

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



A wonderful occasion as children and staff from ten Futura Learning Partnership schools come together to perform our specially-commissioned Oratorio at Bath Forum



WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Together we have completed the first month of the 2022-23 academic year – and what a month it has been! Pupils and staff in our schools have already achieved so much both within and outside the classroom against a national background that has seen us welcome a new monarch, a new Prime Minister and yet another new Education Secretary.

It has been wonderful to welcome the class of 22, including the youngest children in reception classes, the new Year 7s in our secondary schools, young people starting in sixth form, and many new staff and leaders. I have enjoyed getting out into the schools to meet some of these arrivals and am impressed both at how they have settled in and how they have been made

welcome. There is a strong spirit of optimism and commitment around and it is so heartening to see so many children and adults living out our trust values of Respect, Opportunity, Collaboration and Aspiration.

As always, I must thank parents and carers for the support and encouragement you provide. We are aware that economic pressures mean the coming months will be a time of anxiety for many families; please be assured that we will continue to work with you to ensure your children keep on receiving the best possible education and care. The Covid pandemic showed us how beneficial it was to be a family of schools, supporting one another through difficulties, and we intend to take the lessons learned from the last few years and use them to tackle whatever challenges we face.

As well as being a help in troubled times, being part of Futura Learning Partnership gives schools a chance to maximise the joy. As a trust, we are able to offer opportunities over and above that which an individual school could provide. A fantastic example of this collaborative spirit came on September 13 when 400 children aged seven to 18 from ten of our settings took to the stage at Bath Forum to perform the Futura Oratorio. We had commissioned musician Phil Dixon to compose this piece, which featured two choirs and an orchestra, and the result – after a year of hard work – was beyond our wildest dreams. I am so grateful to our director of music Ingrid McLean and the 40 staff who helped put on this event, and, of course, to the parents, carers, grandparents and friends who came along on the night. It was an event that will live long in the memory.

We recognise the value of extra-curricular activities for our children. It is lovely to see sporting events, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and class trips in full swing already this term after the restrictions of the past few years. But we have an equally firm focus on learning and are delighted to report some excellent results from last year's students as well as strong signs that next summer's test and exam candidates are set for success. An impressive 72 per cent of 2022 Futura students achieved five GCSE equivalents including a pass in both English and maths, while at A level well over half of all grades were A* - B. Our students are being given the best possible chance to achieve thanks to the shared work on our Futura Curriculum, and we look forward to developing this further. It is a delight to see young people leaving our schools so well equipped for the next step on the road to realising their ambitions and dreams.

This is an exciting year for our trust, as we welcome new members of our family of schools, and explore opportunities to grow further. We welcome 3-2-4 Playgroup in Keynsham and Bridge Farm Primary School in Whitchurch, who joined us over the summer, and look forward to the arrival of Four Acres Primary later this year. We are working closely with the Clevedon Learning Trust, which comprises 11 primary and two secondary schools, as we look towards the proposed merger. Our proposals have been submitted to the Department for Education and we hope for approval from the South West Advisory Board imminently. The values of our two trusts are closely aligned and it is clear that bigger trusts provide resilience, saving time and money that can be reinvested in our schools, so we are very keen to go ahead and join forces.

September 2022 will always be remembered as the month when Queen Elizabeth II died, bringing to an end an incredible 70 years on the throne. The period of national mourning gave us all a chance to reflect, thinking about the personal as well as the national and international aspects of the Royal Family's loss. It was also an opportunity within our schools for us to help children understand more about the values that underpin our society. Her Late Majesty continued her life of duty and service to the end. In our trust, we are also committed to serving our communities and we are thankful that so many individuals, including our volunteer governors and trustees, as well as our staff and students, share that dedication.

So, onwards to October, which we can face with optimism! Once again, thanks to you all for supporting your children in and out of school. Your young people deserve the best and we will work in partnership with you to make sure they get it.

With best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Chief Executive

OFSTED RATES THE MEADOWS PRIMARY AS GOOD IN ALL AREAS



Councillor Erica Williams, left, Headteacher Joy Mounter, centre, and Chief Executive Andrea Arlidge, right, celebrate with pupils at The Meadows

The Meadows in Bitton is a happy and successful school – and that’s official!

Ofsted inspectors have rated the village primary as Good in all areas of educational provision.

The long-awaited judgement has been welcomed by our trust, which took over the running of The Meadows after the school was placed in special measures in 2016.

Chief executive Andrea Arlidge said: “The Ofsted visit confirmed what families, staff and governors have known for some years – The Meadows is a lovely school where children are nurtured, relationships are strong and expectations for behaviour and learning are high.

