

# ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CE MAT NEWSLETTER

'All God's Children Learning and Achieving Together'

ISSUE 2: SPRING 2024



## Ofsted Success – Woodfield Primary School 'A community where everyone belongs'

Following five successful Ofsted outcomes for St Bartholomew's CE MAT in 2023, we are thrilled to announce that **Woodfield Primary School** has most recently been inspected, in February 2024, with incredible results.

With '**outstanding**' judgements in all five areas (Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision), the overall effectiveness of **Woodfield** was also rated as 'outstanding'.

This marks an extraordinary turnaround for the school, which was judged to require improvement in its last inspection. To read a copy of the full report, please click [here](#).



Katy Kent, CEO, Simon Arnold, Executive Headteacher, Jane Cattell, Deputy Headteacher and children from Woodfield Primary School.



Love



Trust



Compassion



Forgiveness

## Performance Data

Government released school performance data for overall performance at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2023 places schools within our Trust in a strong position nationally, with all schools within the Trust attaining above national figures in most areas and in some cases, significantly above national averages. Our Trust averages for reading, writing, maths and combined at the end of Key Stage in July 2023 were 88.3%, 85.4%, 90% and 78.9%, well above the national figures of 73%, 71%, 73% and 59% respectively.

**St Bartholomew's CE Primary School** had the highest attainment in Wolverhampton and **Oak Meadow Primary School** the third highest proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard.

In Staffordshire, **Haughton St Giles**, **St Benedict Biscop**, **All Saints'**, **Gnosall St Lawrence** and **Woodseaves** all placed within the top 25% of schools and within Dudley, **Fairhaven Primary School** also placed 38<sup>th</sup> out of 101 schools.

Progress scores in reading, writing and maths were also above average and, in some cases, well above average as compared to national figures, which is a fantastic achievement.

We are very proud of the outcomes of our pupils, which is testament to the hard work of our children and staff and wonderful support from parents and carers. It's lovely to see the children flourish and achieve their potential, ready for the next stage of their education.



Rachael Kilmister, Headteacher and children from St Bartholomew's CE Primary School.

## SIAMS Inspections

Following successful Ofsted outcomes in 2023, **Haughton St Giles** and **Woodseaves** both have further cause for celebration, after receiving positive Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) reports.

SIAMS inspections focus on the impact of a Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults which involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

The inspection findings indicate that both schools are living up to their foundations as Church schools and are enabling pupils and adults to flourish. At **Haughton St Giles**, it was found that 'the inclusive vision of the school has shaped an ambitious curriculum' which 'enables all pupils to be valued for their uniqueness, to aspire and to love learning'. Pupils were found to show 'a deep respect for each other, God's world and the local community' and 'live out the vision through both words and actions'. At **Woodseaves**, Christian love was found to be 'present in every aspect of school life' and 'because of the strong emphasis on wellbeing, pupils understand how their emotions work and how to build healthy relationships. The strong partnerships with St Bartholomew's Church of England Multi-Academy Trust, and the Lichfield Diocese were noted to 'enrich the life of the school'. We are delighted with the outcomes for both schools and congratulate all children and staff on this wonderful achievement.

## Sustainability and Reducing our Carbon Foot Print

In late summer 2023, the Trust were successful in securing £302,000 towards a £435,000 project for replacing the heating system at **St Bartholomew's CE Primary School** and also undertook phase one of an LED lighting and ceiling upgrade project. This incorporated every school from across the Trust, following additional government funding for specific energy projects. These projects are designed to significantly reduce energy consumption across the Trust, its energy costs, and our carbon footprint, whilst improving the learning environment for staff and children.

## Artsmark Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that **Oak Meadow Primary School** has been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award, following a two-year process of application, evidence collection, evaluation and assessment that recognises the embedding of creativity across the whole school curriculum alongside extra-curricular provision.

Artsmark empowers teachers with the skills they need to embed arts, culture and creativity across the whole curriculum and recognises schools' exceptional commitment to creativity. The Artsmark Award is accredited by Arts Council England and is the only creative quality standard for schools. Artsmark is proven to support pupil outcomes and wellbeing, teacher recruitment, retention and confidence, and whole school improvement.

Paul Lane, Interim Head of School at **Oak Meadow** commented, "I am bursting with pride for the school following this national recognition; from the diverse and creative lessons children receive daily to our stellar enrichment events such as 'A Million Dreams', this accolade showcases our magnificent work and the high standards we have built with the support of all stakeholders and our partnership with St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust."



**Artsmark  
Gold Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



## Gold Award for Character Education Development

We are delighted that St Bart's have secured the Gold award for character education development from the Skills Builder Hub.

