

LINK ACADEMY TRUST

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



FROM NICKY DUNFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear parents and carers,

This has more than ever before been a year of challenging and changing situations, as well as some real achievements and improvements. The autumn term saw us start the academic year wondering whether the pandemic would again be closing schools, luckily it didn't, but we had many staff and pupils who were very poorly. Despite this, our schools ensured digital learning was in place and the staff worked really hard to build a skills progressive curriculum to support our pupils fill any gaps in their learning, making up for the time they had been out of school. The children themselves were brilliant and embraced being back in the classroom. Attendance across the Trust has been in excess of 95% in the majority of schools, which reflects the commitment so important to ensure all children have a good grasp of the appropriate concepts as foundations for life-long learning.

The summer term has seen the children much more settled and relaxed as all the usual summer activities start to return, including sports days, leavers celebrations and trips & visits. They all help to give learning an exciting twist!

SATs testing returned for the first time since 2019 and all the children took it in their stride. Although results were a little down on the 2019 results, the picture was the same nationally and this was only to be expected given the circumstances of that period. Ofsted also inspected three of our schools this term, they remain Good and the Inspection reports reflect significant strengths. We expect them to return next academic year as further schools fall into the inspection window and I am confident they will continue to find good practice, as staff across all our schools 'go the extra mile', some examples include;

- Anna Neville at Landscope has been driving the Global Neighbours project, which aims to increase pupil's understanding of the root cause of poverty and injustice, as well as engaging and empowering pupils as agents of change. This has led to the school not just receiving the Bronze Award, but also being well on the way to the silver level. See the website and Mid Devon Advertiser.
- Brittany Harris in the kitchen at Harbertonford has devised a DT Cooking programme for every pupil across the school which she will help to deliver, resulting in every child producing their own Recipe Book built up throughout their time in school, I can't wait to see them!
- Becky Hawling at Bearnies' completed her National Professional Qualification as a Senior Leader and achieved Distinction in the two different components of the programme, not an easy achievement at all!
- Becky Humphreys and her team have been superb in supporting our special needs pupils through the Inclusion and Improvement Hub (IIH) work, offering therapeutic courses and assisting all schools with high quality bespoke provision for pupils that need assistance in this way.
- Matt, our Deputy CEO has worked tirelessly to continue to improve the school estates, including an extensive redecoration programme this summer. Other larger projects will be delivered including a new roof at Bearnies, a small extension at Stoke Gabriel with other projects just awaiting funding application outcomes. Matt's team supports all heads throughout the year so they can focus on teaching and learning.

These are just a few examples of the dedication of our staff. Every school has a huge number of 'champions' who ensure the whole Trust benefit from their expertise. Next year will see new staff joining the Link, including new Academy Heads at Morchard Bishop - Sam Butler, Widecombe in the Moor - Anthony Arnold and Hennock - Chris Martin who have already been into schools to work with staff to ensure a smooth start in September. We also have a number of early career teachers joining us and the Link will be providing a comprehensive induction and support programme for these members of staff to ensure their success. It only leaves me to say a heartfelt thank you to all staff, trustees, governors, pupils, parents and our fantastic local communities for all their support. I hope you have a lovely summer break and I will look forward to seeing everyone return in September.

Bearnes Primary School

Another term down and the end of another school year – where has that time gone? It has been an amazing year at Bearnes and has felt great to get back to some sort of normality after all the uncertainty of the last couple of years. This term has seen an increase in our number of trips and visitors, adding more to what we already offer. Redwoods and Sycamores were lucky enough to work alongside James Lake, an artist, who spent a day with each class creating a large sculpture of a tree. The tree contains individually created leaves and birds and looks amazing outside Sycamores classroom.

As well as this, all of our pupils had a brilliant opportunity to take part in our Sports Enrichment Day. During this event, all pupils took part in a carousel of activities including, Rugby, Taekwondo, Ultimate Frisbee and Archery, to name a few. It was an amazing day and gave all of our pupils an experience of something they might not have tried before. Years 4, 5 and 6 also went to see the England Women's cricket team play in Somerset with many of them having the once in a lifetime experience of a training session with England coaches and team members at lunch time. A big thank you to Mrs Yeo for organising this.

