



PHMAT Parent Newsletter Autumn Term 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUTUMN TERM



Welcome to Mesty Croft Primary School



A very warm welcome is extended to the staff, pupils and local community at Mesty Croft Primary, who officially joined PHMAT on Friday 1st October 2021 .

Mesty Croft Primary school is a large, two form entry primary school situated in the heart of Wednesbury in the West Midlands.

PHMAT are delighted to have Mesty Croft Primary on board.

To find out more about them, click on the link below:

Welcome | Mesty Croft Academy (mestycroftprimary.co.uk)¹

¹<https://mestycroftprimary.co.uk/welcome/>



Dunstall Hill Primary School

During the week beginning 18th October, Dunstall celebrated Black History Month

There was a variety of activities in school to celebrate the lives of black people that have made a contribution to society. Each year group focussed on two specific people ranging from the world of sport, music, science and arts. Children learned about the lives of inspirational black people and producing written work, artwork and music based on their learning, and Year 6 were taught about influential black African women musicians.

Stanley Road Primary School

Year 6 created an excellent display marking the lives and significant impact of black people. This complimented their History unit on slavery, Maafa, and their English work on Marcus Rashford, Cyrille Regis and Walter Tull.

Remembrance Day 2021



Perry Hall Primary School

During November at Perry Hall, pupils learnt about the meaning behind Remembrance Day and why people wear poppies.

Every year group created a Remembrance display, using a range of art techniques, ranging from drawing, printing, painting, sketching and collage. Staff displayed the fantastic artwork in classroom windows for parents and families to view.

On Thursday 11th November, children and staff from across the school came together outdoors to take part in a minutes silence at 11am, to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women involved in the two World Wars and later conflicts. A cornet played The Last Post to begin the silence, as a whole school remembrance wreath was placed upon a tree. After, two children from Year 6 read out the poem *In Flanders Fields* to the whole school.





Stanley Road Primary

On Thursday 11th November, Stanley Road marked Remembrance Day by joining together for 2 minutes of silence. School were very impressed with the way Nursery through to Year 6 showed respect as the cathedral bells tolled.



Forest Hills Primary School

Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph

Children from Year 5 and 6 walked to the Cenotaph in Rugeley to take part in their annual act of remembrance. The children laid crosses at the cenotaph in memory of those from Rugeley who died during the World Wars. At school, children remembered those who had died and those still serving in our armed forces today by dressing our windows to show that 'we do remember them.'

Dunstall Hill Primary School

Dunstall children made lots of special poppies. Children in Reception learnt about the significance of the poppy and carried out activities to acknowledge those that lost their lives through conflict. The

artwork has been outstanding. There was also a minute silence held in school to show respect to those who fought for us.

Year 6 children looked at the importance of remembering the importance of remembering the sacrifice of soldiers during the war. Using 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' as influence, we created a piece of art that represented poppies growing in a field.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



On Friday 8th October, not only did the children and staff at Berrybrook celebrate World Mental Health Day but they also took part in their first 'Wellbeing Friday'. During the day, all classes ran activities based on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing (Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learn and Give) with an emphasis on how these activities can support the children with their wellbeing now and in the future. Activities included: Orienteering, Yoga, Meditation, Compliments Cards and Autumn Leaf Collecting. The children will continue to take part in one Wellbeing Friday every half term, with different activities to develop a variety of ways they can support their mental health and wellbeing.

Dunstall Hill also joined in the celebrations and marked World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow and raising £286.80p to support the mental health and wellbeing for the children of Dunstall.

Well done everyone!

Getting Festive



Forest Hills Primary

Children at Forest Hills Primary have enjoyed taking part in a range of Christmas festivities.....

Christmas Carol Singing in Rugeley

Children in Year 3 and 4 learned a collection of Christmas Carols and sang them in Rugeley Town Centre to mark the start of the town's Christmas festivities. The event was attended by many parents and local residents - we hope that we made them feel a little more festive with our carols.

Creating an Advent Calendar for the Community at Rugeley Library

Across school, from Nursery to Year 6, the children have enjoyed some art activities with a festive theme. Forest Hills supported Rugeley Library to turn their building into a giant advent calendar. Each day throughout December, a piece of festive art work will be revealed to add a little seasonal cheer to the people of Rugeley.

Whole School Visit to the Panto

Children and staff from Year 1-6 enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at the theatre - 'oh yes they did!'

They watched the Rugeley Rose Theatre's production of Robin Hood. It was a superb afternoon and much loved by all.



1 - Rugeley Library Advent Calendar

Dunstall Hill Primary

Every Christmas, the Samaritan's Purse launches Operation Christmas Child. This is a time when shoeboxes are filled with gifts, fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items which are delivered to children in need around the world.

