



Students Share the Joy of Music



This term, learners at Nailsea School helped the homeowners at Bucklands Retirement Development welcome in the new season with a short lunchtime concert. Five students performed a number of pieces ranging from the classical to the contemporary, including: 'Rewrite the Stars' from the 'The Greatest Showman'; 'Feelings' by Morris Albert; and a Bach 'Sarabande'. There was also an exceptional performance from violinist Sophie, a Sixth Form student currently waiting to audition for the Royal Welsh College of Music. Sophie played the first movement of Haydn's 'Concerto in G Major' and blew the homeowners away with her virtuosity and talent.

Below & Left: Learners in Concert

To bring the concert to an end, the musicians gathered together, to sing 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' with the homeowners.

House Manager, Anne Hewetson, commented: "The students were incredible, and I saw a few of my homeowners getting quite emotional - they all absolutely loved it!"

This was the first of hopefully many concerts for the musicians since COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, and we're sure reminds us all of what we've been missing over the last eighteen months. Head of Music, Mrs Perkins added: "The students really enjoyed it, it was a great occasion to help them build their confidence, and work with other generations, and after such a long period of not being able to perform I am really proud of what they have been able to achieve!"



Riding a Wave of Success!

Isla, a Year 4 at Lympsham First School, has this term raised nearly £3000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust by completing an incredible 30-mile cycle ride around the local area, supported by friends and family who came out to cheer her on her way! Isla, who herself suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, is a keen triathlete and finds that exercise really helps her manage her condition. She hopes that through her fundraising she can support other people who live with Cystic Fibrosis, and hopefully ultimately find a cure. If you would like to find out more, or donate to Isla's Fundraiser you can do so [here](#)



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Chief Executive's Message

It is wonderful to welcome everyone back to our schools following the summer break – I very much hope that you had a pleasant holiday, and that you have enjoyed returning to something much closer to normality than was possible in the last academic year. Our schools come alive when our learners are here, so it is wonderful to see them full again once more.

As you will see from this newsletter, we are already back into the swing of things with everything from trips, to visiting speakers, to open days all happening again. These activities are great to see, and are things which I know will enrich and support our children's learning in the year to come.

As always however, it is worth noting that COVID has not disappeared, and that for the sake of keeping these activities going this year, I encourage everyone to stay safe, and to keep on taking their lateral flow tests (where applicable), washing or sanitising their hands, and making space wherever possible.

Looking forward, this year will be another exciting one for the Trust, and hopefully one which will prove less dominated by issues of COVID. We are very excited for instance to be welcoming Sandford and Winscombe Primary Schools into our family very soon; two amazing schools who will be valued partners in our goal of delivering exceptional education to the learners in our care. As we move into term two, we can also look forward to the start of Christmas activities which I know are such an important part of all our young people's school experience.

For now however, as we prepare to wrap up our first term of the year, I hope that you are all able to enjoy a safe and restful half term, and that you look forward to everything we have to come over the rest of the year. I am incredibly proud of how we have dealt with the last 18 months as a Trust, and I look forward to reaping the rewards of safety and cautiousness with you as we enter the rest of this year.



Ruth Becomes a Reverend

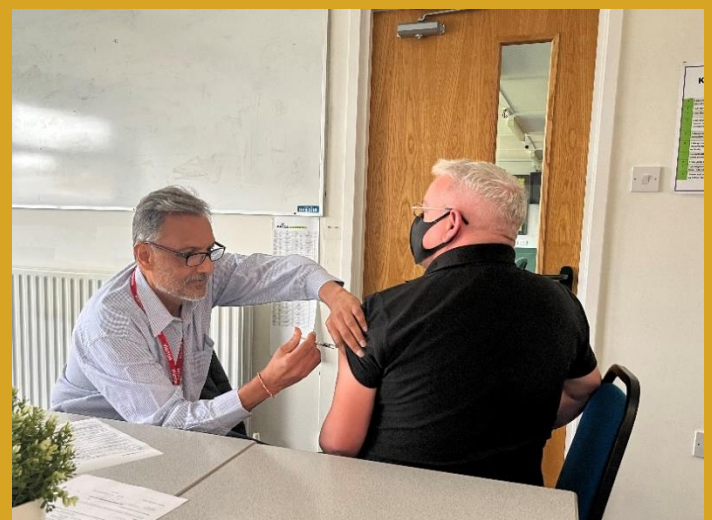
The Kings of Wessex's own School Chaplain, Ruth Motion, has this term had the honour of being ordained in a service led by the Bishop of Taunton at Wells Cathedral. Her ordination follows her completion of a part time course over the last three years at Sarum College in Salisbury, and means that now - in addition to her duties at Kings - Ruth will also be taking on the role of Curate (trainee vicar) across the churches in Cheddar, and Draycott and Rodney Stoke.

