

CEO welcome

As always, the first term of the academic year has been an incredibly busy time at the Epworth Education Trust.

There has been so much to recognise, celebrate and be proud of across our school communities.

Our motto has certainly been lived in full each and every day by all our schools. One of my highlights this term was hearing the song that the Young'uns Trio, an acclaimed Folk Group, working with all of our schools to create and perform our new Trust song – named after our motto, Do All You Can.

I hope this newsletter shows that the lyrics of this song are more than just words. It has been wonderful to see our schools highlighted in news reports and celebrating awards achievements, to see our pupils doing all they can for important

causes and participating in such a wide range of exciting educational experiences.

What is particularly special is that pupils and staff have been reaching out into the wider community, through rewarding activities such as growing food on the local allotment or supporting families through tough times. Kindness and consideration has been demonstrated in abundance.

Wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful Christmas break.

Warmest wishes,

Julie-Ann Hewitt,
CEO

Epworth Trust Song

Do all you can
Be all you can
Give all you can
And love all you can
We are many voices singing
as one

We're the Epworth Trust
and this is our song



Marking World Diabetes Day

Pupils and staff at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School have held a host of events and activities as part of World Diabetes Day.

This included welcoming a film crew from BBC Breakfast who followed a pupil who lives with diabetes, to help viewers understand how the condition impacts on the lives of over 35,000 young people across the UK.

Libby, aged 8, who was the focus of the story after appearing in a national advertising campaign for Diabetes UK last year, is one of three children in the school with diabetes. The film crew filmed staff supporting the children with managing their sugar levels, as well the work canteen staff do to prepare appropriate meals and snacks for the pupils.

Rachel Bottell, Headteacher, said: "We have a really inclusive school, and we do everything we can to remove any barriers that children may have to accessing their learning and enjoying school life.

"That, however, is not down to the efforts of one person. It takes a whole school approach to managing the needs of our brilliant children – and our staff and pupils deserve a huge amount of credit for all they do to support one another." Alongside the filming, staff and pupils also ran

a number of activities to raise nearly £200 for Diabetes UK as part of the national awareness day.

Ms Bottell added: "I would like to say a huge thank you to all the families who have been so generous in their donations for Diabetes UK. The cost-of-living crisis is adding a huge amount of pressure on our community, making the £175 we have raised even more incredible.

The school also used World Diabetes Day to ensure children gained an understanding of the condition and how best to support their friends.

Julie-Ann Hewitt, CEO, said: "Nutgrove is a school that goes above and beyond to ensure that every child can thrive in their community.

"I am so proud of the work our pupils and staff put in to ensure that awareness of diabetes is widespread across the school. The understanding of each other's differing needs is an important part of growing up, and having the BBC visit the school has really shown our children that their efforts deserve to be noted and applauded."

BBC News visits Westleigh

BBC News has also been working with Westleigh Methodist Primary School this term, finding out more about children's experiences of the cost of living crisis and what the school is doing to help families manage this winter.

Within the feature, BBC News explored the ways that Westleigh has been doing all it can. For example, offering families free pre-loved uniform items, as well as organising a Christmas Jumper swap shop appeal to reduce the costs on items fast-growing children often get little wear from.

The school is also planning to put on cooking classes to help families make delicious homemade meals for less and teachers will receive training on how to budget that will be passed on to parents and carers.

Xanthe Moragrega, Headteacher, said: "As a school community we are committed to doing all we can



for our families during these challenging times. "So, we have been coming up with ways to help to ease financial pressures and help our families. If we can help to lighten the load in any way then we will do so."

Julie-Ann Hewitt, CEO, added: "We are certainly living in unprecedented times, when the costs of food, energy and fuel are causing real worry for very many people across the country.

"School across our Trust are doing all they can to support our children and their families. So, our message is please do not suffer in silence, we are here for you."



Green Tree School Award for Wesley Methodist Primary School

Green-fingered pupils and staff at Wesley Methodist Primary School have been honoured with a Green Tree School Gold Award for integrating outdoor learning into the curriculum.

The award, organised by the Woodland Trust, recognises innovative schools that emphasise environmental issues and take part in eco-friendly activities.

In addition to taking part in a number of Woodland Trust initiatives, pupils and staff have planted new trees in the school grounds and introduced strategies to lower carbon emissions as part of Forest School.