“Congratulations to headteacher Joy Mounter and her team for creating the school this community deserves and continuing to strive for further success.”

Two inspectors visited the 156-pupil school for two days in May and judged it to be Good for quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision.

They reported: “Leaders have created a happy and united school community. There is a strong sense of teamwork and cooperation throughout the school.”

Other positive comments in the report included:

- Leaders have high expectations of pupils’ work, attitudes and behaviour. Staff give pupils the help they need to succeed. Pupils work hard and are keen to do their best.
- Pupils are happy and safe because everyone behaves well. Staff help them understand how to behave and to treat each other with respect.
- Lessons are calm, positive and purposeful.
- Pupils are well prepared socially and academically for secondary school.

The inspectors highlighted the priority given to reading and said that rich language and high-quality texts formed the basis of an engaging and ambitious curriculum. Maths was said to be skilfully taught.

The report noted that leaders

worked hard to ensure pupils learn about race, culture and beliefs that are different from their own.

The inspectors also praised the wide range of experiences and personal development opportunities for children, including after-school clubs, visits and visitors.

Mrs Mounter said: “We are proud and pleased that Ofsted has recognised the qualities of our school: we know our families so well and we have created a culture of respect and positive behaviour that supports children in their learning and personal development.

“We are already working on the next steps suggested by the inspectors – completing the review of our academic and personal development provision – to ensure that children continue to thrive and learn even more successfully.

“My thanks go to our children, staff, families, governors, and Futura Learning Partnership for their support.

“Working together collaboratively and effectively benefits our whole school community.”

MARVELLOUS MUSICIANS DELIVER MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Our first trust-wide music event, The Futura Oratorio, took place on Tuesday 13th September at Bath Forum. Four hundred pupils aged seven to 18 from ten schools took part, forming two primary choirs, a senior choir and an orchestra. We enjoyed an afternoon of rehearsals with our composer and conductor, Phil Dixon, followed by a performance. It was a fabulous event and for many of our students the first time they had sung with a live orchestra. The orchestra was made up of students from across the trust. We nearly filled the venue and received a standing ovation at the end.

The 30-minute musical piece was entitled *Avona* and was based on the myth of how the river Avon came into being. Work on it began last year when Phil Dixon visited all our Year 10 Music classes at Bedminster Down, Sir Bernard Lovell and Wellsway and came up with initial compositional ideas. He then went away and arranged the melodies and chord progressions into the Oratorio.

Our thanks to Bath Forum for providing such a special space for our performance. Thanks also to 40 incredible staff, from teachers to TAs and support staff who supported this event – we could not have done this without their enthusiasm. It was an ambitious project but it is so important to us to ensure that our students have the opportunity for quality music-making; working collaboratively enables us to achieve this. Already staff and students have been suggesting doing more activities like this ... watch this space!

Ingrid McLean
Director of Music



LET'S MAKE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL SAFER FOR EVERYONE

SIX children are killed or seriously injured on UK roads **every day**. This sobering statistic is one reason why we at Futura Learning Partnership are signing up to the annual Road Safety Week, which this year takes place from November 14–20.

But it's not the only driving force (pardon the pun!). We are firmly in support of the 2022 theme chosen by the Brake charity: **Safer Roads for All**.

Everyone has the right to make safe and healthy journeys and we all need to play our part in enabling this to happen. While most road users do take care and are courteous to others, a minority do not. Anyone who lives near a school (any school, even one of ours) will have seen examples of thoughtless and sometimes downright dangerous driving and parking.

We're taking part in...



Wansdyke School has been a pioneer of Bristol's School Streets programme, which bans cars at drop-off and pick-up times. Most of our schools encourage parents who have to bring children to school by car to park a distance away and walk the final stretch – and urge anyone who is able to walk, cycle or scoot the whole journey. Ironically, some families try

these greener modes of travel then say they are forced to abandon them because of the perils they encounter en route.

There are, of course, environmental aspects too – air quality around schools can be severely reduced when too many of us take to our cars.

The Road Safety Week 2022 campaign will raise awareness of issues including safe vehicles and speeds, the recent update to the Highway Code and the new hierarchy of road users, and the importance of inclusivity to keep us all safe on the roads, no matter who we are or how we travel.

You can find out more about the campaign on the charity's website:

www.brake.org.uk

G'DAY! EXPLORING TWO RIVERS

EYFS

Butterflies have had lots of fun exploring and getting to know each other in our new classroom. The children have been able to create and bring to life stories in our role play area, create some brilliant decorative hand artwork and worked on their fine motor skills with the pipe cleaners and beads. They have also really enjoyed our outside area, where they have had the opportunity to play in the mud kitchen and experiment with our outdoor chalk. We have had a great start so far!

