



# NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



*Little angels shine in a nativity performance at Bridge Farm Primary*



## WELCOME

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of an eventful term, our trust and our schools have much to celebrate. It has been wonderful to see all the usual seasonal activities taking place, some of them for the first time in three years. We love to welcome family members into our schools for special occasions such as Christmas concerts and performances, fundraising events and assemblies. We know parents and carers value the chance to share in the joy of their children's school life. I am aware, too, that some of these events require effort and commitment on your part as well as your children's – thank you for all you do to support our schools.

Many of you will be looking forward to some rest and relaxation with loved ones over the holidays. I know the staff are too! I hope everyone has a lovely break and enjoys their Christmas in whatever way they choose to mark it. While the festive season is joyful for many, we should remember that for others it might be a time of loneliness, anxiety or grief.

Particularly this year, with the energy crisis and the rising cost of living, it is important to look out for one another and do what we can to help our neighbours. A small act of kindness might mean a lot to someone who is struggling.

We are ending the calendar year on a high with the approval of the Department for Education Regional Director's Advisory Board for Four Acres Academy in South Bristol to join our trust. This will happen on January 1, 2023, and we look forward to welcoming Four Acres Primary School colleagues to Futura Learning Partnership and working with them for the benefit of children and families in the area.

Our plans to combine Futura with the Clevedon Learning Trust are also proceeding well and are on target to be completed on February 1. Our merger, which will create a trust of 28 schools, is one of the largest in the country and has been commended by the Advisory Board for the thoroughness of its

preparation. Combining the talents of staff across a larger family of schools in Somerset and the West of England is an exciting prospect. While you won't see any changes in the day-to-day running of your school, you can be assured that a larger, stronger trust will create many opportunities for your children and the generations that follow them.

Remember that the closing date for applications for Reception class places for 2023 is January 15. If you know anyone with children who will be four by August 31, do encourage them to consider Futura schools. It's important that we fill all our places so we have enough money in our budgets to continue providing first-class education for all the children in our care.

As I said earlier, the first two terms of the academic year have seen many ups – but also a few downs. In particular, there has been a lot of illness around, including Covid, colds, flu and tummy

bugs, which has created challenges for our schools. I know many parents are also very worried about the increase in Strep A cases; we have been continuing to follow all public health advice to minimise risks.

I do hope you and your family manage to stay well over the holidays. All best wishes for Christmas and the New Year – I look forward to seeing everyone again in January.

Thanks and best wishes,

*Andrea Arlidge*

**Andrea Arlidge**  
Chief Executive

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

This Advent season is often an incredibly busy time in our schools and no doubt your households too as we look forward to Christmas and Christmas Day in particular.

Beyond the stress and pressures of the season and heartfelt concerns over the challenges we all face over rising costs, I hope you will find time for relaxation with family and friends. A time for sharing, a time to celebrate but also a time for just dwelling in a moment of stillness amongst the busyness of the season.

On behalf of my fellow trustees, may I take this opportunity of thanking you for all your commitment to

our schools whether as a parent or member of staff. I wish you all a very happy and joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Seasonal best wishes,

*Malcolm Broad*

Chair of the Trust Board



## UPDATE ON PROPOSED TRUST MERGER

Many members of both school and trust staff have been working extremely hard over the last few months to progress the proposed merger of our trust with Clevedon Learning Trust. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued commitment and hard work.

We will be able share a full and exciting progress update with you all early in the new year.

## FAREWELL TO MRS GIBBS



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to IKB's Head of School, Debbie Gibbs who is leaving at the end of this school term to take on

a school improvement role with South Gloucestershire Council. As a trust, we

are very sorry Mrs Gibbs is leaving our family of schools and are very grateful to her for the excellent leadership she has given IKB Academy.

Debbie joined the school in 2015 as IKB's first principal and has given dedicated service to the students, staff and families both at IKB and at Bedminster School where she was seconded as principal between 2019

and 2021. She has played a valued role across the trust and will be missed by all of us who work with her.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Debbie for the outstanding service she has given to IKB, Bedminster Down School and Futura Learning Partnership. She has done a great job and we all wish her the best of luck in her new and exciting role.

## MEET SOME LITTLE ANGELS FROM BRIDGE FARM PRIMARY



Children in reception and across the primary phase at Bridge Farm have been preparing for various nativity and Christmas carol services. Here's a shot from the Reception nativity, which was accompanied by some singing from Y4 and Y6.

