



EASTER 2024

ODBST NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME FROM THE CEO



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is a joy and a privilege to be writing to you again in this newsletter, sharing with you our work at the ODBST over this term.

During Lent, I have reflected on the work we do in the ODBST, caring for one another and protecting our world, our home. Paul (Romans 12:1) reminds us that we are to be a 'living sacrifice' because of Jesus' death and resurrection. In this way, through small acts of kindness, and generosity, we will become more perfect and grow as Jesus' disciples. That said, this term, I have continued to see pupils working cooperatively and respectfully with their peers in their schools, I have seen pupils taking care of their environment, both inside and outside of their classrooms. We have tried to capture more examples of these wonderful acts from our pupils and are excited to share these with you in this 2024 Easter newsletter. Our pupils are a real asset to the ODBST!

The ODBST is called to serve our children, our staff, and our communities. We do so with such pride. It has been a very busy term for our staff and pupils, and we look forward to some quality time for rest and recuperation this Easter. I am incredibly grateful to our staff who go to lengths to make sure our pupils have a wide range of positive learning experiences and opportunities in their own schools as well across and in partnership with other schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support to their schools and the staff who serve them.

This newsletter showcases a snapshot of each school's wonderful achievements this term. I am sure you will agree that a lot has been achieved and celebrated and I am looking forward to seeing our pupils continuing to flourish over the exciting and vibrant summer term.

Easter ushers in the comfort of spring weather, and I encourage us all to enjoy the outdoors over the next two weeks. The nature around us is a wonderful gift we have at our disposal, nourishing our bodies and expanding our minds.

Wishing you all a peaceful Easter period.

With best wishes,

Sulina Piesse
Chief Executive officer, the ODBST



What has been happening at Chenies this term?



We are absolutely delighted to announce that Chenies has achieved the Silver Artsmark award in recognition of exceptional commitment to creativity. The Artsmark is awarded by Arts Council England, and empowers teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture and creativity across the whole curriculum. Schools are recognised for their exceptional commitment to creativity.

We had amazing costumes and lots of fun on World Book day this year with a visit from a production company, Image Musical Theatre UK Ltd, who performed The Selfish Giant with a little help from some of wonderful pupils. Oscar Wilde's short story 'The Selfish Giant' is one of the most beautiful and moving tales ever written. It connects with people from all cultures and backgrounds. By sharing the experience of the giant's selfishness, there is a moment of realisation and finally redemption. Children and adults alike are reminded of the value of generosity. The first act was a light hearted half hour rehearsal where some children were chosen to rehearse their parts while the rest of the audience was taught the choruses of four songs. During the interval the actors and children got into costume. The show ran seamlessly with everyone taking part. It was a wonderful experience for the children.



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What has been happening at Chesham Bois this term?

This term, each year group was assigned a country to explore during Art Week. Our week ended with an exhibition in our school hall- our attendees were very impressed!

Year 1 focused on the United States of America for Art Week and had lots of fun doing so! We looked at different artists including Roy Lichtenstein, Mary Cassatt and James Rizzi. We recreated some of their artwork including pop art, collaging and creating our own happy rizzi houses.

Year 4 have had a fantástico art week! We were given the country of Spain and immersed ourselves into the world of Spanish art. We started the week by looking at Pablo Picasso and cubism, creating a self-portrait using a wide range of materials and mediums. Our next artist was the surrealist Salvador Dali. We explored the idea of surrealism and then painted using watercolour.



We also recently held our annual Prayer Day. This year's theme was sustainability. Our Foundation Governors and members of local churches helped to guide the children around 6 different prayer stations.

Year 5 really enjoyed Prayer Day and found it was a time to reflect and think about the beautiful world around us and how we can care and protect the world in which we live.



