

Futura Learning Partnership

# NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



*When the RAF came to visit one of our schools - see page 6*



## WELCOME

Dear Parent and Carer,

Welcome back to the beginning of term 5. We are very pleased to welcome children and young people back to school and hope they had an enjoyable break over the holiday.

This term will be a very busy one in our schools with assessments and tests in our primary schools and GCSEs, A Levels and BTEC exams taking place in our secondary schools. Pupils in years 6, 11 and 13 will once again be taking national tests and exams after a break of two years and I wish them (and you!) all the very best with these. I know how hard staff have been working to prepare them for these important milestones and wish them well also. I know myself how anxious you feel as a teacher when your pupils are taking exams and you really hope the right questions come up!

Alongside exam preparation, there is much going on in our schools and you can see some of this showcased in this edition of the newsletter. It is great to see a really rich variety of activities returning and it really beginning to feel like normality is returning after two years of uncertainty and disruption. That said, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our schools and to colleagues across the trust who really stepped up last term in the face of high numbers of Covid-19 cases in our schools. Despite being very tricky at times, I am very proud of the fact that all our schools kept open, thanks to the willingness of staff to be flexible and provide support for absent colleagues and the support of those members of our communities who answered our call for help. Many thanks to everyone who gave their support, which made such a difference.

Thankfully though, cases of Covid-19 are falling and the government guidance is now to withdraw the Covid specific risk assessment and replace it with a new risk assessment to cover all respiratory and infectious diseases. This can be viewed on our website at [www.futuralearning.co.uk](http://www.futuralearning.co.uk). As an ongoing precaution however we will continue to make hand sanitiser available to all staff, pupils and visitors.

We were very pleased to be able to donate 20 retired iPads to Salford Community Association. These will be distributed to Ukrainian refugee families who are being hosted in Salford and the surrounding area. Thanks to our IT Manager, Richard May, for making this link. We are also setting up a process for welcoming Ukrainian children into our schools where we have spaces. Families who are sponsoring Ukrainian families should apply for a school place in the normal way and we will do our best to accommodate them. The guidance on this is evolving and the latest guidance says that schools must follow the admissions code in offering places. We also understand that the government is looking to allocate funding to local authorities, who will distribute it to schools. The Department for Education is currently working to develop the methodology and mechanism for the allocation of this education funding for children and young people from Ukraine and will write to local authorities and schools once this work is completed.

I was very interested to visit the Two Rivers CofE Primary School site in Keynsham recently and take a tour of the building under construction, complete with hard hat and a high vis jacket! The contractors are now working on the internal structure and fit out and you really can see the building taking shape. The Two Rivers building is being completed to Passivhaus standard, which is a very high environmental specification adding an additional layer of complexity to the build. It will be a great building once finished and a very comfortable place in which to learn and work. I came away feeling really excited and can't wait to see it progressing and being used.

As always there is lots going on across the trust and I hope this edition of the bulletin will give you a flavour of this. I hope the remainder of the school year does really well for your child/children and, if they are taking tests or exams, I wish them all the very best.

With thanks for your continued support.

With best wishes,

**Andrea Arlidge,**  
Chief Executive



# Urgent call for support

## Be part of the national effort to support face-to-face education in schools

Covid-19 continues to impact schools and we are concerned that it may affect our ability to continue to offer face-to-face education to children and young people.

We are asking for parents, carers and members of our community who would be interested in taking on paid employment for a temporary period, to come forward to support our schools and our children and young people through this difficult time.

### Who can help?

We are inviting qualified teachers and teaching assistants to come forward to join a supply register to help supports schools on a temporary basis. You may be retired, taking time off to care for children or others, or currently working in a different area, but you may be able to spare some time to help.

Your time will be invaluable, whatever you can spare - whether it is one day a week or five. You will be helping protect children and young people's education.

You may wish to work in a particular school or a group of schools - whatever you can offer will be much appreciated and will make a difference.

For more information, or to register your interest, please contact:

[enquiries@futuralearning.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@futuralearning.co.uk)

# FUTURA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP DONATES IPADS TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN FAMILIES

Futura Learning Partnership has donated 20 iPads to Salford Community Association to be distributed to Ukrainian refugee families who are being hosted in Salford and the surrounding area.

