

Futura Learning Partnership

# NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



*A picture of happiness – these children are celebrating the formation of Futura's newest school: Chandag Primary in Keynsham*



## WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families enjoyed the half term break and are continuing to avoid the worst of the downpours and seasonal illnesses as we move towards the winter months.

It has been a pleasure to welcome children and staff back into our schools this week for Term 2, always a busy one with events such as Anti Bullying Week, BBC Children in Need and sporting fixtures coming thick and fast before the build-up to Christmas activities begins.

I am especially enjoying all these enriching aspects of school life this year, as this will be the last time I experience them as an employee in education. I have taken the decision to retire as Chief Executive next summer after a wonderful 41-year career as a teacher and school leader. While I will miss my work very much, I think the time is right for me and for our trust.

I am so fortunate to have had the chance to develop Futura Learning Partnership, which, in its first full year as an expanded trust, is becoming established as a leading provider of strong schools in Somerset and the West of England. The benefits of working together, sharing our strengths and supporting one another through difficult times, have been borne out by Ofsted. Several inspection reports have commented on the additional capacity the trust gives its schools.

Inspectors have also acknowledged the robust challenge offered to schools by Futura governors and trustees. This is important, as we are committed to ensuring that all our schools are accountable to their communities. I am grateful to those of you who serve on our local governance committees. I must also thank parents and carers who support our schools in so many different ways.

While, as I have mentioned, there are predictable elements to the academic year, there are also unexpected opportunities and challenges along the way. I must give a special mention here to Clevedon School, which discovered at the start of last term, that it needed to shut 22 classrooms because of crumbling concrete. Leaders, staff, children and families have shown remarkable positivity

and resilience in dealing with this crisis and I wish everyone well as they move into their new temporary Learning Village this week.

Both familiar and extraordinary events can help ensure schools are safe, nurturing and joyous environments where learning can flourish. I know you share my gratitude to our school staff, so many of whom really go the extra mile to inspire and support your children.

As parents and carers, you have an important role to play too, not least in working with us to ensure the best possible attendance levels. You may have seen media reports about an alarming increase in pupil absences across the country. Our schools are not immune to this trend; we really need

your help so that children do not miss out on the high quality educational experiences they deserve.

Be assured that I appreciate your support. While the trust board has begun the search for a new Chief Executive, for me it is business as usual and I am determined to pass Futura on to my successor in the best possible shape. I am so proud of the trust we are building together.

With best wishes,

*Andrea Arlidge*

**Andrea Arlidge**  
Chief Executive

## YEO MOOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES 'GOOD' OFSTED VERDICT



*Smiles all round for Yeo Moor pupils and staff as they celebrate the Good Ofsted judgement*

Yeo Moor Primary School is a happy and harmonious school where children feel safe and learn well.

That's the verdict of Ofsted inspectors who visited the Clevedon school in June and judged it to be "Good" in all areas.

### **Their report praised:**

- The exciting, well-designed curriculum
- Respectful and caring relationships
- High expectations of pupil behaviour
- Leaders' clear vision.

The Ofsted team rated Yeo Moor as "Good" for quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision.

They noted that parents and carers spoke highly of the 365-pupil school, commenting on the effective teaching, caring staff, and inspiring lessons.

"Pupils love to learn at Yeo Moor Primary School ... Pupils gain and retain knowledge because they are well taught,"

the Ofsted report, published at the end of the last academic year, said.

Headteacher Roland Lovatt said: "I am very grateful to our staff team who have worked hard to earn this glowing report from Ofsted. I am also extremely proud of our children, who spoke to the inspectors with confidence and enthusiasm. Our children have shown excellent attitudes all year round as they develop into young people equipped to excel in a modern and diverse world."

# CHEDDAR GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL GETS HIGH MARKS FROM OFSTED



*Headteacher Paul Jeffery with a child from every classroom, Nursery to Year 6, at Cheddar Grove Primary School*

Staff, pupils and parents at Cheddar Grove Primary School are celebrating an exceptional Ofsted report in which children's behaviour is described as exemplary.

The inspectors, who rate the school as Outstanding in four out of five categories, praise pupils for being polite and courteous in and outside the classroom.

"Pupils are proud to attend this inclusive and welcoming school. They describe the school as a place where everyone is kind, helpful and eager to learn," their report says.

"Relationships between staff and pupils are highly respectful."

A team of three inspectors visited Cheddar Grove, a large school with 476 pupils aged three to 11, in June and their report has just been published.

As well as being impressed with the children's behaviour and attitudes, Ofsted is

full of praise for the teaching and learning in the school. The report uses the word "ambitious" five times.

Ofsted judges the school as Outstanding for leadership and management, early years provision, behaviour and attitudes and personal development and Good for quality of education.