Operation Christmas Child began in the UK in 1990 and since that time over 178 million children in more than 150 countries has received a Christmas shoebox.

Each year, children and parents of Dunstall Hill generously donate to help fill the boxes for the Samaritan's Purse project. This year 11 Christmas boxes, donated by Holy Trinity Church, were packed and safely delivered to the local collection point. Samaritan's Purse were extremely grateful and a picture was taken with the Head Boy and Head Girl from Dunstall Hill. Samaritan's Purse expressed a huge thank you to all who donated items.

Dunstall Hill wish for safe delivery of the boxes to their destination and hope the children receiving them have a very 'Happy Christmas!'



Berrybrook Primary

Ten children from Years 5 and 6 at Berrybrook have been working with the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton and storyteller Peter Chard (one of Europe's most renowned storytellers) to create short stories based around the theme 'Time and Tide', which is present in the midnight aspect of the Cinderella story (This year's pantomime). These stories have now been used as part of a display at the theatre, with stories being written on clocks or even Cinderella's dress!

Having created the stories, Peter chose four children to attend the Pantomime Launch at the Grand Theatre, with one pupil being asked to read out his story at the launch!

Congratulations to all of the children involved!



Children at Berrybrook also took part in Jane Stevenson's (Local MP) Christmas Card Competition, with the winner's design being put on the front of Jane's official Christmas card. Two children from Berrybrook were runners up in the competition, with one being a wonderful dinosaur wrapped in fairy lights design and the other of Big Ben. Their designs are on the back of Jane's card and she visited the children in school to present them with some special Houses of Parliament prizes!







No Electricity for Stanley Road Primary School



As a part of the Stanley Road Eco Schools action plan, the Eco Committee are looking at how they can reduce the school's carbon footprint, focussing on energy this term. It was decided they would hold a 'No electricity day' across the whole school to demonstrate how electricity is taken for granted and to investigate alternative sources. For the whole day, school used no mains light, interactive white boards or computers. Children said they had a great time and loved it being so dark in some areas of the school.

New Library for Woodthorne Primary



Woodthorne Primary School are delighted to open their brand new library which was completely funded by donations from the school PTA, doesn't it look amazing! Thanks to Miss Eardly for all of her work on this wonderful resource for our children.

Anti-Bullying Awareness Week

NO

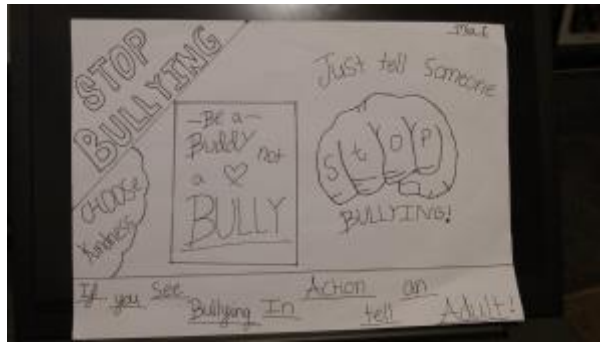


Zone

15th - 19th November marked anti-bullying week and schools across the Trust celebrated and promoted kindness in a number of ways.

Woodthorne Primary children began the week wearing odd socks to celebrate uniqueness and diversity. Children also attended a whole-school Teams assembly around this year's theme of 'one kind word'. Throughout the week, a number of activities took place including creating a 'one kind word' word map that children could use daily to start off the cycle. After collating all the word maps, a whole-school map was put together as a wordle. Children also took part in an optional homework task to create an anti-bullying poster which were then displayed around school. Balloons were sent around school, starting from Nursery all the way up to Year 6, each class attaching a tag of a 'one kind word' and passing it along to the next class to carry on the cycle.





At Bird's Bush Primary, Year 6 children made a kindness chain by linking kind words together, they were very proud of it.



Dunstall Hill Primary

For Anti-bullying week staff talked to children about being bullied and who they can talk to in school. Children also learnt about how to be a good friend and things they can do to be kind towards one another. During circle time children looked at their partner and told them something that made them special. Children also made some lovely pictures for their friends. The children were very kind and caring during this activity, it was a pleasure to watch and listen to their ideas!

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF OUR SCHOOLS



Anti-Bullying Charter for Perry Hall and Dunstall Hill



Congratulations to Dunstall Hill and Perry Hall Primary on achieving the anti-bullying status! This charter is a joint venture between #YES and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together. A self-assessment of 8 statements was completed to show how school is supporting and embedding the anti-bullying agenda. This was then verified by members of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together board and young people from #YES. Both Dunstall and Perry Hall are really proud of this achievement as it shows how school is committed to ensuring every educator, pupil and parent feels valued, safe and free from any kind of discrimination.