To achieve this, the school had to demonstrate excellence in developing children's character such as their team work, presenting skills, resilience, creativity, and leadership.

The school has now been asked to be a flag ship school to share good practice in this area. We are immensely proud of the work the children have put into developing their skills and embracing Skills Builder as a framework to enhance their learning.



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## Sporting Successes

We are delighted that our children have been able to participate in a range of sporting activities over the course of this term, representing both their schools and our Trust at local and regional levels. A number of interschool sporting events have also taken place in football, tag rugby and netball. Being active isn't just about feeling stronger, fitter, more energetic and sleeping better, it's also about having fun! Being active also helps with mental health and we know that children and young people who are more active have more confidence, higher self-esteem, less anxiety and stress, and better social skills – attributes that can help them deal with the challenges they face in daily life.

Below is just a sample of the sporting events and activities our children have been involved with this term:

### Fairhaven Primary School

- 12 Year 5/6 children competed in the School Games Athletics Competition and won out of 12 school for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. They now will go on to represent Dudley in the Black Country Games in May.
- 12 Year 5/6 children represented the school at Summerhill School in the annual Cross Country Competition. Out of 29 schools, **Fairhaven** children took 1<sup>st</sup> place, with five children coming in the top 10. Andrew came 1<sup>st</sup> out of 174 boys and Phoebe came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 174 girls, winning by a staggering 50 points!
- The school's KS2 gymnastics teams came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the intermediate section at the Dudley Gymnastics Club Competition. Darcie scored the highest overall, coming 1<sup>st</sup>!
- The school's netball team have taken on five local schools for the league this half term and have beaten every school. The girls have scored 96 goals across all the games and only conceded 6 goals.

### Woodfield Primary School

- A team of children took part in the Penn area cross-country event held at Highfields school. The children ran a course of approximately one mile. Overall, Woodfield girls secured 4<sup>th</sup> place with their team score and the Woodfield boys' team gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place, missing out on 1<sup>st</sup> place by just 2 points! Due to this success, the children then went on to compete in the City cross-country event at Aldersley stadium. Woodfield hope to run a cross-country club next academic year, to build on this success.
- All classes from Reception to Year 6 have participated in 30 minutes of skipping activities to their enhance lunchtime activities.
- Woodfield have fielded a tag-rugby team for the first time. They competed in the Wolverhampton City tournament at Wolverhampton Rugby Club where they played against several other schools within the MAT and City.



Children from Woodfield Primary School's tag rugby and athletics teams

## Oak Meadow Primary School

- Well done to both the **Oak Meadow** boys' and girls' cross country and athletics teams who won their respective competitions against schools from across the City in February and March.
- On Friday 8th March, a selection of children from the Year 5 and 6 girls' football teams represented **Oak Meadow** in the "Girl's Biggest Football Event Ever" at Aldersley Leisure Village; the tournament was within their sports hall with normal futsal rules. Amazingly, the girls progressed through a group stage and semi-final before winning the whole tournament and being awarded the City futsal champions trophy! Throughout the day, the children showed their fierce competitive nature, team skills and skill prowess as well as a genuine love for sport and commendable sportsmanship. Incredible achievement girls – well done!



Children from Oak Meadow's football team

## St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

- Children in KS2 took part in their first tag rugby interschool competition, at Castlecroft Primary School.
- A team of children took part in a football tournament organised by the Wolves Foundation. One of our Year 6 children achieved a values award as part of this, out of over 100 children who attended the day!

## St Benedict Biscop CE Primary School

- Commonwealth Gold Medallist Ryan Scott was welcomed to the school for a sports star sponsored event, raising £927 for sports equipment in school.

## All Saints' CE Primary School

- This term we sent two teams to take part in the South Staffordshire indoor athletics competition. The children competed well against other schools from across the south of the county.
- Our tag rugby team had a friendly competition against Woodfield on 13th March. The final score was 6-4 to Woodfield. Both teams played extremely well as it was the first time that most of the children had played a full match.



Children from All Saints' Primary School's athletics team

## Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

- Children in Years 3 and 4 have recently had an 8-2 football victory, away at All Saints Standon, as part of the Stone/Staffordshire league. The next match is at home to Tittensor in April.



Children from the Woodseaves' football team

## World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

This annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading is a highly anticipated day for children across our Trust.

The opportunity for children to dress up as their favourite book characters and to share their favourite books and stories with their friends, teachers and family members is a fantastic way for schools to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits.

As part of this special day, children at **All Saints' CE Primary School** welcomed Andy Tooze, an ex-primary school teacher turned performance poet and specialist poetry teacher who led poetry performances and writing workshops for each class. At the end of the day, the children all gathered to perform their poetry to one another in a special poetry assembly.