The inspectors praise Futura Learning Partnership, which Cheddar Grove joined in 2019, for its support of the school, in particular providing "a highly effective development programme to upskill staff". Trustees and governors are said to accurately understand what the school does well and where it needs to improve.

Headteacher Paul Jeffery said: "We are delighted that the inspectors found so many areas of outstanding practice at our school. This excellent report is testament to all the hard work and dedication of all

those involved in the life of Cheddar Grove Primary School: our wonderful children, our committed staff, and the fantastic support we receive from our whole school community. Everyone plays a part in ensuring our pupils flourish from the moment they start school."

Andrea Arlidge, Chief Executive of Futura, said: "I am so pleased and proud that the excellence of Cheddar Grove Primary School has been recognised by Ofsted."

Cheddar Grove is a strong and valued member of our family of schools. Its staff and pupils make a great contribution to our collaboration and partnership working, which is key in helping ensure children in South Bristol receive the exceptional education they deserve."

# INTRODUCING OUR FUTURA PRIMARY SPECIALISTS

Futura is dedicated to supporting schools to provide the best educational opportunities to every child. One way we achieve this is by creating opportunities for our strongest teachers and school leaders to share their expertise across all our schools. Our team of primary specialists is an example of how this works.

**'THE WORK OF THE PRIMARY SPECIALISTS HAS ALREADY HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR SCHOOLS.'**

The work of the primary specialists has already had a positive impact on our schools. Recent Ofsted inspections recognised their achievements including improving pupil outcomes and reducing teacher workload. This year the following team are building on these fantastic collaborative successes.

## **Laura Brown, Primary Maths Specialist**

Laura has 16 years of experience throughout Key Stage 1 and 2 and has led maths for 14 years. She has recently been appointed as Deputy Headteacher at Puriton Primary School. Training from the Boolean Maths Hub has given her



a secure knowledge of the progression of each mathematical strand. She has implemented the Mastering Number Programme in EYFS and Key Stage 1.

## **Jo Hale, Primary Writing Specialist**

Jo has over 20 years of primary teaching experience, with the last 13 of these in leadership roles across Somerset. Currently, she is the Deputy Headteacher and English Lead at Westover Green Community School and Autism Centre in Bridgwater. She has experience teaching in all year groups across the primary phase and has worked in various schools with differing challenges.



## **Jen Roberts, Primary Reading Specialist**

Jen Roberts has worked at Chandag Junior School for 13 years. Since April 2022, Jen has been the Futura Primary Specialist for reading. She has developed the Futura Reading Handbook and supported schools. Over 2023-24, Jen is Assistant Headteacher at Chandag Primary School and will lead a team to develop the Futura Reading Scheme.



## **Katie Sharp, Primary Teaching and Learning Specialist**

Katie has worked in leadership roles across schools in the Futura Learning Partnership. Currently, she is Assistant Headteacher at Two Rivers CofE Primary School, leading the curriculum, assessment, SEND and mentoring early career teachers. She has experience teaching from Reception to Year 6. Katie is a member of the BANES Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), representing CofE schools.



## **Stephen Webber, Church School Lead**

Stephen has worked in church schools for 20 years and has been a head for 14 years. He leads All Saints CofE Primary School in Clevedon and is a member of the North Somerset SACRE. In his role as Church School Lead, he will support the schools in their review of how their school meets the SIAMS - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools - inspection criteria.



## MEET OUR INCLUSION AND SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Tamara Dexter has been appointed Futura's Inclusion and Safeguarding Lead to further develop our fully inclusive educational practices and ensure safeguarding remains our highest priority.

Tamara Dexter has already started in her new role and is working collaboratively with colleagues from all our schools to ensure every pupil is safe and supported to achieve success.



# N-ICE WORK! PRIMARY LAUNCHES WITH A PICNIC



*These children at the hot after-school picnic at Chandag Primary School had the right idea.*

A celebration picnic marked the launch of Futura's newest school - Chandag Primary in Keynsham.

The former Chandag infant and junior schools have merged to form a large primary on the Wellsway campus for children aged two to 11.

The school has bright new signage,

with a rainbow logo, and a new set of school values have been developed by pupils and staff. These are:

- Strive for excellence
- Respect everyone
- Celebrate our uniqueness.

Headteacher Davina Lucas welcomed pupils, siblings, families, governors,

staff and the wider community at the celebration event in glorious sunshine in September. Entertainment was provided by students from Wellsway School and everyone enjoyed cold drinks, ice creams, cakes and snacks.

## CONFERENCES PROVIDE INSPIRING START FOR EARLY CAREER TEACHERS

Providing opportunities for teachers to develop their expertise is essential to delivering the best education to all our pupils. This is especially true for Early Career Teachers, or ECTs for short.

Futura ECTs and their mentors

participated in conferences that took their skills and confidence to the next level last term. Participants shared their best ideas and participated in sessions, including 'What changes in my

classroom would help my students the most?' and 'Career progression'.

