



SUMMER 2023 ODBST NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME FROM THE CEO



Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues at the ODBST,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter showcasing all the wonderful learning activities going on across our family of schools from week to week. I am always excited about what our pupils are learning and achieving.

I had the great privilege of being with a group of pupils from each of our schools last week at our eco summit. Looking at the future through the eyes of children is so heart-warming and helps us to shape our direction of travel for our next generation of future leaders.

As a future- focused organisation, at the ODBST we aspire to develop knowledgeable, curious, and active citizens. From the precious 4-year-olds that are experiencing pre-school education to the 11-year-olds that walk out the door of our schools into secondary schools as confident, resilient and eager learners. Our role, as the adult educators is to shape their futures – to guide them, to steer them and to inspire them in their own self- development and understanding of the fragile world we inhabit. This is the year for emerging strong, building new ventures and rising up. Our ODBST vision is clear, and our values will support us to ensure that all our staff across the ODBST continue to nurture learning in a sustainable environment so that our community can thrive, aspire, and succeed.

My gratitude towards staff, parents and carers is overwhelming. Many thanks for all your support and dedication; it is much valued and appreciated. Six weeks will fly by and before long, it will be the start of another school year. Time is precious. Please take time to rest, recuperate and enjoy the summer, whatever the weather has in store for us....

With warm regards and best wishes,

Sulina Piesse
Chief Executive Officer, the ODBST



What has been happening at Chesham Bois this term?

Year 6 at River Dart

Year 6 had a great time at River Dart with lots of exciting activities. They pushed their boundaries and went out of their comfort zone with some of the challenges like caving, high ropes and rock climbing. Their favourite water activities were canoeing, kayaking and raft building since they got to splash their teachers – although the children were all soaked to the skin too! During their time at River Dart, the children used their CBS core



values of resilience, aspiration and respect. We used teamwork in every activity; we had to belay, support, encourage and build together. We felt that our friendships grew at River Dart and we are thankful for the opportunity to go on a class residential. We thank our Parents for enabling us to go and to Miss Tilbey, Mr Byrne, Mr Bob and Mrs Harwood for assisting us on this journey.

Year 4 visit to Woodrow

Year 4 had a wonderful 3 days at Woodrow. They had plenty of fun as well as learning so much about teamwork and communication. They showed all the schools values during the week and had to show how resilient and courageous they were. They were fantastic representatives of the school and community, thoroughly impressing all members of staff who joined them as well as the Woodrow team.



Year 4 participated in a variety of activities across the week including high ropes, bushcraft, archery, challenge course, nightline, low ropes and shelter building. On their first night in Woodrow, they sang songs and listened to stories around a campfire. They then had to scavenge for sticks so that they were able to toast marshmallows to make marshmallow and biscuit sandwiches. On their second night they had a disco and danced their socks off! On the final day they all joined together for some wacky races.

Year 4 had an absolutely amazing time at Woodrow and made memories that will last a lifetime.

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A message from the Chair of Trustees



As the academic year draws to a close, on behalf of the Trustees, I wanted to express our appreciation and gratitude for the incredible commitment, dedication, and hard work our staff have shown in serving our school communities in the ODBST.

Our family of unique schools are rooted at the heart of the communities they serve. We are all committed to providing the very best care for our children and we aspire to excellent learning opportunities through the curriculum delivered in our schools with the help support of parents and carers.

I am also thankful for the collaboration and teamwork that permeates our Trust. The willingness of our schools to support each other and share best practice has created a positive work environment for us all.

We look forward in the coming months to new schools joining our family enabling us to go from strength to strength.

We hope that all staff and families have a great summer holiday.

Michael Mill
Chair of Trustees, the ODBST



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What has been happening at Christ the Sower this term?