As a Church school, Kings of Wessex is very proud to have Ruth as part of their pastoral team, able to offer both practical, and spiritual advice to learners. To mark her ordination, Headteacher at Kings - Dave Wiltshire - attended Ruth's first service as Curate at Cheddar and gave a reading to the congregation.

Although now officially the Reverend Ruth Motion, she will still be 'Ruth' to everyone at Kings, and just as available to offer help and support to learners facing challenges at home or in school.

Keeping Staff Safe

The Wessex Learning Trust is very proud that this term it has been able to offer free, in-school flu vaccinations to all staff within the Trust. Although the Trust has always offered staff free flu jabs, this is the first year we've been able to have a pharmacist deliver them on site during the school day, which has helped us achieve a take-up of nearly 350 members of staff. We believe this is a great benefit for our staff, and something which will help keep them safe and well as we approach the winter months. A huge thank you must go out to Suman, from Axbridge Pharmacy, who delivered the jabs and helped with organising the whole process.





Coming Together to Share a Beautiful Game



As COVID restrictions have begun to ease, we've been proud to see our schools being able to come together again to share in activities like sport. No more so was this the case than this term where Year 7s from Fairlands and Hugh Sexey Middle Schools met at the Kings of Wessex for Football and Tag Rugby Festivals. The festivals were organised by Kings' Year 13 BTEC Sport students and offered them an unparalleled opportunity to get experience in organising and managing sporting events.

In the first festival, learners played tag rugby and got the opportunity to compete with a range of different players from across the schools, really enriching their skills and learning. The afternoon was narrowly won by the Hugh Sexey boys team; although its fair to say that regardless of the result, a great time was had by all.

Following on from the success of the rugby, the learners returned a week later to compete in a football festival, and again got plenty of opportunity to learn and expand their skills through tuition and experience playing with others. Once again it was a close contest, but was won by Hugh Sexey.

We're incredibly happy to see our schools playing together once again and reaping the rewards of competition and collaboration. We can't wait to see even more of this sort of opportunity over the course of the year!



Making Buddies for Life



With the disruption COVID has caused everyone in the last year, one of the many fantastic things we've been able to regain this term is our buddying system which we know is so beneficial to both our youngest and oldest learners.

For instance, at Weare First School this term, buddies were able to meet for the first time on a gloriously sunny day. The children (each pair being one Reception child and one Year 4) each chose a book to read together in the sunshine to help them spend some time together and get to know each other.

Further to this each Year 4 child wrote their buddy a letter to introduce themselves, while the reception children drew pictures which described them.

As we go forward with the year, the school is very excited to have a number of activities planned for the buddy pairs so that they can continue to get to know each other and support each other through their time at the school, with one of these being a nature walk planned for later in the term. These inter-year connections are invaluable for our learners and, without the constraints of bubbles, we are really excited about what the children will get up to this year.

Learning Instructions

Children in the Goldfinch class at Cheddar First School have this term been looking at instructions and learning how to order events. They've been doing this in inventive ways - for instance: one lesson, their teacher had accidentally cut up all the instructions and got them muddled up, so the children were tasked with working out what order they needed to go back into. Another lesson, the children made 'poisonous' biscuits, by following a recipe, and enjoyed trying the tasty results! This sort of learning is great to see, and will no doubt leave our learners with memories that will last a lifetime!



Don't forget that you can follow the Trust on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn - Just search for @WessexTrust





Supporting Young Minds at Wedmore

Friday 8th October was the Charity ‘Young Minds’, Children’s mental Health Day, and the school council were tasked with deciding how best to mark the occasion. With this year’s theme being ‘Hello Yellow’, the children decided to host a mufti day where learners were encouraged to attend school, wearing something yellow for the day. They also asked their peers to bring in and share objects that made them feel happy. During the day, the children then engaged with a range of discussions and activities about emotions; and Year Fours buddied up with Reception to share some positive painting, which brightened up the school hall for achievement assembly that afternoon (see opposite). Thanks to all of these events, the school managed to raise an incredible £195.50 for ‘Young Minds’, all while having fun and further developing children’s understanding of mental health and well-being. Well done to the school council for organising such a wonderful day, and thank you to everyone who got involved in making it so special.

Feeling Aspirational at Axbridge!

