

THE SPIRE NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Dear Colleagues,

Our first day back when we were able to gather as a whole Trust for the first time seems in the distant past! This has been a remarkably busy term as they all seem to be! As you will all be aware the Trust is about to take a significant step with three schools set to join during this academic year. Aston Fields Middle School and Catshill First and Middle School federation are set to be approved in February 2023 with a likely academisation date of June 1st 2023. Parkside Middle School will academise next year because it is a PFI school and these take longer. They will however become associate members in June and work with us as if they are in the Trust.

This will double the size of the Trust, taking us just over the 3,000 pupil mark. These are exciting times but our mantra stays the same, collaborate, learn, achieve. That is the core ethos of the Trust with the children and staff at its heart. The focus on staff development and improving practice will remain.

As the Trust grows the need to expand our capacity to support schools in their development grows as well.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- A Message from the Executive Headteacher
- The Spire Catering
- Headteacher's Welcome
- The Spire Teacher Training
- Staffing Structure



Therefore, we advertised at the beginning of term for a School improvement Lead. I am delighted to be able to tell you that Mr Stephen Cox was appointed to this post. I know he has already been in working with our schools and we look forward to February 2023 when he takes up his full-time post. Stephen is a successful Headteacher, currently Headteacher at Aston Fields Middle School and NLE and a very experienced Ofsted Inspector.

Can I thank you all for your continued hard work and commitment to improving the standards in your schools and so the life chances of our pupils. These are challenging times and the need for a good education that creates opportunities has never been greater.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas with your families

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Geraint Roberts'.

Geraint Roberts
Executive Headteacher (CEO)

THE SPIRE CATERING



This week The Spire Catering have been busy preparing Christmas Dinners!

The menu was designed and sent out, with orders being made at some of our schools the week before October half term!

The staff in our Kitchen have been working very hard to cater for all dietary requirements i.e cultural, religious and vegetarian/vegan also accommodating requests, to create something all pupils would love and have received very positive feedback. There were a lot of full tummies and happy faces.



THE SPIRE CATERING

CHRISTMAS dinner

MAINS
Roast Turkey with pigs in blankets and stuffing
or
Giant Yorkshire Pudding filled with vegetarian sausages (V)
Roast Potatoes, Festive Vegetable Medley, Gravy

DESSERTS
Sparkly Rudolph Jelly
or
Chocolate Bauble Biscuit

£3.75





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.

It's been a busy few weeks at St John's Middle with the excitement of the countdown to Christmas well underway. We hosted a Christingle service last week for pupils and their parents, which allowed us to think about helping others and different ways we can bring light into other people's lives this Christmas. There was a magical moment when the lights were turned out and the beautiful church was lit up by the pupil's Christingle candles. However, I must admit to being relieved when the candles were all extinguished and we had managed another year without any mishaps. Putting the sentiment of bringing light to others lives into action, we have been busy distributing "winter warmer" parcels and Christmas food parcels to our local community with huge gratitude to the Basement project in Bromsgrove for supplying the produce. The parcels have been gratefully received.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils have been to see the pantomimes 'Beauty and The Beast' (Year 5) and 'Cinderella' (Year 6), Key Stage 3, deemed themselves too old for the pantomime, voted to go festive bowling. In my opinion you are never too old for the pantomime but we listened to our pupil voice. A great time was had by all! This week has seen Year group Christmas dinners, with 672 children all taking part, this has taken some organisation and our admiration goes to the catering team. We have even managed to fit in a visit from our local MP Sajid Javid who spoke to our Key Stage 3 about democracy and the workings of parliament. It was very engaging and the children asked some interesting questions.

We are looking forward to our final celebration of the season, our school church carol service that is one of the few times our whole school can come together as a school family and pause for a moment and be thankful for our blessings.





ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Caroline Lowe

As we come towards the end of the Autumn term, we reflect upon all the fantastic achievements of the pupils of St John's C.E Primary School this term. The children returned to school in September looking smart, eager to learn and engaging readily in the learning opportunities that were offered to them.

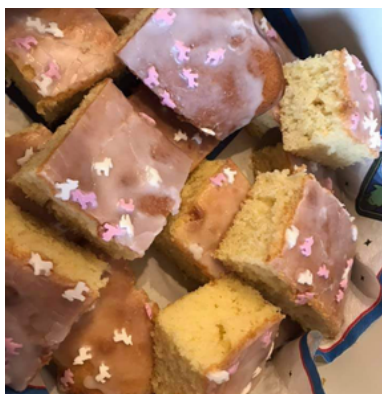
During the term, we have received an external review by an NLE in education and a Trust advisor. On both visits the positive learning environment in every class was highly commended. Children were highly engaged in their learning and eager to share their knowledge with high quality provision in place for all pupils.

Our children continue to have the opportunity to access a broad and engaging curriculum and have taken a keen interest in furthering their skills and knowledge in all subjects. A particular highlight was the Science Day held in November where the children became scientists for the day.

At the start of every week we continue to celebrate our Value Champions during whole school worship. Our values of truthfulness and hope this term, have been lived out by the children day by day in everything that they do. I would also like to express my thanks to St John's Clergy who come into school every week to share worship with us. The children really value and appreciate their time so freely given.

It has been lovely to welcome our parents and families into school to watch the range of musical performances that have taken place this term. Through these wonderful performances, the children have demonstrated their musical skills and talents as well as providing opportunity for the children to grow in confidence. The Christmas performances this year were fantastic with the Reception and Year 1 children staging a nativity play. It was lovely to see our youngest children participate so enthusiastically. Our year 5 pupils also led a lovely service at St John's Church. Well done to all of the children for their contributions.

On behalf of all of the staff at St John's C.E Primary School, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to parents, carers, families and the St John's community for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year.





ST MATTHIAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Virginia Beale

Circus Skills Week- October 2022

The staff and children had the most wonderful week learning new skills, developing their resilience, persisting with an activity and having lots of fun. Jebb, our circus skills instructor, entertained everyone and taught our children and staff some amazing circus skills! He had such energy and patience! At the end of the week a Big Top circus extravaganza was set up in the hall and 3 shows ran back to back for our parents!

The shows were very exciting and also loud! It was super to see the children concentrating on their performances and having fun, even when things went wrong and the circus equipment fell on the floor! Even some of the staff performed too! These types of events make our feel good hormones race in our bodies and having a laugh is so important when we all work so hard!

Great Malvern Christmas Light Switch on.

Year 6 had great fun on Thursday 24th November when they were invited to make special lanterns for the Great Malvern Christmas Light Parade. They made their lanterns out of willow and had to twist the willow carefully into shape. They then wrapped cling film around the shape before using Paper Mache to create a cover. After that, the outside layer was decorated so when the light was switched on the lantern glowed.

On Saturday 26th November, we took part with our lanterns in the Great Malvern Light switch on and Lantern Parade. The lanterns looked amazing as we walked up to the top of Church Street, where the Christmas tree stood. We were lucky enough to follow the large lanterns all the way to where the tree was lit with a perfect view! It was incredibly busy and I was very proud of us all staying together!

The lanterns looked stunning in the parade as it was dark and the lanterns lit the way!



ST MATTHIAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our School Family Christmas Trees

On Thursday 1st December our Christmas trees arrived. We have a beautiful tree in our hall which is decorated with 'peace' prayers for Christmas written independently by the children. The prayers are beautiful and often incorporate our vision as the children know it so well! We also have a lovely tree outside our Early Years area covered in bright blue lights! Our third tree is outside the main entrance of school. Both outside Christmas Trees are decorated with baubles donated by the children. We have done this for a couple of years and children love decorating the trees with their own decorations and prayers as it really makes the school have a wonderful family and community feel at Christmas!

A prayer by Tia, Y3

Dear Lord, Please help us in our ever changing world, also help us to be peaceful and aspire to be the best version of ourselves and achieve our dreams to believe. Amen

A prayer by Anisia, Y5

Please help to give peace and joy to all this Christmas and help the families with no money and no home. So please help this Christmas to make a change in others. Amen

From all at St Matthias very Merry Christmas!



WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Written by Mrs. Suzie Bourne

This term at Witton we have welcomed another large number of new year 5 pupils who have settled well and shown their curiosity and positive attitudes to learning. Our parents' evenings in November were very well attended. The 'hybrid' of remote and in person appointments proved popular with parents and afforded an appreciated level of flexibility. In addition to our usual curriculum, children have enjoyed 'drop down days' focusing upon PSHE, Anti-Bullying and 'Hello Yellow' mental health. ...



These themes are central to our core value of 'belonging' and our desire to ensure that every member of our school community feels valued, safe and happy at our school. In addition, Purple Leaf (visiting PSHE experts) have come into school to lead sessions with year 5 and year 7 around healthy relationships, rights and responsibilities and keeping ourselves safe. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have completed Diana Award training and have been delivering sessions to their year groups. Year 7 also received a very informative 'knife crime awareness' talk from PCSO Sweatman, including a demonstration of a knife arch to detect metals, and a discussion around the fact that carrying a knife 'for protection' actually increases the likelihood of an incident. The first round of recipients of the year 7 Citizenship Award have been granted their Bronze Awards, acknowledging their contributions and helpful acts both within school and out in the local community. Year 6 science lessons welcomed a pharmacist to show the practical application of learning about heart rate and the circulatory system.