Chesham Bois School are also delighted to share that we have been awarded a Silver One Education Reading Award! Miss Walker, our wonderful Reading Lead, has been busy over the last 12 months gathering evidence to achieve this award. Not only has the award helped us to reflect on existing good practice, it has also helped Miss Walker and other leaders to identify next steps in our Reading offer. We are very proud of Miss Walker and

our team and thank them for their continued efforts in inspiring and encouraging our children to be life-long readers.

Lastly we are thrilled to announce that our talented netball team have won all 6 of their matches! This means the children have been invited to compete in the county finals which will be held in Milton Keynes later this month.



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What has been happening at Christ the Sower this term?

In February, we held our second annual 'Women in History Day.' This is an opportunity for each class to find out about their own inspirational woman, researching her impact and legacy. This is driven by our CARE culture, with children reflecting on the choices that they made, the aspirations that drove them and how they engaged with their communities and the wider world. In Poppy class, they investigated Amelia Earhart. They learnt all about her amazing feats before creating their own planes and writing about where they would travel if they had the chance.

Barley Class reflected on Chien-Sheung – Wu, who was an inspirational physicist who is often called 'The First Woman of Physics.' She worked as part of the Manhattan Project which led to a huge increase in our understanding of subatomic particles. The children learned all about protons and neutrons and built a model atom. They went on to debate the question: Was it right that she was overlooked for a Nobel Prize in 1957 despite her male colleagues receiving the award?

In Year 6 pupils learned about Madame C.J Walker and her phenomenal business and entrepreneurial work, before creating their own product packaging and biographies.

The children across school had a fantastic time learning about such inspirational women in History who lived through our CARE Values. A huge thank you to the whole of #TEAMCTS who really got behind the day and planned such amazing enrichment opportunities for our children!



In March we held our very first 'Aspiration Day' designed to open our children's eyes to the possibilities and potentials in their future careers. Again, this was all linked to CARE, as we know that aspiring highly is essential, and we also have to make the right choices, engage with learning and opportunities and reflect on all of our mistakes if we are to achieve our full potential.

We had a wide range of visitors in school, which included a rapper/musician called 'REAPZ', an author, our local councillor, a team of chemical engineers, a software engineer, the police, a sports coach and a post-production film editor. The children had a fantastic day, reflecting on their interests, hobbies and aspirations for the future.



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What has been happening at Curzon this term?

This term we held our first Festive Lunch since Covid. The whole school gathered together to eat a roast dinner, specially cooked by one of the pubs in the village. Year 5 and 6 pupils sat with and helped their younger buddies in Key Stage. Our thanks to Miss Pub and the wonderful Curzon parent community who gave up their time to serve the lunches to everyone.



Our World Book Day was a huge success with children choosing to share a range of books. Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed wearing their pyjamas/costumes to school for the day! The best part was watching our Year 6 children share their favourite picture books with Key Stage 1 children. The Year 6 children did an amazing job with many mini teachers in the making!

We went through a time portal and arrived in 470BC, the Classical era. The Ancient Greek Civilization enjoyed cooking and we ate traditional pancakes with Ancient Greek toppings (honey and sesame seeds). Pupils made olive leaf crowns, clay tablets which they engraved their names on using the Ancient Greek alphabet and learnt and presented a dance. This was followed by an afternoon of Olympic games, finishing the day with a closing ceremony where the winners received their bow for their city state before returning through the portal in time for home time.



Year 6 had a wonderful residential trip to Paccar in Chalfont Heights. The wet weather did not dampen their enthusiasm and a great time was had by all. Our pupils used their Curzon value of courage to conquer their fears and participate in a range of activities including crate stacking, caving and the Leap of faith.

We have ended term with two wonderful uplifting performances in the local church to members of our local community, led by Jake from iSingPOP. Jake ran workshops and taught the whole schools to sing and dance to a selection of catchy songs. The performances were inspiring.



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What has been happening at Downley (TDS) this term?



This year, we chose a dog themed book week to celebrate World book day and encouraged all children to be dogs and staff to dress as dog catchers. Parents were thankful of the ease of costume and all children felt included as it was easy to participate in the theme. This day was certainly proof that the team at TDS are all barking mad!