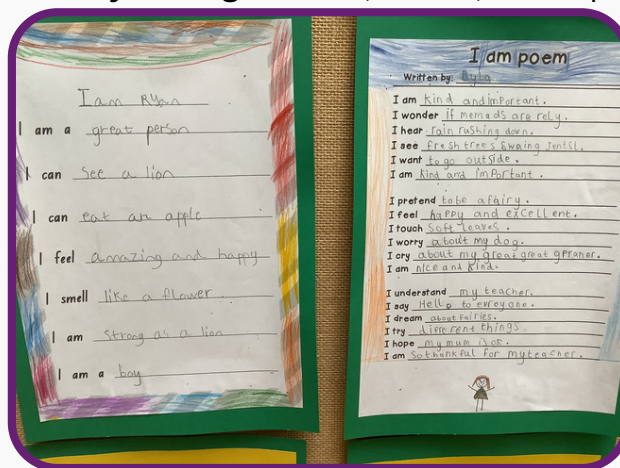
Celebrating the Arts

It was Arts fortnight this term at Christ the Sower. They held a two week celebration of the arts across the school, based around the theme of 'IDENTITY'.



All classes worked towards art outcomes that express identity. The school held a portrait day, where all classes learned how to use the proportions of the human face to gain a true likeness and all year groups then went on to use those skills to create portraits inspired by great artists.

Across the two weeks, they also held poetry workshops, led both by their own English leader and Hazeley, their local secondary school. Children have also expressed their identity through drama, dance, and rap music.



Year one wrote some wonderful poetry reflecting on their place and identity at Christ the Sower. They challenged themselves to write an Acrostic, an 'I am' and a Cinquain poem. A Cinquain poem is a form of syllabic poetry characterised by its distinctive 5 line structure.

School Games Gold Award

Christ the Sower were also thrilled to be presented with the School Games Gold award to recognise the great work that has gone into PE and Sport over the past year. A great achievement for the school and this shows off the hard work of the children and adults across the year. The children have taken part in many sporting events this year, including in Athletics. They competed in track and field events against other Milton Keynes schools and came away with lots of individual medals. The school team coming third overall was a fantastic achievement.



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What has been happening at Curzon this term?

Meeting the Duke of Edinburgh at Woodrow

Year 4 and 5 visited Woodrow at the start of June. Both year groups got to participate in a range of fun activities including crate stacking, Jacob's Ladder, orienteering and archery. As well as this, they were fortunate to meet the Duke of Edinburgh who was visiting Woodrow in his role as Patron of London Youth. They impressed His Royal Highness with their courage in overcoming their fear of heights, their teamwork, manners and perseverance.



Year 6 Residential

Curzon's eldest pupils had a wonderful time away at the Paccar Activities Centre. Paccar Activities Centre is an ideal setting for school groups to use as a residential adventure away from the normal school routine. Children can experience an assortment of activities in their wonderful outdoor setting.

Year 6 were lucky enough to take part in activities including abseiling, underground caving and tomahawk throwing. One of the many highlights was the campfire on the last night where the pupils learnt new campfire songs.



Helping others

A key feature of Curzon life is helping others. This term, the school extended this to their local community and held a litter pick around the local area. The school council also organised a successful sponsored skip to fund playground equipment for the Rainbow School, their linked school in Kirongo.



Summer Fete

This year's summer fete was a huge success, attended by lots of families from our community. There was something for everyone with stalls including Splat the Teacher, the Human Fruit Machine and Penalty Shoot Out.

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What has been happening at Elmtree this term?

Chesham Carnival

The children and parents had a wonderful time participating in the Schools of Chesham Carnival. Their theme was 'The Fire of London'. They all wore such bright and imaginative costumes. The carnival traditionally takes place on the second Saturday in June each year. It is a charitable event run by a committee of volunteers made up of parents, both past and present from ten local schools. Each year there is a theme to the carnival and the children, parents and teachers of the schools create their floats to compete for the winner's trophy! Many local businesses, pubs, clubs and community projects also join in the procession to make it a truly community-based event.



After the procession, comes the carnival day with amusements for all the family - such as a petting farm, bouncy castles, trampolines, face painting, henna designs and craft activities.

Healthy lifestyles

This month the children have also been really busy focusing on being healthy and active. They have had some lovely opportunities to work with people who have come into the school to teach them about the importance of staying healthy and keeping fit. The children also had great fun thinking about what healthy toppings they could put on their own Pizzas and then made the pizzas themselves.