Children from All Saints' with Andy Tooze

Children and staff at **Woodfield Primary School** brought World Book Day to life by decorating their classroom doors with key features from some of their favourite books. You can see a small selection of these below!



World Book Day classroom door decorations at Woodfield Primary School

Children at **St Bartholomew's CE Primary** enjoyed the company of Pep the Poet, performance poet and well-being champion.

At **Woodseaves CE Primary Academy**, World Book Day concluded with the older children reading to the younger children, in the school hall, whilst enjoying juice and biscuits. A real treat!



World Book Day story time at Woodseaves

A group of 12 Year 6 children from **Fairhaven** were invited to attend an amazing morning of literature at Wolverhampton Grammar School where they met Dame Jacqueline Wilson, as she released her new book.

Year 2 poet laureates and reading ambassadors from **St Bartholomew's CE Primary** were also fortunate to meet Waterstones' Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho and illustrator Fiona Lumbers at an author storytelling session at Wolverhampton Grammar School.



Children and staff from All Saints' CE Primary



Children and staff at St Benedict Biscop



Joseph Coelho, Fiona Lumbers and children from St Bartholomew's

In acknowledgement of the cost of living crisis, some of our schools have introduced a 'donate your old World Book Day costume' initiative. This allows families to swap their old World Book Day costumes for nearly new ones, ensuring that this day remains accessible to all of our wonderful children.

## Other School Events and Visits

- Children at **St Benedict Biscop** took part in NSPCC number day; children in KS2 went to see Wicked at the London Apollo Theatre and Year 4 children visited Walsall Art Gallery.
- At **Woodseaves**, two classes visited the Stoke-on-Trent synagogue as part of the RE curriculum; KS1 children visited Ford Green Hall as part of their Great Fire of London unit where they delved deeper into the life experiences of those involved. Reception children performed a wonderful Chinese New Year-themed assembly for parents and lower KS2 performed 'Three Little Trees - the Easter story' to parents and the community.



- At **Haughton St Giles**, the whole school had a fantastic time taking part in a quiz, run by the School Council, to raise money for 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. So far the efforts of the children have raised a total of £132.50 which is absolutely fantastic.

## Marvellous Maths!

A huge well done to Priyansh, Isaac, Toby and Aarsh who took part in the Year 4 maths challenge at Wolverhampton Girls' High School this term. The boys showed great maths knowledge and brilliant behaviour, proudly representing **St Bartholomew's CE Primary School**. We were thrilled that the boys came third out of 90 teams!

## BBC 500 Word Competition

We are delighted that two children from **Woodseaves** made it through to the final stages of shortlisting in the BBC 500 word competition with their short stories. The creativity and quality of writing they demonstrated was highly commended and we are so very proud of them!

## Attendance Update

Across the Trust, we continue to see improvements in children's attendance. Very well done to **St Bartholomew's, All Saints', Gnosall St Lawrence** and **Woodseaves** for being recognised as having the lowest 20% of absence, nationally.

Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is government evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. A very big thank you to all of our parents and children for working so hard with us to improve attendance.

## Outstanding Phonics Screening Check Results 2023

**Gnosall St Lawrence, St Bart's and Haughton St Giles** were all thrilled to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Minister for Schools, in acknowledgement of their exceptionally high achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check. The letter thanked the schools for their "commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education" and congratulated "you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved". Huge congratulations to the Year 1 children and staff for achieving this wonderful accolade.



## Schools within our Trust

### St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

Headteacher: Rachael Kilmister

<https://www.stbartholomewsprimary.co.uk> (01902 558855)



### St Benedict Biscop CE Primary School

Headteacher: Nicola Scott-Worthington

<https://www.st-benedictbiscop.staffs.sch.uk> (01902 892197)



### Woodfield Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Simon Arnold

<https://www.woodfieldprimary.co.uk> (01902 558835)



### All Saints' CE Primary School

Headteacher: Louise de Graaff

<https://www.allsaintstrysull.co.uk> (01902 894452)



### Gnosall St Lawrence CE Primary Academy

Headteacher: Kirsten Sweet

<https://www.st-lawrence.staffs.sch.uk> (01785 822391)



### Haughton St Giles CE Primary Academy

Headteacher: Victoria Hulme

<https://www.haughtonstgiles.org.uk> (01785 780511)



### Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

Headteacher: Michelle Easthope

<https://www.woodseaves.staffs.sch.uk> (01785 284212)



### Oak Meadow Primary School

Head of School: Paul Lane

<https://www.oakmeadowschool.uk> (01902 558517)



### Fairhaven Primary School

Headteacher: Tom Garner

<https://www.fairhaven.dudley.sch.uk> (01384 8418385)



We hope all of our wonderful children, staff and parents had a happy and restful Easter break.