We have also been included in the Hughendon Manor Easter trail. Local High Wycombe artist Dan Wilson, also known as Decreate, spray-painted one of our mythical creatures entries – Polar Wolf. Several others are included as puzzle pieces within the trail too. We are very proud to be a part of this event



Our PSHE curriculum actively promotes inclusion. Our topic Celebrating Difference was the inspiration and reason for 'Inclusion' being identified as one of TDS' 6 values. All year groups are included in the celebration displays, as can be seen in the photos below.



We are really pleased to be working closely with our parents. The parents have always wanted to support the school and we feel that the rebranding of the parent association to a Parent Teacher Association with staff representation on the board is a really positive step for TDS. The new logo was designed by a pupil who won a mufti day for their class.



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What has been happening at Elmtree this term?

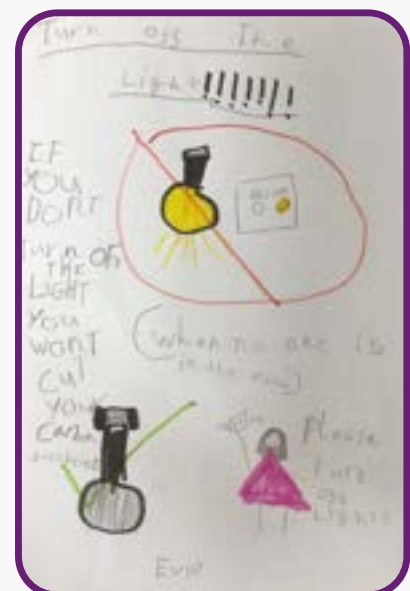
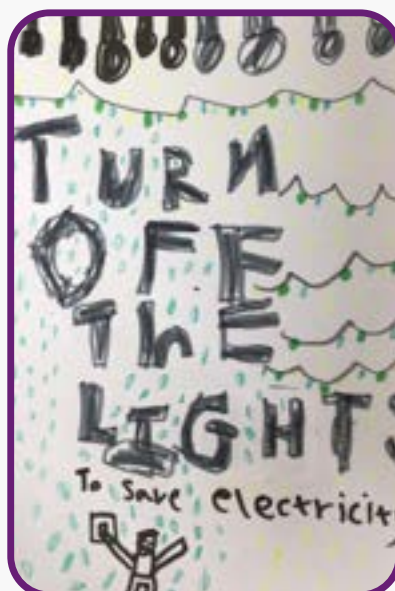
Children in Year One and Year Two thoroughly enjoyed 'Take one picture week'. Our focus was around the story 'The Dot' and the children really enjoyed mixing the colours and recreating some artwork from the story.



In Reception, the half term topic has been 'People who help us'. We have been learning all about the real world 'superheroes' such as police officers, firefighters, vets, doctors and nurses. Reception were lucky enough to have the real fire brigade visit them, they even got to sit in the fire engine.



Our Eco team have been really busy. This term they started their next campaign to save electricity. We have been turning off the lights when they are not needed. Some wonderful posters were designed and put around the school as a reminder.



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What has been happening at Great Horwood this term?

Key Stage 1 had a spectacular colour run to support Harry's Rainbow; a charity dedicated to helping bereaved children. The children competed in their houses. It was a fantastic event filled with vibrant colours and heartfelt support for a great cause! Conker Class has been getting creative with clay recently, crafting pinch pots and adding delightful decorations. Their artistic flair and enthusiasm have made for some truly fantastic pieces. It's wonderful to see their clay creations!



Acorns Class have had loads of fun developing our pirate language this term. We have played, in role, using the treasure maps we made to take us on wonderful adventures in our pirate ship. For Chinese New Year we all helped make a magnificent dragon head for The Year of the Dragon. We paraded through the Hall for the whole school to see. Kung Hei Fat Choy!



