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Spring Newsletter

Edition 1

31st March 2021

Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the 1st edition of our ODBST Newsletter, the purpose of which is to celebrate some of the wonderful achievements that have happened across our family of schools in ODBST, to provide updates about the impact of current initiatives and to signpost areas of development. Hereafter, future newsletters will appear thrice yearly, in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

Since I began my role in January, I have been struck both by how each individual school's character is cultivated within our family of schools and by how we are united through our shared values. I have discussed with leaders, teachers and pupils their experience of living out our vision of 'empowering our individual schools to excel' and have been impressed by the resilient, creative and compassionate approaches to education- especially during our national lockdown, from all levels across the Trust.

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will"
– Mahatma Gandhi.



Despite the national narrative of the children being somehow a 'lost generation' due to Covid, on the contrary, I feel energised by the fact that I lead an organisation that demonstrates this will on a daily basis and is already actively seeking to re-establish the highest aspirations for its young people; energised, too, that it is also reflecting on learning from lockdown and setting plans in motion to question, enhance, develop and change aspects of what we do. This is very important. For me, the key message of the events of Holy

Week is this: that transformation and new life is possible; transformation that comes through a steadfast commitment to our vision of putting our children's needs at the centre of what we do and by being bold and ambitious for the future. In doing so, ODBST will continue to ensure that our purpose to serve our communities and to transform the life chances of our wonderful children emerges from the ravages of the pandemic, stronger, more vibrant and with an even greater sense of purpose.

This is my commitment to you and I thank you in advance for your support.

I wish you all continued health and strength and a joyous Easter!

God bless you,

Mrs Sulina Piesse

Chief Executive Officer of Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust

Empowering our unique Schools to Excel

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Dear Parents, Carers and Staff at ODBST,

This year has seen the resilience of our school communities tested in a way we could hardly have imagined. I am immensely proud of the resourcefulness, hard work and care shown by our staff, pupils and parents, indeed the whole school community, in rising to the challenges we have faced. The Pandemic has tested us in so many different ways, yet we have adapted and coped to make sure that every child has been supported in continuing their education and that existing inequalities were not magnified. We have been particularly vigilant in identifying any individual learning loss. I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this. Having said that, adapting to the pandemic has revealed some surprising benefits. We have engaged fully with the potential technology offers for blended learning, our staff feel closer to the parent community than ever before and we have experimented with new systems and processes which we may not previously have been considered. As Trustees, we are keen to take the positive learnings from this period and build them into the way we work going forward. If the biggest learning from this period is the value and strength of community, then we should ensure that this is at the heart of everything we do and that we continue to fully engage with our entire school community of staff, pupils and parents to understand how best to achieve this.



Wishing you a blessed, reflective Easter,

Mr Malcolm Peckham

Chair of Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust



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Curzon Church of England Combined School

Curzon based their first week of full return to school on a book called After the Fall. This is about Humpty Dumpty showing the courage to try again after he fell off the



wall. They talked about resilience and how we can come back stronger from adversity. The children did artwork around the book and a DT project involving creating a cradle to protect an egg when dropped from a height. They also held a belated World book day (everyone dressed in PJs) with some lovely Key Stage 1 buddy reading.



Curzon has also done a sponsored walk to raise money to buy textbooks and hand sanitizers for The Rainbow School, their twin school in Kenya. The children learnt that children walk on average 4 miles to the Rainbow School each day. Each class did laps of the school field this week to walk a similar distance.



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St John's Church of England Primary School

The children at St John's have been spreading some joy by placing potted plants around the local area. We have had some lovely feedback from the local community.



Alison Shreeve Chair of the Lacey Green and Loosley Row Horticultural Society:
"Could you please pass on our collective thanks to the school for the beautiful flower planters they have placed around the village. It certainly cheers me up when I walk past!"

Woodside Junior School

Our school had a live science show from the Royal Institution. These shows helped develop a lifelong love of science and were in addition to our science week. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed them and it was lovely to see a live show as opposed to one provided by a computer screen. The Royal Institution provided two shows: Energy Live and Explosive Food.



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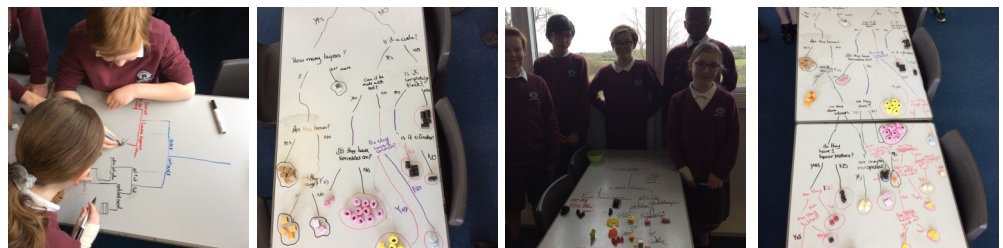
Great Horwood CofE School

What have Hawthorns been up to this term?