The school is also delighted to have its very own plot at the local community allotment, where

pupils grow fruit and vegetables and learn about seasonal growth cycles.

Rhys Jones, Headteacher, said: "Looking after the world around us is an important part of life at Wesley.

"Over the course of their work, our pupils have learned a great deal about taking care of the environment, wildlife, and nature.

"I'm incredibly proud of the way in which all of the children have taken such an active role in being responsible for our environment."



Summerseat Methodist Primary School receives Bury Inclusion Quality Mark

Summerseat Methodist Primary School is celebrating receiving recognition for its inclusive ethos and provision.

Ofsted defines an educationally inclusive school as one in which the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every young person matter. So, the Bury Inclusion Quality Mark provides schools with a framework to guide their inclusion journey.

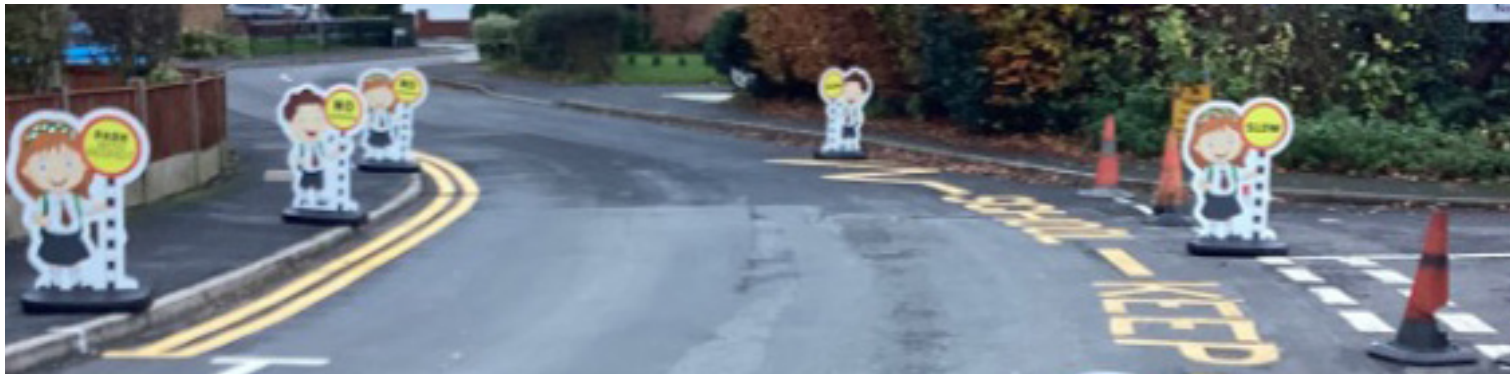
After a series of assessments, including parent interviews, staff and pupil voice, learning walks and lesson visits and a review of school documents to support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, the school was delighted to receive confirmation of its success.

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher, said: "At Summerseat we are incredibly proud to be an inclusive and caring school family, so we are thrilled to confirm that we have received the Bury Inclusion Quality Mark status.

"The wonderful feedback we received from the assessors really is a testament to the hard work of our staff in bringing our values and ethos to life and making the school a welcoming and happy place for all."

Amongst the many positive comments from assessors, the summary report found that:

- Summerseat has gone through a period of significant and positive change. The curriculum has been redesigned and the school's approach to ensuring that SEND learners are supported to make strong in-class progress is good, and on an improving trend.
- Summerseat is a small school in the heart of a village community. School leaders have embraced this uniqueness to create an environment where pupils from EYFS to Year 6 are encouraged to get to know and care for each other. Pupils of mixed age groups enjoy each others' company and play cooperatively.
- Summerseat is a calm school with routines that are conducive to effective learning... Teacher-pupil interactions are friendly and supportive, and there is a strong atmosphere of mutual respect.



Serious about road safety

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School's School Council has been campaigning for better road safety around their school.

Head pupils, along with the school leadership team, met with local councillors to discuss ways of improving the safety of the road directly outside the school.

As a result of the meeting, a new 20mph zones have been painted on the road, along with new double yellow lines and solar panelled flashing '20mph' signs will soon be in place too.

