

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Looking forward to a bright Futura: Four Acres Academy in south Bristol is a welcome addition to our family of schools



WELCOME

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. January can seem a long month and can present some challenges – illness, darkness, weather (!!!) – but it has many positives too. I hope you and your family have managed to avoid the bugs and escape the worst effects of the torrential rain, ice and fog. The days are getting longer now and we will soon see spring flowers popping up on our school sites as well as in our gardens. My thanks go to all facilities staff who help keep our schools warm, safe and well cared for so that our colleagues and your children can thrive.

Green shoots are not confined to the flower beds either. We have seen promising signs in many a classroom already this term as pupils' hard work pays off with some spectacular progress in learning. I am very grateful to parents and carers for all the support they provide to encourage their children's academic progress. It is good to see young people, particularly those in exam years, settling in to learning and striving for their goals.

It is also heartening to hear of so many extra-curricular activities taking place for children of all ages – sporting clubs and fixtures, rehearsals for productions and concerts and art activities, to name just a few. We strongly believe in enrichment for all at Futura, providing opportunities that children would not otherwise have and enabling them to develop as rounded human beings. You will see from the photos in this newsletter that our pupils have a lot of fun!

We are also committed to working in partnership with parents and thank you for all you do to support our schools, whether it be cheering on the touchline at sports matches, providing costumes for special events, turning out for parents' evenings and information sessions or encouraging your children to walk, cycle or scoot to school (even in the depths of winter) to make our environment cleaner and safer. You are helping to reinforce our Futura values of Respect, Opportunity, Collaboration and Aspiration.

On 1 January we welcomed the staff, children and families of Four Acres Academy in Withywood to our trust. We have been working with Four Acres for some time but it is great they are now officially part of our family of schools. I was very pleased to join headteacher Matt Cave, and the staff team, for celebration tea and cakes at the start of term. Four Acres is a successful primary school with nursery and pre-school provision and it is a valuable addition to Futura Learning Partnership and our south Bristol hub. We look forward to working with our new colleagues over the coming months.

Four Acres has joined us at a pivotal moment. We are just weeks away from the completion of our merger with the Clevedon Learning Trust, which will create a strong partnership of 28 schools.



Enrichment activities such as netball are important to us at Futura

Combining the talents of staff from so many schools in Somerset and the West of England will bring many opportunities. It is a very exciting project, which we are confident will secure a bright future for us. As we have said before, the merger will strengthen our provision - but rest assured that your school will retain its distinctive identity and remain at the heart of its community.

Our trust leaders and central team are working hard to ensure that all the CLT staff can transfer to Futura and from Day One receive the same benefits. Our staff are a precious asset and we value hugely the efforts made by everyone – executives, heads and deputies, admin teams, teachers, teaching assistants and all other support staff – on behalf of our schools and trust. Wage levels in education are determined nationally, as you will know. You will also be aware that teacher members of the NEU union have voted to strike over pay

on Wednesday February 1, Thursday March 2, Wednesday March 15 and Thursday March 16. Our schools are in the process of working out how they will operate on these dates and will inform you as early as possible.

With two weeks to go until the half-term break, I would like to thank you all once and again and urge you to keep up the good work! Encourage your children to make every day count, make every lesson count, to enjoy what winter brings and to look forward to the spring.

Thanks and best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The growth of our trust means we need more inspirational and professional people to join our dedicated and passionate staff team.

If you are planning your next career move, and think you could help make a difference for our students, please [take a look at our vacancies](#).



ANCIENT AND MODERN AS WANSDYKE CHILDREN GO OUT AND ABOUT



Year 4 children at Wansdyke Primary School enjoyed a great trip to Bristol Museum last week to further develop their knowledge of Ancient Egypt. Exploring Egyptian artefacts was a particular highlight of the day!

Children in Year 6 visited the Lifeskills centre, which aims to teach pupils how to take personal responsibility for their own safety. Children learned how to assess risk and cope with difficult situations by taking part in realistic, interactive activities. Staff at

the school are proud of all the children and how they represented their school. Volunteers from the centre commented, "All the children were excellent at helping and supporting each other. They were very mature and made great emergency calls."



IKB SETS BRIDIE ON ROAD TO SUCCESS

IKB Academy opened in September 2015 with 21 students in Year 10: 20 boys and one girl.