Nursery and Reception have enjoyed Forest School learning since Christmas. Acorns planted their broad beans and the seedlings grew in the class until they were big and strong enough to plant out in the raised bed.



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Empowering our unique schools to excel together

What has been happening at Longwick this term?

At Longwick C of E Combined school, we have had a lovely, busy spring term. One of the biggest highlights, was our Longwick Art Show. Now in it's 35th year, we are proud that the prestigious event has not only raised record funds for the school, it has brought local and national artists and communities together. Over 90 artists and crafters took part this year. The event saw the school being completely transformed into a showcase for a wide collection of arts and crafts. There is a diverse range of styles to appeal to all tastes from traditional landscapes to large scale abstract pieces. Featuring work in all kinds of media including traditional oils, watercolours, acrylics, linocut, encaustic wax and stitched textiles as well as colourful glassware and beautiful jewellery. There are also photographers whose work ranges from brilliant wildlife images through to amazing abstract creations. As well as the original work there is the opportunity to buy greeting cards, prints and gifts.

Alongside the 2D work, there is also colourful glassware, ceramics, textile, woodwork and beautiful jewellery whilst sculpture is represented by several artists in a variety of styles- in clay, metal wood and even needlefelt.



Thank you to the Art Show committee, volunteers, Risborough Rotary and Greg Smith, Buckinghamshire MP who attended our preview evening and helped further publicise the event. Pictured is a selection of the children's work which was on display. The theme was habitats, which was widely interpreted across a range of mediums. I was very proud of the techniques, skills and individuality shown in each of their pieces. Well done to our Longwick Learners!



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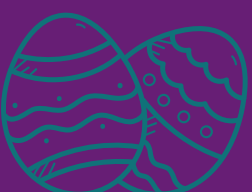
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What has been happening at Padbury this term?



Last June, we were hit hard with sad news not once, but three times. Three of our staff members were diagnosed with different forms of cancer within a matter of weeks of each other. It has been a long, hard battle for Hannah, Emma and Jess but they have all got through it and are inspirations to us all. With some phased returns, after Easter, our family will be complete again and we cannot wait to see them all back with us. The Padbury team is an amazing team to be part of and I am so proud of these three ladies as well as the team who have kept the school going amidst mass change.

This term, in Padbury we have finally been able to meet up with the Padbury Friendly Afternoon Group to talk together and play games as part of our desire to support our local community more. This was first arranged in March 2020 but Covid prevented us getting together. Four years on and we have made it!

The older residents in the village loved talking with our Year 4 pupils and the Year 4 pupils loved hearing about what the school was like when it was at, the now, village hall and what life was like in school in the 1960's.

We have arranged for them to come to school next term so we can show them around our current site and enjoy more games and chat over tea and cake!



Another fabulous night out for all of our Key Stage 2 children in Birmingham with the Young Voices Choir. Memorable, enjoyable and uplifting with a clear message from the Place2Be charity about how important mental health is to all of us and boy, did the singing lift us all!



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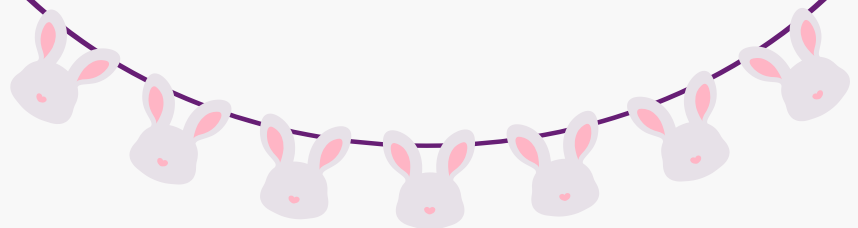
What has been happening at Speen this term?



We have been taking care of our local environment by going on litter picks in the local area. The eco-council have also raised funds to purchase litter picker sets that families can borrow to use over weekends by selling seedlings. The children participated in ventures such as House Plant Week where they bought plants for each classroom and the Great British Birdwatch week where they made bird feeders for the local birds.