The Community Association has formed a support group to help hosts and the families coming to stay with them.

Chris Essex, the association's treasurer, said: "The Community Association will be welcoming each family with a substantial welcome pack. We are aware of over 20 potential hosts in and around Salford and the first family arrived on Easter Saturday. We understand they were in tears when they opened the welcome pack complete with one of your donated iPads. These iPads will be so helpful in allowing families to translate as well as communicate with family and friends in Ukraine or elsewhere in Europe."

Richard May, Head of IT Services at Futura Learning Partnership, said: "When we heard of this need, we immediately wanted to help. We had a stock of iPads which we had recently retired from use in our local schools. We are very aware that we had received various gifts of IT equipment from local businesses and the members of the public during the Covid pandemic, so it seemed only fitting if we could help give something back to the community at this time."

The iPads are no longer suitable for use in schools as they are not compatible with the latest educational software. They were refurbished before being handed over for the refugee families.



Chris Essex added: "We also have over 40 other volunteers who want to help the support group with teaching English, providing welcome packs and other items, picking refugees up from airports and transporting them around, helping at social events and offering Ukrainian and Russian translation. Many thanks to Futura Learning Partnership for the donated iPads."

## A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: KEYNSHAM AND SALTFOED



A fantastic exhibition of museum work from Salford, St John's, Chandag and St Keyna went on display in Keynsham. The students produced work spanning Keynsham and Salford's history from

the Roman period until the present day, creating information signs, replica artefacts and showing off their presentation skills. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Mr Richard Dyson, the



chairman of the local history society and one of the writers of the local history book. Well done to all of those involved Thank you to Mrs Innes for arranging this event.

# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



## CHEDDAR GROVE

Staff and children at Cheddar Grove put on the musical *Oliver!* to packed audiences of parents and friends. Years 3, 4 and 5 sang, acted, and delivered outstanding performances on three separate occasions. The productions were very well received.

# TWO RIVERS



The children at Two Rivers took part in a diary writing competition over the Easter break. It was great fun sharing the diaries with each other on the first day back of

school and the children also found out about what the adults had been up to in the holidays! Prizes were being offered for: Best handwriting and punctuation; Most

creative style/presentation; Most engaging read; Best illustrations/art.

# ASPIRE



RAF pilot Captain James Couling dropped in at Aspire Academy as part of an activity training RAF pilots

of the future. It involved a helicopter approaching an agreed landing area and then descending to a low

enough height that emergency service personnel could jump off the aircraft and into action.



# ST JOHN'S

We are pleased to have received a Gold Healthy Schools award. It means that we have been recognised for:

- our food education and compliance with the school food standards
- the amount of time children spent on PE each week
- our participation in active travel schemes.

In studying our evidence for the award, it was fantastic to see that one of our children won a competition to design and make a healthy vegetarian recipe that children were able to chose for a lunch option at school!

Our next steps we will be to continue our healthy schools incentives and aim to become even more eco friendly with the support of our school eco council. The children are excited to be contributing to their class vegetables patches this term and to be able to take part in cooking club in Term 5.

A huge thank you to Megan Rees, Year One teacher at St John's, for her excellent work to ensure St John's school promotes healthy living.

# BDS

History students at BDS were challenged to turn hard-boiled eggs into historical figures as part of an interhouse competition. There were some extremely imaginative entries, including Winston Church'shell!

Meanwhile, The debating society at BDS recently debated the liberalisation of drugs. This debate was judged by PC Tom, who was extremely knowledgeable and made an excellent judge. PC Tom remarked at how impressed he was with both sides and the number of valid points they had both for and against the motion. The debate was so close it came down to style and fluency. Congratulations to Destiny and Pippa in Year 11 who worked really well as a team to win the debate. There was huge interest in the debate in the Twitter community with the organiser of the national debate competition Debating Matters tweeting their praise of our students - well done to everyone involved.



# SALTFORD



This year the children of Saltford School were invited to decorate a hard-boiled egg as a person who they had found to be eggstra-ordinary or eggspirational over the last couple of years. As always, we were amazed and amused by the creativity of the entries. The PTA

awarded lovely prizes for the first, second and third place winners in EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

During the holiday, many of our families enjoyed an Easter trail organised by the PTA. They had to find the Easter eggs hidden by the Easter

bunny around Saltford and then crack the Easter code conundrum. There were six great Easter-themed prizes made up from generous donations from Waitrose, Flourish and Tesco Express.