## A FEAST OF CHRISTMAS FUN AT THE MEADOWS

Christmas is always such a great time of year in a primary school- Christmas performances, carol concerts - and, of course, Christmas dinner! Thank you to Zest Catering for providing such yummy food for children and staff.

Our annual lighting of the tree event at The Meadows started with a Christmas

craft morning with children and parents making Christmas tree decorations. It is lovely to have the school community all together in our school again after two years of not being able to do this. At the lighting of the tree the school choir sang to the school.

It is a truly magical time.



# HEY EWE! NEW STARS ARE BORN IN SALTFORD'S NATIVITY PERFORMANCE

Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 at Saltford School did an amazing performance of their Christmas show 'Hey Ewe!' The children sang beautifully and had to remember lots of actions for all the songs. The children in EYFS sang a beautiful song in angel costumes. Year 1 sang 'Hustle Bustle' dressed as villagers and the children in Year 2 sang 'Something's going on' with a solo performance from the Curious Sheep. We are so proud of all the children for their brilliant performances and enthusiastic singing. A special mention to the Year 2 children who acted out the Christmas story. A big thank you to all of the class teachers for teaching the children their class songs and to Mrs Browne, Miss Jupp and Miss Mulready for all their work.



# WANSDYKE PUPILS SING AT CLIFTON CATHEDRAL



Year 5 and 6 children went to Clifton Cathedral last week and took part in a wonderful evening performance called Freedom - the power of song hosted by Bristol Grammar School (BGS). Over the past ten weeks, a talented and passionate

member of staff from BGS has been working with Year 5 and 6. Children have loved every session and it has continued to be the highlight of their week throughout the autumn term. We are incredibly proud to have been part of this community

event and especially with how every child represented our school, and themselves, with pride - which has been commented on by many.

# SINGING STARS SHINE BRIGHT AT WINTER FESTIVAL



The Two Rivers Choir took to the stage at the Keynsham Winter Festival. They sang beautifully and demonstrated our school value of courage, by singing in front of the entire town. We are looking forward to seeing what our talented musicians perform next.

## THANKS TO BEN FOR TEN YEARS OF GOVERNOR SERVICE

Ben Whittle has been a parent governor at Salford School since 2012. Parent governors play a vital role, holding the unique position of a parental viewpoint with first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, enabling a different perspective to the strategic management of the school.

During Ben's time as a governor he has freely and generously given his time to support the school and ensure the best education possible for our children. He has been actively involved in visiting staff and classrooms to support our school community.

In his letter of resignation, Ben talked about the motivation to volunteer as a governor. "For me it has been two things. Firstly, I feel lucky that I have been able to contribute in some small way to the education of so many of our children.

That is rewarding work and its worth is unquestionable. Secondly (and this is something I will be taking with me) is that the staff of Salford School have been my inspiration in their professionalism, resilience and dedication."

He first served on, and then chaired the staffing committee and facilitated the working party which provides oversight of finance, staffing and the parent, pupil and staff questionnaires.

Ben has also taken a special interest in science and arts/design technology and met regularly with the school subject leaders as a link governor.

In addition to his support of the school, Ben has had a wider role for the trust, serving on the Audit and Risk and Human Resources Committees where his attention to detail and valued insight were greatly appreciated.



We thank him for his dedication to the school and to the learning of our young people over such a considerable time. Salford School will miss Ben's presence and all wish him well for the future.

# FUN RUNNERS RAISE CASH FOR DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE



Saltford School's KS2 children enjoyed their annual inter-school cross country event, which is organised with much help and support from the Wellsway Y8 sports ambassadors. This year there was an added significance because it was run in aid of Dorothy House, the local charity that supported our dear friend Mrs Parfrey and her family. There was a buzz around school

leading up to the event, particularly among those children taking part in their very first KS2 competition. For those who had titles from last year to defend, spirits were equally high. It was a pleasure to watch the children participate with such resilience and passion. It was also a pleasure to welcome back some former pupils amongst the sports ambassadors. Thanks to

Mrs Burston and the Wellsway ambassadors, Mrs Brook and Mr Bowkett for making it all possible and to all the children who really rose to the challenge.

If you would like to donate to Dorothy House, you can still do so through the Saltford School fun run [JustGiving page](#).

## WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE FOR YEAR 5

Saltford's horse chestnut class enjoyed a free session of wheelchair basketball coaching from Nova Sports & Coaching, a not-for-profit organisation who deliver high-quality, inclusive sport to local people with disabilities.

All the children – and some staff – were able to experience a new perspective on basketball, with excellent training from Alex and Kieran.

After learning and practising new skills, the session ended with a fun and competitive game that none of us will forget!



