



TEAM
MULTI-ACADEMY
TRUST

SUMMER 2023

NEWSLETTER

A letter from TEAM Multi-Academy Trust's CEO Ian Thomas



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the academic year closes, I find myself reflecting on everything that has been achieved across TEAM Multi-Academy Trust during the academic year 2022/23. So many highlights come to mind and it has been particularly pleasing to see that we have continued to provide the children with a range of collaborative opportunities to engage in. We managed to organise a variety of school trips across all year groups and residential experiences for our Key Stage Two children. This year we also arranged not one but two London residential visits ensuring each time that Year 5 children from around the Trust had the chance to learn more about our capital city. The Proms event held at the Queen's Theatre was organised this year for the schools that did not participate during the academic year 2021/22. Once again, this event proved to be amazing and showcased the talent we have across the trust. For the past three years, our schools have been involved with the 'Voice to Tell Our Story' Project which was organised by Beaford Arts and the University of South Wales. This involved our children gaining access to a professional artist, storyteller, film maker and photographer. The children thoroughly enjoyed their interactions with the team, and everyone really benefited from being involved. Along with these highlights, we have continued to ensure that a range of sporting, music, art and humanities events have taken place. Our children have also taken part in a variety of workshops. Two that really stood out were with London-based artist Sophia Amelia Creates and the archaeology workshop with Durham University. These things would of course not have happened without such a committed staff team who get everything organised and of course through your support.

Our international work with schools in India and across Europe has continued. It has been particularly rewarding observing children in our schools sharing ideas and learning with their peers from other countries. This is something that we will be continuing with during 2023/24.

Thanks to those of you that took the time to complete the parent survey. Your feedback as always is very much appreciated. Along with this, we always gather the views of our pupils and staff. As we progress over the next few weeks, we will be completing a detailed analysis of the data to see where we can continue to make improvements in each individual school and collectively as a Multi-Academy Trust.

As we approach the holidays, it is clear to establish that schools across the country are still facing many challenges created by the pandemic, cost of living crisis and political upheaval. Research is showing that issues linked to school finance, vulnerable children, pupil behaviour and attendance are common themes in both primary and secondary settings. These will continue to be areas of focus for us next year.

As the school year ends, I am conscious that it is a time of transition to new year groups and new schools. Our Year 6 cohorts across the Trust have been fantastic this year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best for the future.

The staff, as always deserve a huge thank you for all the hard work, time and expertise that they have brought to their schools and TEAM MAT as a whole. It is clear to see as I complete my visits just how much they have enjoyed working with such amazing children.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Trustees, Local Governors and Staff I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you all the very best for the future.

Best wishes,

Ian Thomas



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS

TEAM Night at the Proms at the Queen's Theatre.

Children from six of our schools came together at the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple for a wonderful evening of song, dance and music. From Rock bands to Samba bands, Soloists and gymnasts our music teacher, Mrs Brayley, excelled herself with the superb quality of the show she put together. What super talented children!



Orienteering Finals 2023

The Trust's orienteering finals took place at Pilton Bluecoat. Children from Pilton Bluecoat, High Bickington, Horwood and Newton Tracey, Umberleigh, Brayford and Pilton Infants' took part in a range of courses from Y1-6. It was a great morning where the children who took part showed superb teamwork and problem-solving skills. Well done to everyone involved.

Creation Explorers

Children from across the Trust have been able to enjoy several Creation Explorer days. Children from Beaford, High Bickington, Umberleigh and Howard and Newton Tracey enjoyed a trip to Saunton Sands, where they did beach art and rock pooling and had lunch on the beach. Mrs Arnold organised for children from Witheridge to go to Tarr Steps, where they enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day searching for native crayfish and American crayfish, they particularly enjoyed the paddling!



Bude Residential

Year six children from across the Trust had a blast in Bude! They enjoyed many adventurous activities in the beautiful sunshine. They came home very tired but full of tales of their time at Bude Adventure International and some lifelong memories.



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS CONTINUED

Go Beyond

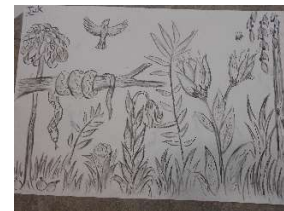
Children from across the Trust have been able to attend two separate Go Beyond breaks in Cornwall. Mrs Arnold at Pilton Bluecoat found this incredible charity that offer free residential to young people facing adversity. During the weeklong breaks, the children enjoyed activities such as a trip to the beach, rock climbing, surfing and lots of time in the sites 3 activity barns which include trampolines, basketball and sports, arts and crafts and the games room with pool, air hockey and darts as well as days out. The focus of the week is fun, fun, fun and it is a time for the children to relax and enjoy freedom from any pressure they may be facing.



