

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Who knew Futura Learning Partnership was around in Victorian times? It must be true, the camera never lies, and this photo from All Saints Church of England Primary School is definitely from the opening day in 1873 ...



WELCOME

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family have been enjoying the long spell of fine weather. It has certainly been welcomed by our young people, although some of those doing exams might have found the heat a bit wearing!

A-levels, BTECs, GCSEs and SATs are over now and our schools are enjoying activities such as sports days, trips and camps. These events are so valuable for both children and staff, enabling them to forge stronger relationships and learn new skills together.

June is a time of celebration in schools, with proms, summer fairs and parties providing many opportunities to make memories. For parents and carers as well as for colleagues, these occasions give us the chance to mark important milestones in young people's lives. The final assemblies, shirt-signings and the like never fail to stir the emotions.

This month has also seen many of the transition activities for children due to join our nurseries and pre-schools, reception classes, Year 7 and sixth forms next year. It is an absolute pleasure to welcome newcomers to our family of schools and to inspire and reassure those moving on to new key stages or new schools.



Wansdyke School's winning designs for a bee-friendly environment

The expansion of our trust means we are able to offer a wider range of opportunities to learners, giving them experiences they might never have had

for winning the 'design a beehive' competition at the Royal Bath & West Show. I am so proud to see our trust name at public events such as this,



New circles of friendship are developing at Chestnut Park, where the school has welcomed children from fire-hit Yatton Infants

otherwise. It was great to see three schools in south Bristol come together in a football tournament for the first time, for example, and to learn that Clevedon School retained the cup at the North Somerset Festival of Dance.

Our young people are tremendous ambassadors for our organisation too – congratulations to Wansdyke School

enabling us to make links with other organisations in our area that can potentially bring even more benefits.

Each of our schools is at the heart of its local community and will play its part in times of need. We have been only too pleased to provide a temporary base at Chestnut Park for some of the pupils from Yatton Infants after their school was

severely damaged by fire, and it is lovely to hear how the children from both schools are learning from one another. Equally, we are extremely proud of Cheddar Grove Primary School that has set up a Community Hub in the school to support families in need.

The contribution made by children at Puriton Primary to their community – as litter pickers, digital leaders and eco-warriors – was highlighted in their Ofsted report, which has just been published. The inspectors judged the school to be Good in all areas, praising its inclusivity and celebration of diversity. Many congratulations to headteacher Katie Williams and her team.

As we approach the end of an eventful school year, I'd like to thank you all for the support you have given our schools. I know you will also want to join me in expressing gratitude to our staff, who have worked so hard to give your children the exceptional education they deserve. I can assure you that they will all be striving to continue to do this until the last day of term, come rain or shine!

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

The following articles celebrate how Futura Learning Partnership staff and schools are delivering our mission to support children and young people to experience success and have fun. We don't have space to feature every school in each issue, so we've included a selection of primaries and secondaries, and will include other schools in future editions.

NARA BECOMES BRISTOL'S YOUNG CITY POET



Nara Pring, a Year 11 student at Bedminster Down School, has been awarded the title of Bristol Young City Poet.

Nara competed against a number of students from schools across Bristol and was one of two chosen by the panel of judges as the best. Her role involves writing and performing her poetry at public events, including the mayor's inaugural address at the Wills Memorial building. Nara has already performed at poetry festivals and appeared on the evening news.

Bristol birthed me

its creativity flows through my veins
like those random water steps we would play in as
children
its diversity built my system
forming a strong endurance of the racial matters I'd
face; half Iraqi or half white?
its fast-paced streets trained my brain
its inclusion mended the scars on my heart
its old age taught me to respect the years of my life
spent at the pub with my grandad's drinking buddies,
constant conversation about the newest football
manager
its dark nights told me to be brave,
the screaming sirens of ambulances and police cars
broke the echoing silence of the night

Bristol told me to fight
Bristol gave me rights
Bristol built my voice

SCHOOL FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC



Chandag Junior School is proud of its music provision led by Selina Gynn.

The children love their singing assemblies with Mr Wherrett, and sing with enthusiasm and enjoyment together. The choir meets weekly with Mr Collard to practise. They also sang on Keynsham High Street with Mr Smith in December, singing carols to raise money for charity.

Year 3 pupils are all learning to play the recorder, and are working hard to begin to learn how to read music and play in time together.

During the entrance and exit of celebration assemblies, children learning instruments (piano, flute, violin and guitar) have been playing for the school.

Year 5 children have all had brass tuition provided by BANES' music service. Each

child has either learned the trombone or the trumpet, and they have made impressive progress. They can play a fantastic rendition of 'Seven Nation Army'!

The school is currently filled with the sound of Year 6 practising the songs for their end-of year-musical, Matilda.