Bovingdon Prison Dogs

Elmtree were very lucky to have the Bovingdon Prison dogs visit the school for a special assembly. The children learnt about the different types of dogs used and how they are trained to respond to a range of commands and situations, including identifying and alerting them to potential threats, searching for contraband, and providing emotional support to prisoners.

The staff at the school gladly stepped in to help with demonstrations.

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What has been happening at Great Horwood this term?

Maples

Maples have chosen their own topic to research this term: Under The Sea. This has been a rich and diverse topic; the children have explored everything



from habitats in danger, pollution in our seas and classifications of animals. As a result, we have written persuasive leaflets to help inform and advise people about the dangers of not reducing, re-using and recycling our waste correctly. Maples have created presentations using transitions, animations and a variety of visual stimuli to engage, educate and excite their audience.

Conkers

This half-term Conkers Class have loved learning all about the seaside in our topic 'Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside!'. In English, we read 'Ocean Meets Sky' by The Fan Brothers. The children have written character and setting descriptions, as well as their own fantasy story! In Art we have created pieces inspired by the seaside



and artists such as J. M. W. Turner. Our science topic this half-term is 'Living things and their habitats'. This meant that we spent a lot of time outdoors, exploring microhabitats and looking for minibeasts. We explored ponds, rivers, under logs and trees.



Hawthorns

On Thursday 25th May, the children enjoyed a fantastic trip to Whipsnade Zoo. The day before, in their small groups, the children planned their itinerary and route around the zoo using google maps to help schedule their day. When we arrived at the zoo, the children split off into their groups and started to explore the zoo. To conclude our day,

we were fortunate enough to have a Giraffe workshop where the children conducted a behaviour study of the giraffe herd using observation methods used by the ZSL scientists themselves!

Acorns

Acorns have also loved their Forest School sessions this term! They have loved exploring our conservation area, building shelters, making their own log slices (learning to use a screwdriver to achieve this!), playing games and, toasting their own marshmallows to make smores!



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What has been happening at Longwick this term?



This term has been an exciting and very rewarding one here at Longwick school. We've refocused on our Visions and Values as a school and have shared some brilliant, fun and exciting moments that have made this term an enjoyable one.

Collective Worship

Longwick have enjoyed wonderful Collective Worship assemblies working closely with St Mary's Church and our children's worker Anna Pile. The children have shown mutual respect and understanding for each other as they have explored the Christian faith and teaching. St Mary's wonderful Reverend, David Williams is always delighted to make the children laugh during their Light House assemblies!

School Concerts

The whole school has enjoyed several music concerts this term, including one from XYZ music which was a wonderful experience for the school. It has certainly seemed to inspire a number of children to persevere and learn a new musical instrument, maybe even a few teachers too!

Enterprise Projects

Longwick is extremely proud of their Year 6 children this term who took part in a Grow £5 Enterprise project.

Each child was loaned £5 to club together and market, create and brand products to sell to children



and the community. They showed such a responsible and kind attitude when selling their wonderfully creative products. The school had everything from wooden carved keyrings to car washing services and much more! The children were so proud of their achievements and they have made a very healthy profit to purchase a legacy leaving gift for the children of Longwick School. Well done Year 6!

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What has been happening at Padbury this term?

Bushcraft Residential - Oak Class Year3/4

This term was the first time Oak class, Padbury's year 3/4 children, went on a residential visit. They headed to the Bushcraft Company's site in



Kettering. School trips with the Bushcraft Company are a little different. They take students into the wild and give them an unforgettable back to nature experience, where pupils pick up life skills in the freedom of a unique outdoor environment. For some children, having a sleepover away from home for the first time was a positive experience. Next time, the pupils were clear that they would like to go for longer!

Warwick Castle

Last week, Maple and beech (EYFS and year 1/2) went to Warwick Castle



to complete their learning on castles. Observers said their behaviour was 'impeccable'. Every member of staff came back saying what a great day they had. Thank you, children, for making the day so enjoyable and thank you staff for organising a great experience for the children.

Charity Fundraiser

In May, three members of staff from Padbury set off for a very hot mud run in aid of Cancer Research UK. This is a charity currently close to the hearts of those in Padbury as Mrs Grace had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. The parent and friends in the local community showed support in a way we just did not expect. In total, they raised £2490. This is a phenomenal amount of money which will make a significant difference to the research needed to fight the disease. Two school children, Harriet and Iona with her brother Fraser also ran the course in a race and did such a great job!