Well done to everyone involved!



Nurture Award for Jeremy Stack



Jeremy Stack from Woodthorne Primary has been awarded the Nurture Award from ConnectEd for his contributions to physical and mental well-being throughout the pandemic. Jeremy created weekly videos, wellbeing and fitness challenges, funny staff videos and music inspiration to keep Woodthorne children smiling! The 'RAINBOW' award was presented to Jeremy by the School Games Officers for Wolverhampton on Friday. This was a city-wide competition and Woodthorne were one of just seven schools and community organisations to receive the award! The feedback from staff, children and families in response to his videos and challenges was overwhelmingly positive and full of praise! Great job Mr Stack!

Primary Quality Mark for Mesty Croft Primary



Well done to Mesty Croft Primary School for achieving the Primary Quality Mark.

Tribal's Quality Mark is an internationally acknowledged accreditation supporting and recognising improving standards in the provision, practice and performance of English and mathematics, and providing evidence of high-quality education.

This award supports and recognises improving standards in the provision, practice and performance of English and mathematics.

It aligns with national agendas and international views of best practice, supporting your inspection preparations and providing evidence of high-quality self-evaluation.

Woodthorne Beat the Street



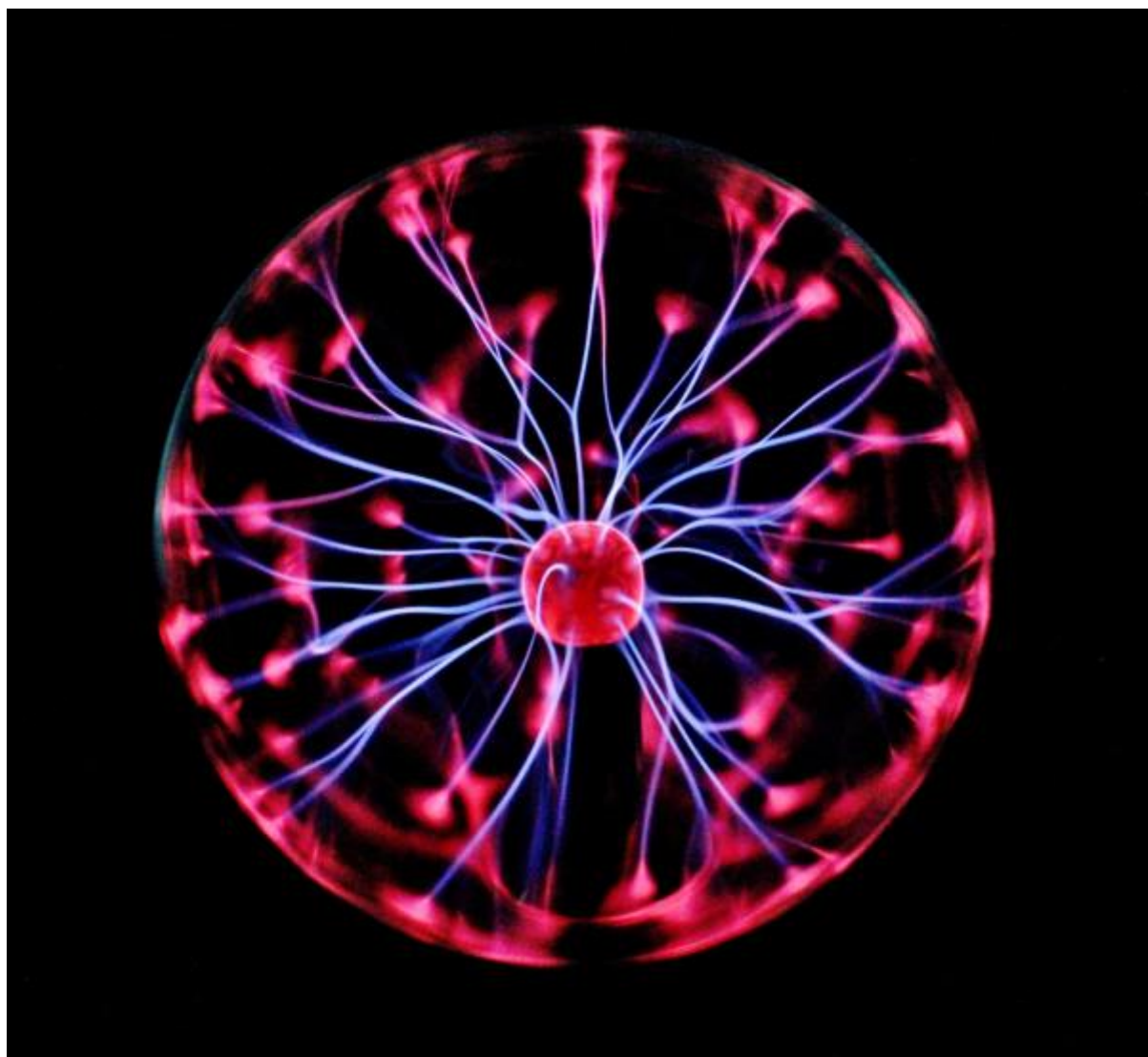
Well done to Woodthorne children who did so well in Wolverhampton's 'Beat the Street' competition.