That female student, Bridie Bates, has now graduated from the University of Derby, where she studied Motorsport Engineering, and has secured herself a place on the Defence Engineering Graduate Programme with Rolls Royce.

Clare Barclay, careers leader at the school in Keynsham, said: "We cannot tell you how proud we are of this young woman – she's destined for great things. We cannot wait to watch her career unfold and we look forward to inviting her into school to inspire our new students. Good luck with your next phase, Bridie!"

MATHS PRACTICE FOR ALL THE FAMILY



Years 1 and 2 at Chandag Infant School welcomed parents and carers into school to share maths activities. Children enjoyed a chance to work with their adults and show them some of the games and strategies that they use in maths lessons to help their learning. Year 1 focused on

games that support children in recalling number facts and calculating addition and subtraction. Year 2 explored strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Both year groups also talked about the importance of practising numeral formation and correctly spelling

number names. It was fantastic to welcome so many family members into our classes and we hope that the activities will help inspire and support maths practice at home.

BEDMINSTER DOWN SHOWCASES SPORTS ACTIVITIES



Bedminster Down School has hosted its first 'Freshers Fayre' style event to promote the fantastic extra-curricular clubs on

offer. All clubs had a station that included information about what the club involved - there were even some freebies on offer!

The event was a great success with over 100 students signing up to attend a club in the new year.

OH YES WE CAN! PANTO TIME AT SALT FORD SCHOOL



In the first week of the new term, children at Saltford School were treated to a fantastic performance of Cinderella in the school hall. There was a lot of high energy interaction, audience participation and a lot of laughter at the funny jokes.

Children came to school in some very creative fancy dress. There were prizes for the best dame and the best dressed in EYFS & KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2. Well done to everyone who made such an effort.

Thanks go to [Stage-Ed](#) for coming to school and giving everyone such a fun day, and to the wonderful PTA for funding this fabulous experience. Thanks also to Mrs Nethercott for organising this treat for the children.

JUST THE RIGHT TIME TO LEARN ABOUT EXTREME WEATHER!



Years 1 and 2 at St John's had an exciting first day back for our 'Extreme Weather' Hook day. The children did lots of activities learning about seasons, different weather types and being weather presenters.

MRS GORDON'S TRAVELS LEAD HER TO FUTURA

Salford School is delighted to welcome Mrs Gordon to Year 5 as Elm class's new teacher. Prior to joining Salford, Mrs Gordon taught for three years in London (where she also trained). She has experience of teaching English in Madrid and Art in Sri Lanka. She is excited to get back to her roots in the South West and has been enjoying getting to know her new class. In the classroom she places huge importance on kindness, mutual respect and children's wellbeing, along with having a big appreciation for children's sense of humour and fun. Mrs Gordon loves to read, travel, practise yoga, run, listen to music and exercise her vocal chords. She is part of a choir in Bristol and loves to encourage singing.



TWO RIVERS CHILDREN ENJOY FOREST SCHOOL



Two Rivers have thoroughly enjoyed launching forest school and OPAL - outdoor play and learning - at our new Two Rivers Primary School site. Every lunchtime the children have the opportunity to explore the outdoors and have loads of fun doing so with activities such as den building, chalking, obstacle courses, dressing up and water play. Our first forest school sessions involved the children learning about frost and developing their teamwork skills, which has inspired all the children to continue their work as Eco Warriors.

FUTURA WELCOMES FOUR ACRES ACADEMY

Futura Learning Partnership is delighted to welcome Four Acres Academy to its family of schools.

Four Acres is a successful primary that also offers nursery and pre-school provision. The school joined us on January 1 and is now part of our south Bristol hub. Its staff add capacity to our team and they in turn will benefit from being able to work with trust colleagues, including early years, primary, secondary and special education experts.

Being part of a trust also offers children opportunities that a single school could not provide. At Futura we believe very strongly in building partnerships with families to enable children to thrive.

We are proud to be growing our trust, offering our schools stability and support while ensuring they retain their individual identities at the heart of the communities they serve.



STEADY ON! CHANDAG'S MINI ROCK STARS TAKE TO STAGE



Chandag Infant School were treated to a performance by the children who take part in Rock Steady. This is a club that parents pay for which enables children to join a mini rock band! Children have the choice of electric drums, vocals, keyboards, bass or electric guitar and work together to create a performance. We were very impressed by their musical skills and could see how much they are enjoying being part of a band.

