



TEAM
MULTI-ACADEMY
TRUST

SUMMER 2024

NEWSLETTER

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



Celebrating a Year of Achievement and Opportunity

As the CEO of our Trust, I am immensely proud to reflect on the exceptional year we have had, filled with remarkable educational outcomes and a wealth of enriching experiences for our students. Our vision of life, love, and learning to the full has truly come to life across all our schools, thanks to the unwavering commitment and dedication of our entire community.

This year, our Trust has achieved outstanding results in various inspections. Pilton Bluecoat Academy and Swimbridge CofE Primary School both received successful Ofsted evaluations, highlighting our strengths and dedication to excellence. High Bickington Academy also shone with a commendable Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), affirming our commitment to maintaining our Christian distinctiveness in church schools.

Our curriculum has been greatly enriched by the diverse range of 'Big Event' trips and activities we have offered. From multiple residential visits to London and Segovia (Pilton Bluecoat), to exciting sports events such as the Trust-wide cross-country competition and the memorable trip to watch Wales v Barbarians in Cardiff, our students have enjoyed countless opportunities to learn and grow beyond the classroom.

Creative and cultural experiences have also been at the forefront of our efforts. Trust-wide art projects, humanities projects in collaboration with Durham University, and music events like the Proms have all contributed to a vibrant and dynamic learning environment. Alongside these enriching cultural activities, we have continued to ensure a diverse range of sporting events for our children across all schools within the Trust. From inter-school tournaments to sports festivals, our students have had ample opportunities to engage in physical activity, fostering teamwork and a love for sports.

We have continued to strengthen our international links, fostering global education programmes with schools in India and Europe. These partnerships have provided rich cultural exchanges and collaborative learning experiences, broadening our students' horizons and fostering a sense of global citizenship.

Our investment in SEND and pastoral care has been significant, with the creation of a new Director of Inclusion position and the addition of a dyslexia specialist for 2024/2025. These steps underline our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that all our students receive the support they need to succeed.

The dedication of our Heads of Schools, teachers, support staff, central team, and governors has been instrumental in driving these successes. Their hard work and commitment have ensured that our vision is alive and flourishing, providing our students with a holistic and enriching educational experience.

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we remain committed to facing challenges head-on and continuing to provide the highest quality of education for our students.

To our parents, your support and involvement have been invaluable in helping us achieve these successes. Your engagement in your children's education, participation in school events, and continuous encouragement have significantly contributed to our thriving community. Thank you for your trust and partnership. Together, we will continue to ensure that our students have every opportunity to flourish and succeed.

Thank you to everyone in our Trust community for making this year truly exceptional.

Ian Thomas



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS

YEAR 6 BUDE RESIDENTIAL

The year six children across the trust had a great time in Bude on their residential trip where they enjoyed many water sports including canoeing, surfing and body boarding as well as climbing and team games. The children embraced the challenges and were really organised and independent.



MATHS CHALLENGE

KS1 children from across the trust went to Pilton Infants' School to represent their schools in a KS1 Maths Challenge. They played fun maths games and had to find and solve words.

BRITAINS GOT TALENT

Seven talented students from TEAM Multi Academy Trust, along with Mrs Brayley and with 70 members of the "Teachers Rock" choir consisting of staff and children, brought their talents to the biggest stage in British entertainment Britain's Got Talent! Follow the link for the full story in the North Devon Gazette: <https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/home/1519887/the-secrets-out-local-choir-wows-judges-on-britain-s-got-talent.html?>

TEAM FOOTBALL EVENTS

High Bickington vs Umberleigh | Team Tournament - Witheridge vs High Bickington vs Swimbridge Vs Pilton Bluecoat vs Beaford



TEAM WIDE EVENTS AND TRIPS CONTINUED

TEAM CROSS COUNTRY EVENT AT HIGH BICKINGTON

On Wednesday, June 19th, 225 children from schools across our trust gathered at High Bickington Community Centre for a highly anticipated cross-country event. Students from Pilton Bluecoat, Umerleigh, Horwood and Newton Tracey, Witheridge, Swimbridge and High Bickington displayed remarkable enthusiasm, effort, perseverance and teamwork throughout the day. It was heartwarming to witness the formation of new friendships among the children from different schools and sportsmanship. The event also highlighted the impressive talent of our young runners, showcasing their great potential for the future. Well done everyone.