Thank you all for your continued support and we would like to wish you all a fantastic summer break. See you all in September!

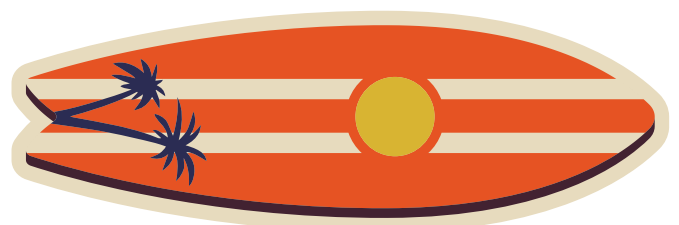


Broadhempston Primary School



Post covid sports and enrichment activity has been a key feature of our year. If we could do it, we have! From the excellent use of the Beacon Woodland area, experiencing whole days of bush craft, den creations and team building to Mr Tanner's sporting year – it's been busy. We have run a traditional sports day for families as well as having an amazing day of sporting celebration ... we had football coaches, archers, Marshal arts, tennis coaches and a variety of other sports on offer throughout the year. Add to that the assault course at Bear Trails, canoe adventures down the Dart, beach cleans and rock-pooling, museum trips, mosque visits, Cultural Champions sharing their world views with us, planting up the village orchard with bulbs, growing our own veg and wild flowers, charity events organised by the children, local artists visiting and creating artwork with children, pupil voice organising toy sales, fair trade community coffee mornings...the list goes on

Hard work? For sure. But worth it!



Cheriton Bishop Primary School

Cheriton Bishop has been a hive of activity over the summer term both on site as well as off it. We have had ducklings hatching, Jubilee street parties, sports days and everything in between. We have been so lucky that our whole community has got behind us and supported us. Without them we would not be able to provide the children with such great experiences. The PTFA drive to raise funds to increase the use of our outside spaces, sums this spirit up perfectly. Children have done everything from running across Dartmoor, building birdhouses to sell and spent their weekends at car boots selling the belongings they have outgrown for this great cause.

Our Pre-schoolers have been more involved in school life than ever, joining class 1 at well planned points during the week and very much enjoying the welly walks they have shared with the Reception and Year 1 children at Crofters Mead which is maintained by the local Scout group who very kindly allow us access which gives the children the opportunity to explore the great outdoors. They have also joined many of our whole school events and watching their sports day race was the highlight of my day!

- To learn, play and explore the beauty of 'The great outdoors'.
- To be taught how to play a musical instrument.
- Take part in a sport that you have never tried before.
- To work closely and collaboratively with children of all ages.
- To make links with different generations and support the local community.

We are now busy planning on how to provide even more opportunities to our fantastic community next year...



Diptford CofE Primary School



It's been such a full and busy term here at Diptford with numerous activities, trips and events keeping the children busy, challenged and enthusiastic. The whole school took part in CAP workshops and learnt about being ' Safe, Strong and Free' and we welcomed the group ' Planet and People' who worked with pupils across the school to complete an environmental health check and suggest ways we can become more 'Planet Positive.'

Our World Explorer days continue to be a great success with children learning about Brazil and Australia and trying out delicious themed lunches on each of the days. Hawks continued the Australian theme as they visited Bantham Beach for a day of sun and surfing. There have also been residential to East Soar, Dartmoor and an exciting day trip to Adrenalin Quarry. All these experiences enrich the children's learning greatly but also create wonderful memories for years to come. Our sporting offer continues to be excellent and, alongside weekly lessons, the children have also taken part in a mini football tournament to celebrate the Women's UEFA EURO tournament. We also enjoyed competing against our other Trust schools in a

tennis tournament to coincide with Wimbledon. Our end of term production was a great success with every child contributing to a truly fantastic performance of 'Wind in the Willows. It was lovely to welcome parents back as a live audience and to see the joy as the children acted out this classic story. Our school value this term has been thankfulness. As we head into the Summer holidays, we invite you to take a moment to reflect on all that we have to be grateful for here in our fantastic village school. Have a wonderful Summer.

Drake's CofE Primary School

We have had an action-packed Summer Term. It has been great to welcome families into school to join in with the fun. The children at Drake's celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a tea party with their families. They decorated the playground and enjoyed some tasty treats supplied by parent and carers.