Reception have been learning all about traditional stories. They are very knowledgeable about the history of stories and can retell favourites as well as making up their own. As part of this unit of work we invited the Oxford Story Museum into school to work with us on the Anansi Spider story. We had such great fun dressing up and helping the story teller perform.

We also enjoy a celebration at Speen School and had a wonderful celebrating Chinese New Year. The children made lanterns, told stories, danced and made noodles. We have discovered our favourite sauce is soya sauce (we were not so sure about the chilli sauce!).



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

At St John's this term, we have taken part in Project Touchline. This is a six-week programme of sport, collective worship and exploration of our Christian Values. It has had a huge impact on the way our pupils and staff engage and live out distinctive Christian values across school. The impact has been seen across the school and has had the bonus of a lunchtime prayer club. Prayer club is voluntary and from across the schools over 20 pupils have come to engage in prayer.

In PE lessons, the pupils showed their Christian Values throughout the games and the messages from Collective worship were also embedded into the lessons. Year five created some stunning artwork around Gospel values and faith through rugby. 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus' 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.



We are grateful to Chris for his expert delivery of the programme and being able to pioneer this in the ODBST.

St John's have also had lots of success across the sporting mediums this term. A huge congratulations to Charlie and Fred who finished 69th out of 230 runners and 121st out of 265 runners, respectively, at the National Cross Country Championships which was a huge achievement. The Under 11s have had a fantastic run of wins and the girls football team has recently secured their first away win. The mixed netball team also placed 4th out of 11 teams at the Kingsmead tournament.



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

Children at St Mary's School are extremely fortunate to have such a good music curriculum through which every child is able to foster a love and understanding of music. This term, the Bucks Music Trust visited us and gave the children the opportunity to try out a range of different instruments. Children thoroughly enjoyed trying out the instruments and many now have taken up extra-curricular music lessons. Alice, in Year 5 said 'it was amazing because we were able to try lots of instruments that we would not usually try. To be honest, I didn't realise I had such a passion for music.'



Children continue to enjoy their forest school lessons, even in the rain! This term, children have been making bird feeders to encourage wildlife to live within our school grounds. We are extremely proud of our school grounds and feel very fortunate to have such a vast open space. Children understand that we need to respect our environment and have developed their own litter-picking club at lunchtimes, epitomising the school value of integrity. We are so proud of them!



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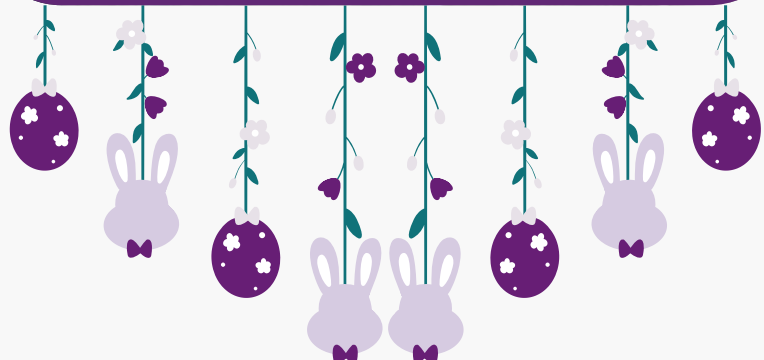
What has been happening at Thomas Harding this term?

Thomas Harding Junior School have been busy this term! We have participated in many sports events, including fitness, bench ball, dodgeball and skipping. Our children sang and danced away at Young Voices 2024 and at our Rocksteady concert.

We also took part in NSPCC Number Day and Safer Internet Day. The Book Fair came to our school and our Year 4 children went to London Zoo for the day. We will be finishing this term in support of Save the Children by holding a mufti day.

