



Raising the Roof with the Sound of Music!



Above: Performers from both schools at the end of the joint concert

On Monday 20th June, musicians from the Kings of Wessex and Nailsea School came together for an incredible joint concert of music that showcased the talents of all the students, across both schools, and exemplified the sort of Trust-wide collaboration that we are incredibly proud of.

The concert featured performances from groups including Brass Bands, Big Bands, String Ensembles, Choirs, and more; as well as music ranging from Telemann's Vivace Concerto for Four, to The Champs' 'Tequila' and selections from 'The Greatest Showman'.

There were also a number of incredible joint items ('Adiemus' by Karl Jenkins and 'We Are Young' by Fun) that saw musicians from both schools come together and really 'raise the roof'!

The audience were wow-ed by the incredible talent on display throughout the evening, and we really hope it will be the first of many such joint concerts to come!



Left to Right:
The Kings Big Band in performance; a selection of musicians from both schools in the concert; all the musicians from Nailsea school

Discovering all about Judaism

In the Skylark Class at Cheddar First School the children have been learning about Judaism and had a great time exploring Jewish objects and finding out about the religion's beliefs and practices. The children even had a chance to try writing in Hebrew!



Field of Lymsham

In art lessons at Lymsham First School, the children have been learning about Antony Gormley's 'Field of Britain' and been inspired to respond to his work by creating their very own 'Field of Lymsham'. Each child in the school created their own clay figure which assembled like an army in one of the classrooms. We think that their creation is amazing and a wonderful memento of the school as it stands at the end of the year. Well done to everyone who played their part in its creation.



Chief Executive's Message

It's hard to believe that we have once again reached the end of another academic year! It has been a pleasure as always to have a great year working with all our staff and families, and although it is perhaps said too often, I truly do believe that time flies when you're having fun - which this year most certainly has been.

This year has marked the first full year of being (almost) back to normal, following the disruption of COVID-19, with so many of the important parts of school life returning for our learners. I look forward to seeing even bigger and better things as we move forwards into another year of relative normality.

Looking back more specifically on this term however, the summer months have thrown up so many highlights and wonderful events including sports days, trips, and performances to name but a few, and I hope that you will enjoy reading all about these in this last newsletter of the year. One thing I am particularly proud of this term was our hosting of our first Ukrainian Families Network Morning at Axbridge School which was a wonderful event that brought some of our newest Ukrainian families together and allowed us to find out how we can best support them at this difficult time.

As we come to the end of the year then, I must extend a huge thank you to all the staff, parents, and learners who have worked incredibly hard this year and contributed to the countless activities and opportunities that have gone on. I hope that you can all now enjoy a well-deserved summer break and a chance to re-charge. To those who are leaving us this year I say thank you for all your hard work, and good luck with whatever you have planned for the future; and for those of you staying with us, I look forward to welcoming you back in September to continue the great things that have begun this year. I also hope that all our learners receiving exam results this August get the grades they hope for, and that I know they have worked so hard to achieve.

Stay safe - and I will see you again in the new year!

A Musical Afternoon

Children from across Years 1 to 4 at Weare put on a musical showcase earlier this term to share what they had learnt in music lessons.

The performance began with the school choir performing a medley of songs from the musical 'Matilda', before a number of children took it in turns to give solo performances on instruments including piano, recorder, violin, guitar, and cornet. The concert closed with the choir performing a selection of sea shanties, before encouraging the audience to join in with a rousing rendition of 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'. It was wonderful to see so many talented young musicians sharing their passion for performance. Well done to everyone who took part! We can't wait to hear you at your next concert.

Coming Together as #TeamWessex



Earlier this term, Headteachers from across our schools, and members of the Trust Leadership Team came together for a Trust Heads conference hosted at Thatcher's Cider.

The event served as an opportunity to reflect on the year, share thoughts and experiences, and plan for September so that our schools can hit the ground running when we return after the summer break. It was wonderful to bring all our school leaders together in this way and celebrate the collaboration that is made possible by being part of the Trust.

Opening a New World of Reading



At Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School the children were very excited this term to witness the opening of their brand-new school library! The project was spearheaded by English Lead, Mrs. Brabbins and generously funded by the Hinkley Point Science Grant, Draycott and Rodney Stoke Trust and School PTA. The new library space is a stimulating environment that will inspire children to love reading and investigate their topics further through the wealth of exciting books on offer. We really hope all the children enjoy using the new library space and discovering all the new stories and information on offer to them there!