YEAR 6 PUPIL WINS CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Amelia Neeson-Muir, a Year 6 pupil at Northgate Primary School in Bridgwater, was a winner at the Somerset Anne Frank Youth Awards.

This is an annual creative writing competition for 9-18 year olds. The awards aim to inspire young people to write thought-provoking pieces based upon a quote from Anne Frank's diary. Children had the opportunity to write any piece of writing inspired by this year's quote: "no one has ever become poor by giving."

Amelia attended the awards evening, where she won a trophy and £75 of book tokens. Her entry was read out in front of all 150 guests, including guest author Emma Craigie, who said that Amelia's piece was chosen because of how "fresh and free" it was. She said it brought a unique point of view to the prompt.

Amelia has always had a passion for writing and this has spurred on her dream of becoming an author even more.



CHILDREN ENJOY FIRST SPORTS DAY



Two Rivers enjoyed a fantastic morning in the sunshine for the first Sports Day since moving into their beautiful new building. It was a great opportunity to throw open the doors to the parent community and provide a variety of sporting challenges for our EYFS and KS1 children.

Children enjoyed their first experience of new sports such as curling as well as more traditional events like the egg and spoon race. Thanks to the Year 9 Sports Ambassadors from Wellsway School who oversaw the event and lent their valuable expertise – great job guys!



WELLSWAY SCHOOL HELPS SAVE LIVES

Over half term, Wellsway School hosted NHS Give Blood. As you can see, the school provided an ideal venue and over 250 people donated blood across two days.

Giving blood saves lives, and the NHS always needs new donors. Visit [Give Blood](#) to find out more.

150 YEARS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

All Saints Church of England Primary in Clevedon is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The original Victorian building was opened as a school on 28th June, 1873.

During May and June, the children have been exploring the history of the school, examining the original log books, from 1873, the register of pupils and the behaviour book.

The school council have been collecting information about the school, including all the headteachers, staff and layout of the school.

Between 2016 and 2018 the school went through a refurbishment and rebuild which has ensured the future of the building.

On 5th June, the children spent a day as Victorians; they followed Victorian rules, lessons and an assembly. Everyone dressed as Victorians and Mr Webber, the headteacher, wore a cap



and gown. Every time he entered the room the children would have to stand up. Through the day classic Victorian photographs were taken, no smiling!

The children also wrote about their life in 2023, so that this information could form evidence of the school for future generations.

READING BUDDY

This year, children from Wansdyke School have been lucky to have Buddy supporting them with their learning. Buddy is a seven-year-old Shi Tzu, who works for the charity Pets As Therapy.

Each term six children have the opportunity to work with Buddy. Some of them take part in the Read to Dogs scheme, some come for their mental health, and others are using this opportunity to manage a fear of dogs. Over the last year, Buddy has helped to improve attendance, increased engagement with home reading, boosted children's confidence and she has visited the staff room to help with staff wellbeing at lunch times.

Buddy is always willing to dress for the occasion and has worn odd socks for Anti-Bullying Week and even a bow tie at Christmas. She has had her own school photograph taken and one kind parent governor has crocheted her a school jumper to wear!

If your school is interested in being part of this scheme, you can register your interest at [Pets as Therapy](https://www.petsastherapy.com).



MUSIC SESSIONS STRIKE THE RIGHT NOTE

The Autism Centre at Westover Green Community School in Bridgwater is working with professional musicians, Kit and Aaron, in an exciting project.

Live Music Now is a national charity delivering social action through music. The aims of the project are to:

Provide additional musical opportunities for learners in autism bases.

Offer new ways for learners to engage and interact through pupil-centred creative musical activities.

Increase confidence and self-esteem.

Support mental wellbeing.

Offer ideas and resources for school staff to support musical activity.

The first sessions in the KS1 and KS2 classes were a real success, engaging all learners. The sessions enabled learners to explore a range of instruments and experience live music.

Kit and Aaron also got the children to manage the dynamics of the music being played by asking them to be the 'conductor'.



YOUNG ARTISTS EXPLORE THEME OF IDENTITY



Bridge Farm Primary hosted an Art Week in which children explored the theme of 'Identity'. Artwork ranged from sketch book work to painting and animation.

Pupils participated in additional art lessons, as well as taking part in workshops run by local artists who shared their own work to inspire the children. The aim is to create some whole-school pieces of art that can be placed on display.





'HOME HUB' VENTURE BOOSTS CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE

Yeo Moor Primary in Clevedon is taking part in a pilot scheme aimed at helping children who struggle to come to school.

The idea is to develop a Nurture Hub, which offers extra learning opportunities to some children. The activities are focused on the children feeling good about themselves, building relationships with peers and being able to cope with the day-to-day difficulties of normal school life.

The Home Hub, as it has been named, has received positive feedback and attendance has picked up for the children who take part. Most importantly, the children attending have increased their confidence and found school more enjoyable.

