The Spire Newsletter

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- A Message from the Executive Headteacher
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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Dear Colleagues,

As we go into our final term after another busy term I would like to both thank you all for your hard work and also to introduce you to the first of what will become our termly Spire Trust newsletter.

The Trust, as you may be aware, consists of four schools with just over 1700 pupils in total on roll. You may have seen the new Government Whitepaper published last week. It makes very clear that the National Government is expecting all schools to be part of a MAT by 2030, and as such, there will be no single academies or schools run by local authorities in England. The Spire Trust is in a strong position to take on new schools and expand steadily which has been our strategy from the start.

Unfortunately, Covid prevented us from having a Trust event at the beginning of this term but we do hope to convene one at the beginning of the next academic year. One of the key points I was going to stress was our continual focus on professional development and instilling a culture of self-improvement by providing a range of opportunities for all staff.

It is a pleasure to see so many staff completing their NPQ qualifications and indeed to see colleagues becoming part of the delivery teams as we develop our partnership with the Church of England.You will see evidence of this commitment in the newsletter and I hope that you feel part of a learning organisation that sees staff development as a fundamental and core part of its improvement strategy.

Can I thank you again for your commitment, dedication and hard work. Covid has continued to present many challenges and I suspect it will do so for some time to come.

I hope you had a restful and Happy Easter returning refreshed for the final term.

Geraint Roberts
Executive Headteacher (CEO)

NPQ: INVESTING IN LEADERSHIP

Written by Mrs D. Carey-Jenkins

As a MAT that is fully committed to continuing professional leadership development at all levels, we are delighted to announce that the following colleagues from St John's, Bromsgrove have successfully completed their National Professional Qualifications in Senior Leadership:

Doug Owen , Clare Hirons and Rachel Bourne. Each has undertaken a rigorous 15 month professional development programme, culminating in the successful completion of a school improvement project. As new senior leaders, we look forward to their valuable contributions to school strategic leadership. We also have members of staff undertaking the former Middle Leadership programmes, they are currently awaiting their results.

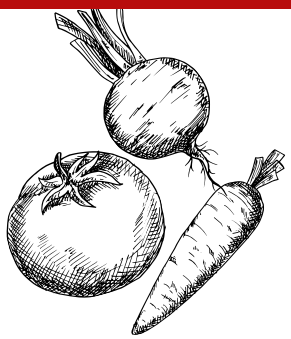
With the newly redesigned NPQs, our Spire Trust is a Regional Delivery Partner for the Church of England's NPQs including National Qualification for Leading Teaching, Leading Behaviour and Culture and Headship. We currently have staff from all our Trust Schools involved in a variety of ways as participants, facilitators and coaches.

Our next round of recruitment for our programmes will start next term and we will be sending out information on those in the next few weeks. There may also be opportunities for some staff to train as facilitators and or coaches. Again, we will circulate information on this once the information comes through.

THE SPIRE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND LEARNING TRUST
collaborate . learn . achieve

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE SPIRE CATERING



Written by Mrs J. Perrey

In March this year we were happy to announce that catering for the schools in the Trust would be provided in-house by our Spire Catering Team. The food is prepared and cooked fresh each day at the hub kitchen based at Witton Middle School, Droitwich and then transported to the Trust's schools ready to serve to the children at lunchtime. The first two schools to be supplied with this service were Witton Middle School and St. John's CE Primary School.

Our focus is to provide fresh, healthy, and exciting meals for our children, bringing school lunchtimes alive through a fresh and innovative service that is tailored to the needs of our customers. We use quality ingredients from reliable sources, using local suppliers for our fresh meat, fruit, and vegetables.

As well as promoting a well-balanced diet and healthy lifestyle choices we will be encouraging the children to try new things and have fun with food! From homemade favourites to something exotic! There will be something for everyone!

Our chefs are not just talented, they are passionate about food and each one relishes the chance to create a delicious recipe. With the combined creative skills of our chefs, not only can we guarantee delicious, seasonal menus that give students a tasty meal full of essential nutrients, but at exceptional value too.

Meals cost £2.30, and our menu runs on a 2-week rotation. We cater for all dietary requirements to suit the needs of pupils to meet cultural, religious, vegetarian and special dietary requirements.

We have had a brilliant start to our new venture based at the Witton kitchen with fantastic feedback from the children (our biggest critics!) with plenty of empty plates and happy faces!

Our service to both Witton Middle and St. John's Primary is working very well and after a successful parent taster session everyone is excited for our new summer menu. Our intake of children eating is going up week on week - something we all work hard on and are very proud of, seeing children happy and fed!.

It is hoped to not only supply school's within the Trust but to offer this service to external stakeholders. We look forward to meeting our new children in September and hopefully increasing our business further.