SWEET POTATO AND CHICKPEA CURRY - A RECIPE FOR LIFE



Students at Aspire have been learning valuable life skills through the preparation of affordable meals. During the sessions, students have developed an understanding of planning meals, sourcing ingredients and cooking, including safe knife skills. The students enjoyed making (and eating!) the sweet potato and chickpea curry.

ORCHESTRA'S MUSICIANS INSPIRE CHANDAG JUNIORS



Children at Chandag Junior School enjoyed a performance from [West of England Music Alliance](#). They learned about the different groups of instruments in the orchestra. The performance also supported the music curriculum and covered key concepts such as beat, tempo, volume and pitch. Details have been sent to parents at the school, if they would like their child to learn an instrument, such as: flute, clarinet, cornet, trombone. The school would love to start their own band.

SOFIA'S SMILE LIGHTS UP THEATRE ROYAL BATH



Sofia from The Meadows was part of the Aladdin Pantomime at The Bath Theatre Royal. The commitment required was huge. Sofia practised every day for two weeks

before the show for sometimes up to six hours. Sofia had her first pantomime performance on December 9, then two shows a day nearly every other day up until January 9. Sofia performed in 26

shows in total! The school is extremely proud of her – she did every show with the same enthusiasm and smile.

IMAGES OF KINDNESS AND CARING



EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES MAKE AN IMPACT

Year 3 and 4 at St John's enjoyed their Extreme Earth Day. Throughout the day, they completed practical scientific activities to help them make links in understanding volcanoes and earthquakes. They made their own volcano with their very own volcanic explosion! Then they observed how an underwater volcano is made. They didn't realise that the world could be so delicious, as they used Mars bars to look at how tectonic plates collide, forming earthquakes and volcanoes. Finally, they took part in a team quiz to test their understanding of the two concepts.



Children in Year 3 at Cheddar Grove have been exploring how to care for people when they are feeling unwell.

They made freeze frames showing how we help family and friends when they are feeling under the weather!



LIFE'S A BEACH FOR INTREPID JOSEPH

Joseph Buscemi from Wellsway School, a Year 13 student in Futura Sixth, went to Costa Rica to volunteer at a turtle sanctuary for his Gold DoFE residency. He wrote this for the school newsletter.

“Over Christmas and new year, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to volunteer at a turtle sanctuary on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. I loved every second of it; the location, wildlife and the people I met were amazing.

Daily activities included exhuming (digging up) turtle nests from the sanctuary; releasing the turtles at any of three different beaches on early

morning or late afternoon walks; walking trails looking for tent-making bats, scarlet macaws and monkeys as well as night walks searching for caimans and crocodiles, all in aid of the conservation of the magnificent creatures.

Turtle releases consisted of up to 400 baby turtles, usually drawing a large crowd of tourists to come watch.

It was overall a fantastic experience and I am grateful to have been able to make a difference in the conservation of the turtles.

“I strongly recommend volunteering at animal reserves to anyone as it is a life-changing experience.”



SPORTS AMBASSADORS FIND WINNING FORMULA

Mrs Burston from Wellsway School has thanked the wonderful Year 8 Sports Ambassadors who helped set up and run the Small School Sports Hall athletics competition. She said: “They ran the jumping, running and throwing stations for the 100 children who attended, demonstrating good technique, measuring and recording for each activity. The event simply would not be able to run without their help. Well done to everyone involved.”



BRIDGE FARM DEFENDS SOUTH BRISTOL FOOTBALL TITLE



Reigning champions Bridge Farm Primary School fielded two teams in the South Bristol Schools Football Tournament.

DONATIONS TO KINGSWOOD FOOD BANK

by Florence, from SBL Academy

Christmas is the season of giving and as a school we have been donating food to the Trussell Trust food bank in Kingswood. This idea started in the sustainability club in an attempt to help others who are less fortunate than we are. Trussell Trust is an amazing organisation who are spreading smiles and meals to many families across the UK. Over the past six months, they have provided over 1.3 million emergency food parcels to people in the country. Thank you to everyone who donated. It will make a huge difference to many in our community.