CHESTNUT PARK WELCOMES PUPILS FROM SCHOOL GUTTED BY FIRE

Chestnut Park Primary School rose fast to help out pupils from neighbouring Yatton Primary School, which was partially destroyed by fire during the half term.

About 60 of the children have started school inside two classrooms at Chestnut Park and they've been having a fabulous time learning in a different environment.

The children were welcomed into the school by headteacher Tamara Dexter and have enjoyed assemblies alongside the children of Chestnut Park.

The coming together of two local schools has provided a unique opportunity for the children to learn about each school's distinctive values and celebrate them together.

The children from Yatton Primary have settled in quickly and will stay until their school is repaired.

They have enjoyed using Chestnut Park's sports hall and forest school, and had fun reading in the school's newly opened library.



COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The growth of our trust means we need more inspirational and professional people to join our dedicated and passionate staff team.

If you are planning your next career move, and think you could help make a difference for our students, please [take a look at our vacancies](#) or check your local school websites.



EMPLOYER VISITS INSPIRE FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Term 5 continued to provide rewarding and inspiring opportunities for students in the North Somerset and Somerset region of the Futura Learning Partnership.

Chilton Trinity and Clevedon Schools welcomed guests from the world of work including:

- ITV's Kylie Pentelow, who took time to discuss career roles within the media and her own journey from local researcher to national news presenter.
- The RAF, who promoted both commissioned and non-commissioned roles within the Armed Forces;
- The Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who set Year 9 students problem solving challenges ;
- Network Rail and the Talent Foundry, who supported Year 8 students to

design sustainable and environmentally friendly railway stations of the future.

- The aerospace, space, defence and transportation contractor Thales, who provided STEM workshops.
- Wilmott Dixon, who focused on professions related to the construction industry including architects, civil and structural engineers and projector managers.
- Baker Hughes, the energy technology company, who delivered workshops for Year 8 in the Girls Get Set programme.

Also, Year 12 students enjoyed visits to the University of Exeter and the UCAS exhibition, and professional cookery students created and sampled fine cuisine at The Railway Inn, where they participated in a seafood masterclass.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND MAKING MEMORIES



St Nicholas Chantry School's Year 6 camp to Mendip Outdoor Pursuits was an incredible adventure.

Activities challenged the children both mentally and physically. Pupils had the chance to try archery, axe throwing,

climbing, abseiling, paddle boarding, canoeing, and kayaking, conquering their fears and embracing new skills.

In the evenings, a wide range of games helped develop teamwork and strategic thinking. Gathering around campfires,

children learned how to use a flint to start a fire and enjoyed toasting marshmallows, before taking part in a talent show.

The memories created during this camp will last a lifetime.

TECH TRIUMPH

Five Year 10 students flew the flag for IKB at the award winning KPMG IT's Her Future - Future Leaders Technology Programme.

The three-day insight programme at the KPMG office in Bristol gave the students exposure to the world of technology and business. They will continue to receive mentoring from KPMG graduates and apprentices over the next year.

Twenty students attended from schools around Bristol. IKB's Sadie-May won 'Most engaged student' bagging herself a £20 Amazon voucher.

Sadie-May commented: "It was such a fun and rewarding experience.



I loved the AI robotics workshops where we learnt all about the future careers available in the world of technology and I was so happy to win the award".

Clare Barclay, Careers Leader at IKB, said "I was so pleased that we were able to put these five girls forward for

this exciting programme and to say I'm proud of them, especially Sadie-May, is an understatement."

Congratulations to the girls pictured left to right: Kaitlyn, Zoe, Sadie-May, Grace and Sanjana.



FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL

Four Acres Academy hosted the first South Bristol Futura schools football tournament this week. Teams from Cheddar Grove, Four Acres and Wansdyke all demonstrated fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

After a highly competitive final, the winners of the day were Cheddar Grove.

Thank you to all the teams that took part. We hope to make this an annual event in our calendars.



CHILDREN BEE-SIDE THEMSELVES AFTER WIN

Wansdyke children won the schools competition at the Royal Bath & West Show. They decorated two beehives to show the importance of bees and how they support them in their school grounds. One was decorated by the Dig It Team and the other by children in the Garden of Hope Bereavement group. Thanks to the school community for giving up their time to build the beehives.

ST JOHN'S FOOTBALL TEAM REACH FINAL

St John's football team reached the final of the B&NES football cup, which involved 35 schools.

They came up against a very strong team from St Philip's school in Bath and found themselves 3-0 down at half time. They dug deep and worked hard as a team to pull it back but were unfortunately just pipped at the end with the final score St John's 3 - St Philip's 4.

This is a great achievement for all of the children, they should be very proud of themselves.

Thank you to parents/carers for their support.