# CHANDAG JUNIORS ENJOY EVACUEE EXPERIENCE



Year 6 at Chandag Junior School had a brilliant day visiting the Steam Museum in Swindon as part of their history learning on World War II.

Their day started with meeting at Keynsham train station ready to catch the train to Bath Spa then Swindon. All the

children enjoyed using the train to travel and they also had a rail safety workshop the week before to help prepare them.

Once at the museum, the children took part in an evacuee workshop, looking at items in suitcases to guess who the evacuee might have been, looking at gas

masks used by babies and children during the war, as well as queuing up to be chosen by families in the villages.

The children also had some free time to explore the museum, which included how to operate the train and train tracks as well as the role trains had during the war.

## 200 TREES PLANTED FOR THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Nearly 50 families from Wellsway and its partner primaries turned out on a beautiful sunny morning to plant nearly 200 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme.

Many families also had personal reasons for planting, which they wrote in a journal to be kept with Wellsway's other historical documents. We even had a visitor from Portsmouth who used to attend the school with her sister over 50 years ago.

A lovely time was had by all, and we were treated to some warming and delicious refreshments by Trevor from Keynsham Churches Together.

There was a second chance to get involved the following Saturday so the final few saplings could be planted.



# ASPIRE STUDENTS ARE FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM



To support a better understanding of the public services role, students at Aspire enjoyed a visit to the Bath Fire Station learning about life as a Firefighter. They also learned some valuable skills for staying safe.

# STREET DANCERS STEP OUT

Children from Chandag Infant School took part in the Keynsham Winter Festival last month.

Thank to Danni from Danni's Dance School who helped the children to demonstrate so brilliantly the routine they had been learning at their weekly Street Dance session. We also enjoyed watching the dress rehearsal in school the day before. Street Dance Club runs at Chandag Infant School from 3.15pm-4.15pm on Fridays in the school hall, for Year 1 and 2 pupils.



## WELLSWAY Y7 NETBALL TEAM MAKE A WINNING START



Wellsway Year 7 netballers played Writhlington School in a match used as a trial game for the B&NES tournament. Wellsway proved the dominant team, winning convincingly 18-0. Player of the game was awarded to Eva Watts. After the competitive game, the teams were mixed up, allowing Wellsway and Writhlington players the chance to play together. Well done to everyone involved.



## UNIVERSITY VISIT INSPIRES SPORTING SIXTH-FORMERS



Wellsway Post-16 PE students visited Bath University and were given a tour of the extensive sports and academic facilities. Students experienced two lectures, exploring the role of an Applied Sports Scientist and seeing how their learning can be applied in practical settings. They then completed two laboratory-based fitness assessments. It was a brilliant day where students learned a lot and hopefully inspired some for further study.

## IT'S THE JOLLY CHRISTMAS P-P-POSTMAN AT CHEDDAR GROVE



Nursery have been learning about the letter 'p' as well as story-mapping 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'!

Year 1 went on a trip to the postbox to post their letters and met the local postman and postwoman.

Year 3 have been learning about teeth this week in science. They used mirrors to look at and identify their teeth. They made amazing models of their own teeth, which took lots of concentration and attention to detail.

## 'MOST SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL TEAM IN OUR HISTORY'

The talented U13 football squad at SBL have had a fantastic start to Year 8, Out of 710 schools who entered the English Schools FA National Cup Competition, the boys have reached the last 32 teams in the competition and have been victorious against teams from Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and most recently Devon. The next round will be played sometime before 7 January 2023.

This is a remarkable achievement to add to a list of accomplishments for this squad from their Y7 campaign:

- South Gloucestershire District Champions

- City of Bristol Champions
- Gloucestershire Schools County Champions

The team are the first SBL team EVER to reach this stage of a National Cup Competition, have still NEVER lost a game in any competition in almost a year and a half of school football and have claimed the status of 'The most successful team in school history' - and they are still only 13 years old.

The team is an absolute credit to our school and our football programme. They represent everything we expect from our teams, training week-in and

week-out, come rain or shine with a superb attitude and hard work in abundance. They have fully earned the success that they continue to achieve through sheer hard work and commitment.

"The sky is the limit" for this team if they continue to work hard.

We are very proud of the team and grateful for the support of their families and the staff who get behind them. We all hope that the team can keep their run going.

# SBL HOUSE LEADERS AND STUDENT COUNCIL START WORK

Students at SBL have elected their House leaders, who form the new student council

The successful candidates were elected from 44 applications based on the strength of their ideas and the results of the student vote. 694 votes were cast in total; an excellent turnout – congratulations to all the successful students.