TEAM MULTI SPORTS EVENT

KS1 children across the trust enjoyed a morning at Tarka Tennis, completing a range of different multi-skill activities including football shooting, racket skills, balloon tennis and relay races among many other fun activities. The children worked really well together to practise these different movement skills, such as reaction, balance, coordination and timing.



DIGITAL E-SAFETY 'THE TWO JOHNS'

All children in KS1 and KS2 across the trust attended the Digital E-Safety 'The Two Johns' workshops. The Two Johns are both former police officers who now put their child protection knowledge into use by working with schools and communities to give practical advice and information about keeping your children safe online.

You can learn more about the Two Johns here: <https://esafetytraining.org/>



MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BRIDWELL PARK

What a fabulous, inspiring and interactive music filled day. Schools from across the trust visited The Mix Music Festival in Bridwell Park organised by Mrs Brayley. The children had the opportunity to participate in several workshops ranging from Djembe drumming to Ceilidh and enjoyed live music performances throughout the day. The children all participated with energy and enthusiasm; a wonderful day was had by all.



Beth Carter | Director of Inclusion



"The role of Director of Inclusion is a varied and exciting one, which having undertaken a similar role within another MAT, I know provides a challenge that I will relish and is a job that I love! The fact that TEAM have identified this role as the next step within their development underlines the importance they place on inclusion and serving the children within their family of schools. Inclusion is the core business of what we do in schools and part of my role will be to help schools focus on ensuring they build on the solid foundations each already has and centre what they do around those that find learning the hardest as this will no doubt benefit each and every child. My experience as a teacher across the full primary age range, a SENDCo and a Senior Leader will help schools to identify their unique profile, within their community and look at this alongside local and national data to enable them to strategically identify the next steps in their development.

The day-to-day job will include visiting schools to work with staff to evaluate each school's strengths and areas for development, engaging with evidence-based research to ensure we identify the best possible approach moving forwards and looking for opportunities to bring SENDCos and Pastoral Leads from across the Trust together, to share best practice and identify shared aims.

Ultimately, children only get one shot at their education and being a part of their journey is a privilege. I am fully committed to ensuring children can be confident, happy learners with a school career they can enjoy and cherish. Therefore, it is critical I support our schools to be intentionally inclusive with inclusion underpinning every strategy so that timely interventions and successful adaptations can support learners at the point of need and ensure that no child is left behind or disadvantaged."

Quick Fire Questions

Q. Tea or Coffee? *Always tea and by the bucket load! I have repeatedly tried to like coffee (& olives!) over the years as I feel I'm not a proper adult not drinking it but despite coffee cake being one of my favourites, I just can't stand the taste.*

Q. Smarties or M&M's? *Definitely Smarties, preferably the orange ones!!!*

Q. Dogs or Cats? *This has changed over the years as we always had cats growing up and I had two of my own when I first started teaching as their independence made life so much easier but having been convinced by my children to get a dog, I'm now converted! The unconditional love they give you and their pleasure at seeing you is unmatched.*

Q. Rugby or Football? *This was probably the easiest one - rugby!! Despite my Dad trying to share his love for Aston Villa with me, I much prefer to watch rugby and am a huge Exeter Chiefs fan (who I try to go and see as often as I can) as well as loving the Six Nations.*

Q. Upper School or Lower School? *I've had the pleasure of teaching across the full primary age range during my career but still retain a love for Early Years and KS1 (which I specialised in during my initial teacher training) so would say Lower School. There's nothing quite like the environment within this phase and the openness and innocence of the children within it, who will always welcome you with a smile and probably encourage you to join in with their learning so if you ever want to find me, this is probably where I'll be!*

Q. Travel back in time or forward to the future? *I think I'd like the opportunity to travel back in time to offer myself some wise knowledge and advice given what I know now - Back to the Future style!*

Q. Summer or Winter? *As much as I love curling up with a blanket, a good book and a warm drink on a winter's evening, this one has to be summer - life is so much better in flip flops!*

Q. Night In or Night Out? *Part of the advice I'd offer to my younger self above would be that life is about little, seemingly non-special moments, creating memories with those you love and doesn't have to be all about big events so this one would definitely be a night in doing just that!*

Q. Cannonball into the swimming pool, or dip a toe in first? *Dip a toe in first, not to test the temperature but because no one needs to see me attempting a cannonball?!?!*

Q. Sunrise or Sunset? *There is something pretty magical about a sunset, especially when viewed from the beach or a Devon hillside, which is hard to beat!*

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Simon Wallis and Rosa Neville | Premises Team



As Team Multi Academy Trust's Premises team, we keep the school sites maintained and safe. We visit each of the 9 schools in the trust on a weekly basis, carrying out compliance checks ranging from weekly playground inspections to termly fire and lockdown drills. Any repairs and maintenance are undertaken, along with running the diary for the trusts ten vehicles. Our 'project' days see larger jobs completed and staff wish lists realised.

Follow us on Instagram - @team_premises22



TEAM TESTIMONIALS

'Our yurt had a makeover yesterday, new canvas sides and roof, thank you to our premises team'. – Pilton Bluecoat C of E Academy

'Thank you to Simon & Rosa for our new play area'– Brayford Academy

SOME RECENT TEAM PROJECTS INCLUDE

New Book Bag Storage at Pilton Infants' School.

Stage with a chalkboard back drop at Umberleigh Academy.

New Shed for Forest School Supplies at Swimbridge C of E Primary School.

Observation Station at Umberleigh Academy's Pond area.

New outside tap at Pilton Bluecoat C of E Academy outdoor garden area.

Yurt refurbishment at Pilton Bluecoat C of E Academy.





SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION: BECOME A TEAM TRUSTEE OR GOVERNOR

We were delighted to learn from our recent parent questionnaires, the desire some of you have to become more involved in our schools by joining our local governing bodies or board of trustees.

To help you to decide if you would like to take a step into governance, here is some information along with a quote from an existing member.

Make a real difference

Oversee the strategic direction of our schools, ensuring excellent education for all our children.

Contribute your skills and expertise in areas like finance, law, HR, or business management.

Work collaboratively with school leaders and staff to achieve shared goals.

No prior experience necessary!

We offer training and support to help you excel in this rewarding volunteer role.

BENEFITS:

Develop your leadership and governance skills.

Gain valuable insight into the workings of a successful Multi-Academy Trust.

Make a positive impact on the lives of children in our schools.

HEAR FROM ONE OF OUR GOVERNORS:

"I became a Governor because I wanted to be involved in the school community and know more about the workings of the school my children attend. I hoped that I would be able to help and support the Governance team and school staff with both a parental and professional perspective (because I teach and lead education elsewhere). In taking on the position I have been able to develop my own CPD, recruit more members, observe the school in action, and report on aspects of monitoring and feedback when new policies have been introduced. I now lead the team as Chair of Governors, and it is incredibly rewarding to work together with a shared school ethos, especially within a Multi-Academy Trust with a well structured and organised team of Trustees and Leadership that drive the focus of our meetings. To know we are all working together for the good of the children and all of the staff is an excellent opportunity to 'give something back' that I would recommend to anyone who can make the time to help."

CAROLINE - LGB MEMBER, PILTON BLUECOAT ACADEMY

In the first instance, please contact the admin team at your school who will then put you in touch with the Head of school to discuss your application further, we are so excited to have you join us!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR GOVERNANCE SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.TEAMACADEMYTRUST.COM

TEACHER TRAINING IN NORTH DEVON



Working in partnership with

Thinking about teaching?
Primary & Secondary one year courses, leading to QTS & PGCE

- Our courses are designed by expert teachers so you can train to become a teacher with confidence.
- Working with the University of Nottingham to provide the PGCE element (taught in Devon).
- School placements, through our network of schools, provide you with excellent training and practice close to home.
- Seminars and workshops are delivered through a mix of face to face and online sessions, so you can achieve the best work life balance.
- Our training communities celebrate the successes and qualities of trainees from diverse backgrounds and career stages.

swifteachertraining.org.uk info@swifteachertraining.org.uk 01548 852641

Teacher Training Opportunities in North Devon starting September 2025

Are you interested in being part of a growing number of people training to become primary teachers in our area?

There are many great reasons to get into primary teaching:

- value a career where you can make a difference to children's lives and the wider communities;
- enjoy the flexibility of having school holidays so you can spend more time doing what matters most to you;
- benefit from a starting salary as a teacher of £30,000 and an excellent Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Our school is actively supporting people in North Devon to get into teaching. Teacher recruitment is really important to us because one of the best ways of providing a high-quality education is to attract talented people into the profession.

Through our partnership with SWIFT Teacher Training, you can access high-quality, school-based training with more of the training experience based close to home, including the option of a placement at our school and other local schools.

To find out more about the courses on offer from SWIFT Teacher Training visit www.swifteachertraining.org.uk.

Applications open on 1 October 2024 for a September 2025 start.

If you would like to find out more, please check out our [FAQs](#). If you have questions not covered here, please email info@swifteachertraining.org.uk who will get in touch to offer advice and the opportunity to attend a school visit.

Alternatively, contact Chris Barnett, ITT Campus Lead via email chris.barnett@sw-ift.org.uk

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEPS AND APPLY NOW

[BIT.LY/SWIFTEACH](https://bit.ly/swifteach)

BURSARIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR CERTAIN SUBJECTS (ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLY).



Job positions available:

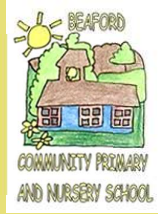
- **MEALTIME ASSISTANT | 4 HPW** at Horwood and Newton Tracey
- **TEACHING ASSISTANT & MTA | 22.5 HPW** at Witheridge
- **MEALTIME ASSISTANT | 2.33 HPW | Monday & Wednesday lunchtime** at Pilton Bluecoat C of E Academy

Working in partnership with



For more information, please visit our Vacancies section on our website: www.teamacademytrust.com

BEAFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY



Otters Trip to Bristol Museum

Otters had a fantastic day at the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. We worked in groups investigating a variety of real and replica artefacts from Ancient Egypt, including wooden pillows, a genuine bead necklace, toys and papyrus. We had to work out what each artefact was, what it was made from and what it might be used for. The children were brilliant and a real credit to the school.

Cricket

Martin Brice from the Chance to Shine charity came in to deliver a session for each class this term. We had a fantastic introduction to our cricket sequence.



Superhero Learning

In Ladybirds this term, we have continued our superhero learning. The children have been writing new endings to our story '10 little superheroes' to discover how they would stop the villains. They have also created comic strips where their superheroes have saved the day. We have had an amazing Superhero Day! The children have dressed as superheroes, created lolly stick superheroes and been on intense superhero training.

Castle Sculptures

Hedgehogs enjoyed creating their castle sculptures with different sized sticks. They annotated their plans and used their designs to make their castle. The children evaluated their outcomes and enjoyed looking at their sculptures as part of a class Art gallery.



Roller Blader Rich Parker

Rich Parker, an Olympic inline skater, visited our school and delivered an assembly and fun fitness circuit. It was wonderful seeing all our children getting involved and having lots of fun on the athletics circuit.



Picnic Day

Donna organised a picnic for the children outside. They took their dinners onto the playground and sat in the sunshine having lunch with their teachers. It was a great atmosphere and was so nice to see the older children playing with the Nursery and Reception children... until the rain came!

Lifeguard day

The Children had a great time at Putsborough Beach learning beach safety skills. The children also enjoyed playing games on the beach as well as taking part in a beach clean.



Sports Day

What a lovely Sports Day! Well done to our children and staff for a great afternoon. Thank you to all of our families for supporting the children and the PTFA for the refreshments.

Wildside

What a fantastic time our year 3 and 4 children had. The year 3s went off to the zip line and blindfolded walk whilst the year 4s had a go at whitling and made some fab creations. We had lunch in the woods, unpacked in our tents, then off for a walk past a huge bull, alpacas and up some tiny lanes for some chilly but amazing river swimming. The children were very brave and even put their heads under!