Can't Stop the Beat at Hugh Sexey!



Learners at Hugh Sexey Middle School visited Millfield School on Tuesday 5th July to take part in the South West Dance festival. The school entered two teams and both put on outstanding performances and relished the opportunity to perform to a full audience. In the end, both teams came away successful, with the KS3/4 team being awarded a Gold medal and KS2 a silver.

Huge congratulations must be extended to all the amazing dancers who took part – we hope you're all really proud of your achievements!

Detectives for the Day

At Wedmore First School this term, the Owl and Hedgehog classes enjoyed a fantastic day learning what it takes to become a detective! The day started with the children coming into school dressed as their favourite detective ... ranging from the classic Police Officer, to Sherlock Holmes and everything in between. The day then got even better as the children were joined by two real Police detectives, and their trusty Police dog, Dax. The detectives enthused the children by sharing insights into their jobs and answering the many questions the children had for them. They even let the children try on some Police uniform and to challenge Dax's impeccable sense of smell! The children had a brilliant time finding out about the work of detectives and loved sharing their findings and experiences in assembly to the rest of the school. Thank you to the team from the Police for taking the time to visit the school.



Above: Dax the dog and one of the detectives!

Axbridge Raise the Jolly Roger

Children at Axbridge First School have been finding out all about life on the seven seas this term, through their topic of 'Pirates'! The theme permeated through every lesson, for instance in maths the children learned about arrays by sharing out pirate treasure. The highlight of the topic however had to be a trip to the beach where they met a real pirate named Whitebeard and helped him to find his ship! He told the children stories and gave them an insight into life as a pirate. He also taught them songs and games and the children shared what they had learnt about sharing to split up some treasure. All in all the children had a very memorable day and learnt lots about their topic which they will take back with them into the classroom.



Having Fun at Kilve!

Many of our children have enjoyed going on residential this term and learning lots of new skills and trying many new activities. One such residential was taken by Year 4s at East Brent as they visited Kilve Court. The children enjoyed getting stuck into everything from climbing to fossil hunting on the beach and trying archery and grass sledging. All the children had a great time and developed their teamworking and communication. Thank you to all the amazing staff at the school and at Kilve for giving the children such a memorable experience.



Sports Day Special!

One of the highlights of every summer term has to be sports day! So with so many of our students lacing up their running shoes we wanted to celebrate with a montage of photos from across our schools. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Above: Axbridge; **Right:** Cheddar



Above: Fairlands;
Right: Lymsham



Left to Right:
Kings of Wessex and High Sexey (x2)

Right: Lots of fun being had at Draycott and Rodney Stoke!



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Fun on the Farm

Pre-School at Lymsham have been learning all about farming this term, and as part of this topic they were very lucky to receive a visit from a real farmer with a massive tractor. All the children were excited to get up close to the amazing machine, and each had a go at sitting in the driver's seat and finding out more about farming life. Thank you very much to W Field Agri for bringing the tractor along and showing it to the children!



Sharing the Joys of Dancing



Left to Right: The children mid dance with Lympsham in the foreground; Brent Knoll and their Maypole; East Brent in their costumes.

At the beginning of this term, Brent Knoll School hosted their very own Country-Dancing Festival with dancers from across the Trust coming together to celebrate this ancient folk-art form. East Brent, Lympsham, and Wedmore First Schools, as well as Winscombe Primary School all came to Brent Knoll and danced a number of dances to a captive audience of parents and families. Brent Knoll School even got to demonstrate their skills with their brand new Maypole.

With the usual Wells country dancing festival unfortunately cancelled this year it was wonderful to keep the tradition alive thanks to the hard work of the staff at Brent Knoll, and although we obviously hope the Wells festival will go ahead next year, we also hope that this lovely event at Brent Knoll can return even bigger and better next year too!

Mark School Put on a Show



At Mark School, the children have been putting on their Summer play, which this year was 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World', a powerful, environmental play that tackles issues including recycling, saving water and energy. The performance, which took place in the local church, showcased the children's acting and singing talents, and was a wonderful event for parents and families to attend. Thank you to all the staff who supported the performance and made it such a great success!



