



For the latest updates on Coronavirus stay tuned to our website and Twitter @WessexTrust – Stay Safe

# World Book Day takes Trust by Storm

This Term, schools across the Trust celebrated the annual World Book Day meaning many of our students could be found coming into school dressed as their favourite literary characters. Everyone from Harry Potter to Willy Wonka and the Gruffalo made appearances and showcased the huge love of reading which is encouraged among our students of all ages. Even some staff got in on the act and could be found sporting costumes of their own, demonstrating our commitment to promoting an enjoyment of reading!

Different schools took part in a range of different activities; for instance, at East Brent World Book Day coincided with their 'Storytelling Week' which saw children engaging in a week of activities to do with reading. At Weare, children created a 'book in a box' – building their favourite scene from a book as a freeze-frame in a shoe box; while staff shared their favourite stories with the children. In Axbridge, they had a day of bedtime stories with hot chocolates and cookies; and at Lympsham some children co-ordinated to dress as the characters from Cinderella, their current focus text.

Several schools also got a visit from the Traveling Book Fayre who offered some great deals on new and exciting books for children which will hopefully keep them reading well into the future.

It's safe to say a wonderful and enriching time was had by all, which has hopefully inspired a love of reading which will stay with the children as they move through their lives. Chief Executive, Gavin Ball, praised the day saying: "Well done to all the children, all of whom put so much effort into celebrating the joy of reading! I look forward to hearing all about the stories you will now go onto read, and the love of reading which you will hopefully keep for life!"



## Key Dates

3/4/20	Last Day of Term
4/4/20 - 19/4/20	Easter Holidays
20/4/20	First Day of Term

## New Head Appointed at Kings



This term - following an intensive two days of interviews - the Kings of Wessex saw the appointment of Mr. David Wiltshire as their new Headteacher. Mr. Wiltshire, current deputy at Norton Hill School, will take over from Gavin Ball in September. A full interview with Mr. Wiltshire will be published soon on the WLT website.

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## Chief Executive's Message

At the start of what would have ordinarily been the last week of term, everything is currently, far from normal. Schools are partially or fully closed, students are learning from home, and our staff continue to work diligently to provide the support needed to keep our learners learning during these unprecedented times.

The Trust's priority remains to keep everyone safe, and although schools are open for the children of key workers we continue to encourage parents to keep children at home, in accordance with the government's advice, if they can. Although we are taking every precaution to keep schools clean and safe, children are safer at home and 'social distancing' themselves from all but closest family.

The staff across all of our Trust schools have worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to set our students up with relevant, meaningful and enriching curriculum which can be completed from home. In my opinion, our teachers have been super stars. I hope that you are all now familiar with the systems in place to accommodate home learning as we continue to plan for this uncertain future. The feedback that we have received has been heartening, and I am proud of the community spirit that has been demonstrated to 'keep the show on the road' so to speak within the Cheddar Valley.

The Trust thanks you again, for your continued support during these difficult times. Stay safe, and I look forward to welcoming you back to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

## Lockdown Lowdown

This Term has truly been one of the strangest any of us have ever experienced, in the space of a few weeks we have gone from business as usual to our schools being closed and everyone working at home. This will however pass, in the end, and in the meantime in the interest of maintaining some sort of normality we would like to share with you a selection of what our children have been doing at home, across the Trust:



**On Behalf of the Trust, we hope everyone stays safe and well during these strange times, and we look forward to welcoming you back to school as soon as possible!**

Be sure to share what you're up to at home by tweeting @WessexTrust so we can share it with our Trust family



## Orchestra Strike a Chord at Axbridge



The Children at Axbridge were treated earlier this term to a performance by members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra who

played them a selection of pieces including 'Hedwig's Theme' from Harry Potter, and taught them all about the orchestra and life as musicians. There was plenty of participation and the children even got to ask lots of questions such as why they each chose their instrument.

## Aboriginal Day at Wedmore

Earlier this term, Year 1 and 2s at Wedmore were visited by Stephen Rowley who delivered an aboriginal experience to the children. They



listened to traditional stories, passed down through generations. He then showed them how to create impressive dot paintings of animals using earth colors. The day was rounded off with Stephen playing his didgeridoo and the children acting out a story. A brilliant day was had by all.

## Keeping Busy at Kings

There's been a lot going on at the Kings of Wessex this term. The term started with the sell-out performance of the school musical, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, which told the beautiful story of a young actor trying to 'make it' in Depression Era New York. Audiences were wow-ed by an all singing and all (tap) dancing cast who really brought the story to life and showed that many of them have a bright future in the arts themselves!

The School also saw a special guest in the form of Bishop Ruth Worsley who formally commissioned the school's new Chaplin, Ruth Motion, in a special whole school assembly. The morning saw Bishop Ruth share some inspiring words with the children, tour RE lessons, and formally 'twin' two of the school toilets to help support less fortunate countries achieve the level of sanitation we are lucky to be able to take for granted in Britain.

The Sixth Form have also been keeping themselves busy this term – be it donating the £10,000 proceeds from their recent Charities Week to their three nominated charities – or visiting the UCAS Fair at UWE in Bristol, where over 500 Higher Educational Institutes were in attendance to discuss with students the myriad options open to them when they leave school. The annual HE+ project was also launched this term with students from schools across the area descending on Kings for a day with Cambridge university staff, discussing their specialist subjects and their options when applying for Russell Group Universities.

Even in Year 10, students were starting to think about their futures, with a group of students from the Challenge Plus Project taking a visit to the University of Oxford to get a taste of Academic life. The children were definitely impressed by the Hogwarts like ambiance of Exeter and Jesus Colleges, and definitely got a feeling for what Oxford life would be like!

## More News from Across the Trust

There's been so much going on in the Trust this term that it's hard to fit everything in, however some other exciting stories include:

**LYMPSHAM** saw its Year 4 class visit Wells Cathedral for a Pilgrimage experience which saw them take part in lots of activities to learn about the Christians whose footsteps they were walking in. They also took part in a beautiful service led by Rev. Kevin where they gave thanks for the experience they had been granted.

**BRENT KNOLL and WEARE** both took part in experience days with a Roman Soldier, learning about life in ancient times

**WEARE** held a Tiger Tea Party to celebrate Author Judith Kerr.