The Opal Project



The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) primary programme supports school improvement through better play and playtimes. Team Multi- Academy Trust believe that play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Since being rolled out across the Trust we are getting lots of positive feedback from our children who are loving exploring different types of play at break and lunchtimes.



Passionate about Art Day

A group of artists from across the Trust went to High Bickington for 'A passionate about art day!' where they studied the works of Henri Rousseau. They produced large scale charcoal rubbings and incredible wire sculptures. It was lovely for children to come together, make new friends and revel and celebrate each other's talents.



Teachers Rock Music Festival @ The Big sheep

A huge well done to all choir children who came to the Teachers Rock Choir Festival at the Big Sheep. We had a fantastic afternoon performing on the stage. Mrs Brayley was particularly impressed with the festival face decorating and hair styling!! A big thank you to all the children and to their families for coming to watch.

Tarka Tennis

The infants from across the Trust came together for a multi skills event at the Tarka Tennis Centre. The children worked well together to learn new skills.



TEAM Football Tournament

Witheridge and Mr Manning welcomed High Bickington and Pilton Bluecoat for our annual TEAM football tournament. This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to collaborate and compete with other children in our Trust.





TRAIN TO TEACH!

We at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust are extremely proud of our Teacher Training School.

In conjunction with the University of Exeter we offer our students a teaching programme which provides real time classroom experience backed up with specialist training by teachers and experts in their field.

This year's cohort have now completed their training and are looking forward to starting their teaching roles in September.

We are delighted to announce that two of our students, Maria and Natalie won the Ted Wragg South West Trainee award for their exceptional work and commitment.

Our next group of enthusiastic and motivated trainees are looking forward to getting started on our programme next term.

We are now full for 2023 – 2024 but if you are interested in training with us in the future, please take a look at this link:

www.teamacademytrust.com/page/?title=Initial+Teacher+Training



OUR KEY DRIVERS

Building Futures | Future Proofing

As a forward-thinking Trust we work hard to ensure our children grow up knowing about the world around them. Our Big Event curriculum is planned to provide our children with a wealth of first-hand experiences which have been devised to expand their horizons and increase their aspirations for the future. Along with this our pupils learn how to keep themselves healthy and safe. In order to achieve this, we do the following:

- Offer Big Event trips to broaden the pupils understanding of the world in which they live.
- Offer year group residential visits to develop the understanding of themselves, the UK and Europe.
- Provide Health and Safety talks
- Offer a fully comprehensive PSHE curriculum
- Provide a comprehensive transition programme at the end of KS2

Children are also taught to understand and manage risk through our personal, social, health (PSHE) education and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) programmes.





SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

TEAM Multi-Academy Trust's Cook | Bobbie Leach | Representing Witheridge C of E Academy



"I have worked at Witheridge school for 22 years now as a kitchen manager. I have seen many changes over the years and survived the turkey twizzlers epidemic. I have watched the children's eating habits change over the years, not always for the better, but I do love spending time encouraging the children to try new things and I like to think I have made a positive difference to a lot of children over the years. Living in a village, I like to see the children outside of school and how they see me. They cannot believe I have a life outside the school. One child saw me in my garden and asked what I was doing there. I told them I lived there, and they did not believe me because I live in the school kitchen. I like to see the children go on to secondary school and grow into adults, then have their own family who I go on to look after at lunchtimes in school."

My worst memory of my time at Witheridge school will always be the time I had 1 yoghurt left in a bowl and a little boy asked me if he could have it. I said yes, he could but as it is my only yoghurt, I expect him to not waste it as a lot of children would like to have it. He promised to eat it all and off he went. He did not eat it, so I asked him to sit back down and eat half of it for me. It took him a while to eat it, but we compromised, and he ate some of it. Only for me to find out it was not a pot of yogurt but a pot of salad cream. I am sure he remembers his primary school dinner lady well."

I live with my family, Steve, my long-suffering husband of 28 years, Jamie who is 26, Bradley who is 24 and Melissa who is 15. Along with a string of animals, comprising of horses, goats, dogs, rabbits, and a cat. With my busy family home, I do not have much spare time for hobbies except riding horses and walking dogs, beach trips being a favorite."

Quick Fire Questions

Q. Tea or Coffee? A. It must be tea for breakfast and bedtime but coffee in the day.

Q. Smarties or M&M's? A. I would struggle to turn down any form of chocolate, but I am a loyal Maltesers fan, and it would be a complete betrayal to choose either smarties or M&Ms.