Hawthorns Comic Relief Swingball Showdown- For Comic Relief this year the children decided to create their own swingball showdown of pupils vs teachers to make everyone smile. The children created the tournament and took scores. Great fun was had by all and there was certainly a lot of laughter. The children scooped a huge victory against their exhausted teachers and had lots of fun whilst doing so!



Science- Classification of sweets: Hawthorns have been applying their scientific understanding of classification in a practical and engaging way this half term. They were given a bag of liquorice allsorts and asked to classify these in their groups. Miss Briginshaw then challenged their thinking further by adding in midget gems to their selection and asking the children to add these into their classification key.



Christ the Sower Ecumenical School

Below we are pleased to showcase a number of photos from the Just Dance Session that Christ the Sower Ecumenical School held for year 6. In this selection they are dancing and singing to the song "I've Got the Power in Me" and "Hall of Fame".



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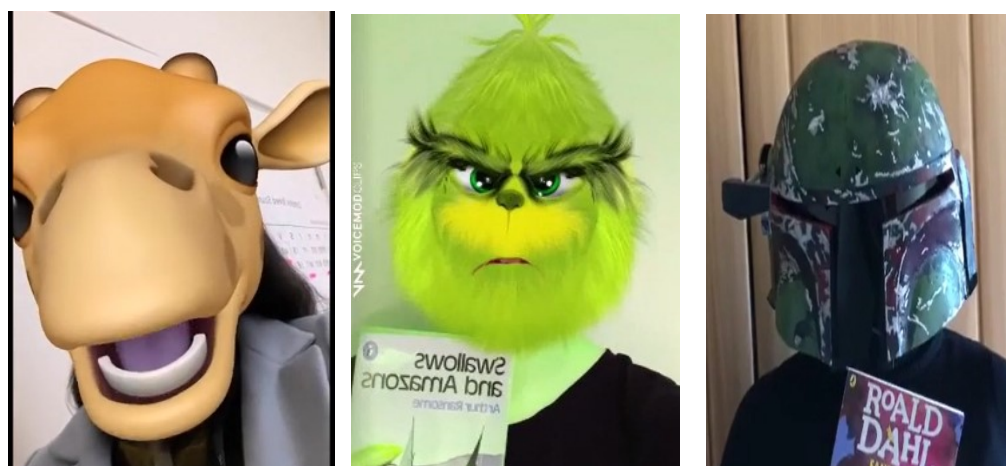
World Book Day

World book day is a wonderful way to nurture our children's love of reading and have some fun dressing up and doing a plethora of activities surrounding the world of literacy. Our pupils and staff had a wonderful time this year, both in and out of school.

Thomas Harding Junior School had some wonderful outfits this year, ranging from Mr Men to Harry Potter.



St Mary's Church of England School had a masked Reader Extravaganza for pupils at home and at school to take part in.



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Longwick CofE Combined School

Longwick C of E Combined School ran a number of competitions during lockdown to help the school community feel together at a time of distance. Below are photos of the NHS competition where children were given a task to create anything for the NHS as a sign of appreciation with a rainbow theme. I think you will agree that there are some fantastic entries! Delicious looking baked goods. Amazing pieces of art and glorious rainbows which have been a symbol of hope and togetherness throughout the pandemic.



We cannot let the first newsletter for ODBST pass without a mention of the astounding work undertaken by the staff in our schools to ensure that all pupils were provided with the very best learning opportunities during the recent lockdown periods. Staff learning curves were steep and a great deal of time, energy and emotion were spent on bringing this about. Websites were restructured, hardware and software organised, the curriculum adapted, parents supported, and resources provided. We know this because the adviser team have had the privilege of assessing our schools against a rigorous quality standard. Without exception every school who has requested an assessment achieved the GOLD Award! This means that pupils in schools across the Trust have lost as little learning as possible ensuring that now they are back in school the small gaps can be closed, and their rapid learning journey can continue. Parents spoken to echoed these positive findings, 'I would be happy if it had to happen again as it has been so good. It kept the children feeling part of the class and involved.' Pupils spoken to shared how they enjoyed the times when they could talk to their teachers and friends and that the second lockdown was better than the first. Without exception the computing skills of everyone in our schools has increased. Pupils were very keen to share how they can stay safe online.