Hugh Sexey's Year 8s weren't the only ones to visit London this term, with their counterparts at Fairlands also taking in the sights across the capital, including the London Zoo, National Gallery, and China Town. What a wonderful way to celebrate!

A Trip to the Capital



Year 8s at Hugh Sexey Middle School were treated to a trip to London this term to explore the capital and celebrate the end of their time at the school. Their whistle-stop tour over two days took in sights including St. Paul's Cathedral (where they climbed to the top of the dome and took in the incredible views of the city), Covent Garden, a show (the Lion King) in the West End, a walking tour of the Thames, the Tower of London, a boat trip down the river, and the London Eye. It's safe to say the learners got a real flavour of London life and a fitting celebration of their achievements over the last four years at the school. All the children were a credit to the school and acted maturely and sensibly throughout. We hope you all had a wonderful time!



Celebrating Sporting Success!



After a hiatus of two years Sports Personality of the Year was welcomed back to Nailsea School once again this term.

The evening, traditionally held at Cadbury House Hotel, gives students across the year groups a chance to celebrate their many sporting achievements. Students wore their finest, and awards such as Manager's Player, Player's Player and Most Improved were handed out for all manner of sports. Bristol Bears Daisie Maise gave an inspiring speech and talked about the highs and lows of sporting achievement and her career route before announcing the overall winners of 'Sports Personality of the Year'. After a closely contested vote, the winners were Reuben M and Izzy D, Year 11 students who have challenged themselves and worked hard to achieve this fantastic sporting recognition, which was voted on by their peers. We are sure both Izzy and Reuben will continue to go on and achieve great things.

Students from Years 7 to 11 enjoyed the presentations followed by a quiz and buffet meal, and after the speech from Daisie Maise and the presentation of the Sports Personality of the Year, were invited to let loose on the dance floor, where it was fantastic to see all ages getting involved! Congratulations to everyone who took part, and to every student that was awarded an award on the night. Huge thanks also to those that helped organise the event and who have volunteered their time to this and to the many after school clubs that the evening celebrated.



An Update from the Leisure Centre

It has been another exciting term at Kings Fitness and Leisure, with the summer weather allowing us to make the most of our amazing outdoor space here at the centre. We have for instance been very pleased to host a number of wonderful events including the Kings of Wessex Sports Day, and a primary school multi sports day that saw a number of Trust first and primary schools join us for a range of activities including athletics, football and hockey.

Our members and visitors have also continued to use our facilities to achieve their fitness goals this term, and we've just published our summer swim timetable so that you can find a great time to join us over the coming weeks! You can view the timetable [here](#).

If you're looking for activities for you children this summer, don't forget that at Kings Fitness and Leisure we're running our Summer Kids Club for children aged 5-13. For £25 a day your children will have the chance to take part in a range of activities including sports, crafts and swimming, as well as meet new children and keep busy over that long summer break. To book your child into the club, call reception on 01934 744939.

Finally, now is always a great time to become a member at Kings Fitness and take full advantage of our facilities. To find out more, visit our website or call reception on the number above. We look forward to seeing you soon!

KIDS CLUB AT KINGS
- FOR AGES 5 - 13 YEARS -

9.00am – 4.00pm
Each day is structured and themed with various activities

£25 per day

A Variety of Sports & Crafts Including Swimming

Available during...
Summer Holidays
Christmas Holidays
Easter Holidays
...and Half Terms!

What does the child need to bring?
Packaged lunch, snacks, water, drink bottle, swimming kit (weather dependent items i.e. sun cream, waterproofs etc.)

Useful Information
On site cafe
Registration/medical forms will be sent on booking

Meet some of the team!

James Jenna Ed

To book call reception on 01934 744 939

A Note from the Editor:

As the final term of the year comes to an end, so too does my time working at the Wessex Learning Trust, and thus my tenure as editor of the Trust Newsletter.

I really hope that the last fifteen editions of this publication have provided an interesting, entertaining, and informative insight into life across our schools, and brought the amazing activities of all our young people closer to you.

A huge thank you must be extended to all the school staff who have worked hard to provide me with photos and news stories to publish, as well as to all those who have read the newsletter term after term.

I very much look forward to keeping up-to-date with all the goings on at the Trust through future editions of the newsletter, and wish you all a very pleasant summer.

Many thanks,

Sam Kail-Dyke

Trust Projects Officer