Q. Dogs or Cats? A. I have both, but my dogs are my biggest love. They give the best kisses and cuddles but as my cat is a barn cat and I have no idea what has been in her mouth, we do not allow kisses and cuddles with the cat.

Q. Rugby or Football? A. I am neither, my husband enjoys it, so my dogs love it as they usually get an extra walk when the sport is on.

Q. Upper School or Lower School? A. I love young children when they first start school and are a bit scared to try new foods and I can work with them and see them slowly learn to trust me and the foods they are having. I also love to see the older children helping the young ones.

Q. Travel back in time or forward to the future? A. If I could take my family with me, I would love to go forward 100 years and see what technology will be like. It has moved on so fast in our time. I would also like to drive a car in 100 years' time, there will surely be a way of stopping me from curbing my wheels by then. I am sure cars will completely drive themselves by then, we are there now.

Q. Summer or Winter? A. I do love the summer months, evenings on the beach with the evening sun with fish and chips but I also like the fire on, doors locked, and the curtains drawn to keep the cold out in winter.

Q. Night In or Night Out? A. Anyone that knows me knows that I am a night in person. One late night will take me a week to get over. Cup of tea in bed for the news at 10.

Q. Cannonball into the swimming pool, or dip a toe in first? A. Definitely dip a toe in first and if it's not jacuzzi temperature take me toe straight back out again.

Q. Sunrise or Sunset? A. I would love to say sunrise as I love an early morning walk with the dogs, but as I love my bed too much this does not happen very often so I will have to say sunset, again, on the beach with fish and chips.

BEAFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY



Residential to Rock and Rapids

Earlier in the summer term Otters were lucky enough to go on a three-day residential to Rock and Rapids near South Molton. We took part in a range of exciting activities including archery, climbing, hiking and den-building. The children showed amazing resilience by staying away from home and joining in with team-building and other challenges. We came home tired but happy having successfully completed all the tasks set for us.

Elvin and Kipp

Ladybirds and Hedgehogs thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Elvin and Kipp who taught the children songs, chants and played different instruments for them to appreciate.



Sports Week

As part of 'Sports Week' the children have developed their football skills with Reuben the coach from Romar Sports.



Police Visit

As part of our learning about 'people who look after us', we had a really enriching visit from 4 police officers who brought their van and equipment to show the children. The children interacted fantastically well and really gained a better insight to the role of the police force within our community.



Exploring the Garden

Ladybirds have been busy exploring and developing the garden with friends. They have enjoyed planting seeds and observing the new froglets and frogs.

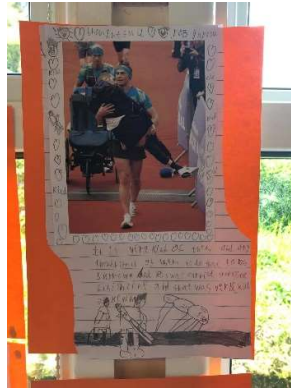
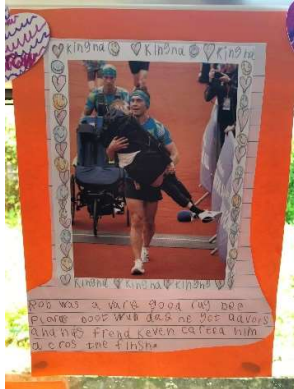


Appletree Farm

Mrs Buswell worked with some children in Year Four and Five. They went to Appletree Farm where they had the opportunity to look after animals, do some baking and did some of their own teaching! They were truly immersed in some enriching activities.

Mental Health Awareness Week

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we spoke about kindness and friendship. We focussed on the friendship between Rob Burrow and Kevin Sinfield. The children were very thoughtful when discussing what we can learn from these role models in our daily school life.



Wildside Residential

Last week our year 3 and 4 children went to their 'Wildside' residential, nestled in a secluded valley within the Blackdown Hills, surrounded by woodland and fields. The children had some fantastic learning experiences with nature and wildlife and represented our school very well.



World Chocolate Day

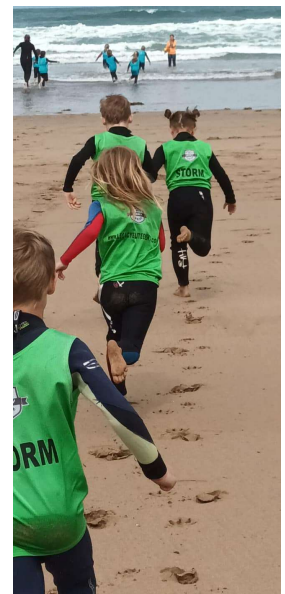
The Juniors in school created a great morning of activities for the Infants and Brumbles. They learnt about taste buds and did some chocolate tasting, weighed out ingredients to make chocolate crispy cakes, analysed chocolate wrappers and designed their own, learnt where chocolate comes from, listened to an excerpt from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and did a Kahoot quiz all about... chocolate!!