Beat the Street is a fun, free initiative that will see the city of Wolverhampton transformed into a giant game! See how far you can walk, cycle and roll in just 4 weeks. There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs.

Woodthorne Primary won the Tettenhall prize of a trophy and £250 and had the highest engagement across the city, and came 4th on the overall table for the city on points received out of 109 teams.

Amazing! Well done everyone.

Science Award for Bird's Bush Primary School



Bird's Bush Primary School were delighted to be awarded with the Primary Quality Science Mark.

This award is given to infant, junior, primary, middle and special schools to celebrate their commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. So far, since its national launch in 2010, over 4000 schools across the UK have achieved a prestigious Primary Science Quality Mark.

Claire Gould, Science leader, said *"In working towards the Primary Science Quality Mark, it is evident that the profile of Science has been enhanced within school. Children will stop and chat to each other and staff members about what they have been learning in their Science lessons, and are happy to ask questions and share ideas with their friends. It is clear that our children are proud of their work and they have never been more enthusiastic about Science. They have fully embraced the opportunity to carry out even more investigations. The subject of Science is equally as important as English and Maths, therefore we try to link our learning throughout so that children are able to remember things more easily"*.

Sharon Barnes, Headteacher, said *"Children still talk about Science week from last year and how much fun they had with their learning. We also learn about famous scientists and the influence that*

they have had on our world. At Bird's Bush we love Science and we are delighted to have been awarded the Science Quality Mark once again."

FUNDRAISING

Mesty Croft Raise Funds for Black Country Women's Aid



Mesty Croft Primary took part in fundraising for Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA, formerly known as Sandwell Women's Aid) is an independent charity which has been supporting victims of domestic abuse in the West Midlands for the last 30 years. BCWA offers sensitive and holistic support services which help victims of abuse to escape from violence, cope with trauma and move on with their lives. For more information, go to Go Purple - Black Country Womens Aid².

Well done to the Mesty Croft community who raised a fantastic £236.41 for Black Country Women's Aid. The donation will be used to help those being forced to start all over again because of Domestic Abuse.

Children in Need



Bird's Bush Primary

Bird's Bush raised funds for Children in Need this year and are proud to share that the Junior school council collected £107 in total - thank you to all who donated!

²<https://blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk/gopurple/>







Perry Hall Primary

Children across school designed Pudsey bears, donated, made or sent in cakes or donated money to buy cakes. School were overwhelmed by the volume of cakes and monetary donations and are thrilled to announce that Perry Hall Primary School raised a grand total of £1017.15!

Dunstall Hill Primary

Dunstall children dressed in their PJ's and spotty clothes to raise money for disadvantaged children and young people around the UK and raised a grand total of - £290.44.

[Updated Covid-19 Guidance for Schools](#)



On 9th December, the Government updated the official guidance for schools.

Please see the link below to the guidance in full:

Contact Tracing

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

All people identified as close contacts will be notified by NHS Test and Trace.

Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing

Any visitors coming onto our school sites including families will be strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test beforehand. As a Trust we continue to strongly encourage twice-weekly lateral flow testing with staff to ensure we can identify any asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 early.

Control Measures

Stringent control measures remain in place in all schools including a regular cleaning routines, hand hygiene, and ventilation throughout school buildings. Please ensure masks and face coverings are worn while moving around corridors and communal areas.

Risk Assessments

School risk assessments continue to be updated according to case numbers present in schools and latest guidance and any changes made over the holiday period which will affect your child(ren) on return in January will be communicated with you via school websites and text messages.

PHMAT would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our families for their efforts in supporting us to keep COVID-19 at bay in our schools.

³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1039583/2021206_Schools_guidance_Omicron_review_-_FINAL.pdf

I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and have a wonderful time over the Christmas period and we look forward to seeing our children return to school refreshed and ready for the Spring term. Amarjit Cheema OBE (CEO)