Children from across the school had fun helping to make three scarecrows for the East Budleigh Scarecrow Festival Weekend. All the children enjoyed Spanish Day at Drake's. The children dressed in the colours of the Spanish or Mexican flag or in traditional dress. They took part in many Spanish activities, games, songs, and stories. Parents came to join in and to sample some Spanish food. Year 6 visited Pixie's Holt in Dartmoor for their residential. They took part in climbing, scrambling and weasling on Hound Tor. Year 6 also had a wonderful time at their Water Sports Day in Exmouth. They all joined in with enthusiasm as they tried paddle boarding, kayaking and had great fun together on the Mega SUP!

Children have had lots of sporting opportunities including swimming lessons for all KS2. We held an amazing Sports Enrichment Day where the children enjoyed tennis, football and took part in fencing.



Harbertonford CofE Primary School



The most exciting things at Harbertonford this term have been the opportunity to start inviting parents in regularly again and to be able to get out and about and make the most of the beautiful area we live in. Year 6 had a fantastic week of events following their SATs, which included a day of surfing, a trip to Bristol to experience what life is like in a city and a visit from Baley the Barn Owl. We ended the first half of term with a wonderful community celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. Sports week started with a Community Sports Day organised by Mr Tanner, which saw the children trying a range of activities including martial arts and fencing and ended with a whole school activity day at Brixham, where rafting, paddleboarding and high ropes were some of the opportunities on offer. We started our own sports day with a family picnic on the field before the hotly contested races, which were enjoyed by both spectators and competitors. We rounded the term off with two fabulous performances of this year's production- Alice. The children brought such energy and enthusiasm to the show, and it was lovely to see the parents, family members and friends of the school who made up our audiences smiling and thoroughly enjoying the event.

Hennock Primary School

What a fantastic summer term we have had at Hennock Primary School. The children have thrown themselves into their learning showing a desire to be their best every day. They have been resilient, resourceful, reflective and shown empathy as a school family. Those children involved with national testing worked hard to show off their learning, they should be proud of their achievements.

Our whole school performance of The Greatest Show was a success and gave some of our children a real platform to shine! Residential for our Year 5 & 6 children saw them spend 3 days on Dartmoor exploring various challenging activities. Their learning behaviours were tested and proved to be an asset.

They were able to collaborate, solve problems, plan, evaluate, listen to others and become completely absorbed in the task at hand. A first for us was the whole school enrichment sports day, which was hosted in Newton Abbot by our fantastic P.E Team. Here the children were exposed to a wide range of sports such as rugby league, yoga, Taekwon-Do, archery and ultimate frisbee. We hope this day sparked an interest and that some of our children will take up a new leisure pursuit. Our own annual sports day was another successful one and extremely well supported by our great school family. With the sun blazing down on us it was lucky our brilliant PTFA were there to erect marquees and keep us all fed and well hydrated!

Finally, our enrichment week was bigger and better than ever this year! A week of ferry rides, boat cruises, golf, crazy golf, life boat visits, art workshops, pizza making, movies, Dynamic sports, Shaldon zoo, Smugglers Cove, yoga experience, fish and chips on the beach, ice creams and a pool day! All in a term's work...Have a restful summer.



Ilslington CofE Primary School



Ilslington has had a fantastic year as we have moved out of Covid restrictions and once more have been able to invite families and volunteers back into school. We have been able to offer a range of opportunities for families to share in their children's learning. This year, we held an art exhibition and also exhibited work at Bovey Tracey's Paradiso Gallery. Children were able to make visits to the theatre, local farms and there was even chance for the older children to go on a residential. Our families have loved attending the 5/6 summer play and sports day was great fun for everyone from two upwards as well. The newly built foundation stage unit is full of light and laughter and it is a joy to see our children playing and learning together enjoying the lovely resources and lots of outdoor space and fresh air. Our children have planted and grown a lovely sensory and spiritual garden that is in full bloom at present and turned their attention to developing a wildlife area recently too. PE has been a strength this year as we have benefited from having both Mr Pierce and Miss Willis as keen sports specialists at the school, our children have been able to try

a wide range of sports such as dance, fencing, rounders, athletics, football and more. We are all looking forward to having a summer holiday and to bouncing back into September to see what exciting, fun learning opportunities there are to come.