Lifeguard Day

They took part in lifesaving skills, body boarding, beach games and a litter picking and most importantly lots of laughter!

The children were a pleasure to take to the beach!





An historic event

The coronation of King Charles III was an historic event and we have been learning about the ceremony in school. It was lovely that the whole school were able to come together for our own Coronation picnic. Although the weather was not great, we made the best of it and gathered in the hall. The children looked amazing dressed in their smartest clothes of red, white and blue.



Shelter Box Charity

Mike and his colleagues from the Rotary Club came to talk to the children about the strong link they have with the Shelter Box charity. Mike showed the children what equipment comes out of a box and they helped to erect one of the large tents that provide the vital shelter in areas of the world after a disaster. Jack handed over a (very large) cheque for £2,458.92 on behalf of all of the children from TEAM schools who helped to raise this excellent sum of money: it is enough for 4+ shelter boxes.



Tiverton Museum

Class Two enjoyed a trip to Tiverton Museum to revisit our learning about the Victorian Era. The children took part in four workshops around the museum which included farm life, homes, schools and laundry. The workshops were interactive and hands on and the children experienced life during the Victorian Times first hand. The museum emailed the school after the trip with a lovely comment, saying the children were really well behaved, engaged and focused.



Urban Pioneers

Class Three went to Bristol for a street art experience with "Where the Wall." The children started with an art tour discovering Banksy and over 30 years of graffiti art history. The second workshop, "Introducing Stencil Art" Spray Session, allowed the children to 'get their hands on the cans!' During the session, after a short introduction to the technique of stencil art, each child sprayed their own A2 size artwork to take home, using their laser cut stencils and some water-based spray paint.





King's Coronation Celebrations

The whole school came together to enjoy the celebrations around this momentous occasion. We shared songs in the morning and then were served a royal roast by our kitchen. In the afternoon we had speeches followed by the planting of our blossom tree kindly donated by our parent group and the burying of a time capsule for the future generations. Special cakes were iced with red, white or blue icing and eagerly consumed! The winners of the crown competition were announced, and a lovely day "Fit for a King" was had.



Heatree 2023

Year 6 children had one of those rights of passage experiences before secondary school beckons them. We have seen smiles, friendships and fun at the heart of the week for those at Heatree and those that stayed. This trip will be something to remember for years to come for them all.



Reading Champions

Our Year 6 Reading Champions visited Waterstones and following recommendations from all the children in the library they selected some books for all children across the school to leave as a legacy, in the hope that more children can develop a love for reading; these books will be treasured for years to come!



CEET Sessions

Pilton pupils joined Community Environmental Education Therapy (CEET) sessions throughout the summer term. They have taken part in lots of activities to help support their self-esteem, communication and teamwork, individual skills and exploring new places in North Devon. They also developed their understanding of community and the importance of helping others and learn about a variety of community projects which they got involved in.



British traditions & history

The children enjoyed a coronation re-enactment in assembly where we crowned King Arthur! He was anointed with holy oil by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Charlie S), handed an orb, coronation ring and sceptre, before being crowned with the solid gold jewel encrusted St Edwards Crown.



Coronation Garden Party

What a lovely afternoon we all had when we celebrated the King's Coronation at our garden party. Thank you to everyone for bringing so much food and joining us to make this occasion memorable for the children. The children really enjoyed themselves and it was good to spend time with our parent community.



Year 4 & 5 Going on Taw River Project

The children in Year 4 and 5 were invited to take part in a river poetry project with local poet Katy Lee from Courage Copse Creatives. Their project is called 'Going on Taw'. They worked with Katy to create a poem to tell to the river along with many other schools along the River Taw. The project will be able to be seen next year at our local fringe festival.



Visit from Exmoor Zoo

The infant children enjoyed a visit from Exmoor Zoo as part of their science topic on living things. They met a Milk Snake, a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, a Barn Owl, and a Meerkat. They learnt about these creature's food chains and how they survive in the wild. An excellent way to consolidate the children's learning in the classroom.



A Zoom to remember

The Junior classes were able to talk with two of the crew who filmed the BBC documentaries 'Frozen Planet 2' and 'Dynasties' via zoom. Will and Usha shared their experiences of filming in the wilds of Antarctica and the Arctic and talked to them about how to be prepared for an expedition like this and what life was like for them during their time in the polar regions. The children also had a chance to ask lots of questions. A truly inspiring experience. Perhaps we have some budding explorers!