Our Catering Manager is Claire Miles who would be happy to take any queries about The Spire Catering Services.

claire.miles@witton.worcs.sch.uk.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Alison Elwell

St. John's is an excellent school that offers the children a warm, vibrant, lively, and safe learning environment where they can grow into confident young people, having developed their full potential during their four years at our school.

The school fosters an ethos of personal achievement, responsibility, leadership, and mutual respect for all members of our community.

The Summer Term at St John's Middle has started at quite a pace. We have launched new enrichment activities which has included a trip to the Black Country museum supporting the Year 8 History curriculum, entry into the Maths challenge for Key Stage 3 Mathematicians and the launch of our extracurricular club timetable. This includes a varied and extensive menu of activities including STEM, Photography, Book Club, Drama, French and a vast array of sporting activities. Two new clubs have made their debut this term, Quidditch and Archaeology. If this wasn't enough our residential trips start again with a trip to Oakerwood and Arete. Of course none of this could happen without the hard work and commitment of the staff.

The preparation for SATs is in full swing, with complimentary breakfast, yoga and sporting warm-ups planned to support our Year 6 pupils throughout the week. We are hoping for warm and dry weather to enable us to have some time outside to relax after the busy mornings.

Other important news from St John's are our job opportunities for September 2022. Following promotion of several staff, we have successfully advertised, interviewed and appointed a new Deputy Headteacher who will join us in September 2022. This week we will be interviewing for Head of Year posts and classroom teachers. I'm pleased to report that the field has been strong and competition high. We offer our congratulations to the staff who are moving on to pastures new and are proud of your achievements.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Caroline Lowe

At St John's, the development of a broad and rich curriculum that meets the individual needs of our pupils has been a core focus for leadership at all levels. In response to this, the development of Middle Leadership has played a pivotal role in enabling this to be achieved. Three of our members of staff have undertaken the NPQML programme and successfully passed with one member of staff now embarking on the NPQSL programme.

Within school, our Middle Leaders work hard to develop and implement planning that is rooted in the context of our pupils as well as monitoring outcomes and providing CPD for staff where required. Prior to and during lockdown, our Computing Lead had the opportunity to successfully implement Google Classroom, providing training for pupils, staff and parents with a high level of success.

Leadership success can be further recognised through a range of subject specific achievements. Through the dedicated work of our Music Lead, we achieved the Music Mark Award. Furthermore, our PE Lead has enabled many opportunities for our children to participate in a range of sporting events with a high level of success. As well as providing a rich curriculum provision within lessons, our leaders also provide a range of extra-curricular activities to further their learning and enjoyment of various subjects. This has included cookery, art, awe and wonder, nature and stem clubs.

Working across the Trust, some of our Middle Leaders have also been leading Trust subject meeting; facilitating support for middle leaders and the sharing of good practice across all schools.

With Mental Health and Well Being a high priority for our children and their families, Senior Leaders have undertaken Trauma Informed Training, Senior Mental Health Lead training as well as making links with external agencies to maximise the level of provision for our children. For our staff, Staff Voice meetings are held every term to provide opportunity for their views and thoughts to be shared. The Staff Voice Leads play a key role in leading these meetings and feeding back to the leadership team.

Pupil leadership has also been important to us; listening to our children in helping to shape the curriculum and ensure their experience in school is positive. The School Council, Worship Reps, Eco Reps, Health and Well-being Reps and Online Safety Rep's all play a key role in this work. During our recent Eco Day, the Eco Reps organised and promoted the day that was enjoyed by all. The School Council have been actively involved in staff appointments, have contributed valuable thoughts to improving their lunch and breaktime experience and are now currently working on preparations for our Jubilee Celebrations later in May.

St John's Church of England

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Governors work proactively with the school and visit every term to meet with leaders, staff and children to discuss various aspects of the curriculum in addition to our formal Governor's Meetings.

In what has been unprecedented times, the staff across the school have continued to work extremely hard to raise standards for our pupils. They have been proactive in responding to an ever-changing climate with the core focus of providing a high quality curriculum that is accessible and engaging for all and to inspire and nurture life-long learners.

ST MATTHIAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Virginia Beale

At St Matthias C of E Primary School we consider it incredibly important to take part in community events and Malvern traditions. We are situated in the most beautiful area with the Malvern Hills in view from our school. Every year, during May Bank holiday, Malvern embarks on a Well Dressing and Water Festival. The annual event celebrates the history of Malvern, its spring water and Victorian water cure to the area's ancient Pagan traditions. You can find out more about this festival by visiting their website

For a number of years, it has been a St Matthias school tradition to take part in the 'Well Dressing and Water Festival' event and decorate 'Lord Sandy's Spout' situated in Spring Lane not far from our school. A wonderful lady from St Matthias Church, called Eileen Tomlin entered us, as a school, into the Well Dressing event many years ago and ever since St Matthias school and Miss Tomlin have excelled in the event often achieving a 'GOLD' award for the decorated well.