Thank you to everyone who made such a tremendous difference to the lockdown experience for pupils learning across the Trust. CONGRATULATIONS.

Our Training Offer to Trust Schools This Term...

At ODBST we are very proud of the training that we are able to offer our staff and volunteers. During the spring term alone we have hosted over 40 separate training sessions with almost 500 attendees including Governors, Teachers, Subject specialists and Schools Senior Leadership teams from across our Schools.

Thanks to our fabulous in house School Improvement team and our trusted external providers we are able to provide targeted support across a wide range of subjects, with new sessions being added all the time. During this time of isolation and social distance, providing a seamless transition to hosting the sessions online has meant that our attendees are able to log on wherever they are, and keep their knowledge and teaching practices up to date so we can give all of our students their best possible outcome.

As we move forward to the Summer Term, with a new cycle of CPD we have more wonderful sessions on offer to our teachers and look forward to welcoming them to the training.

ODBST Events Administrator



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ODBST CPD & Events Summer Term 2021

CURRICULUM

Date	Title	Time	Application
27/04/21	Art: Teaching of drawing session 3	15:45	
04/05/21	English Hub 5	16:00	
27/05/21	Maths Teacher TA YR/1/2	16:00	
10/06/21	Maths Teacher TA Y3/4/5/6	16:00	
23/06/21	English Hub 6	16:00	
26/06/21	Target Tracker Champions	15:30	
01/07/21	Maths NQT + Session	16:00	
14/07/21	Art: Teaching of drawing session 4	16:00	
TBC	Early Years Moderation		
TBC	Maths Moderation Open Session KS1		
TBC	Maths Moderation Open Session KS2		
TBC	Writing Moderation Open Session KS1		
TBC	Writing Moderation Open Session KS2		



Date	Title	Time	Application
29/04/21	Trust Governance Briefing	19:00	
11/05/21	Governors Induction Training	18:30	
TBC	Headteacher appraisal Training		
TBC	Pupil and staff wellbeing		
TBC	Living your values		
TBC	Governor roles in the curriculum		
TBC	Marketing your school		



Date	Title	Time	Application
29/04/21	Inspecting the quality of education for middle leaders	15:45	
05/05/21	Introduction to SEN leadership	15:30	
12/05/21	IT Leader Network Meeting	15:30	
18/05/21	Aspirant Leader Network	15:45	
19/05/21	SENCO Leader Network	14:00	
21/05/21	Maths Leader Network	14:00	
25/05/21	Science Leader Network	15:45	
08/06/21	Art Leader Network	15:45	
15/06/21	PSHE Leader Network	15:45	
17/06/21	English Leader Network	14:00	
22/06/21	History Leader Network	15:45	
30/06/21	SENCO Leader Network	14:00	
07/07/21	Geography Leader Network	15:45	
TBC	Deep Dive refreshers for middle and subject leaders		
TBC	MFL Leader Network		

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Chesham Bois CE School



Ofsted:	Outstanding
email:	Office@chcschool.co.uk
website:	www.cheshamboisschool.co.uk

Christ the Sower Ecumenical School



Ofsted:	Inadequate
email:	school@ctsk.org.uk
website:	www.cts.milton-keynes.sch.uk

St John's CE Combined School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@sjohn.bucks.sch.uk
website:	www.sjohn.bucks.sch.uk

Thomas Harding Junior School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@thomasharding.bucks.sch.uk
website:	www.thomasharding.org.uk

Woodside Junior School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@woodside.bucks.sch.uk
website:	www.woodsidejunior.co.uk

Longwick CE Combined School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@longwick.bucks.sch.uk
website:	www.longwick.bucks.sch.uk

St Marys CE Combined School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk
website:	https://www.st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk/

Elmtree Infant and Nursery School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@elmtree.bucks.sch.uk
website:	www.elmtreeeschoolandnursery.co.uk/

Great Horwood CE Combined School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@greathorwoodschool.org
website:	www.greathorwood.bucks.sch.uk

Curzon CE Combined School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@curzonschool.com
website:	www.curzonschool.co.uk

Padbury CE School



Ofsted:	Good
email:	office@padbury.bucks.sch.uk
website:	WWW.PADBURY.SCHOOL.CO.UK