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What has been happening at St John's this term?

Hearts for Turkey



Students from St John's Primary School presented 2,500 paper hearts to Turkey's ambassador this term as a symbol of solidarity following the twin earthquakes in the country's southern region in February. The hearts, made from different sized pieces of paper to

represent the approximately 2,500 miles (4,023 kilometers) between their school and Turkey.

The pieces of paper, which were cut in the shape of hearts and decorated with the Turkish flag and messages such as "We stand with you," "You are not alone" and "Our thoughts are with you," were presented to Ambassador Osman Koray Ertas during the school's visit to the Turkish Embassy in London.

The students also conveyed their well-wishes to those affected by the earthquakes and expressed their condolences to the families of those who lost their lives.



In his speech during the visit, Ertas expressed his gratitude to the students and teachers for their solidarity with Turkey. "You have shown a beautiful example of solidarity. Your generosity, sensitivity and especially the kindness of children at this age have all greatly impressed us," he said. At the end of his speech, Ertas presented a special letter he had written to each student in the delegation.

Whole school event - the Planetarium



To reinforce their science curriculum, St John's hosted a whole school Planetarium Event hosted by Explorer Dome, who run interactive science shows using their inflatable planetarium dome. Each class had their own workshop on space and the solar system. It was a great event!

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What has been happening at St Mary's this term?

District Sports

The St Mary's athletics team competed in the district athletics tournament at Stoke Mandeville School. Pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 took part in various



track and field events including long jump, discus, shot put, sprints and 800m running. This culminated in an 800m relay. The pupils from St Mary's were fantastic ambassadors of the school, displaying all of their Christian values and were quite rightly proud to come 3rd.

Diversity Art Exhibition

At St Mary's, we are proud of our diverse school community. This was reflected in a wonderful art exhibition showing work from a range of countries. Our children loved learning about different cultures and were particularly proud to share their work with friends and family.



Whole Trust Eco Event

On the 13th July, all of the schools from ODBST sent two or three representatives to St John's School Lacey Green to take part in the first annual ODBST Eco Conference.



It was a wonderful opportunity for the next generation of Eco warriors to meet together, share ideas and agree on a charter for all of the Trust family to follow. Our representatives will be sharing what was discussed at the

conference and the ODBST charter with their peers back at school. Everyone that attended had a wonderful day and are already looking forward to next year's event.

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What has been happening at Thomas Harding this term?

Chesham Carnival

Thomas Harding Junior School have been busy this term with so many things to enjoy.

The school and local community took part in the Chesham Schools' Carnival as the Stone Age, where children and parents worked hard to create an amazing float titled Thomas Harding Savage Junior School. Everyone had a wonderful time and the school came away with prize for 3rd place overall.



Bike and Scooter Day

A parent at Thomas Harding had expressed an interest in cycling and fixing bikes, so the school had a day this week where the parent came in and children brought in their bikes and scooters to be fixed and made roadworthy in preparation for the summer holidays. Now everyone is ready to enjoy the outdoors when school closes for the Summer on Friday.



Woodrow

Some of the children at Thomas Harding were able to enjoy a residential to Woodrow this term. They started the trip with a tour of the site and then the children took part in a group orienteering activity. After eating lunch on the field and some free time, they all went on a woodland walk. The afternoon's activities

consisted of team building exercises, a challenge course and some bushcraft skills. The rest of the residential was packed with activities.

The children overcame their fears and showed real determination and resilience. It was wonderful seeing the children encouraging and supporting each other. They all demonstrated the ASPIRE values of the school and made everyone very proud.

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What has been happening at Woodside this term?

Year 3 Geography topics

This year, year 3 have studied both the local area and Lyme Regis as a part of their geography topics- comparing and contrasting the two areas. This is also linked to their science topic 'Rocks and Fossils' where they also learned about Mary Anning. This beach trip to West Wittering enabled them to see a coastal area for themselves, as well as having a great deal of fun!



"The weather stayed dry and the sun even shone for most of the day. We went for a lovely long walk around the headland to search for rocks and shells and to identify coastal features. The children had a fantastic time playing on the beach.