The student council met for the first time on December 6 and discussed all of their ideas for further improving the school. Item one on the agenda was the food bank collection which we carried out during the last week of term. This was something that the students were very passionate about, knowing that this is a difficult time for many in our community.

Atlas	Effie Evans	Pru Gallon	Nathan Martin
	Harry Jefferies	Finn Skelton	
Callisto	Aston Khoodabux	Gregory Hole	Lucy Clay
	Daisy Mercer	Josie Hole	
Europa	Eden Skelton	Tallulah Elliott	Seb Daneasa
	Teddy Camp	Aeyleen Correya	
Titan	Florence Rider	Alistair Combe	
	Maddison Platts	Alfie Langdon	

# NO PENS DAY

On Friday 9th December, Bedminster Down School hosted its first ever 'No Pens Day'. All lessons in Key Stage 3 focused around spoken activities – with absolutely no writing! There were a number of exciting activities taking place around the school, such as debates and drama in English, Christmas geometry in maths and vocabulary team challenges in French. The purpose of the day was to develop oracy and help students to develop confidence and fluency when speaking to others. Students reported that the lessons were 'fun and exciting' and said they 'enjoyed working with others'. Well done to everyone involved!



# SAMOSAS ARE A TASTY TREAT FOR IKB STUDENTS

IKB Year 10s visited the Jamia Masjid Mosque and St Mary Redcliffe Church in Bristol on an enrichment trip before being treated to the best samosas ever from St Mark's Sweet Mart.





# CHRISTMAS ROLLER DISCO

TUESDAY 20TH , THURSDAY 22ND &  
THURSDAY 29TH DEC

- 4pm-4.45pm + 5pm-5.45pm
- £4.50 per child
- Age 5 - 12 years old
- Bring your own skates
- Prizes for best fancy dressed (optional)
- Adult to stay at all times \*
- Book online or turn up, pay and skate.



0117 916 1034

[www.sportwellsway.com](http://www.sportwellsway.com)

Park within Wellsway School and head down to the sports centre.

READ THE DECEMBER ISSUE  
OF OUR SPORTS CENTRES'  
NEWSLETTER >>>



What's on  
*this Winter*





P R E S E N T S

# TEEN GYM MEMBERSHIP

MONDAY - FRIDAY 3.15 - 4.30 PM



Great Gift idea



Year 10 + 11 Students

£3 per session or £24 for block of 10

Payment by card only or Prepaid over the phone

Visit centre reception to join or ask for more details



[www.sportwellsway.com](http://www.sportwellsway.com)

[www.sblsports.co.uk](http://www.sblsports.co.uk)

## ZEST CATERING FACT SHEET



**KIDS  
HEALTHY  
FOOD**



We offer a free salad bar and freshly baked homemade bread, in addition to the menu.

Yogurts and a selection of whole and cut fruit pieces are available daily, as an alternative to the stated dessert.

KS1 children also receive fresh milk.

Drinking water is prominently available.

**WE COMPLY WITH SCHOOL FOOD GUIDELINES AND OUR PORTION SIZES ARE COMMENSURATE TO GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDED SIZES.**

**ALTHOUGH, THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE APPETITES AND NEEDS OF CHILDREN AS THEY PROGRESS THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, SO WE DO TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION WITH OUR PORTION SIZES.**

**THIS NOT ONLY CUTS DOWN ON FOOD WASTE, BUT ALSO MAKES SURE THAT THERE'S ENOUGH FOOD AND CHOICE FOR EVERYONE.**

[WWW.SCHOOLFOODPLAN.COM](http://WWW.SCHOOLFOODPLAN.COM)

## IMPORTANT FACTS

*DID YOU KNOW?*

- ✓ Our menus demonstrate their compliance with government nutritional standards or guidelines on food and nutrition, which goes hand in hand with our ethos of 'Fresh, Healthy, Tasty'.
- ✓ Our meals are cooked fresh each day in the kitchen.
- ✓ We meet with children from the School Council on school meal improvements.
- ✓ We use Eco Compostable packaging.
- ✓ We have created reduced sugar recipes for our homemade dessert.
- ✓ Our fish is MSC accredited.
- ✓ Our staff are fully trained in food hygiene & safety and allergen awareness.
- ✓ No undesirable or artificial trans fats are used.
- ✓ All our kitchen's have a 5 Star rating.



**WE OFFER THEME DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, DETAILS OF THESE, AND OUR CURRENT MENU, CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE**