

MESSAGE FROM CLAIRE DAVIES, DOWMAT CEO



Dear All,

One minute we are welcoming everyone back for the start of the new school year – and the next minute it’s all about the Nativity and the hope and warmth of the Christmas Story. I was visiting a school this morning and happened by chance to come across a line of angels in the corridor and it made me smile to think about the good news of the First Christmas.

I think we all need to hear some good news at the moment, so it is with pleasure that I am able to share the outcomes of our recent Church School inspections (SIAMs).

As Church schools, each of our DoWMAT academies receive a Church school inspection approximately every 5 years. SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections focus on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school’s Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish. All four DoWMAT academies inspected this year were found to be living up to their foundation as a Church school. Full reports can be found on the DoWMAT website, but here below are the main findings for each academy;

The Littleton’s CofE First School: (November 2023) *The Christian vision has a profound impact on the school community. The culture of nurture enables pupils and adults to explore their unique talents and flourish in their lives and learning.*

Malvern Parish CofE Primary School: (November 2023) *The Christian vision runs seamlessly through the life of the school and drives decisions and actions at all levels. Securely underpinned by the associated values, the vision binds the school community as a loving family.*

Madresfield CofE Primary School: (November 2023) *The school’s carefully conceived Christian vision shines out in the commitment of all staff to ensuring every pupil will flourish. As a result, all pupils, including the most vulnerable and/or disadvantaged are able to experience success.*

St. Nicholas CofE Middle School: (October 2023) *The entire school community collectively embraces a distinct Christian vision for the school. This vision, along with its accompanying values, is clearly embedded and consistently practised in the daily life of the school.*

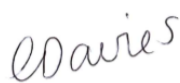
This external validation of our work as Church schools is extremely important to us and I would like to thank all our staff – in each DoWMAT academy - for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring our children are able to thrive and achieve of their best, in our care.

We have also received very good news from our annual financial audit. Each year an external team of auditors check through our financial data and procedures and for the second year running, we have been given a clear management report. The Trust finances are in a good position. We continue to work closely with all of our academies to ensure that we are financially secure now and for the future. We have invested in various areas within the last year; to include upgrades to our ICT broadband infrastructure, IT hardware and a newly appointed IT support provider. We are continuing to look at improving school facilities which will enhance the learning environment of all our pupils and are looking at long term plans to invest in improving school buildings and IT.

And finally, but not least, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and festive season from the DoWMAT Central Team.

We look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

Regards,



Claire Davies
DoWMAT CEO



To Love
We treat everyone with love and respect in the same way that we, ourselves, would like to be treated.
We recognise that everyone is a child of God and has talents which are to be nurtured.
We welcome people who are different from us and treat them with dignity and respect at all times.



To Learn
We are committed to enabling a lifelong love of learning through growing and celebrating together.
We will ensure that our curriculum, resources and professional development enable all to flourish.
We prioritise spiritual development and growth for all.



To Serve
We consider others at all times rather than always putting ‘me’ first .
We ensure that everyone is safe and has their needs understood and met.
We live and work in a way that is deeply Christian and which serves the common good.



Image credit: Callow End CofE Primary School



Image credit: Callow End CofE Primary School

ACADEMY NEWS

BROADHEATH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Happy Children, Successful Learners'



Bird Ringing with our locals RSPB group

Some children got up very early to get into school in the hope to get up close and personal with some birds. We didn't have a great start but in the final moments we caught a Coal Tit, Blackbird and Blue Tit. Amazing!

We managed to look at what happened during bird ringing. A lot of skills are involved such as weighing the birds, measuring the wing span, checking the gender and looking at the patterns of their feathers.



Mental Health and Well Being Project

Each half term, School Council Leaders promote Mental Health and Wellbeing by organising a variety of popular sessions with each class, including creative activities, being active or enjoying the outdoors.

CASTLEMORTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LOVE- LIGHT- ALL

'Love learning, enjoy life and care for one another'



In the hectic last days before the Christmas holiday, it is great to take a moment to reflect on the exciting happenings of the past term.

There have been sporting triumphs with all our Year 5 and 6 children showing remarkable determination and stamina in the Worcestershire West Cross Country Festival. Their hard work and perseverance truly paid off with four children qualifying to represent Worcestershire West in the county final in the Spring term.



Red Class embarked on a thrilling journey back in time with their visit to the Black Country Living Museum. They immersed themselves in the experience as they explored, amongst other things, the historical wonders of the Victorian classroom, bringing history to life and creating lasting memories.



Pedal power took centre stage as Blue Class successfully completed their Bikeability training, equipping them with essential cycling skills and road safety knowledge. Pre-School and Reception followed as they conquered balance bike training. Witnessing the joy on their faces as they mastered the art of balancing and bunny hopping is a tribute to their resilience and enthusiasm for learning.

CALLOW END CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Building a foundation for love and learning'



We have had a fantastic Autumn Term at Callow End CE Primary School, including exciting learning opportunities, lots of hard work, visits and visitors, sporting activities and fun.

Our new pupils in the Early Years have settled in well and have had lots of exciting adventures. They love being outside and have spent lots of time in the garden and in Woodland School. Ash Class are now getting very excited about Christmas and enjoyed taking part in our Nativity play at Stanbrook Abbey. They were joined by Holly Class who acted their parts with confidence and sang joyfully. It was a lovely occasion and brought home the true meaning of Christmas.

We all enjoyed welcoming Sinita from Indian Experience into school. She told us all about Diwali and the story and celebrations behind it. Each class then had a workshop where they dressed in traditional clothes and learnt some fantastic Indian dances. It was a very memorable experience which the children really enjoyed.

Oak Class have been learning all about volcanoes and had an explosive experience when Will brought his working model volcano into school. They have also been studying sculptures by different artists and have made some amazing cardboard sculptures of their own. They are enjoying learning how to play the ukulele and are becoming very confident. We are hoping for a concert next term!

In Willow Class, our Year 5 pupils have been training as play leaders so that they can teach everyone new games to keep them busy at play times. They worked very hard during their training and were proud to receive their play leader badges. Willow Class marked Remembrance by writing some poignant and evocative poems and painting some beautiful pictures. These were then displayed at the village war memorial for the Remembrance service. Year 6 have helped to get our church ready for Christmas by decorating the Advent wreath at St James'. They worked very hard and the result was beautiful.



CROWLE CE FIRST SCHOOL

'Caring. Confident. Committed to Learning'



Y1/2 at Crowle First School have been learning all about "Toys from the Past" in their topic this half term. We were excited to invite Hartlebury Museum to provide a workshop for the pupils. They had the opportunity to look at a range of toys from the past; talking also about the materials they were made of (linking to their current work in Science) and placing them on a timeline of when they used and how they were played with. It was the cause of great excitement to be able to explore these toys, and to also talk about our favourite toys of today.



MALVERN PARISH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Learning together for an exciting future'

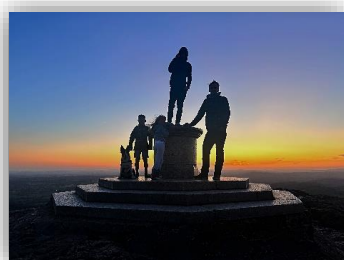


Llanrug September 2023

At the beginning of the term Year 6 enjoyed an amazing week in Snowdonia for their residential trip, with the beautiful scenery of North Wales as the backdrop. The experiences gained will last a lifetime. They climbed cliff faces overhanging the sea, caved in a disused mine and paddled across lakes to name a few. So much fun and so many new skills developed.

Parish Passports

Mrs Little launched Parish Passports during the term to help supplement our curriculum and our personal development offer for children and families. Needless to say, lots of children have enjoyed undertaking the many and varied activities including growing their minds, cultivating curiosity, conveying our Christian vision and growing spirituality amongst others.



...and finally

Lights, Camel, Action!

Year 2 led two performances of our Christmas production of Lights, Camel, Action! which was enjoyed by all in attendance. The hall was full of Christmas cheer and lots of crowd participation which has really helped begin the Christmas festivities in school. The spoken lines, acting, singing and, of course, the dancing scored 10 out of 10 by all judges!



MADRESFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Ignite Illuminate Inspire'



A huge thank you to all parents and carers at Madresfield CE Primary who donated their clothing to the Rags2Riches4Schools collection organised by the Friends. This raised £73.05 and also saved 41 bags of clothing from going to landfill. Much of the clothing is destined for the Ukraine.



Year 5/6 (Buzzards) at Madresfield CE Primary illuminated their History lessons by learning about Victorian punishments and attempted to make an Oakum.



This year Robins (Reception Class) at Madresfield CE Primary created Poppies that were displayed on the "Tommy" outside the Malvern Police Station for Remembrance.

ACADEMY NEWS

MARTLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Compassion, Creativity, Commitment, Courage And Cooperation'



The children in our Reception class visited Longlands farm near Whitbourne to take part in their live nativity. They started with a tour around the farm and met various animals including beautiful turkeys. They also had the experience of safely walking over a cattle grid and feeding the goats and pigs.



Children at Martley go to Longlands Care Farm every year to experience this magical retelling of the Nativity, with a real donkey and shepherds herding sheep into the barn. Pupils are welcomed by the students at the care farm – young people who struggle with mainstream school; at Longlands, they experience real work on a farm and complete land-based studies. It helps our children to learn about inclusivity as well as life on the farm.

NETHERTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Where dreams are made and futures created'



Micron Care Home Visit

The Church Team and the Well-being Ambassadors promoted the school values and this term's well-being value, Give, by giving their time. They made Christmas cards, learnt songs and collected cakes to deliver to the local care home, Micron House. They had a lovely afternoon with the residents, spreading some Christmas Cheer.

They were a credit to the school, demonstrating our values and showing great love and care for the residents. These representatives have been requested to return due to their exemplary behaviour and caring attitude.



I enjoyed making the old people smile with Christmas songs. It was important to spread kindness.
Evie Year 5

I enjoyed seeing the joy on their faces.
Tillie Year 4

I enjoyed speaking to the residents and giving them presents.
Jalika Year 5

OFFENHAM CE FIRST SCHOOL

'LOVE, TRANSFORMATION, GROWTH'



On Monday 20th November the children of Offenham CE First School enjoyed a lovely visit with Freya the well-being dog.

Darcey, our Sport, Health and Well-being minister organised the whole event and led an excellent assembly all about Freya and her role as a police well-being dog. Freya is Darcey's dog and her Dad is a police officer.

When she is at work, Freya's job title is 'OK-9'. Well-being dogs help people feel more calm and relaxed and can make people feel safe and happy. Police officers have to deal with some difficult situations in their work life and sometimes, after a difficult shift, they just need a cuddle with Freya.

Everyone at school had the opportunity to stroke Freya. Freya is such a calm and relaxed dog and everyone who spent time with her walked away with a smile on their face!

Freya loved it too, so much so, that she lay down and almost fell asleep from all the 'fussing'!



PINVIN FIRST CE SCHOOL ST NICHOLAS CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

'Be happy, grow and flourish'



The students in middle school participated in many sports tournaments during October including Tag Rugby, Cross Country, Netball and Football. We are proud to announce the girls' won their football tournament and the boys were awarded second place and didn't concede any goals!

Meanwhile in First School our Reception children have settled in so well, following the rules and values of the school brilliantly! Year 1 have been learning all about transport and the children got to design and build their own mode of transport out of recycling materials!

As a school, Charity and Community are really important to us! So far this term we have asked for donations to Pershore Food Bank through our Harvest Festival and had fundraising days for Macmillan Cancer Support, Breast Cancer Now, and Mental Health Awareness. Over these fundraising days, we managed to raise a whopping £857.37!

We had Wonder Dome planetarium in the school for our Year 5s who are learning all about space. They had a great time learning about the different planets and our solar system through the interactive element the dome brought.

We have also been working hard with our fantastic PTA, planning exciting events in the build up to Christmas! Years 1-7 had a wonderful time at the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk, whilst our pre-schoolers and reception class enjoyed Russ the Magician! Pinvin first school have had their first nativity year and still rehearsing for next week's performance called It's a Party!



The Christmas Fayre was a huge success, with many families and the local community coming together to enjoy festivities. We were all so impressed with the entrepreneurial spirit of the children running their own stalls to help raise money for the school.

As a school we have decorated a tree at the Worcester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival!

POWICK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Embracing Learning Together'



Year 4 trip to Boundless Outdoors

We are very proud of our Year4 children who showed excellent enthusiasm and perseverance on their outdoor and adventurous activity day at Boundless outdoors.

Despite some pretty wet and chilly weather, the children set off for an exciting day in the great outdoors and they were not disappointed. They completed a range of different activities which were either challenging physically, required teamwork or helped the children show their leadership skills. The zip wire was the big hit of the day and even the teachers had a turn!



We were really impressed with how all of our children showed our school values and sense of community by supporting each other throughout the day; especially when someone was finding the activities challenging and needed the support of their friends to try something new. Well done, Year 4!

ACADEMY NEWS

RUSHWICK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Learn to live. Live to learn'



Harriet Baldwin, our local MP, visited Rushwick to share her experiences with our newly elected School Council. They were inspired by her role and asked her many questions about how decisions are made. In addition, the MP carried out a lively debate session with our Year 6 pupils and spoke to them all about her role in the Houses of Parliament.



ST OSWALD'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Inspire Embrace Succeed'



St Oswald's CE Primary School and Nursery has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) in celebration of our commitment to excellence in science leadership, teaching and learning.

PSQM is led by the University of Hertfordshire and is a comprehensive evidence-based professional development programme that effectively develops science leadership, ensuring teachers have the knowledge, capability and support they need to transform science education and shape future generations.

Helen Sizer, PSQM Co-Director said:

"By enabling effective science leadership, PSQM is powering the potential of all children to see the relevance and importance of science in their lives, now and in the future. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science leadership, teaching and learning and the profile and quality of science in each accredited school is very high. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, headteachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."



We are indeed very proud of this achievement and of the high quality science provision that our pupils receive.

ST BARNABAS CE FIRST AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

'Let all that you do be done in love'
1 Corinthians Ch.16 vs.14



At St Barnabas we are proud of our drive to improve outcomes for children in any way we can. We are delighted that in our OFSTED inspection, inspectors rated St Barnabas as a **GOOD** school. We could not be prouder!
The report said the following;

[Pupils] feel happy and safe and know that there is always someone to talk to.

Staff know the pupils well and provide high-quality pastoral care.

This is an inclusive school, with a strong commitment to all its pupils.



THE LITTLETONS CE FIRST SCHOOL

'God has given you gifts. Use them well to serve one another'.
Peter 4:10



For Children in Need, we went on a whole-school ramble. All children, from Nursery up to Year 5, took part along with parents, governors, volunteers and other members of our wider school community. It was a lovely, crisp morning with beautiful autumn sunshine; perfect for a stroll across the fields near our school. We saw sheep, cows and horses on our travels, all of which the children loved!

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to mix across the year groups and enjoy the beautiful countryside on their doorstep, which was great for their physical and mental health. We have made this an annual event because the children (and adults) got so much out of it.



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MERRY

Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL OF US AT DOWMAT