# DANCE UMBRELLA

A group of children from Saltford's Year 4 performed at the 'Dance Umbrella' held at The Forum, Bath. More than 20 primary and secondary schools took part in the event. The children danced to 'I'm a Believer' from the movie Shrek, choreographed by Mrs Browne. The performance was fantastic and was even more special because Saltford opened the whole show.

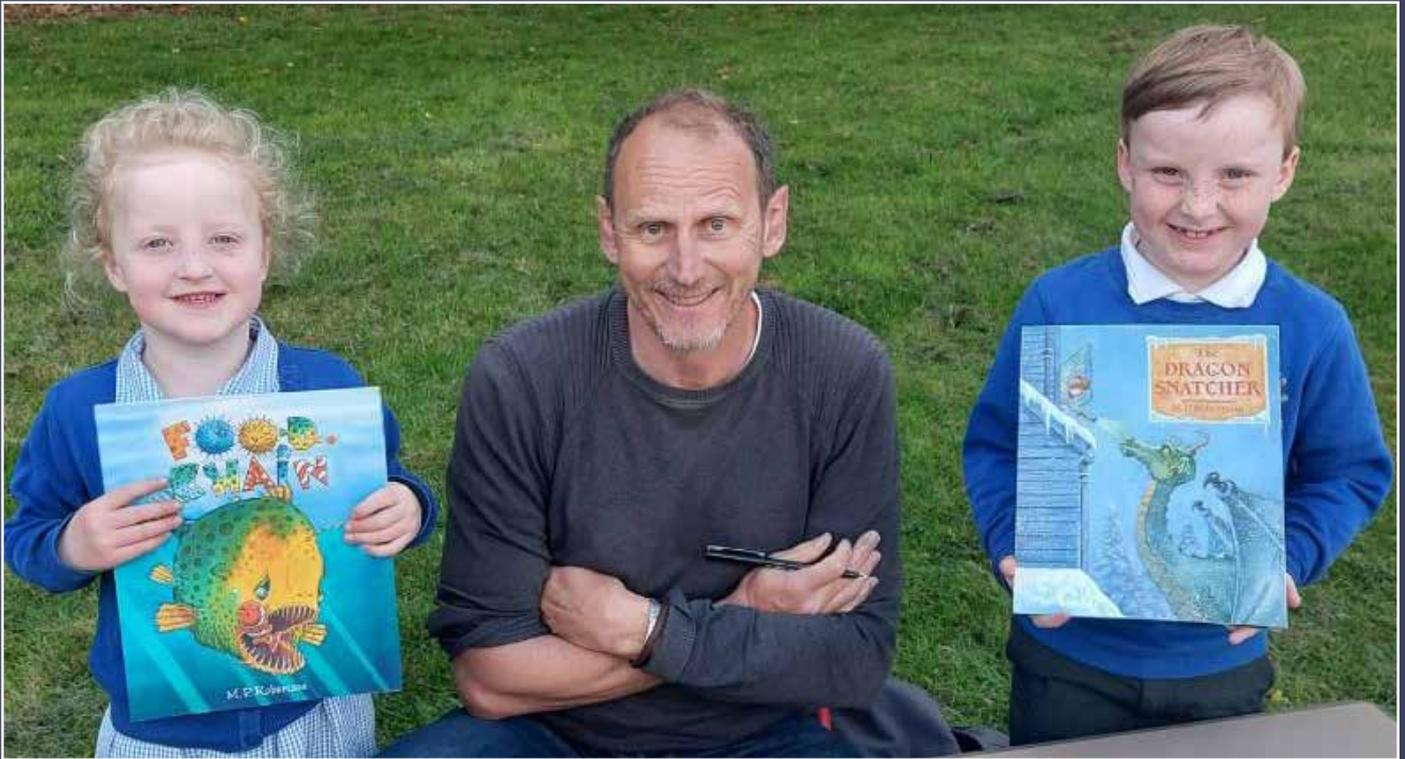
Congratulations to all the children who took part in the show and for doing such an excellent job representing the school. Many thanks to Mrs Browne and Mr Jenkins, and all staff and parents who supported the event.