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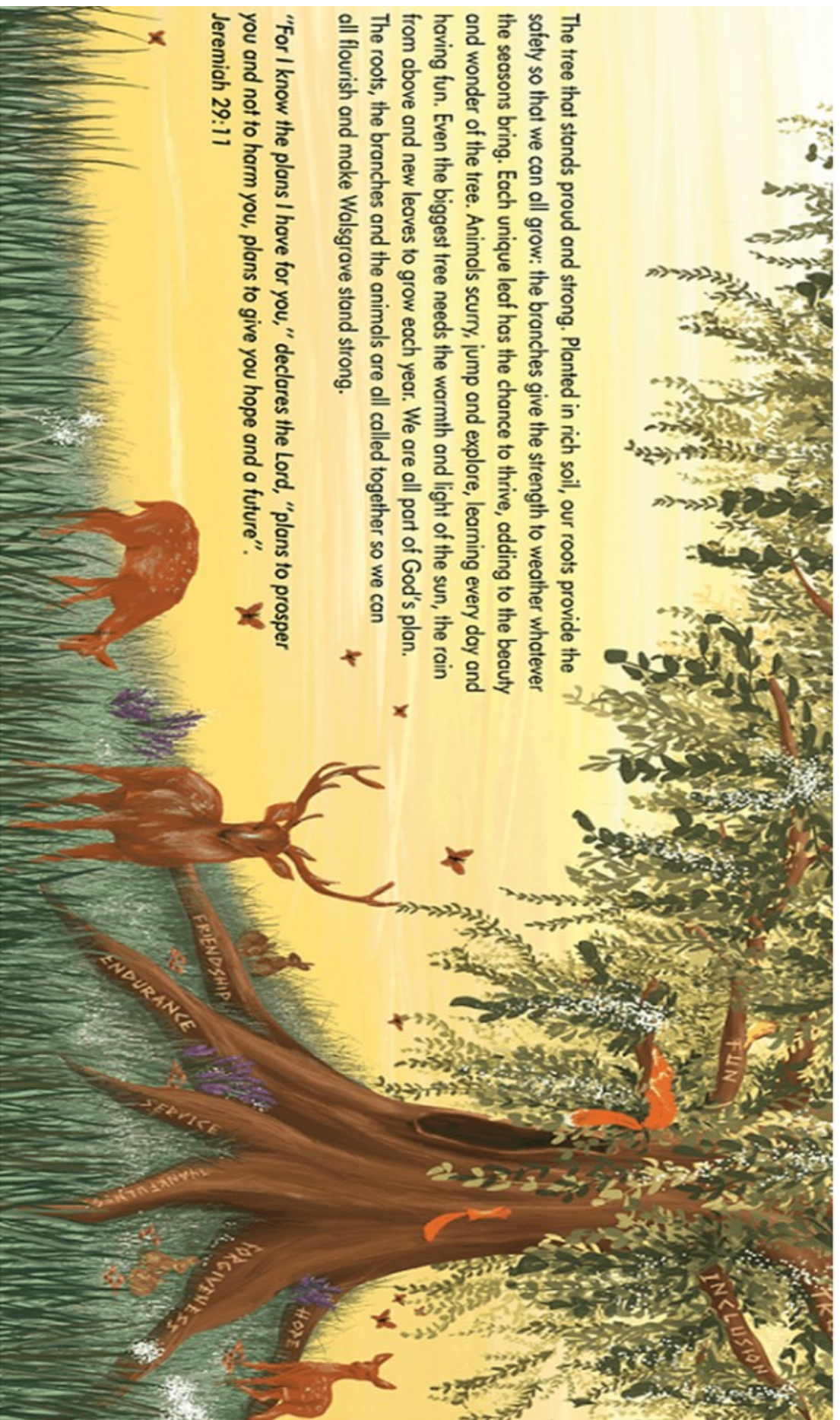
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The tree that stands proud and strong. Planted in rich soil, our roots provide the safety so that we can all grow: the branches give the strength to weather whatever the seasons bring. Each unique leaf has the chance to thrive, adding to the beauty and wonder of the tree. Animals scurry, jump and explore, learning every day and having fun. Even the biggest tree needs the warmth and light of the sun, the rain from above and new leaves to grow each year. We are all part of God's plan. The roots, the branches and the animals are all called together so we can all flourish and make Walsgrave stand strong.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Jeremiah 29:11



This newsletter is distributed to all staff and parents via email. Our aim is to communicate with as many people as possible within ODBST family so that we can share the news, achievements and celebrations from across our Trust. If you have any suggestions on how we could communicate more effectively or would like to make a suggestion for our newsletters, then please contact Emily Gatis on Emily.gatis@oxford.anglican.org