to investigating how animals adapt to their environment over time to observing over time how to make jelly set the quickest. We have also been pattern seeking to find where is best to grow daffodils and grouping and classifying which materials are most used at school.

For World book day the children dressed up as one of their favourite book characters. As part of our ongoing focus on developing a love for reading each class read the book, The Black Book of Colours. After sharing the book in class, each class chose a different activity. In Saturn class they began creating their own book of tastes after experiencing a range of interesting foods and then thought of creative ways to describe them. Jupiter class spent time writing in braille and then created their own class version of the book, Mars class created their own description on colours, with Mercury class recognising and sorting things made up of different colours. Prior to World Book Day, the children were all given a wooden spoon to decorate as someone or something from a book of their choice. We were so impressed with how creative the children were with their spoons.





Kimbolton

As the days become longer, as the buds on the trees are opening and daffodils appearing, we look back at some of the events this term.

On the first day of term our Oak class teacher, Miss Chhibber, arranged for a "little bit of India" to come to KPA in the form of a dance workshop where the children immersed themselves in a Bollywood dance session.



Year 6 went off to Young Voices at the O2 and danced like no one was watching, sang like no one was listening, partying the night away. They even had the opportunity to sing with west end star Lydia White from Matilda!

Congratulations to our Year 6 English pupils they worked brilliantly as a team and were excellent ambassadors for our school at an English challenge event in Eynesbury. Well done Alfie, Bella, Sophia and Zak!

This term has seen KPA enter several netball tournaments that have kept our pupils on their toes and have been fun to be involved in. It has been good practice and experience for our sports people.



As part of our World Book Day celebrations, the children came to school dressed as one of their favourite book characters and designed some creative wooden spoons. As part of our ongoing focus on developing a love of reading, our Travelling Book Fayre raised £246 of free books for the classrooms and re-stocked our library shelves. The PTA also held a book sale at lunchtime which raised a further £78.



Puddleducks, our nursery children, had a wonderful week learning about Chinese New Year. They dressed up as dragons, danced to Chinese music with their umbrella parasols, used chopsticks to eat their noodles and drew Chinese letters.



King James Academy Royston

Leader of the Council visit:

On Thursday, Lisa Plowman met with Leader of the Council, Richard Roberts and County Councillor, Fiona Hill. They toured the site and visited classrooms and were impressed by the behaviour in lessons and the politeness of the students as they manoeuvred their way around the site. Both councillors offered the Leadership Team and School their full support of the work that is taking place. We look forward to working with them more closely in the coming months and years.



Community Football:

Local Police Officers have collaborated with Stevenage Football Club and King James Academy to launch a football project.

The weekly sessions are being run as part of the Premier League Kicks campaign and are open to King James Academy students in years 7, 8 and 9.

PC Tom Woollard, of the Royston Neighbourhood Policing Team, has developed the scheme. He said: "I have been involved with football my whole life and am aware that at around the age of 13 we see a big drop out from football.

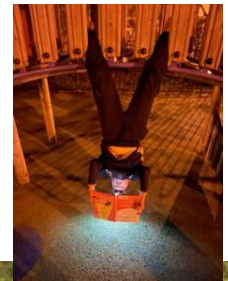
"This coincides with the age that children may start to get in trouble with police or be directed by negative influences. The aim of the project is to interact with local youths through a fun, footballing environment in order to educate, build positive relationships with teachers and police, and maintain engagement in sport".

World Book Day:

Students and staff at King James Academy Royston celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7 March where various activities took place, such as:

Staff and students shared photos reading in unusual places for an 'extreme reading' challenge. Students shared preloved books in a 'book swap'. KS2 students were challenged by Headteacher Ms Plowman to create the best reading corner, with a prize for the winners.

A great day was had by all, and we are looking forward to welcoming parents, grandparents, carers into school on the last day of term, Thursday 28 March, to read with our students. Students and volunteers are also invited to dress as their favourite literary character!





Leverington

Spring is finally arriving here in Leverington, with our local area blooming with vibrant daffodils and showers of pink cherry blossom. As we near the end of what has been another busy and fast moving term, warmer (and hopefully drier!) days are now in sight!