KS1 Australian Adventures

Ladybirds and Wrens started a day of Australian adventures by creating aboriginal artwork and dancing like Australian animals. Lewis Easdown, a wildlife photographer, came in to talk to us about great white sharks, kangaroos and crocodiles. Children then practised orienteering, tour guide and survival skills. We are ready to start our Aussie adventure!



SPORTING ST JOHN'S STRIKE GOLD

St John's Primary School has achieved the School Games Gold Award. The school is extremely proud of its pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport. There were so many highlights, such as hosting Inter-school competitions across six sports, maintaining and delivery of 60 active minutes for every child and creating positive experiences that support the character development for groups of young people. Well done St John's!

INTRODUCING SBL STUDENT LEADERS

Rory Johns and Maddie Wade are the newly-elected SBL Student Principals for the 2022-23 academic year. Look out for a photo of the wider student leadership team on our Twitter account very soon.

The team have already been developing their ideas as to how the school can be further improved and they are very much looking forward to representing

SBL at our upcoming open evening on October 6. They will soon start leading fortnightly student council meetings, which are attended by house leaders from all year groups. Members will also receive their much anticipated special student leadership ties!

Congratulations to all of them, a truly impressive group of young people.



GARDEN OF HOPE AT WANSDYKE SCHOOL

The Winston's Wish Growing Hope Project helps supports children who have experienced bereavement by creating a Growing Hope Garden and gardening together through the year.

We are incredibly proud to feature in this [Youtube video](#) which has been

created to help other schools understand more about the Growing Hope project.

A special thank you to Mrs Getter who leads the Garden of Hope project at Wansdyke Primary School with such passion.



OFF TO A WONDERFUL START AT CHANDAG INFANTS



POP-UP ART IS A STANDOUT SUCCESS AT CHEDDAR GROVE



Year 1 at Cheddar Grove have been enjoying and describing pop-up artwork as part of their learning.

Chandag Infant School is so pleased to have welcomed our new Reception children this term. They have all settled in wonderfully and are enjoying coming to school full time. The Early Years staff team have noticed how well the children are sharing and caring for each other and their environments and we are impressed with how well they have started to learn their phonic sounds. The children are certainly making everyone proud and excited about the year ahead.

Thank you to our PTA for holding our first Reception parent and child picnic last week; it was lovely to see so many come and spend time getting to know each other. 3-2-4 staff – now part of the Infant School team – came along to see the children they worked with last year, which they very much enjoyed.

Also, a big thank you to our PTA for the lovely care packages that each parent received as they dropped their children off for their first day at school.

Claire & Jane, EYFS Leaders

ST JOHN'S YEAR 3 CHILDREN RECEIVE GIFT OF BIBLES



Year 3 had an exciting morning when they were presented with their bibles. The whole school came down and created a lovely service with fantastic singing and a bible reading from some of the Year 3s. Reverend Stephen McCaw took the service.

WELLSWAY NETBALLERS START SEASON ON A HIGH NOTE



The Year 8 and 9 Netball Teams travelled to St Gregory’s School on Wednesday to play their first competitive match for the school this academic year. The Year 8 team, captained by Sophie, put in a really strong performance and outperformed their opponents in both attack and defence. Ria, Steph, Lexi and Jaz passed strongly and with accuracy in the centre

court area, Evie and Jody defended tightly in the D and Molly and Sophie shot brilliantly. The final score was a win to Wellsway 28-5. Players of the game awards went to Molly and Ria, who have both just been selected for the U13 Avon County Netball squad.

The Year 9 match was a much closer affair, with end-to-end action throughout

the game. The girls played well as a team, captained by Maggie, battling hard to make interceptions and gain possession. A particular mention to Ava and Millie, who both shot brilliantly and Faithful who was awarded player of the match. The final score was a win to Wellsway 14-10. Well done to all the girls involved.

Mrs Burston



Wellsway School’s Netball Club saw an amazing turnout - 44 girls in total attended the practice on Mendip courts in the sunshine. It was fantastic seeing them working together, learning names and making friends with students from other primary schools.

Mrs Burston



FUTURA COMMERCIAL SERVICES KICKS OFF NEW ERA

During the summer holidays, our Trust Trading Company underwent a name change and will now be known as Futura Commercial Services Limited. Futura Commercial Services supports a number of departments across our trust including the commercial sports centre operations at Wellsway and SBL, our wraparound childcare provision with a number of our primary schools, our in-house catering department, school lettings and facility hire outside of the school day and our B&NES School Sports Partnership. The commercial services team also launched Futura Business Partnership in early 2022, bringing the community and our schools closer together and staff have led on various project such as the installation of the new SBL 3G Pitch.