Thanks to monies raised from a fun run organised by the School Council in the summer, the school has also been able to purchase 'Parking Buddy' road signs encouraging people to slow down and park further away from the school entrance.

In a bid to spread the message further, a special whole school assembly focused on the topic of road safety. While Key Stage 2 classes have also taken part in Wigan Council's road safety workshops and parents, carers and visitors to the school have also been urged to be vigilant.

Amy Burkes, Executive Headteacher, said: "Our School Council have shown great leadership, maturity and responsibility throughout their campaign for better road safety.

"We are incredibly proud of the important work they have done for their school community."



Children's authors inspire

In order to inspire a love of reading across Wesley Methodist Primary, the school has been holding a range of inspiring events for pupils this term.

Reception and Year 1 pupils were treated to a very special visitor – Sean Perkins, author and illustrator. While Year 3 and 4 pupils also had the chance to meet - Liz Pichon, creator of the popular 'Tom Gates' book series.

Rhys Jones, Headteacher, said: "One of our core aims here at Wesley is for all pupils to be fluent readers by age 7, so it's important to show how fun and engaging reading can be.

"To help us achieve this, we've invited a range of authors – like Sean and Liz – to visit us throughout the year, in order to inspire the children to love reading.

"In addition, classes across each year group have been visiting the local library and taking part in lots of fun reading activities to share the joy of books."

Celebrating languages from across the world

Earlier this term, Nutgrove Methodist Primary School held a Celebration of Languages Day.

During the whole-school event, pupils learned that there are between 6,000 and 7,000 different languages spoken around the world today, and at least half of the world's population is bilingual or plurilingual, meaning that they speak two or more different languages fluently.

In a celebration of the diversity of Nutgrove's school community, during a special assembly, pupils who speak more than one language were invited to share their skills with the rest of the school by showcasing a song, poem or a simple 'Welcome' in their other spoken languages.

Rachel Bottell, Headteacher, said: "We love to celebrate the diversity of our school community and showcasing the language skills of our children was a fantastic way to spark conversation about the languages, heritage and cultures that make us all unique."



'Purple4Polio'

The Forest School area at Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy will soon be in bloom, after pupils took part in a nationwide campaign to plant 'Purple4Polio'.

Thanks to the kind support of Tameside Rotary Club, the school was gifted 500 purple crocus bulbs - a symbol of Rotary International's 'Purple4Polio' campaign to eradicate polio throughout the world.

The colour was chosen to reflect that in some countries children have their fingers dipped in purple dye to show that they have been vaccinated against the disease.

Gemma Yapp, Headteacher, said: "Our thanks go to the Rotary Club for allowing us to take part in this year's 'Purple4Polio' campaign.

"The children have learnt so much about how this initiative is helping to keep children across the world safe from disease, and have thoroughly enjoyed planting their crocus bulbs - we can't wait to see them beginning to bloom in the spring."



Remembering the Fallen

On 11th November, schools across the Epworth Education Trust remembered the fallen through a range of school-wide events, special assemblies and classroom-based activities.

At Westleigh Methodist Primary School, a special remembrance service was led by the Chair of Governors with children, staff, parents, carers and members of the wider community in attendance.

During the service, Mr Pilkington, Chair of Governors, led Year 3 and 6 pupils through a marching drill. A Year 6 pupil then read the Exhortation, an extract from a poem written by Robert Laurence Binyon called "For the Fallen", written in mid-September 1914, just a few weeks after the outbreak of war:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them."

Throughout the day, pupils were also joined by their parents for worship, where they reflected on what the Christian value of 'peace' means, and how we remember those who gave their lives during the wars.

As a mark of respect and remembrance, each class also created wreaths for display in the school playground.

Julie-Ann Hewitt, CEO, said: "Remembrance is an incredibly important date in our calendar.

"Each year we discuss the bravery and sacrifice of all those who have served their country and died in wars across the world, in order to secure future peace for generations to come."



Lighting up Wigan's Frost Fest

A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils from Westleigh Methodist Primary had the chance to represent their school as part of the 'Light Parade' at this year's Wigan Frost Fest event.

In preparation for the annual event, the children worked with WigLe Dance and Leigh Carnival to learn a dance and create homemade lanterns.

Xanthe Moragrega, Headteacher, said: "It was an honour to be part of such a brilliant community event. A fun, bright and frosty night was had by all!"