It has been another term of sporting events here at Leverington. Our school were fortunate enough to be invited to take part in a series of sporting events at a local Independent school. Our children had the opportunity to take part in rugby, cross country and hockey events to name but a few. The children represented our school impeccably and gained valuable sports experiences. They even got to showcase our new sports kit for the first time too!



Mr Allen has had a busy sporting term as he also was given the opportunity to take a group of pupils to Sir Harry Smith Community College in Whittlesey to partake in a local Panathlon Challenge. 6 children from Years 5 and 6 took part in an adapted sporting challenge in an attempt to score as many points as possible for their team with the aim to take home the gold medals. Our children had a very successful morning taking part in target games, including indoor curling, scoring hundreds of points towards the team total. We were placed a very

respectable 3rd overall bringing home a lovely set of bronze medals and certificates from the day. Well done team LPA!

Whilst some of our pupils were making their mark in local sports events, our Year 5 and 6s have been busy preparing for and taking part in a local English Challenge. They took part in four rounds: a book round; a memory round where they had to memorise a poem and write down as much as they could remember; a basic skill round with SPaG questions and a text types round where they had to name which genre different extracts were. They worked well together as a team and were keen to do their best! They were the winners of the local heat and will take part in the final challenge later in the term!



All this as well as World Book Day with a parent reading café, a Reception class trip to Church Farm, ukulele lessons, Brass tuition beginning, a chick delivery, Science Week and parent Science Investigation workshop and a whole school Easter assembly – time is definitely not standing still at Leverington!

Middlefield

It has been an extremely busy Spring term here at Middlefield. History off the Page have helped launch 2 topics this term – Year 3 immersed themselves in an Ancient Egypt Day, while Years 5 and 6 were transported back to Ancient Greek times! All children involved had a great time learning different crafts and skills. Dressing up added to the experience!



Another opportunity to dress up (or down!) presented itself during Children's Mental Health Week. To recognise the importance of being yourself to have a positive impact on your wellbeing, children were invited to come to school in clothes that encouraged them to Dare to be Different! It was lovely to see so much individuality being expressed!

We also encourage teamwork and more opportunities arose for children to represent the school in a sports context. Children from KS2 have taken part in netball, football and tenpin bowling this term. The bowling team came a creditable second, while one of our football teams went one better and won the tournament they participated in! Of course, we are proud of all the children who have represented us. They display sporting attitudes and great support for each other.

Taking teamwork to a whole new level, our Year 6 children travelled to the O2 in London in January to sing their hearts out at Young Voices, joining hundreds of other Year 6 children from across the country in one magnificent choir! A fantastic time was had by all, despite the late arrival back home!



With our KS2 Library of Wonders and its recent offshoot, the KS1 Box of Wonders, reading has never been more popular at Middlefield! Therefore, it comes as no surprise that we thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day! Dressing up, in-class activities, quizzes, Mrs Besant turning up unexpectedly to read to classes and even trips to the library – our love of books was never more evident!

We are extremely proud of our outdoor learning provision and despite the rather soggy weather we have encountered this term, lots has happened in our wonderful grounds. Children participated in the Great British Bird Watch, the garden has been prepared for planting, looking after our chicken and of course, our forest school sessions still take place – rain or shine!





Murrow

The Spring Term is always a short but busy term and this spring has been no different!

At the beginning of the term, we had a historical writing day for the whole school where we created books to send to the other schools in our mini-hub. We recalled our learning from our History lessons in the Autumn Term for our writing.

Our choir had an amazing time at the Young Voices concert in January. The hard work they put into learning the lyrics and choreography really paid off and the concert was electric!! The choir are now working towards taking part in the Wisbech Big Sing project in the Summer Term.



For World Book Day this year we created story jars and then used these to tell stories across the school. The creativity and enthusiasm shown in both the jars and the storytelling was wonderful. We listened to the World Book Day songs from MC Grammar and they have been stuck in our heads ever since!

During Science Week we invited parents into school to take part in a range of experiments. Everyone had a great time and used their skills of scientific enquiry to complete the investigations.

We hope you enjoy the Easter Break and as we think about the Summer Term, we look forward to taking part in sporting events within the area and opening our school pool ready for swimming.



Roman Way

At Roman Way, we have had an excellent start to the new year.