Everyone splashed in the sea, built sandcastles and chased frisbees. We rounded off the day with ice cream. The children were all so well behaved and had such a wonderful time, as did all the staff that went." (Year 3 teachers)

Kinball

On Wednesday morning, a group of children tried out a new sport at Woodside- Kinball. Kinball is a team sport which involves a large ball. It is played with three teams all competing against each other to win at the same time. The object of Kinball is simple: to score more than the other two opponents and win the game! They had great fun and quickly got familiar with the rules. Woodside recommends this game to all who want to have some fun!



Pond Club

Woodside's outdoor pond club have been busy regenerating their pond area and were very proud to finally be able to fill it with water and plants this week. The children have been busy painting birdhouses, making a minibeast hotel, whittling, creating a beautiful mosaic, planting flowers and painting the fence. It has been a real team effort to improve their pond area!



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Getting to know the Downley School

It has been a busy half-term for everyone at The Downley School. We had our ODBST review day and the following week, we had a visit from an HMI inspector for a monitoring visit.

We are pleased with the outcome of both visits as they reflect the improvements that have been made and also agree with areas that the school have identified for further improvement. Outcomes of statutory assessments also show the improvements that have been made and all results are now in line with national data.



Recruitment has been a major focus for this half term. Fortunately, we have now successfully filled all these positions for September.

Summer Term Togetherness

The Summer term has provided many opportunities for Downley to gather as a school such as through our Summer fair, Sports day and Downley Day, which is part of the The Up! Downley Festival. The festival brings the community together to celebrate local interest with art and comedy. There has been a very positive vibe around the school community.

The Downley School had a great day thinking all about kindness with Greig from the charity 52 lives. The children were fully invested in our mission to show kindness and were incredibly thoughtful with their contributions on ways to show kindness towards others.



Headteacher for the Day

Downley's Year 6 Student Leadership Team have just been headteacher for the day and as part of this day successfully ran a talent show and recruited next year's representatives. They took the job very seriously and were suited and booted for the occasion.

We are hopeful that the Downley School will be joining the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust family on 1st September. We are all looking forward to joining the family. It will be a positive start to the academic year for us all!

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ODBST vision, values, and priorities

Each of our schools has a unique character of its own and we work to ensure that this vision embraces all our pupils and adults, regardless of background and belief. We empower our schools to deliver a broad, enriched, and exciting curriculum, coupled with a shared zest for life and learning.

We have identified 4 core values that resonate with what we believe the ODBST Learner, and Leader should follow and live by. They reflect the values that are central to our schools and the diocese. Through our values, we aim for excellence for everyone in our Trust.



Service



Inclusivity



Empowerment



Community

Service We encourage everyone to look after themselves and others around them. We encourage children in our schools to seek the common good in all that they do through acts of kindness. ODBST believes that our gifts and talents are to be used in ways that will improve the lives of themselves and others.

Inclusivity Everyone is accepted and supported, regardless of faith or culture. We will strive for everyone to be given every opportunity to reach their potential. We believe everyone is unique and everyone matters

Community We work in unison with all our families. Together we learn, love, achieve and flourish. Within our family of schools, each individual is encouraged to discover and grow their talents to their fullest potential. We believe by encouraging, inspiring and building each other up we secure the best outcomes for every member of our community.

Empowerment We will encourage everyone to trust in their own capabilities and to recognise their potential. We want to challenge ourselves to be the best we can be – even when this becomes hard. We will do this by leading by example, supporting and guiding one another, celebrating accomplishments, providing opportunities for all, developing confidence, resilience and perseverance in both our children and our adults.

**We aspire for every pupil and adult to
'experience life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)**

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What has been happening in the Shared Services Team this term?

ODBST Eco Event

Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST) were thrilled to host



their first annual ECO Conference this week. Children from schools across the county were welcomed to present the projects that had been taking place in their schools and help drive ODBSTs quest for sustainability.

Throughout the academic year the children across ODBST have been running initiatives and projects to see if they can improve the sustainability of their schools and the Trust.

This culminated on Thursday with the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trusts first annual ECO Conference. Three children from each Trust school were invited to present their projects and findings and then contribute to the ODBST ECO charter that all schools will be following next academic year.



The day started with the representatives from each school giving engaging presentations about the various projects that they had been working on. Some schools focused on reducing their food waste from school dinners, weighing and comparing the waste. They discovered that there was most waste on a Wednesday. They will now be petitioning their school meal providers to change the food options on this day. Other schools focused on the biodiversity of their local ecosystems, creating new gardens and bug hotels. Harriet said 'I enjoyed listening to the presentations. I particularly liked hearing 'Let the Bees Be' I learnt lots of things about bees that I didn't previously know.'

The mornings session closed with pupils from the Trust's 11 schools agreeing on 10 pledges that will help drive the Trust in their quest for sustainability. They will be presenting these to their own schools and continuing with their various projects. In the afternoon, the children made natural bird feeders to take back to their schools as a way in which to encourage a wider variety of wildlife into their schools. Matthew said: 'Making the bird feeders was great. Mixing the lard and seeds was great fun. I hope birds will enjoy feeding on the feeders back home.'

Sulina Piesse (CEO of the ODBST) commented: " Our passionate and forward-thinking next generation of pupils impressed me with their commitment to environmental sustainability. They came up with some wonderful strategies as well as a great Eco Charter for all our family of schools to implement in their own school, reinforcing our mission for a greener and more sustainable planet. I can't wait to see the progress made at next year's Eco summit!"

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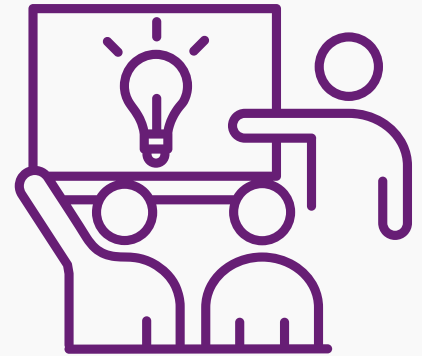
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What has been happening in the Shared Services Team this term?

School improvement news

We are so very proud of our ODBST schools and all that they do for our ODBST children and families. As a school improvement team, we visit each school at least 5 times each year to look at the strategic work that our school leaders are doing to embrace new ideas and ways of thinking whilst ensuring that the education each child receives is the best it can be. Each school curriculum is displayed on the school website and we are developing this further next year by integrating work around the Green curriculum and how we enable all of our schools to be more eco friendly. We visit lessons, look at books, we talk to school staff, including governors, and children and we talk to parents/carers too because everyone's views matter to us and help us to shape where our schools are. We moderate work across our Trust so that we have a single standard of expectation and we train our staff through an extensive CPD programme. We meet regularly with our Headteachers to offer support alongside challenge and to share the great practice we see in our schools.



School Assessments

We have introduced new assessment systems into our schools this year through Bromcom and are developing assessments across all curriculum areas so that we have clear overview of where children are and what we need to improve further. Our schools all have varied approaches that work best for their individual context and we have seen some really fantastic platforms where children have opportunities to reflect, review and further improve their learning.

SEND

Children with SEND or who may be disadvantaged are always a focus of our work because learning can sometimes be harder for them. We want to be sure that all ODBST children are served really well. Schools are mapping out the provision they offer our SEND and disadvantaged children and have really thought hard about how to ensure that all children are included as best they can be.

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Oxford Diocesan Bucks
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What has been happening in the Shared Services Team this term?

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and keeping our children safe matters to all of us and so we are putting renewed time, energy and resourcing into this so that there is greater focus on what our schools are doing.

We have a single reporting system across our Trust, CPOMS, and a Trust wide strategy that will be implemented from September 23. We have a dedicated safeguarding tab on our ODBST website where everyone can find out more about what we are doing. We are committed to doing the right thing and we make sure that our training and support for school staff is relevant, fresh and sufficiently regular to keep everyone as up to date as they should be.

Attendance

We have been working hard on attendance too because we know that all of our children need to come to school every day. Time away from school is lost learning and lost socialisation time too; school days are precious days and we want all children to experience as many of them as possible.

New Team Member

From September 23, we will welcome a new member into our school improvement team.