# CHANDAG JUNIORS



Last term at Chandag Juniors there has been a lot of great practical design and construction work going on. There have been some amazing sturdy bridge designs in Y3 and Y4. Y6 have created some fantastic gargoyles from wire armatures and clay.



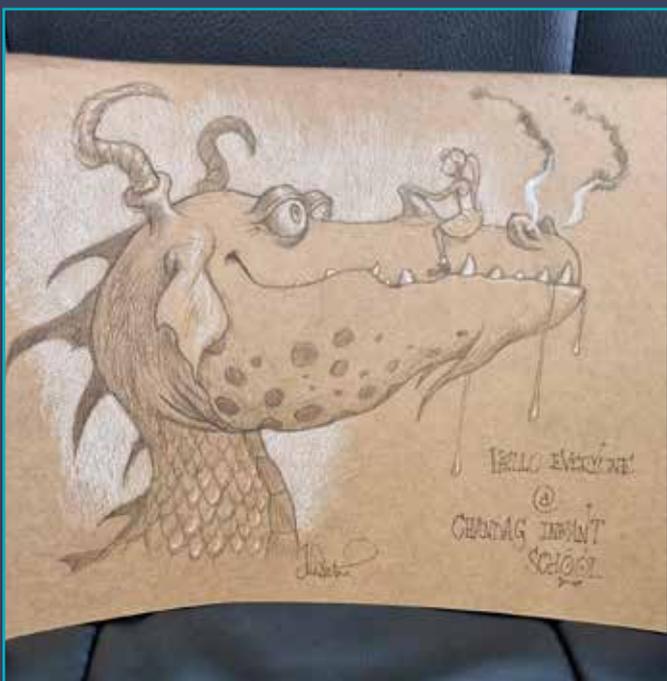
## CHANDAG INFANTS

What a fantastic start to the summer term, with a visit from Author and Illustrator MP Robertson! The day began with a fun filled assembly where the children heard all about how Mark was first inspired by an egg and from that, how he created his exciting story books about dragons. He even produced some 'dragon horns' and a 'real dragon' egg from a mysterious suitcase. He read us some of his stories talked about his route

into illustration and eventually writing. Sneakily, he had pre-filmed a video of a dragon landing in our school playground, which the children loved.

Children in Key Stage 1 then had the opportunity to take part in workshops, being illustrators, and learning how to draw their own dragons. We learnt that we have some incredibly talented illustrators in our school!

Our Reception children enjoyed hearing Mark read three of his stories. The day ended with a book signing outside, which was incredibly popular, and the children were thrilled with their books. We look forward to becoming authors of our own dragon stories this week and would like to thank our PTA for funding this inspirational visit.



# WANSDYKE



Wansdyke's traditional competition in which children have to create a "device" that can transport an creme egg made a return after two years' absence because of Covid-19. This year we had 107 entries in six categories in the contest, which helps develop children's science, technology,

engineering and maths (STEM) skills. We welcomed ten guests to judge the competition, including our own Chief Executive Andrea Arlidge and Bristol's Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Andrew Varney.

The older children were excited and enthusiastic to welcome the tradition back to school and the younger ones embraced the task with great eagerness.

# SBL

It's been a fantastic half term for our school football teams in the South Gloucestershire league. Our Year 7s and Year 11s have made it to the final stages of the competition. This is the furthest any of our teams have reached for a very long time so enormous credit must go to the boys for their hard work and application this school year. If we manage to win the South Glos Cup we advance to play the champions of Bristol. The winner of that game will then travel to Hartpury College on the 11th May to compete in the Gloucestershire Schools Cup Final, for a chance to be crowned the best team in the county.

Three huge games left for each of our teams . . . let's hope they achieve what they absolutely deserve!



# THE MEADOWS



The Meadows were really excited when The Life Space visited the school and ran sessions for the children on topics such as friends, great to be me, my wonderful body and meet the brain.



Thank you to everyone that supported The Meadows Primary School PTFA Easter Trail. It was a great success and we had some really positive feedback. We are really pleased to announce that it raised £550 towards the PTFA funds for a new outdoor space for the children to use for nurture/well-being activities.

# WELLSWAY

Five Wellsway students competed in a rowing event. They were absolutely soaked to the skin but they all rowed well.

The students were:

J14 x 4 – Ben H, Sam B, AJ C (the cox and other crew member do not attend Wellsway). The crew came 19th out of 42 boats that were racing in their age category.

WJ14 x 4 – Tatiana D (the remaining crew do not attend Wellsway). The crew came 22nd out of 40 boats racing in their category.

WJ16 x 4 – Imogen G is the only girl who attends Wellsway from this crew. They finished 27 out of 40 boats in their category.



# TRANSITION

On Wednesday, Year 5 children from St John's and St Keyna Primary Schools came to Wellsway to take part in a Transition Taster session for Sport and English. They had the opportunity to work with our Sports Ambassadors in the Sports Centre where they improved their hand eye coordination and their racket skills.

In the English session the Year 5s read an extract from Jess Ennis's autobiography, before interviewing the Sports Ambassadors to find out information they could use to write a short paragraph on them. It was wonderful to watch the Year 5s working closely with

the Year 9 Sports Ambassadors in both the Sport and English sessions. Thank you to Mrs Edmonds for planning and organising the English session and to Miss Dell, Mr Manthorp and Miss Bloom, our PGCE students, for their help. Finally, a big thank you to our wonderful team of Sports Ambassadors for giving up their time after school to make the event so successful.



# IKB

Dr Parker turned the Wellsway science greenhouse into the secondary crime scene for a fatal shooting.

Year 12 Forensic and Criminal Investigation students have been processing the mock crime scene for one of their assignments. They recorded the crime scene using sketches and photos, searched for evidence and then collected and packaged the evidence including blood, cartridge cases and suspicious white powders.

Later, they were due to move to the lab to analyse the evidence before writing their Forensic Report.

- All Year 10 students have been out enjoying their first week of work experience. Miss Barclay, Careers Leader and the IKB teachers have been visiting them to see what they have been up to and it has been a delight to hear all the positive feedback from the students and employers alike. Thank you to all the employers as we simply cannot achieve this without their support and commitment.
- We welcomed Great Western Air Ambulance Charity who taught all the Year 10 and Year 11 students how to do CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator. It is great to see our students learning these important lifesaving skills.



# SBL SIXTH-FORMERS GET THEMSELVES LOCKED UP

SBL Law and Psychology A-level students had the opportunity to visit Shepton Mallet Prison for a tour, an escape room and to gain an insight into what life is like for offenders in one of the oldest prisons in the UK, since it closed its doors to inmates for the last time in 2013.

When we arrived we had to choose a crime that we were being imprisoned for (we had everything from fraudsters to burglars) and then were given orange jumpsuits to wear for the day. As for the escape room... only four groups across the



two days actually managed to make it out.

We were then taken on the tour by our guide Morris and shown areas such as the exercise yard, the execution room

and even the cells where ITVs 'Des' was filmed. Our guide told us stories of his time as guard in many different prisons and most notably his time working as guard to Reggie Kray for two years. The Kray twins also spent a short time behind the walls of Shepton Mallet Prison in the 1950s.

It was a great day out receiving the first hand experience of our curriculum and the fact that it was as cold as it was only added to our understanding of what it would have been like for the real prisoners!

**Poppi Carter, Year 13**

# A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS



Do you want to promote your business to every parent/guardian and staff member within our 13 schools?

How about reaching the wider community through Astro/3G pitch banner advertising at both Wellsway Sports Centre, Keynsham, and SBL Sports Centre, Oldland Common?

With the launch of our exciting Futura Community Business Partnership Scheme, these are just two ways you can raise your business' profile as well as establishing a working relationship with

Futura Learning Partnership. We are committed to working and developing links with local organisations and businesses, helping them to become part of our school community.

We offer packages to suit all needs and budgets with a varying degree of rewards. In addition, your business will have access to our talent pool of learners for work experience, internships and placements.

As a Futura Business Partner, your company details are added to our

schools' and sport centres' internal contact books. You will also have access to our logo, so you can make your customers aware that your company is supporting your community and investing in the next generation.

There are many other benefits to becoming a Futura Business Partner, so if you would like to find out more please contact me, Jodie Deason on 0117 916 1035 or email [jdeason@futuralearning.co.uk](mailto:jdeason@futuralearning.co.uk).

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