Wildside Residential

The Fox class enjoyed their 2-night camp at the Wildside Experience last week. They had a fantastic time in the woods, joined by the Brayford children. They walked up the river and took part in the Wildside River Challenge! Where they had to dunk their heads under the water. They sat in the woods for a 'quiet sit', drawing and writing poems, called in the baby Tawny Owls and watched bats fly over their heads late at night. They also took part in the 'blind trial' through the woods. And zipped through the woods at midnight on the zipwire! And so much more! They certainly enjoyed the wild-side of life, no time, no technology, just fun in nature.





Celebrating the King's Coronation in style!

We started the day with a special church service. Followed by a yummy tea party, with sandwiches made by Year 6 pupils! All children came home with an official Coronation Day pin badge, as a gift from Witheridge Academy to each child to help them remember this very important day.



World Daily Mile

World Daily Mile Day was a huge success at Witheridge. It was important for us to share with parents some of the scary statistics regarding our children's health and wellbeing which hopefully reinforced the importance of The Daily Mile. The children thoroughly enjoyed walking and running with their family and friends which is what The Daily Mile is all about!

Reception trip to Tiverton Museum

Our Reception Class had a wonderful bus journey to Tiverton Museum yesterday. It was the first time that some of the children had travelled on a bus, and we were all full of excitement as we waited patiently at the bus stop for the 346 service to arrive. During our time in the museum, we primarily explored the transport exhibits, noticing what was the same and what was different to the vehicles we use today. The Penny Farthing bicycles, steam tractors, carts and wagons were all of interest but the highlight for most was the opportunity to get inside the Tivvy Bumper - to wear the driver's hat, wave the flag and, most importantly, to pull the cord to sound the whistle!



Class 3 – Urban Pioneers Trip

Mr Manning and Class 3 visited Exeter as part of our 'Urban Pioneers' topic. They researched different tourist attractions around the city to help with our 'Visit Exeter' persuasive writing and to present to our partner school in Germany. Alongside the research task, we were also looking at vandalism and graffiti in the city. On our walk we analysed whether graffiti around the city was vandalism or street art.

We are going to take inspiration from the street art and buildings to create an 'Exeter City Collage'. As always, I was very impressed with how the children represented themselves and their school on the trip and it was lovely to see their learning brought to life.



Community Clean Up

Our whole school got involved in a Community Clean Up. The idea came from the School Council and Eco Rangers. Parents came to help clean up the village and school. Class 3 walked around the village to clean up signs with two parent volunteers. Class 2 planted seeds out by the front gate. We are looking forward to watching them grow. Children in Class 1 and the FSU cleared flowerbeds and planted more seeds to encourage wildlife to the area outside the hall. Class 4 went on a litter pick around the village. We used litter pickers and bin rings to clean the parks and all around the village. Thank you to everyone who bought things in and came to help us. It was a great success and everybody had fun!



Meet the Lifeguard

On 27th April, Classes 3 and 4 enjoyed a visit from the RNLI lifeguards to talk about safety in the water.



HORWOOD & NEWTON TRACEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Coronation Medal

Thanks to the FRIENDS of HNTPS (our PTA), every child in the school received a special medal to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Sports Day

We had a lovely Sports Day in the warm weather and children thoroughly enjoyed the activities on offer.

'I enjoyed throwing the javelin'. Darcie

'I loved it! I enjoyed the long-distance run'. William



35 Years!!

Our Kitchen Manager, Caroline Robinson celebrated 35 years of working in her role on 18th June. A huge thanks to Caroline and many congratulations!!

New Classrooms

We are very happy to get into our new classrooms on 6th June. We're loving our new learning environments!



PILTON INFANTS' SCHOOL

Westwood Ho! Beach Trip

Year 1 and Reception had an amazing trip to Northam Burrows where we did a minibeast hunt—we found lots of field ants, woodlice and spiders. We then walked along to the RNLI and learned how the lifeguards keep us safe when we are at the beach. After a quick lunch on the beach, we explored the rock pools and found crabs and sea snails.



Rainforest Day

Year 2 had a fabulous Rainforest Day and raised enough money to sponsor an acre of rainforest.

They learned all about anacondas and were amazed to find that the longest ones can grow up to 8 metres in length. The children worked in teams to make their own paper anacondas. They used wax crayons and made rubbings to create snakeskin patterns and then taped these together and measured. We saw some excellent teamwork skills and ended up with an anaconda which measured 33 metres in length! Record breaker!