Rob Halls is an experienced Headteacher and school improvement leader and is very much looking forward to joining us and getting to know our schools.



We feel that this has been a positive year for our schools and we are very much looking forward already to what the next academic year will bring.

Jan Martin, Director of Education

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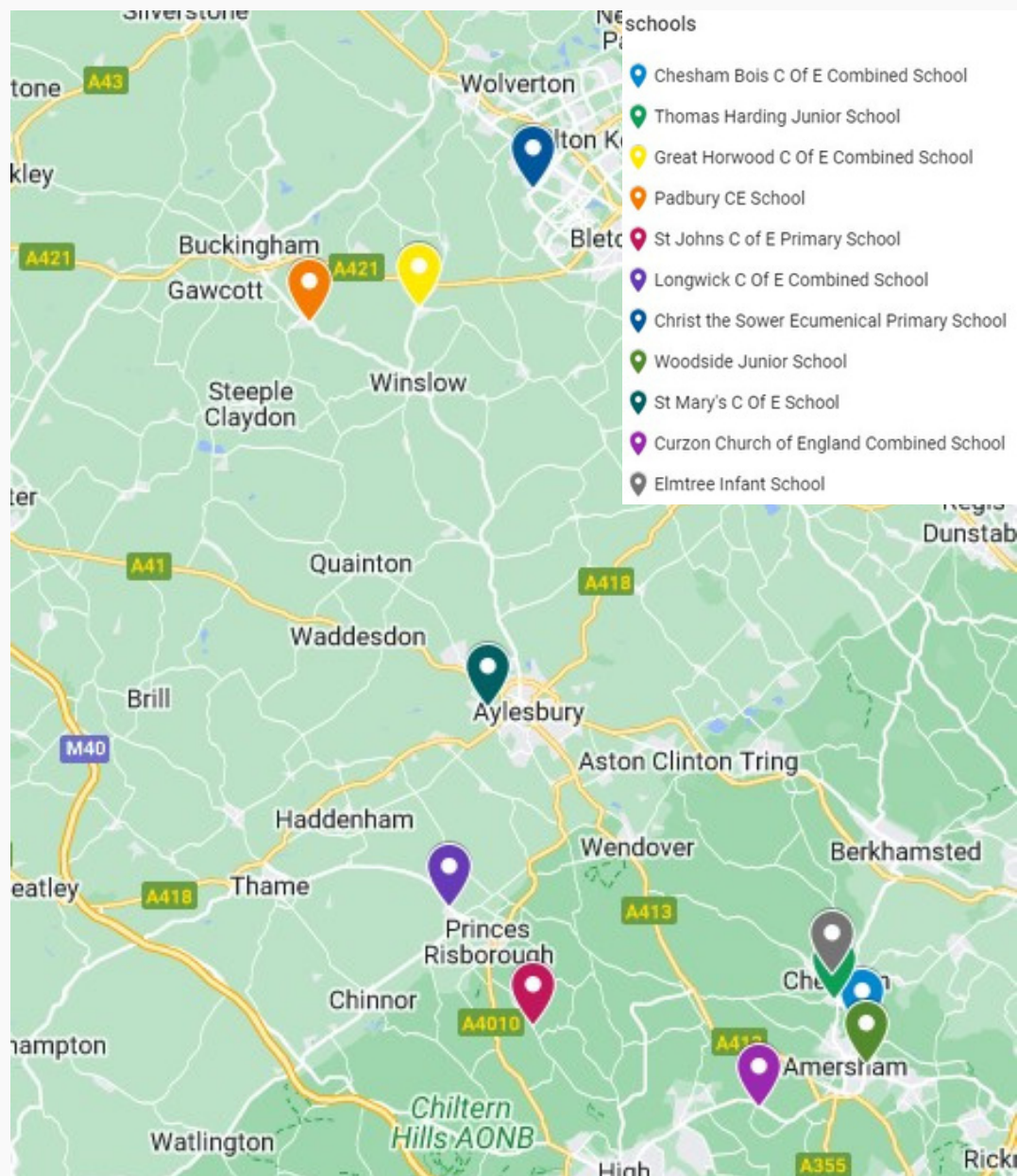
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The ODBST family of schools

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