National Trust Ranger

At the beginning of the summer term the Juniors went to Woolacombe to work with National Trust ranger, Fraser. He taught us about how he manages the coastal land and some of the jobs he does to look after it. We found loads of plastic litter picking and hope we've done our bit to protect some sea life. We even found a workman's hat and a whistle!

We learnt about cuttlefish and found a mermaid's purse that a spotted catfish (shark) would have hatched from.

It was a really informative morning learning about conservation of our beautiful coastline.



Opal Play

The children are really enjoying the OPAL (Outdoor play and learning project) at playtimes. This term we have seen den building, crate racing and pony jumps made from the equipment. We also received delivery of a new large storage unit for the children to store our OPAL resources. This will make it much easier the children to organize the equipment for their play.





Superhero day

Our superhero themed day was filled with fun, practising super skills and games like the floor is lava and passing the ball without using our hands. The children were visited by 8 wooden superhero figures who carefully watched over us all. The children loved spotting them each day as they just keep on moving and hiding. We had lots of superhero themed writing and super maths.



Towers, Tunnels and Turrets

Class Two had a wonderful trip to Okehampton Castle. The castle was built in 1068 which was only two years after the Norman invasion in 1066. First, they sat together on the grass and read a giant book all about castles during the Norman times. Mrs Laurence took them on a tour around the castle. They found out all about the different parts of the castle including The Great Hall, Buttery, Kitchen, Chapel and Lodgings all in the Bailey and The Keep up on the Motte. After the children had completed the tour, they had chance to take part in some learning activities where they tried on clothes from the Norman era and looked at artefacts which would have been inside the castle.

RNLI Lifeguards

We enjoyed a visit from two local lifeguards. They came to school in the large truck that they use on the beach and talked to us about how to be safe when we visit the beach. We learnt that if you are caught in a rip current you are likely to panic, and your heart rate will rise so you must tip your head back and put your chest out to stay afloat. Once you are calmer, reach up as high as you can and wave one arm with a clenched fist.



Micro: bits

We were overjoyed to be able to use the BBC Micro: bits for the very first time this term. We were able to program them to create a flashing heart. After this, we learnt how to use the software. In maths we created a design using coordinate grids and number bonds. We have only just begun to explore the range of possibilities with this.



6X Freestyle Kayak World Champion Ottilie Robinson-Shaw

In a school assembly, Ottilie explained her route into kayaking and some of her most exciting experiences including riding raging waves in powerful rivers all over the world. It was an inspirational talk and the children asked some great questions. Ottilie talked about embracing failure and the importance of using your mistakes to learn and grow. She also spoke about finding a sport or activity that you love, eating healthy and spending time outside as well as the importance of working hard in school and learning other languages. Ottilie also ran a fun-filled fitness session with each class and everyone had a good work out! Thank you to everyone who helped raise sponsorship money. Thanks to your efforts we raised £1160.50. This is a huge boost and will help create a better learning outdoor space that we can use in all weathers. Well done everybody



Eden Project

Class 2, 3 and 4 visited the Eden Project thanks to Infinis Energy and Litchardon Park Solar Energy Park. It was a wonderful time with all the children getting to experience the heat and exotic plants of the tropical biome and take part in a range of workshops. The children represented themselves and the school brilliantly and were clearly inspired by the magic of Eden to look after the planet and sustainability.

Artsmark Gold Award

It was a great pleasure to celebrate the achievement of our Artsmark Gold award with our very own art exhibition at the Village Hall. The range of art on display was stunning and it was fantastic to see work from Nursery all the way up to Year 6. It clearly demonstrated the high level of art that the children produce and that the Gold Award was well deserved. A huge thank you to all the children, staff and especially Mrs Hopkins for all your hard work in making this happen.



The Battle of Hastings and Class Two

Class two reenacted the Battle of Hastings. It was wonderful to see how well they grasped this historical period and they clearly had a fantastic time.



The Ultimate Adventure

Our Year 4 Residential took place in May 2024, where children took part in a range of water-based activities, surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding and the ultimate assault course. They also enjoyed an evening of fun games and a fire pit before spending the night "under the stars" in their pop-up tents. The trip was great fun. The sun shone and the children faced the physical challenges with determination. They can all be very proud of how they conducted themselves throughout their stay.



Aquathlon

Just before half term, our talented team of 24 students participated in the Torrington Aquathlon. This exciting event required them to swim in the pool, quickly change, and transition directly into a run. Competing against numerous schools from North Devon, our students showcased their exceptional swimming and running abilities. As with all our sporting events this year, the children demonstrated remarkable perseverance, effort, teamwork, and talent. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and sportsmanship and came away with some incredible results.

The Essex Dance Company

Children aged 10-18 from various schools performed a range of choreographed dances. It was truly incredible and an inspiration for our children. Showcasing high-quality performing arts is another way we provide our children with experiences and opportunities that may inspire future performers.



Heatree House

A group of our year 6s went on a residential to beautiful Dartmoor. They took part in several activities on land and in the water: climbing, trekking, canoeing, high ropes as well as lots of team building and social activities. Thank you to our team of staff who give up their own family time to make these trips possible.



PILTON INFANTS' SCHOOL



Joe Hart – Sports for Champions

We really enjoyed meeting Joe Hart, a basketballer from Sports for Champions. Joe told the children all about his life and how much dedication and hard work he had put in to reach his goals. He was a great example of our school learning heroes. Joe explained how he wasn't the biggest or fastest but used his skills of a good shot and tactical awareness to reach his potential. He was very inspiring to the children, answering all of their questions. The children followed Joe's rules of working hard and had fun during the exercise circuits.



Rainforest Day

In Hedgehog and Fox classes we enjoyed rainforest day where we learned all about the Amazon Rainforest and started our topic on Brazil. We had a great workshop from Samba Baia. The children got to try different instruments, make different rhythms, dance to the beat and try on carnival headdresses. It was a great way to start off our Geography topic.

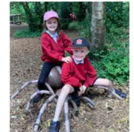
Sports Day

We all enjoyed taking part in Sports Day. There were 5 exciting events including: long jump, sprinting, hurdles, tennis ball balance and bean bag throw. All 4 teams did very well. Scores were really high this year. The children had lots of fun.



Westwood Ho!

Kingfisher and Otter Class spent the day at Westwood Ho! Beach. The weather was great and we had a brilliant day. We visited rockpools with the Northam Burrow Rangers. We found crabs, fish, snails and lots and lots of seaweed. We walked up to the Green to have a picnic lunch and after lunch we had a talk with the beach lifeguards about beach safety. Lots of member of the public commented on how well behaved the children were.



RHS Rosemoor

Owl and Squirrel had a wonderful trip to Rosemoor this term, we all had a brilliant time. We went on a scavenger hunt to collect leaves, petals and planted a pea plant. We then wrote about our trip in English thinking carefully about ordering the events in chronological order.



Hakeford Woods

The year 6s have enjoyed trips to Hakeford Woods each Friday this term. They have used storm kettles to make hot chocolate, made maps of the woodland using natural resources, followed by mallet and mushroom carving.



Music News

KS1 have been enjoying learning to play the ocarina this term.



Ancient Greeks

The Fox and Owl classes had a lovely day celebrating the end of our topic on Ancient Greeks. The children made some hummus, tasted some Greek foods, made an Olive leaf head wreath, explored the Greek alphabet and took part in a mini-Olympics. The children have learnt a lot this term and they had fun. Their costumes were amazing.



Wildside

The Fox class went off to Wildside and they have had a lovely time. They enjoyed hot chocolate on arrival and played games in the meadow. They have learnt how to whittle butter knives and complete a blind trail in the woods. They have even enjoyed a dip in the river!

Lifeguard Days at Putsborough Beach

We joined Nick Thorn for another year of Beach Lifeguard days where all the children take part in a selection of beach safety activities.



Sports Day

What a great Sports day we had! We were extremely impressed with the children's attitude in the races. Every child made a huge effort to do their best and took part in every event. The determination to succeed and the perseverance shown mirrors the children's attitude in the classroom. Working well together was also something that shone out; with older children supporting the younger members of the school. A true reflection of their respectful and caring attitude towards each other. Well done Umberleigh Academy!



Brumble Bees

The Brumbles bees have also had a very busy summer term. They visited Little City where they could immerse themselves with role play. They have been creative making Olympic torches and held them aloft with pride and had a great time at Air Xtreme where they behaved immaculately.



**WITHERIDGE
C OF E
ACADEMY**

Eco Rangers

We were delighted to receive the news that Witheridge has earned the Eco Schools Green Flag Award WITH DISTINCTION! Well done to our fantastic Eco Rangers and School Council who have put in so much hard work to make this happen.

Blundell's Classics and Athletics Day

Children in Year 5 had the opportunity to visit Blundell's School. In the morning, we learnt about the classics (how people in ancient civilisations lived) and learnt to write our names in Greek, Hebrew, Syriac and Egyptian Hieroglyphics. We also discovered all the gruesome details about sacrifices in Ancient Greece through demonstrations on Percy Pig sweets - a delightful and delicious learning opportunity!

After enjoying lunch in the dining hall, we visited one of the boarding houses, where we found out about life for children who stay at school during the week, and for the whole term.

For the afternoon, we walked across to the athletics field, where children were given expert instruction by a number of coaches and had the opportunity to try out equipment such as shotput, discus, javelin and hurdles.

Throughout the day, the children's behaviour and attitude to their learning was exemplary; staff and other students at Blundells made several comments about what a wonderful group of children they are. Year 5, you should all be very proud of yourselves - well done!



Digital Art Exhibition

In May we held our 'Digital Art Exhibition'. Thank you to all the Parents and Carers who came along to have a look at the wonderful artwork the children created. It was great to be able to show off the progression of this project from Reception all the way up to Year 6.



New Playground Equipment

We have been enjoying our new play equipment this term. It has been great to see the children out and enjoying the new equipment.



Inventors WW2 Evacuee Day

The Inventors (Y5/6) had an amazing day on the first week back to start off their Britain at War topic. The children came into school dressed as evacuees and explored what happened when a child was evacuated. We experienced an evacuation ourselves when an air raid siren went off after break; we had to evacuate the classroom and take our identity cards. We didn't know where we were going but we ended up at the Jubilee Hall and had to be signed in by the billeting officer (Mrs Holm!) when we arrived. Other activities throughout the day included making and tasting a trench stew and building models of Anderson shelters. Many thanks to all of the parents for the support with the excellent costumes.

Refugee Week

The Inventors children (Y5/6) were visited by Rebekah Hester from the Pickwell Foundation to talk about Refugee Week. The children were encouraged to think about the reasons people become refugees and the situations they are fleeing from. They discussed ways to make refugees feel welcome in our country. The children created an amazing piece of art for a special exhibition entitled 'Our Home' which took place in the Barnstaple Pannier Market from 17th-23rd June.



Surfing

We arranged our annual surfing lessons for the Inventors (Y5/6) in the second half of the summer term. They had great fun with the North Devon Surf School on Friday afternoons catching the waves on Westward Ho! beach. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow and watch their amazing progress with many able to stand up on their boards within the 5 weeks!

Explorers Sleeping with Sharks Residential

Our Explorers (Y3/4) enjoyed a brilliant one-night trip on 16 May to the National Marine Aquarium where they were able to explore the aquarium at night and see the amazing creatures up close before sleeping in front of the Eddystone reef tank that contains fantastic local species such as sharks, crabs, lobsters and eels!

Throughout the night, the NMA team provided fascinating educational insights about the marine life they were sharing their space with. The children learnt about the importance of ocean conservation and what they can do to help. We are very proud of the children for their fantastic behaviour and how enthusiastically they threw themselves into the experience.



Lifeguard Visit

Back in May, we arranged for the RNLI Beach Lifeguards to visit the school and teach the children how to stay safe on the beaches this Summer. The Lifeguards shared information about beach flags, which to swim and surf between alongside information about how to stay safe in and around the sea.