



Wessex
Learning Trust
We Learn Together!

Trust Newsletter

Issue 5

Autumn 2020



Welcome Back!



After four months of closure, last term we were so happy to be able to welcome all our children back to school!

Although times are by no means certain just yet, it's been wonderful to have our sites full of smiling faces again, and children have gotten straight back into the swing of things with lots of great work and exciting activities which we are pleased to be able to share with you in this issue of the Wessex Learning Trust Newsletter.

As our children return to schools we are continuing to work hard to ensure the safety and security of all children and staff, with measures such as hand sanitising, year group bubbles, and one way systems still very much in place. Further to this we continue to monitor and evaluate all our safety measures to ensure that our schools can remain open and stay the happy, fun filled places our children know and love.



We're now one term into the new year, and we hope that you have enjoyed being back as much as we've loved having you back. We now hope that you have been able to have a restful and recuperative half term, and another productive Term 2.

New Pre-School at Brent Knoll

Brent Knoll Primary School (Part of the Wessex Learning Trust) is pleased to announce that it will be opening an on-site pre-school facility from January 2021, offering early years and wrap-around care.

This facility will join the Trust's existing, illustrious pre-school provision and provide continuity to parents following the closure of Tadpoles Nursery at the end of this year. We are proud that this new facility will continue to cement the Trust's commitment to exceptional education from 2 – 19.



Tel: 01934 745363

Email: office@wessexlearningtrust.co.uk

Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ

wessexlearningtrust.co.uk

Twitter: @WessexTrust

Current Vacancies across the Trust



We currently have a range of vacancies available across the Trust, including for a Pre-School Leader at Brent Knoll, Caretaker at

Weare and a Data and Exams Assistant at the Kings of Wessex.

For more information and to apply please visit:

www.wessexlearningtrust.co.uk/careers/current-vacancies/





Chief Executive's Message

As we reach the end of our first term back in school, I would like to thank every parent, teacher, and child for their incredible, unwavering support at this ever-challenging time.

We are so pleased to be able to see all our children on site again and to keep the wheels of education turning, despite the difficulties presented to us by the current Coronavirus situation. We are working incredibly hard to ensure that our sites remain safe places for the children in our care, and we are continuing to keep abreast of the latest Government guidance regarding how we can best respond to the challenges which face us.

What I see everyday is that we are all in this together, and that despite the adversity which we are all currently subject to, there is a huge amount of positivity and support coming from all places. I find this hugely comforting and I hope that it will give us all hope as we enter into this second term of post-covid schooling.

There are so many wonderful things from Term 1 to share with you – from news of a new pre-school at Brent Knoll which will cement our 2-19 education model and ensure that all our primary schools can provide pre-school and wraparound care provision, to some fantastic pictures from budding artists at East Brent.

As always, it's all going on here at the Wessex Learning Trust, and in this regard we can't wait to see what exciting things Term 2 will bring. I wish you all well for the coming weeks; please stay safe and continue to support us in our COVID Safe Schooling, and hopefully we will be able to continue to edge closer to 'normality' once again.

Brand new Pre-School Facilities at Mark and Lympsham



This term has seen the opening of two new pre-school facilities at Mark and Lympsham First Schools. The modern extensions provide additional learning space for our 2-year-old children where they can have age specific play and learning activities. It also has a sleep room for the younger children so they can have somewhere peaceful to nap during the day. If you are interested in sending your child to either of the pre-schools, please get in touch with the school offices to find out more.

Fundraising Initiative for Sunshades at Hugh Sexey's



The Hugh Sexey's PTA are seeking to fundraise £2000 for some new Sunshade Sails to help combat the increasingly hot and sunny UK summers and protect children from sunburn and

sunstroke. With fundraising opportunities few and far between right now due to lockdown and school closures. If you would like to make a donation to the fund which currently stands at around £300 you can visit the GoFundMe page here: www.gofundme.com/f/sunshade-project-hsms-pta

Celebrating Harvest at Brent Knoll



At Brent Knoll this term the children have been celebrating and learning about Harvest; thinking about the farmers who have been working so hard throughout the year to ensure we have food on our plates. As part of this the children have been cooking with pumpkins and sweetcorn to make some gorgeous soup. As part of their celebrations, families made donations to the local food bank, a still sadly greatly needed facility for so many families. We are very proud of the children for their maturity and for working hard to support those in need.

The Sound of Music to be Heard Again!

The Cheddar Valley Music Club is delighted to be returning to music making with a series of online workshops in November. Tutors from the Brass Band, Choir and Percussion sections will be leading specially tailored sessions on Zoom, covering a variety of



musical activities including theory and singing. Anyone with an interest in music making aged 8 and above is welcome to join in. Please contact either Anne Higgs (brass@cheddarvalleymusic.co.uk) or Kate Lynch (voices@cheddarvalleymusic.co.uk) for details on how to get involved!



Exceptional Young Artists at East Brent

These budding young artists at East Brent have been creating some gorgeous twister pictures this term, using pastels for the background, and pencil crayons to create a marvelous 3D effect which we think has been incredibly effective! There are definitely a few future Picassos among this group of talented children!

Axbridge Travel Back in Time



This term Axbridge School were visited by Sir Dudley of Somersetshire,

a time-travelling courtier from the time of King John. They discovered all about the Magna Carta and how King Richard gained his title – 'Lionheart'. As part of our 'Whole School Creative Curriculum' approach, all of the children in the school took part in this workshop and it has helped them with their chronology, as well deepening their knowledge of King John and other medieval kings. The children loved their session and took part in live jousting, dressing up and dancing. It was a great day for all involved and this has been reflected in the children's responses back in the classroom.

Fairlands Support Young Minds

On Friday 9th October, the staff and pupils at Fairlands celebrated World Mental Health Day in support of Young Minds, a charity that helps young people and their families concerned about their mental health and well-being. Everyone rose to the occasion and there was a lovely selection of different yellow outfits around the school. In conjunction with this, the staff also made and brought in cakes to support the cause and the staff room was filled with delicious treats, which safe to say went down very well!



Digestive Discoveries

The children at Cheddar First School have this term been looking at the human digestive system; using crackers, orange juice, banana, and a pair of tights to follow the journey of food from consumption to excretion and learn how we use food to keep us healthy and strong. The messy experiment was a lot of fun for all the children and definitely brought things to life in a way which you couldn't do without getting your hands dirty!