Harvest appeal

As part of this year's Harvest celebrations, pupils across Rosehill Methodist Primary School took part in a range of activities where they learnt new skills using their hands.

For example, EYFS pupils created a hand tree, Year 1 children got creative with paper weaving and pupils in Year 5 recycled fabrics to sew a blanket.

Year 6 pupils also had the chance to visit Hurst Methodist Church to find out more about the story of Harvest, and its importance in the Christian calendar.

Scarlett from Year 6 said:

"We went to Hurst Methodist Church to experience harvest. I liked learning about the harvest of the ocean, earth and flock.

"I liked learning about the harvest of the ocean because we learnt a prayer about the ocean and we learnt about different types of fish. We also go to make our own little boats.

"I also liked learning about the harvest of the earth because we made thumb pots out of clay.

"And finally, I liked learning about the harvest of the flock because we got to weave wool and learnt that lots of things come from sheep."



Spotacular times at Summerseat

Summerseat Methodist Primary School had lots of fun raising money for Children in Need with a 'Great Spotacular' event for pupils and their families.

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher, said: "The focus of Children in Need this year was to support children and young people experiencing new problems due to the cost of living crisis.

"Throughout the day we held spotty games in the hall and had lots of fun with each year group designing a spotty challenge for their friends to take part in.

"To try to keep the costs down for families, pupils wore PE kits as normal on that day but were encouraged to accessorise with spotty or colourful items such as hairbands, socks or even homemade spots pinned to jumpers."

'People who can help us'

Nutgrove Methodist Primary School's youngest pupils have been learning about 'People who can help us', with some special visitors helping to bring the topic to life.

The nursery and reception classes were thrilled to meet local police officers who brought along items of uniform such as their bright and reflective jackets and official police hats for the children to try on.

Next, the children enjoyed a visit from a local firefighter, who spoke to them about the important role of the fire service and what a typical day may entail.

One of the school's wonderful parents, who is a paramedic, also took the time to speak with the children about her life-saving work and gave pupils the chance to take a close-up look at some of the key equipment she uses every day.

Rachel Bottell, Headteacher, said: "We are so grateful that all of these amazing community helpers took the time out of their busy schedules to come and visit us.

"All of the children had a great time learning about the people that help us and who knows, perhaps some of them may be inspired to become future police officers, firefighters or paramedics themselves!"



Manchester United training ground tournament

A group of Year 3 pupils from Wesley Methodist Primary School have had an extra special experience this term, when they participated in a football tournament at Manchester United's training ground, The

The Wesley pupils played against seven teams throughout the day, losing only one game in the whole tournament to the eventual winners. Coming in second place with a goal difference of 41, their fantastic performance has made the whole school proud!

Rhys Jones, Headteacher, said: "The boys were tremendous, demonstrating some amazing skills, but we're especially proud of the sportsmanship shown on the day. It was a fantastic experience that we hope to repeat with future year groups."



Discovering the world of the World Cup

To celebrate the start of the 2022 World Cup, Summerseat Methodist Primary School pupils got involved in learning more about the countries who take part in the famous international football tournament.

As part of their geography lessons, pupils undertook research into the traditions and cultures of countries from across the world. The school also hosted an intra-school football tournament with children from Key Stage 1 taking part in 5-a-side matches and Key Stage 2 holding 7-a-side matches, representing different countries.

Everyone had lots of fun developing their football skills alongside their 'Spirit of the Games' values: Passion, Self-Belief, Respect, Honesty, Determination and Teamwork.

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher, said: "There has been so much excitement about the World Cup at our school, with lots of fun activities for the children to take part in.

"One particular highlight was the day that England played their first game. The children were invited to wear football kits or England colours ready to watch the game and our wonderful cook, Sandy, also put on a special World Cup themed lunch time for the children to enjoy as part of the celebrations."



Rock Steady

Year 3 pupils at Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School have taken part in an exciting music workshop with Rock Steady Music School.

The session was all about making learning music fun, providing the chance for pupils to express themselves through music and perform together.

Lisa Whittaker, Head of School, said: "The children had a fantastic time listening to music and learning about different instruments.

"Some of the children even had the chance to perform a song as part of a 'rock band' – it was a memorable day for all involved."



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