A lot has been happening for our Eco Warriors this term too. On a daily basis, the Eco Warriors at Thomas Harding Junior School are responsible for ensuring that the lights and fans in classrooms are switched off when not in use. They also check that the recycling bins are being used effectively in classrooms, and that any paper that can be reused is being placed in the scrap paper tray before it even reaches the recycling bin. The Eco Warriors have also been leading weekly litter picking sessions, initially starting within the school grounds and hopefully moving into the local community.

Our school's science coordinator ordered 30 hedgerows which the Eco Warriors and Junior Leadership Team planted before the Christmas holidays. The Eco Warriors go out once a week to check on them. Lastly, the whole school took part in the Big School Birdwatch and each class was able to take their learning outdoors to carry out the birdwatch for an hour. The Eco Warriors in each class were responsible for collating the information gathered on the survey sheets that were provided.



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What has been happening at Woodside this term?

This week has been very exciting as we were able to hold pieces of the moon! Between 1969 and 1972, six manned Apollo missions successfully landed on the moon, allowing the Astronauts to collect samples and bring them back to Earth for study.

Some of these samples have been preserved in acrylic disks for educational use by NASA, and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) now runs a loan scheme to allow schools, museums, and outreach organisations across the UK to access not only these lunar samples, but also a range of other meteorites and interesting rocks. The STFC is the only body that lends out these precious samples and as such, provided a truly unique and exciting opportunity for the children to engage with a true piece of space history.

Children in Year 5 spent the whole day learning about Space and the moon landings, as this is a part of their Science unit of study. They carried out research and spent lots of time using their scientific skills to make observations and classify a whole range of rocks and meteorites. The children also made moon paintings.

The rock samples were also an excellent learning opportunity for the Year 3 children who are studying rocks as a part of their science lessons this term. They studied all of the rocks and samples and even made edible igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks! All of the children in the school had the opportunity to hold the moon and meteorite samples. The iron meteorite- discovered 1000km from Buenos Aires in 1576- was also pretty magnificent to hold given the how heavy it felt!



"I really liked it when I could hold the rocks and the meteorites. My favourite was the gigantic iron meteorite because it felt really heavy. We sorted the rocks into Earth rocks and Space rocks. Later on we made edible rocks and I liked making the metamorphic rock because it was so creative." Year 3

"I really enjoyed Science Day because we got to hold the MOON! We also got to hold some other specimens such as an iron meteorite and a stony meteorite (also known as a chondrite). In the afternoon, we asked questions about the rocks and meteorites and tested them to see if they were magnetic. We classified them using a branching data base. My favourite part of the day was the meteorite hunt because we got to handle so many different amazing items." Year 5



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ODBST Eco Focus - Pupil Voice -

Longwick:

'In Eco Council we've been planning an eco assembly about food waste recycling and global warming. It's been really fun because we get to discuss how to make our school more eco-friendly'.

'Also, at our golden time we often go litter picking (with others aswell) and pick up all the rubbish so that it's nice and clean for all the wildlife. In addition, we have a place on the school grounds which we are allowing to become wild, no children can play there, and this will attract a diverse number of wildflowers which will in turn attract a wide variety of pollinators'.

-Tom Locke, Year 6

ODBST Eco Focus - School Eco Councils

St John's:

Pupils at St Johns successfully petitioned Bucks Council to improve waste collections, so they could recycle more items.

Padbury and Great Horwood School:

Pupils have undertaken environmental reviews so they can identify areas of improvements, which has led to great ideas such as catchy names for recycling bins so everyone can enjoy recycling. We had lots of schools partaking in litter picking, site improvement, energy monitoring, bird watching and much more!

Curzon School:

Pupils at Curzon School made it into the Bucks Free Press this term with their fantastic initiative of becoming a specific recycling station for hard-to-recycle soft plastics. They took all of their recycling to the local ASDA. Since then, KS1 pupils have been recycling their soft plastic from their lunches every day and have been taking the soft plastic to local supermarkets.



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ODBST Eco Focus - Trust roundup



We are very proud of the advances ODBST schools are making in the realm of environmental sustainability, and this term has been yet another great opportunity to highlight and celebrate these achievements.