SUMMER

Landscope CofE Primary School

The highlight of this term and our year was celebrating the grand opening of our spiritual garden with a short service and cream tea for the whole school community. The garden has evolved over the last two years, with mosaic designs, depicting our school values; patios laid, and wildflower beds planted. In addition to this the garden offers habitats for wildlife and a place for our whole school Beach Tree sculpture (created during our arts week this year) providing our reminder about our beach clean, plastic pollution and the impact we have on our natural world.

It's a wonderful garden that provides pupils, staff and our community with a quiet space within which to be still and reflect. It's great to see the children's plan become a reality.

The spiritual has also been tightly linked to the Global Neighbours Project which has been undertaken by the whole school community and beyond, being taken into our local village. We have just submitted our final pieces of evidence and had an interview – our bronze award is on the way!



Morchard Bishop CofE Primary School



This term has seemed to be very close to a normal summer term in terms of the activities the children have done. The school held an open evening for parents with an opportunity to meet the new Academy Head Mr Sam Butler, the Key Stage 2 children took part in their traditional village walk which took most of the day and ended with refreshing ice pops and then there was sports day. The highlight of the summer term was however the school production.

The children worked very hard learning lines, songs and performing dances based on an environmental theme of 'We can change the world together'. This production had a poignant message about the environment and how greed is destroying the planet causing extreme weather leading to famine. The children preformed the play outside in the school field and this had its own challenges. On the Friday before the show, the children stood up to sing the song 'A storm is coming' when the heavens opened and all the props got wet, better was to come in the dress rehearsal as a team from Teign trees arrived to cut down an ash tree with die back. Luckily the main performances ran smoothly and had rousing applause from the audiences. This was a great experience for all the children as it has been 3 years since the children have been able to put on a production and it wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the teaching staff and the creativity of the TAs.



Moretonhampstead Primary School

We have had a really super summer term at Moretonhampstead with loads going on! We had a wonderful Jubilee Day where parents enjoyed our 'Journey Through The Decades' performance and then joined the children for a celebratory lunch of fish and chips; and meringues and strawberries! All of our classes have been on trips to enhance their learning. The children in Year 3&4 visited Shallowford farm. The children had planted some Devil's-bit scabious seeds at school and grown this unusual plant. These were then taken to the farm (one of the endangered environments in which the Marsh Fritillary butterfly lives) planted and the butterflies surveyed.

KS1, EYFS and preschool took a trip to Dartmoor Zoo and had a wonderful day learning about animals, big and small, and the habitats they live in. Children in Marden class visited Teignmouth, enjoying lots of learning about our local beaches and enjoyed lots of play too. We are very proud of the way our Year 6 children have conducted themselves this term. They approached the SATs tests with a calm and enthusiastic positivity and have made us proud. They then turned their focus to the 'Grow £5' enterprise project - we have some serious entrepreneurs! There has been lots of fun too - with a year 6 'treat' to Quay West and loads of water play. The whole school has also enjoyed Sports' Day, Sports' Enrichment and a Swimming Gala. We now have some really tired children ready for a summer rest! Have a lovely summer.



Otterton CofE Primary School



It has been a super busy final term of this academic year at Otterton and we are reflecting on how lucky we have been to have had, after a disruptive couple of years, a relatively normal year at last. Here are some of the highlights:

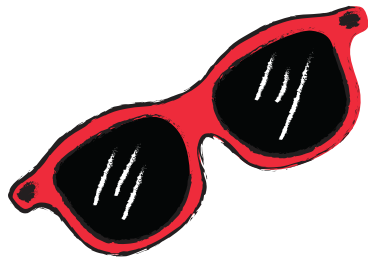
Heron Class took part in the Kingfisher Award which is run by Clinton Devon Estates, they spent a morning at Stantyway Farm, whilst there they took part in a variety of activities, including making flapjack, bird watching and learning all about where our food comes from. They then had some time to undertake school-based project work before taking a display of what they have learned to Bicton Arena where a panel of judges judged all the entries and spoke to the children about what they had learnt.