Learners at Axbridge School started off this term with a wonderful celebration of all things ‘Aspirational’. They enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a drumming workshop, had talks from authors and then considered their own future ambitions. The percussion workshop was a huge hit and a big thanks is extended to Chris Large for inspiring the next generation of musicians.

Following on from this, the whole school spent time exploring the amazing picture book, Chalk. In this fantastic story, three young friends discover a special bag containing magical chalks that lead to all sorts of fun and mayhem! All children, from Reception through to Year 4, were able to create their own incredible responses to the ...



Discovering Harvest

Children of Brent Knoll Primary’s ‘Unicorn Class’ were this term treated to a visit to Carrott’s Farm, near Bridgwater to learn more about how fruit and vegetables are grown – in particular, pumpkins! After seeing and learning about the pumpkins the children were able to buy their own, which were used in subsequent lessons where the children got to do everything from cooking to carving their purchases, just in time for Halloween!



Putting on the Ritz!



Over the summer holidays, the Year 5s (now Year 6s) at Hugh Sexey Middle School were tasked with designing and building bug hotels which not only supported their learning in subjects like Science and Design Technology, but also enabled the school to take a positive step towards supporting their biodiversity.

The bug hotels the children created were spectacular, and featured different levels and materials for a wide range of insects, and are – we think – unquestionably five-star!

The children’s creations are now in-situ in the school’s outdoor classroom where they will no doubt provide luxurious accommodation to a wide range of local critters!

... story, which were shared with families at ‘Welcome to our Class’ sessions. All in all, the celebrations started the year off right and had the children thinking about what they hope to achieve during the year. We certainly can’t wait to see more of what they get up to!



Helping Those in Need at Harvest

We're very proud of the children and families at Axbridge First School this term, who as part of their Harvest celebrations managed to collect hundreds of items of food to donate to their local food bank. As you can see from the photo opposite their generosity speaks for itself, and we are incredibly happy to see the children working to be such outstanding members of the community.



More Rugby!

It must be rugby season, as further to Fairlands and Hugh Sexey's festival at Kings this term; Hugh Sexey also played host to the first school's tag rugby Festival. The day was full of great sport and team building; and it was great to see all our schools coming together properly for the first time since COVID. The day was narrowly won by the team from Wedmore, with Brent Knoll as runners up. See the photos below from the East Brent team!



'Out of this World' Lessons at Mark!



This term at Mark First School, children have been engaging with a range of exciting new topics. For Years 1 and 2 this included a focus on space with their topic 'Out of this World'. As part of their learning they were very surprised to find an alien spaceship had crash landed in the playground. This exciting opportunity sparked the children to come up with lots of questions about space and what it would be like to visit.

An Update from the Leisure Centre

If you're looking for something to keep your children active this half term, be sure to check out what we have on offer at Kings Fitness and Leisure! All this holiday we're offering a sports and craft camp for children aged 5 to 13, which will see them taking part in lots of exciting activities, including: dodgeball; crafts; and swimming.

For our younger children, we have pre-school gymnastics and swimming lessons available all year round.

There's something for everyone! To find out more give us a call or visit our [website](#).

KINGS
FITNESS & LEISURE

Pre School Activities

For Ages 3-4

Gymnastics

The start of your child's gymnastics journey in a fun & supportive environment

Just £5 per session bookable in blocks of 5 or 10

Swimming lessons

Progressive weekly 20 minute lessons working to the Swim England Duckling Awards

Only £19.60 per month via direct debit

For availability and bookings please call 01934 744939

KINGS
FITNESS & LEISURE

SPORTS & CRAFTS Autumn Holiday CAMP

for ages 5-13

£20 per day or £90 per full week

Team Sport, Physical Activity & Crafts for 5-13 year olds this Half Term

when?
Monday 25th October - to - Friday 29th October
Times: 09:00 - 16:00

where?
astro turf, field & sports hall

packed with exciting and engaging activities including dodgeball, ultimate frisbee, tennis, hockey, football, cricket, arts & crafts and much more! The camp will utilize our fantastic facilities and base in the sports hall, on the astro-turf and on the sports field, each day will also include a swim, with Wednesday and Friday each week being an inflatable session (for children age 6+ and competent swimmers), special workshops will also be taking place on Fridays!

fun & creative activities

what will I need to bring?
swimsuit, water proof, swimming kit, sun block, snack, beach and refillable drink bottle.

early bird discount
book before Friday 8th Oct and receive a 10% discount just £18 per day or £80 per week!

For more information on booking please call the club on 01934 744 939