Our fabulous PTA have been working hard to source new books and sensory resources for the children. We are hugely grateful to all our parents and carers for their ongoing support.



This term our clubs have been well attended as usual and have included British Sign Language (BSL), board games, junk modelling, sports, percussion, choir and woodland club.

In January, the children enjoyed attending a drama workshop based on fairy tales and we had an inspiring visit from a Paralympian skier, Sean Rose, working with 'Sport for Schools'. The children were sponsored to complete various fitness activities. The children loved getting active and completing the challenges. Altogether, a staggering £1631.16 was raised for the school! Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting their children to raise funds for Roman Way!

In February, EYFS and KS1 took part in a music & movement workshop. This was winter-themed. The children had a fabulous time dancing with streamers, throwing 'snowballs' and pretending to be snow angels.

Our KS1 children had an exciting start to their English unit using the text, Beegu. The children pretended to travel to and explore Beegu's planet, which was recreated in one of our ICE zone classrooms.



This term, KS2 have enjoyed learning to play tag rugby, taught by a local coach. It has been brilliant to see the children pushing themselves to run fast and dodge their opponents!



During this term, we held 'Reading Cafe' events for different year groups where parents were invited in to join in with a story time in the hall and share some books with their child, whilst enjoying a drink and a biscuit. Our 'Reading Cafes' were well attended by parents and greatly enjoyed by the children. We hope to repeat these events next term to continue to nurture children's engagement with reading for pleasure.

The Round House

Congratulations to Harry A in Year 1 who received a highly commended for his 'Soulful Bear' chalk and charcoal picture in the recent CAYAC (Cambridgeshire Young Artists Competition) exhibition. Jane in Year 1, Elodie and Dylan W in Year 6 also had their wonderful artwork exhibited.

Year 1 children have been reading 'Wombat Stew' about a dingo who wants to make a stew out of a wombat. The other characters convince the dingo to add some disgusting ingredients such as: mud, creepy crawlies and flies! The children wrote their own recipes for Wombat stew, and then worked as a team to create some interesting culinary mixtures and had a lot of fun when they got to taste their creations!



Year 6 had a brilliant time at the O2 Arena in London, where they sang and danced along with around 8,000 other children for the Young Voices concert. Displaying fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm during what was a very long day, everyone had a great time at the show, which helps to raise money for children's charities across the country.

The whole school enjoyed celebrating World Book Day on 7th March. The staff all dressed up as words, including melancholy, ill-advised and mysterious. All the children looked fantastic dressed up as a range of characters. We used a wonderful book called 'The Black Book of Colours' to base work around in all year groups. The children enjoyed swapping classes to read to each other and the teachers enjoyed swapping classes to read to different children. We had some brilliant entries for our design a plate competition.



Following on from our work on 'The Black Book of Colours' for World Book Day and the children learning about braille, we had a visit from Maxine and her guide dog Willow. She talked about what it was like to be blind and how Willow helps her in her daily life. The children asked some great questions, and heard about a time when Willow had saved her from getting hit by a car when crossing the road.



School Council have been working together to make some posters to put up along the road outside of the school. The posters are designed to stop cars from parking along the yellow lines at the beginning and end of the school day. They have talked about why parking there is not safe and ways they can encourage parents to stop doing it. They have also made some videos to share with parents.

Years 3 and 4 performed 'Project Planet, A Flower Power Musical', which tells the story of school children who want to rewild some unused farmland but the scarecrows are determined to spoil their plans. The children all performed brilliantly.

Thomas Eaton

The Spring term is always a short one but as usual, our pupils have been busy and productive in the TEPA camp!

'The Starry Night'

Our youngest pupils have been very creative following inspiration from The Starry Night by Van Gogh. The children were fascinated by the animation that they watched and transformed their creative area to replicate this piece of artwork. Their display was made up of individual work and two amazing collaborative pieces. It has been wonderful to observe the children's creativity and watching them grow with confidence as they explore textures and colours.



'Wildlife Watchers'



Our reception pupils have really embraced their new topic 'Wildlife Watchers'. They have read the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar and have loved learning about creatures great and small. The children can confidently tell you about nocturnal and diurnal animals as well as those which hibernate. They even made caves out of clay for hibernating bears and painted them once dry. The

pupils undertook a minibeast hunt around school ticking off everything they found. Worms and woodlouse were the most common. They even spotted two Thomas Eaton frogs nestling near Pre-School!

Artist study

This term, year three have been studying the artist, Faith Ringgold. Faith Ringgold tells stories through her quilted, fabric textiles and sculpture pieces of art. The pupils have been looking at the different techniques required to produce a final piece of textile collage. The study has included the children exploring pigments and what happens when you add water to particular colours. They also explored dip dying creating different effects on fabric. The children really enjoyed experimenting with different media and colourshave produced some amazing and vibrant collage pieces.



World Book Day



This term, we have also continued our quest to promote a love of reading across the whole school! World Book Day on Thursday 7th March was a particular highlight. The children and staff came to school dressed to impress as their favourite book characters; everyone looked amazing. Across the school, we shared the book titled, 'The Whale' by Ethan and Vita Murrow. This was used to inspire lots of different activities to

promote reading for pleasure and the pupils (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the day. Whilst we were unable to secure a visit from a book fair to coincide with this event, we are looking forward to The Roving Book company visiting our school, early next term.



We are also very much looking forward to participating in VIAM at Wembley and our Easter Coffee morning but at the time of going to press these events had not yet happened.

Winhills

It has been a really busy Spring term here at Winhills. Here are some of our highlights.

Once again there have been a lot of different sporting opportunities for the children across the term, despite the weather! A group of year 5 and 6 children had the opportunity to attend a Hockey event and a group of year 3 and 4 children attended a girl's football event. After the amazing success of NFL at Winhills last year, our NFL after school club have been active in an NFL practice festival. All of the children have been exemplary in representing the school.

The whole school took part in World Book day, with lots of fabulous costumes and props. A whole school assembly focussed on reading and school staff all got involved by reading to groups of children and sharing their favourite books.



Year 6 had the opportunity to go to be part of the Young Voices choir at the O2 Arena in London. We were part of the biggest choir in the world, with over 8300 children singing together. It was a fantastic experience, with live music, famous singers and extraordinary light shows.

Outdoor learning has been rejuvenated at Winhills this term, with Forest School provision starting for Year 3 and 4. Our outdoor area has such amazing potential and the children have been busy preparing the different areas for growing and planting, as well as learning about sustainability.

Early Years have been really busy learning about 'materials'; creating homes for the 3 little pigs and learning about different types of homes. They have tested which materials would be the best for houses in different climates! Once again, they have enjoyed drawing club and learning lots of exciting words like 'ravenous', 'vivacious' and 'befuddled' to challenge their grownups with!



Sunstone (EYFS Year 1) and Ruby (Year 2) classes have been learning all about the history of toys. They had a visit from History off the page where they got to play with and learn about toys from the past, they even had a go at their own versions!

Year 2 have also been lucky enough to have a fully funded visit to Cambridge Botanical Gardens where they have taken part in a natural art workshop. They had a fabulous day!

Year 3 and 4 have really enjoyed constructing pavilions in DT and learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. Their History off the Page day was a great experience with the children making canopic jars, bracelets and even having a go at mummification!



Year 5 and 6 experienced what life was like in Tudor times with their visit from History off the Page. They used the skills they have been learning in English to write recounts of their day. Both year groups have been swimming this term and have made some great progress with stamina and confidence in the water. The NSPCC visited for 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' workshops, we were proud of the way the children engaged with the visitors and their sensible attitude to the learning.

Wintringham

The start of the year has been a very busy time at Wintringham!

Year 6 had an amazing time at Young Voices 2024 at the O2 in London. The children had time to rehearse for the concert during the day, and performed in a spectacular concert in the evening involving over 8000 children! We were joined by special guests: Kimberly Williams, MC Grammar and the real Miss Honey from Matilda: The Musical. The children had a brilliant time!



National Story Telling week took place at the end of January, and Barratt and Wilson Homes kindly arranged for a professional story teller (Mark Fraser) to come in to school and to share his stories with the children. All of the children from pre-school to Year 6 listened and marveled at his incredible tales, and chuckled and laughed all the way through.

The children in Year 5 and 6 were visited by a magistrate in February, Geoff Watts, who explained to them how the court system works. It was a very informative talk, which allowed the children to learn a lot and ask lots of questions. The children were well-behaved and attentive throughout.



Some very lucky children in Year 3 participated in a football festival at St Neots football club. The event was run by a coach from the football club, who was given inflatable football pitches, provided by Huntingdonshire FA. The event consisted of several 3 versus 3 matches, where the children were able to showcase their skills. As well as this, the children were showing off our new football kit for the very first time. Overall, the children played

superbly, showing fantastic resilience, teamwork, and decision-making skills. Their sportsmanship was fantastic and they made sure they shook hands with the other teams at the end of the matches.

On the eve of Lunar New Year, we were lucky enough to have two parents share their expertise on this celebration. They created sessions for all children from pre-school to Year 6, with an abundance of practical, creative activities. The children retold the story of the zodiac using puppets, learnt about different Asian outfits creating their own and created some fantastic bamboo art. Overall, it was a wonderful day where everyone could join in the celebrations of Lunar New Year.





Governance Trust Newsletter

It's been another busy term for Governance. All School LGB's have met and completed their termly meetings.

School visits have been scheduled or completed. LGB Members are invited into school to complete a monitoring visit with staff members and children. These are wonderful opportunities to see how the school is run.

Diamond EPL hosted online training for all our LGB Members. This term the training included "Procedures for Monitoring Absence" and "The School Development Plan."

If you would like to know more about your schools Local Governing Board, please visit the LGB Member section on the school's website.

The purpose of LGB's is to ensure that all children at our academy schools are receiving a high-quality education and are making rapid progress towards achieving the full extent of their potential, and that the resources available to the academy school are appropriate and deployed effectively.

The LGB's report to the Trust Board as required.

We are always looking for Parent and Community Members to join our Local Governing Boards. Our current vacancies are:

Braybrook – Parent LGB Member
Glebelands – Community LGB Member
Glebelands – Parent LGB Member
Murrow – Parent LGB Member
Middlefield – Community LGB Member
Roman Way – Community LGB Member
Roman Way – Parent LGB Member
Round House & Wintringham – Community LGB Member
Thomas Eaton – Community LGB Member
Winhills – Community LGB Member

If you would like further information please email dlptclerk@diamondlearningtrust.com.

Wishing you a wonderful Easter Break.

The DLPT Governance Team



Staff development is prioritised in all schools across our Trust. Many professional development opportunities for staff at all stages of their career are provided throughout the year, whether it be through our bespoke courses, school specific staff meetings or Trust professional development meetings. We also offer the majority of our training opportunities to other schools in the locality. Our established partnership with Best Practice Network (a national training provider) enables us to widen the scope of the training we offer. So far this year, we have trained 406 participants over 38 sessions.

Testimonials:

'Really impressed! Very engaging and a great way to connect with other schools.'

'Enjoyed sharing practice with other teachers. Some good discussions with other professionals.'

'Thought provoking - lots of takeaways to use in school. Informative and supportive'

'Learnt a lot! Well-resourced by knowledgeable trainers!'

'Really good for exposing different ways of teaching and useful discussions.'



Our Trust INSET day in January was very successful. Alex Bedford, Curriculum Development Director for Unity Schools Partnership and Research School led the morning, and we ran workshops in the afternoon for all teachers. This enabled everyone to focus on the Trust aim and vision of providing a rich, broad and balanced curriculum where every child achieves their potential. The day gave everyone time to reflect on the curriculum in place in their school, collaborate and develop ways of talking to pupils to ascertain what their key learning has been in each subject. Further meeting time through networks and a Trust development meeting will enable all teachers to review their work and share further ideas.

Part of our development offer is to provide mentoring and coaching for staff. Our Early Career Teachers and trainee teachers receive regular mentoring with ongoing feedback to support them in further developing their practice. Additional coaching is available to teachers through Trust Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs).

We are proud to develop future school staff through apprenticeships and initial teacher training.

If you know anyone, or are interested yourself in training to teach please contact us. You can also watch this: <https://youtu.be/gwbgi0LW4Zw>



Recruiting NOW!

We are a Lead Partner for Initial Teacher Education.

More information:
www.diamondepl.org