The year 6 children went on their Residential to Dartmoor and then had a water sports day, these were absolutely amazing experiences for the children and gave them some wonderful memories to take away from their time at Otterton. The Year 5 and 6 children have done their Bikeability course which they all really enjoyed and

learned a lot of valuable lessons from. We held an amazing Sports Day! It was so lovely to be able to hold a 'proper' sports day this year and to welcome parents and family members to spectate and support the children. Whatever the outcome, the children were ALL winners, they tried their absolute hardest and did their very best, supporting each other in true Otterton style.

Stoke Gabriel Primary School

We are incredibly proud of how we have all navigated the various stages of life after Covid. We have embraced the opportunity to enhance our curriculum with a wide range of trips, visits and experiences. Pre-school have covered themselves in mud for international mud day, Reception and KS1 have been scrambling up climbing walls at Dyno Climbing Centre and KS2 made it all the way to Dittisham in canoes with the River School. As well as our fabulous residential, sailing experiences and welly walks around the village, we have attended so many Trust sports days where our sports leaders have represented the school fantastically. Thank you to our school community for supporting us to provide these unforgettable moments..



Tedburn St Mary Primary School



Another draws to a close and what an amazing year it has been. Children continue to thrive and have lots of super opportunities within their learning. It has been lovely to see the ways in which teachers have enhanced the curriculum with trips and visitors across the summer term; Willow class headed off to Exmouth on the train, Birch and Ash classes explored the Roman sites of Exeter and became Romans for the day, Oak class turned the field into a Civil War battle field and the whole school celebrated the Jubilee. On top of this the whole school completed a Busy Bee challenge and raised over £5000 towards developing our sensory play area. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work, resilience, and efforts across the year, we hope you all have a lovely summer break.



Widecombe-in-the-Moor Primary School

The summer term at Widecombe is one of our favourite (and busiest!) times of year. All children in the school have swum weekly in our swimming pool! Teaching staff have started their swimming instruction courses and as a result it is wonderful to see the children becoming more confident in the water. The children have been learning to perform safe self-rescues and are using a range of strokes to increase their swimming stamina. It is also lots of fun having our own swimming pool and definitely a place of respite during this hot weather!

Sport has been one of the main themes this term. We would like to say well done to everyone for earning points for their team during Sports Day and thank you to Mr Pierce for a well-organised and fun event. Years 2,3,4,5 and 6 travelled to Taunton to watch the International Women's Test Cricket. Some of our children had never been to watch a live sporting event before, so a stadium experience was a fantastic experience for them. We have also enjoyed our Sports Enrichment Day where the children had the

opportunity to experience football coaching, ultimate frisbee, yoga, dance, dodgeball, archery, team-building, taekwondo and rugby with the Exeter Chiefs- it was an action-packed day!

This term we have used theatre trips and drama to enhance our curriculum. Webburn class visited The Princess Theatre in Torquay to watch The Lion That Came to Tea and later in the term went to watch the Schools Theatre perform A Fisherman's Tail at Buckfast Abbey. Lower Dart went to South Dartmoor College to watch the Matilda production and Upper Dart performed their own representation of the David and Goliath story in The Giant Slayer. Our children are more appreciative of live performances and it wouldn't surprise us to see some of them 'treading the boards' in the future as we have some real talent!



Yeoford Primary School



The sun has been shining in Yeoford and we have had a busy term. Sports day, enrichment activities, residentials, swimming, transition events, Eco days, visitors, the list goes on...

The whole school learning question has been 'Who reigns over Yeoford?' and children have been exploring the monarchy and our beautiful country. Bumblebees made famous buildings and then re-enacted the Great Fire of London, Foxes made fact files on Henry VIII whilst Owls focused on the impact of The Plague. Amongst all of the learning, we had a wonderful celebration for the Queen's Jubilee where we planted a tree to remember the day. This time of year always sees us preparing for the next chapter and this summer has been busier than normal! The children have coped with this really well and the our core school values have kept everyone going. We had a visit from the Ofsted inspectors this term and are really looking forward to sharing the report with everyone. With classes changing and staff moving on there are lots of exciting plans that will be taking place over the summer including a lick of paint and a new library and kitchen. We are very sad to say goodbye to key members of staff but we wish them all the best for the future.

Have a wonderful summer.



**KEEP
CALM AND
LET THE
SUMMER
BEGIN!**