Beyond the classroom we have already enjoyed some trips, namely to the Town Centre (surveys linked to geography, year 5), and the Thinktank in Birmingham (science year 6). Pupils have also auditioned for, and commenced rehearsing, the school production of "Pantastic" - a musical based upon the Peter Pan story - to be staged in the Spring. Sports clubs and fixtures also continue to be popular and well attended. Demand has repeatedly outstripped our capacity for spaces at clubs and activities. We have been working hard to increase the number of spaces available so that as many children as possible can join in. Mrs Miele has started a highly successful cookery club, with a specific focus on equipping children and their siblings with valuable lifeskills and knowledge of how to cook simple nutritious meals on a budget. Dr Palmer has also launched Children's University with our year 5 pupils. I look forward to hearing how many hours of activity they can 'bank' during the year, and as they progress up through the school.



WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

cont ...

Our sense of belonging and community is especially palpable during events such as the Harvest Collection, when a large quantity of donations of food and hygiene products were brought in by pupils and gratefully received by the Droitwich Foodbank. Our Christmas Day at Witton brings us together to enjoy festive activities, wear our Christmas jumpers and share a Christmas meal alongside our friends in the year group. Our talented performers have been busy singing at the Droitwich Christmas Fair, and also preparing for our Christmas concert "Winter Wonderland" - to be performed at the local Methodist Church one evening in December for families to attend; and also on the very last day of term for our whole school community.

We continue to make strong links with our local First Schools, and welcomed children from Chawson into school to take part in a rocket building and investigation session. Most rockets become successfully airborne (with one notable exception!) We look forward to more transition activities during the Spring and Summer terms.



PGCE SCHOOL DIRECT PRIMARY + EARLY YEARS INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

The Spire is now a lead provider for teacher training and in September we welcomed a new cohort of trainees. They are all doing extremely well. We work very closely with partner schools and this means we are able to train and effectively “grow our own” teachers. Our programme is very successful and last year all of our trainees gained employment. We are now recruiting for September 2023 and January 2024. If you are interested in a career in teaching please have a look at our website or contact Sarah Marsh.

email: ttenquiries@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

tel: 01527 832376



THINKING OF TEACHING?
ARE YOU A GRADUATE?

THEN TRAIN WITH US!

TEACHER TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP

COLLABORATE

LEARN

ACHIEVE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.thespirelearningtrust.co.uk



ttenquiries@st-johns-bromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk




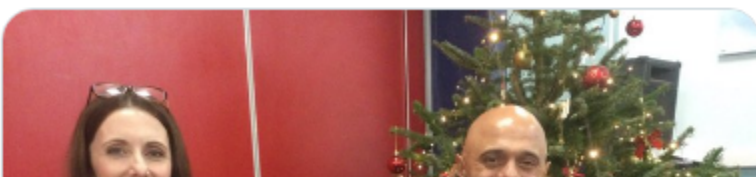
@TheSpireCE

Tweets from @TheSpireCE

Follow



The Spire Church of Engla... @Th... · 16m 
On Friday 9th December, Sajid Javid visted St John's Middle School to give an assembly to the pupils about democracy and the workings of parliament. It was very engaging and the children asked some interesting questions.
[#SJMS](#)



ST JOHN'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY
@STJOHNSMIDDLE

ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
@JOHNSSCH

ST MATTHIAS PRIMARY
@STMATPRIMARY

WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
@WITTONMS

STAFFING STRUCTURE 2022/2023

Geraint Roberts
Jan Perrey
Paula Adams
Sarah Spence
Virginia Beale
Dan McEvilly
Sean Chadwick
Lizzie Perrey
Phil Berry
Anne Salsano
Katie Oakes
Sarah Pemberton
Mark Field
Natasha Hine
Derval Carey Jenkins
(Sarah Marsh ITT)
(Rachel Bourne Admin)

Executive Headteacher(CEO)
Trust Operations Manager/HR and Payroll
Trust Finance Manager/Payroll
Trust Accountant
Trust Safeguarding Lead
Trust SENDCo
Trust IT Manager
Trust Digital Media and Marketing Officer
Trust Health and Safety Officer
Trust and School Policies
Trust Maths Lead
Trust English Lead
Trust Science Lead
Trust PE Lead
Trust CPD/NPQ Lead

TRUST CONSULTANTS

Mr. Barry Newton SIP

Mr. Neil Mills SIP

Mr. Stephen Cox NLE

Merry Christmas
&
A Happy New Year!

We all at The Spire Church of England Learning Trust would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and restful Christmas following what has undoubtedly been a very challenging term.

Geraint Roberts
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER



FOR MORE VISIT: www.thespirelearningtrust.co.uk