ZEST CHILDCARE LAUNCHES AT THE MEADOWS:

Early September saw the launch of Zest Childcare @ The Meadows. This additional wraparound provision leads on from the successes at Chandag Infant and Junior Schools and offers continued breakfast, afterschool and holiday club provision to the surrounding community. With support from Headteacher Joy Mounter, we are looking forward to creating further success stories and supporting all pupils who attend.



SALTFORD'S SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTED

The school council plays a very active role in the life of Saltford School, ensuring that the children's views are shared and acted upon. Two representatives from each class in Y1 - Y6 have been elected by the children this term. This is an important role for school improvement. We look forward to working with the new team and would like to say a big 'thank you' to



Saltford
CofE Primary School

our outgoing council members who have done a fantastic job and certainly helped

improve aspects of our school through their contributions.

IKB PUTS ON A SHOW FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS



IKB had an impressive Open Evening for students considering joining Year 10 in 2023. Mrs Gibbs inspired visitors with her talks to a packed lecture theatre but



the stars of the evening were the student helpers who were incredible ambassadors for IKB and who showcased what IKB is all about perfectly. Grateful thanks to Alisha,



Eloise, Freya, Kaitlyn, Katie, Madison, Nathan, Oisin, Ruby, Sadie-May and Tom.

PLAYGROUND LEADERS ARE PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES



At playtime Saltford's playground leaders support other children with their play and the use of our playtime equipment. Mrs Burston recently visited the school to work with 20 children from Year 4 in a morning of playground leaders training. The children participated in activities designed to develop their leadership skills. They worked in teams where they had to take on different roles and discussed the qualities that make a good leader. Finally, they devised games of their own, adapting them to make them suitable for younger children. They were then able to put the games straight into practice, working with children from reception and KS1 who tried them out during break time. Mrs Burston congratulated everyone involved. We are sure they are going to make fantastic team of playground leaders!

BRIDGE FARM MARKS GOLDEN OCCASION FOR STUDY CENTRE



The Year 6 pupils of Bridge Farm Primary have enjoyed an adventurous start to the year.

We were privileged to be invited to the Dean Field Studies Centre to celebrate 50 years of providing outdoor learning activities, outdoor pursuits and environmental field studies since its opening. It was an honour to meet staff and friends of the centre, past

and present, and for our pupils to use the climbing wall, leap of faith and tunnels activities. The school has had an association with Dean Field for over 30 years and it was a fabulous celebration of the hard work that takes place there.

Year 6 had an amazing time on their residential trip to Morfa Bay, Pendine, last week. Every year, this provides an amazing opportunity for pupils to

challenge, stretch and experience activities that they may not have had opportunity to undertake before, as well as allowing them to bond with their peers and teachers. The pupils were an absolute credit to the school and threw themselves (quite literally at times) into every activity, pushing the boundaries of what they felt they could achieve and surprising themselves every step of the way.

WHAT'S ON AT OUR SPORTS CENTRES

There's something for everyone in the autumn offer from our sports centres.

Take your pick from team sports on our fabulous new 3G pitch at SBL, through classes and gym sessions at both centres, and roller disco at Wellsway.

Our health and wellbeing experts, as well as our fitness coaches, are on hand to advise. You can join as a member or sample a whole range of sports on a pay-as-you-go basis. Find out more in our [What's on this Autumn newsletter](#) (Pdf).



Book the whole day
or
just the 2 hr Presentation + Q&A's

MENOPAUSE AWARENESS & WELLBEING DAY

SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER @ SBL SPORTS CENTRE

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER @ WELLSWAY SPORTS CENTRE

9am
to
4pm

Support yourself through the mental & physical changes that occur during Perimenopause & Menopause at this up-to-date, awareness & wellbeing day.



The day includes

- Presentation and Q & A's with Hazel Hayden from **The Bristol Menopause Clinic**
- Talk on Nutrition
- Juice Break
- Tutorial in weight lifting from ZIZA Fitness
- Fitness Class incorporating all you have just learnt
- Yoga or Body Balance Session
- Angela Rose Holistics

£35 pp or book before 30th Sept & get early bird discount £25 pp

<https://MenopauseAwarenessandWellbeingDayatSBLSportsCentre.eventbrite.com>

<https://MenopauseAwarenessandWellbeingDayatWellswaySportsCentre.eventbrite.com>

Book your ticket at **eventbrite**

Free on site parking at both centres