

PERRY HALL MAT PARENT BULLETIN

Here's just a snapshot of what's been happening in our schools over the last term...

A Very Warm Welcome to Stanley Road Primary School

We are incredibly pleased to announce that Stanley Road Primary School in Worcester officially joined our Trust on 1st February. We are delighted to have them on board - welcome to all staff, pupils and parents at Stanley Road Primary School.

"We chose this Trust because it reflects our own vision, values and ethos. Stanley Road has long been judged by Ofsted as a 'good' school but we're looking forward to working in partnership with the Trust schools to improve our provision still further by problem-solving and collaborating with other like-minded professionals. We've only recently started that journey but staff are already reporting very positively on opportunities that they've been able to take. At a difficult time for all educational establishments we're delighted to have joined a forward looking, supportive group of professionals for the benefit of our staff, our children and our community".

Mrs Anne Potter - Headteacher



100 Year Remembrance Celebrations



Armistice Day is on the 11th November and marks the day World War One ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918. 16 million people died and 1.5 Million children, pregnant women and other vulnerable people such as the disabled were evacuated to safer countryside locations in just two days. If the Wars had ended differently who knows what our futures would have held.

Below are some snippets of the celebrations held within some of our schools:

Berrybrook Primary hosted a 'Red, White and Blue Day'. Pupils and staff were keen to involve the local community and invited residents and employees from Wulfrun Rose Care Home to join children for their remembrance assembly and parade. Friends of Berrybrook also visited children and parents to share their experiences of the armed forces. They even brought some of their kit and vehicles along. All money raised from the event was donated to the armed forces charities in the UK.



"The assembly was very fitting and respectful, the displays children and staff produced were fab, the children could not have behaved better, and the interaction with the older generation from the care home over the road from us was just lovely!"



Pupils from **Birds Bush Primary** School proudly joined others from across the City of Tamworth to make poppies from plastic bottles. The poppies were put together to make this cascade which was displayed from the top of Tamworth Castle to mark 100 years since the end of the 1st World War. This was a wonderful project which brought people from across the town of Tamworth together to pay tribute to those who fought for our country all those years ago.



Here is a stunning display from **Perry Hall Primary** which included beautiful pieces of work from across the whole school. Trenches were recreated in the hall for KS1 children to enable them to experience what it was really like for soldiers in the war. Mr Kubiak also dressed up in his military clothes and delivered an assembly to Year 2 and Year 3 children and talked about some of the experiences of people who lived and fought in the war. Children also wore red in school on the following Monday to mark the first day of peace after the war.

Celebrating Diversity!

In November pupils from Woodthorne, Dunstall Hill, Perry Hall and Berrybrook Primary Schools performed alongside 450 children from other local primary schools at the annual Wolverhampton Diversity concert. It was just lovely to see pupils from across our Trust singing together so beautifully! The annual event took place at WV Active Aldersley and a variety of songs, dance and drama arrangements were performed by the children. These wonderful performances showcased the many diverse cultures, languages, traditions and faiths found in Wolverhampton!



Dunstall Hill Primary School in the Top 3% for Progress!

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that results for 2018 have placed Dunstall Hill Primary School in the **top 3%** of schools in England for the progress children make from their starting points. We would like to thank all Dunstall staff for their hard work and dedication, parents for their continued support and the children for simply being wonderful!



The school were delighted to receive a letter from the Secretary of State for Education and the Minister of State for School Standards congratulating them on this achievement.



Dunstall Hill Primary is a unique school which has been on an incredible journey so far and this letter recognises their successes and those which they will continue to have in the future. The letter is currently being framed so that it can be proudly displayed in the school entrance.

Trust Greater Depth Writers Working Together

On 27th and 28th November, Year 6 pupils from across the Trust joined together for the second time this year to work towards gaining greater depth in writing. This half term's session was held at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, with Mark Smith and his team creating the basis for writing a diary entry around the gallery's portrait exhibition. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with pupils from other schools within the MAT and created some excellent first drafts ready to edit back at school. They also enjoyed the chance to explore the gallery and all of its current exhibitions.



Success for Dunstall Hill Primary Pupils at the Black Country Boccia Games!

Pupils from Dunstall Hill Primary competed against children from other local schools at the Wolverhampton Schools Boccia tournament and excitingly made it to second place. This put them through to the Black Country Boccia Games, which they then went on to win! Well done and congratulations to our Dunstall pupils who have now been put through to the Regionals!

Boccia is a non-contact driven sport which relies upon skill and subtlety of the player rather than their size, speed and strength.



What's Been Happening at Bird's Bush Primary School?

Year 5 pupils made us incredibly proud by singing their hearts out at Young Voices. With around 8000 children singing together as a single choir, this makes them the largest choir in the world! Our children were excited to be singing alongside so many other children from across the UK. They were also joined by Tony Hadley – who fronted 80's band 'Spandau Ballet'. (We even managed to get a photo taken with him).



Birds Bush have a new and exciting range of extracurricular clubs which have started this term – Zorbing has been very popular as well as Magical Maths, Bug Club, Dance and Football and the local Street Wardens have been in school talking to Key Stage 2 about internet safety. This week we have also changed our MIS system in school from SIMS to a new cloud-based system – Scholarpack – we love it so far as it is a much quicker and more efficient way of reporting pupil data.

The children enjoyed their day of filming for our new prospectus. When asked "What makes our school special?" they replied, "Because we are all a big family!" this was such a lovely comment from them.

Last but certainly not least...

Birds Bush Primary School were delighted to receive a letter of recognition from their local MP for increasing the number of pupils achieving expected national standards in reading, writing and maths by 17% since 2017. A huge WELL DONE to all staff and pupils at Birds Bush Primary School for all of your efforts!



Helping the Local Community

250 residents turned out for a free community day in Whitmore Reans in January. The 'New Year, New Start' event at St Andrew's Church Hall showcased a variety of services and activities to help people improve their health and wellbeing or employment prospects, learn a new skill and find out about community safety initiatives.

The free event day followed on from a community clean-up which took place on Friday and saw partners coming together to clean the area around the Avion Centre and tackle fly-tipping.

Two dances were performed by our very own pupils at **Dunstall Hill Primary School** (pictured) and we received some lovely words from John Denley – The Director for Public Health:

"It was the energy and enthusiasm of the local children who attended this event which was a real highlight. Your staff and pupils are a credit to the school and the city".



Fantastic Performance from Berrybrook Footballers!

On Tuesday 11th December, Berrybrook took part in a six aside football tournament at NEW Academy. The team consisted of nine boys who played fantastically throughout, winning all of their group matches and sadly knocking fellow Trust school Dunstall Hill out of the competition in a hotly contested semi-final. In the final, Berrybrook quickly went 2-0 down but the determined and talented team came back to win 3-2! All of the players represented the school and Trust fantastically and should be extremely proud of their achievement.





Teaching School Update

Teaching schools are good or outstanding schools that have been designated by the Department for Education to play an important role in a school-led system, working with other schools to provide high-quality training and support for school improvement in their local area.



TEACHING SCHOOL

What has Perry Hall Teaching School been up to so far during this academic year?

Miss Kohli and the Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE's) have been working hard to support a number of schools in a variety of ways:

- School to school support – Our Specialist Leaders of Education from across the MAT schools have been supporting several schools across Wolverhampton and Tamworth.
- Training – The Specialist Leaders of Education have trained teachers and support staff from approximately 17 different schools in Wolverhampton and Tamworth so far this term.
- Partnership – This year so far the Teaching School has been working in partnership with:
 - Early Excellence, a nationally recognised and highly effective organisation that focuses on Early Years development across England has provided training for just over 45 colleagues from across Wolverhampton and Tamworth, in partnership with Perry Hall Teaching School.
 - Our Teaching School maths SLEs have been working in partnership with the Wolverhampton Local Authority to share good maths practice across the city. Teachers and leaders from across Wolverhampton have also visited Perry Hall Primary School to look at the effective practice, as the Local Authority has recognised the outstanding progress of their Maths outcomes.
 - The Wolverhampton Local Authority has also recognised the effective provision Dunstall Hill Primary are providing for their pupils that have English as an Additional Language and have showcased this at a conference held at the school.

Woodthorne Pupils Working Hard to Protect the Environment



Congratulations to Woodthorne for achieving the Silver Woodland Trust Award! This award scheme encourages outdoor learning and teaches children about woods, trees and wildlife. Woodthorne have now gained 10 points through completing environmental activities which have taken them from the bronze to the silver award. **Well done Woodthorne!**

Perry Hall Reading Bus!



We are now working full steam ahead to get our reading bus project at Perry Hall Primary School completed for our eagerly-awaited pupils.

National Express kindly donated a single-decker bus to Perry Hall Primary to be converted into a 'Reading Bus' for the children. We are hoping for this to be completed by this Summer, thank you so much to everyone who has donated or helped us so far! If you would like to find out how you can contribute or help, please contact Emma Dyas on e.dyas@perryhallmat.co.uk.



Perry Hall Primary News

KS1 choir performance for residents of New Cross Care Home, Wednesfield.



Children performed songs from their Christmas production for the residents of the care home with pride and lovely comments were made on how wonderful their singing was and how impeccable their manners were. Residents spoke about how it brought back happy memories and for those that don't get to go out in to the community at this time of year, it brought the community to them.

Perry Hall Raise Money for St Thomas' Fundraiser

Perry Hall family, parents and friends raised an impressive total of £1800 to help restore St Thomas' Church in Wednesfield. Money was raised through a range of fun activities and the money will be used to re-plaster the walls on the church in the Summer.

Wednesfield in Bloom

Perry Hall have contributed to 'Wednesfield In Bloom' again this year where children from KS2 have designed and selected plants for the winter planters. We look forward to designing and creating our summer planter soon!



Perry Hall's Edina Trust Project

This year, Perry Hall have been striving to improve our approach towards the local and global environment. Gardening club has been working in partnership with the Edina Trust to carry out a scientific experiment about the effects of the weather on seasonal plants. They have planted bulbs both inside and outside and are tracking the temperature, rainfall and measuring the growth of the bulbs daily. Gardening club have also been busy improving the environmental area where they have developed it into an attractive habitat for local wildlife. Their plans for the rest of the year are to continue to develop the planters to grow their own vegetables and to create a greenhouse, this will be created from discarded water bottles. Eco warriors and School Council have been working hard to raise awareness of the damages of single use plastics in the environment and are planning to lead Perry Hall's reduction of this in the upcoming term.



Trust Residential

From Monday 21st to Friday 25th January, children from Berrybrook, Perry Hall, Dunstall Hill and Bird's Bush Primary Schools spent a cold but extremely enjoyable week together on residential at Laches Wood Outdoor Activity Centre.

During the week, the children all had the opportunity to take part in numerous activities and push themselves to their limits, some managing to conquer their fears. Children enjoyed high ropes, caving, archery, BMXing and even spending the day out walking on the Long Mynd (some of us even made snow angels!). During the evenings, the children loved mixing with children from other schools, taking part in a quiz, team challenges and watching a film together. Thank you to all staff who accompanied the children, taking time away from their own families in order to give our children an experience they will never forget.



Perry Hall MAT Go Global!

Our Trust was presented with two separate opportunities to work with schools overseas during this half term. We were commissioned by the British Council to carry out a week-long research project on a school in Singapore. The purpose of this assignment was to assess their school systems and structures and evaluate how they support the development of highly effective teachers and how they are able to secure high standards for all pupils of all abilities. This research (carried out by Amarjit Cheema – CEO) also involved assessment of the quality of CPD and professional development for teaching staff.



We were also approached to work in partnership with the School of Research Science in Dubai with the intention of improving the outcomes for the children. Darryl Asbury (Executive Headteacher for Educational Standards) carried out the visit during January and completed a total of 46 lesson observations. He also worked alongside Senior Leaders to support them in completing their SEF (Self Evaluation Form) in preparation for the KHDA (Knowledge and Human Development Authority) inspection. This is the second time we have had the opportunity to collaborate with a Dubai school which has in turn enhanced our experience of reviewing large schools whilst working alongside HMI's.



I am sure you will see from this latest newsletter that it has been a very busy and exciting term for our children and staff. My own personal highlights are seeing the children from across our Trust join together for the Diversity Celebrations, the greater depth workshop and getting to know one-another on our Trust residential. It is really magical to see the children enjoying and benefitting from being part of a much bigger team! I am also pleased to welcome Stanley Road Primary School to our Trust family and look forward to working with them.

I would like to wish all of our staff, pupils and families a lovely February half term break! Amarjit Cheema – CEO/NLE