At a Trust level, we have implemented a new contract

with Lucart that should reduce waste from paper towels and toilet roll by 40%, as well as a commitment to using fully recycled, non-bleached products that are much better for the planet. Our new sustainability policy is currently going through approval, and we are excited to share this with staff, students, and parents so we can all be involved in our commitment to sustainable practices.

With regards to our estates, we are auditing all school boilers so we can be ahead of the curve with the hope to replace these with more carbon neutral heating systems going forward. We are also pushing ahead with community energy fund discussions that could provide a good solution to getting solar panels on school roofs. LED lighting, insulation, energy loggers and double glazing are also 'quick win' areas that we have been focusing on to reduce the carbon footprint of our sites as well as working with external companies to audit our sites more effectively.

At a curriculum level, our School Improvement team have created a great template so schools can begin to map areas where they are teaching about sustainability, the environment and climate as well as identify areas where we could expand on further.

This term we have had one-to-one eco meetings with every school, where it has become increasingly clear that ODBST Schools are leading in this area. Pupils and staff continue to come up with new, innovative ways to improve the environmental impact of their site and the progress being made is testament to their hard work, as well as the passion of pupils in Eco Clubs across the schools.

We are really looking forward to our ODBST Eco Summit in May, where pupils from each school in the Trust will have a chance to showcase a project they have been working on and share ideas with other schools. This is a lovely opportunity for children to have their voice heard as well as teach us all about what they have learned and what they are passionate about.



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OFSTED success at Longwick School

Staff, governors, and pupils at Longwick Church of England Combined School are delighted after Ofsted inspectors found the school to be 'good' with 'outstanding' features during a recent graded inspection in November 2023.



“Pupils feel well supported and nurtured by a team of dedicated staff.”

Longwick C of E Combined School, serving the Longwick community, has achieved its 'good' with 'outstanding' features rating as part of The Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODBST), a

multi-academy trust of thirteen high-performing primary schools across Buckinghamshire.

Inspectors found that “pupils feel well supported and nurtured by a team of dedicated staff,” and “pupils develop an exemplary understanding of respect, both regarding other people and also the wider world.” Jade Wakefield, Headteacher, said she was incredibly proud and delighted that the inspectors had recognised, “The curriculum is ambitious for all pupils” and “pupils work hard and achieve well”. “The community is so happy that the hard work of our staff and pupils has been recognised with this judgement. It is wonderful that Longwick and the surrounding communities have an ambitious, effective, and nurturing school on their doorsteps.”

The report commended the improvements in the school's teaching of early reading and mathematics and the inclusive ethos, which effectively supports pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Ofsted saw how the carefully planned personal development programme and rich range of additional experiences develop pupils' respect, resilience and an understanding of the wider world.

Claire Randall, Chair of Governors, and Sulina Piesse, Chief Executive Officer of the ODBST are thrilled with the findings and echo, “The Governing Body is pleased that the report reflects the recent improvement journey the school has been on. We would like to thank staff, parents, and members of the community for their continued support.”

The full inspection is available to view online at: [Ofsted](#), [SIAMS](#) and [School Review Reports | Longwick Church of England Combined School \(secure-primariesite.net\)](#)



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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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Empowering our unique schools to excel together

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

Finance

The Finance Team having been running a tender for our financial accounting system with the view to reduce on-going costs and to upgrade its functionality. So, thanks to all those involved – Laura Chilton, Sarah Wylde, Victoria Davies, Rachel Brown and Christine Smith.

The Finance team have also been running drop-in sessions for the school finance leads to come and have some quality time for budget building. Thank you to St Mary's for hosting the sessions.

Operations

This term we have been looking at contracts and economies of scale. This includes the purchase of a new online monitoring product, called Smoothwall, to ensure all our schools are keeping children safe.

What does this do?