The themes for the Well Dressing are decided during an open meeting and this year the theme was 'Literature.' Over the years, we have raised our expectations not only in the classroom but also in creating a stunning and child orientated well. Every child contributes something to the well and our Y6 pupils take the work to the well to decorate and create the display.
As a school, we were very excited about the theme this year, as books, stories and literature are a very important part of education and growing knowledge. Each class took on a story or book with a 'door.' Year 6 created pieces linked to the 'Journey' by Aaron Becker with a photo booth! Year 5 focused on 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis and created a large wardrobe, big enough for a person to fit in! Year 4 chose 'The Magic Faraway Tree' by Enid Blyton and Year 3 'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll. Year 2 chose 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson and wrote some lovely stories for people to read while visiting the well. Year 1 enjoyed creating an interactive game linked to their book 'The Jolly Pocket Postman' by Allan and Janet Alberg and our Early Years Team focused on 'The Three Little Pigs' and created lots of houses with doors to open and adjectives to describe the wolf! Within our well there were stories, poems, descriptive writing, pictures, a story bench made out of palettes, hanging decorations, art work and much more leading down to the actual water and well at the foot of the area.

During the Bank Holiday weekend, judges visited every well in Malvern and gave them a Bronze, Silver or Gold vote. We were delighted to find out that we were awarded a 'GOLD' for our well AND a special trophy called the 'Lionel Shorestone Trophy'. In 2008, Lionel became the organiser of the festival and was so passionate about the Malvern tradition that he wanted to instil his enthusiasm into the younger generations and therefore encouraged schools to become involved. Sadly he passed away and in his memory the special trophy is awarded each year to one of the children's wells. This year, we feel very privileged and proud to have been awarded it for decorating 'Lord Sandy's Spout well' along with the GOLD award.

St Matthias Church of England

primary school

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This is such an important, historical event in Malvern that being a part of it is very special to St Matthias School and our community. We are very well supported by our parents in taking part in this event that when we collected our awards during the bank holiday a huge amount of parents and children attended the award ceremony and congratulated the children and staff on their achievements. It is certainly a highlight for us at St Matthias in amongst the hard work that goes on in school

WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Suzie Bourne

Our school is a vibrant and friendly place to learn. We pride ourselves on our strong and supportive climate, within which children feel safe to grow personally and academically.
Our curriculum is designed to create confident, curious and collaborative individuals who will make a difference in the world. Our children receive expert teaching and benefit from excellent specialist facilities which foster increasing levels of independence in learning.

We are busily fitting in as much as we can before the half term break.

Year 6 are in the final throes of SATs preparation. This is a wonderful opportunity for their efforts and progress to be recognised, but I am aware that some children will be feeling anxious about the tests. Please reassure your child that all we ask is for them to be in school, and to take part to the best of their ability. We recognise that our children are far more than the SATs can show - and we really value their kindness, enthusiasm, perseverance in learning and desire to become wonderful young people.

We hope that our approach to the SATs week ensures opportunities to focus and achieve well in the tests themselves, but also builds in time for elements of relaxation that are so essential for wellbeing.

Please encourage your child (whichever year group) to be getting plenty of rest and sleep each night - they seem to be being very active during break and lunch, and need all the energy reserves they can muster!

Over the coming weeks I look forward to sharing with you the many enrichment activities and trips that are planned to take place before the end of the year. It is great to feel the school slowly but surely returning to 'normal' operation at last.

THE SPIRE ART DAY

Written by Mrs. Judith Davenport

The Art Spire Day allowed 6 pupils from each of our schools to come together and learn new photography skills. Pupils worked with local photographer Mike Jones on landscapes, product placement and forced perspective and produced some fantastic work. It was lovely for the pupils to meet each other and learn together. We hope to spread the love of art and design further by making this an annual event.

STAFFING STRUCTURE 2022/2023

Geraint Roberts	Executive Headteacher(CEO)
Jan Perrey	Trust Operations Manager/HR and Payroll
Paula Adams	Trust Finance Manager/Payroll
Sarah Spence	Trust Accountant
Virginia Beale	Trust Safeguarding Lead
Dan McEvilly	Trust SENDCo
Sean Chadwick	Trust IT Manager
Lizzie Perrey	Trust Digital Media and Marketing Officer
Phil Berry	Trust Health and Safety Officer
Anne Salsano	Trust and School Policies
Katie Oakes	Trust Maths Lead
Sarah Pemberton	Trust English Lead
Mark Field	Trust Science Lead
Natasha Hine	Trust PE Lead
Derval Carey Jenkins	Trust CPD/NPQ Lead
(Sarah Marsh ITT)	
(Rachel Bourne Admin)	

TRUST CONSULTANTS

Mr. Barry Newton SIP

Mr. Neil Mills SIP

Mr. Stephen Cox NLE

FOR MORE VISIT: www.thespirelearningtrust.co.uk