Human-moderated, 24/7, 365 a year: Advanced behavioural technology and highly-trained human moderators alert designated staff to children suspected of becoming vulnerable.

Helps designated staff to spot at-risk students who may otherwise go unnoticed: It can help detect children suspected to be at risk far beyond what a teacher's eyes and ears alone can achieve.

Peace of mind for schools and parents alike: Schools can concentrate on supporting and educating pupils, with the peace of mind that if Monitor detects a potential online incident, they will be alerted within minutes.

Human Resources

As we come to the end of this Spring Term, we wanted to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone working within and with our schools. Your commitment and dedication to all the children shines through.

We also wanted to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who completed the recent employee survey – your feedback is invaluable. The deadline for the survey was just last Friday so we are busy in analysis mode at the moment, and we will be feeding back to schools after the Easter break. All your thoughts and comments will be instrumental in informing our way forward on many areas of our employee experience. Thank you for taking the time to provide this feedback.

As a team, across the term we have continued to work on a number of projects with our schools and look forward to continuing this in the Summer Term. Your collaboration and input is greatly appreciated.

Finally, just a quick reminder that job vacancies within the Trust are advertised on our [Trust website](#) (and the individual school's websites). We currently have a number of exciting opportunities across the Trust in various roles including leadership, teaching and support so if you would like to find out more, please look at the website.

We have really enjoyed working with all our schools across this busy term and we hope that everyone has a wonderful break across this holiday!



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Empowering our unique schools to excel together

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

School improvement

Thank you to all our ODBST schools, children, staff and governors as well as our wider ODBST communities. Our school visits this term have highlighted what amazing places our schools are and how much our children are learning and flourishing.

The School Improvement Team have been continuing to work alongside Senior Leaders and school staff to enhance great provision across all our schools. We are working in partnership with School Leaders to implement School Development Plans and quality assure the impact of all their hard work.

Our safeguarding priority has ensured that across all of our Trust we have safe and secure internet filtering and monitoring systems in place. All schools filter carefully which websites can be accessed and are able to see quickly when inappropriate access has been sought from anyone utilising the school internet. Now we can also monitor all keyboard use by those using ODBST equipment to keep our staff and pupils even safer. We are proud to have put this into place in a timely manner and know that our school leaders continue to take safeguarding extremely seriously.

This term we have been able to see a positive impact on leadership workload by reducing the amount of pre-visit preparation. This has enabled us to work more collaboratively with schools, really focusing in on individual school needs and priorities. It is delightful to see the children becoming more familiar with members of the school improvement team too. They are always friendly, welcoming, and excited to show us around their schools and to share their work with us.

Our focus this term has been with our SENDCOs and subject leads looking at a variety of subjects through the SEND lens to quality assure not only the very hard work that our SENDCOs do to get the right provision in place for our pupils but also the wider school context and what learning looks like for pupils with SEND in all lessons in school.

There is always so much excellent, innovative and inspiring work taking place in all of our schools. Our Headteachers and school staff take part in training and liaison opportunities that enable them to share and learn together as well as create the unique schools that are at the core of our school improvement offer.



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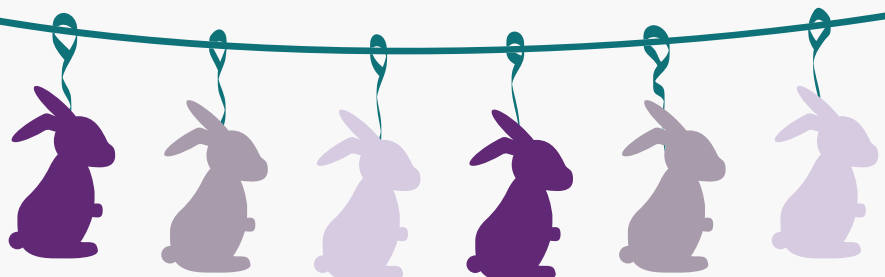
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The ODBST family of schools



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HAPPY
Easter

