

Futura Learning Partnership

# NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



*A beautiful day for exploring ... Aspire Academy students visit Bristol as part of their project on bridges*



## WELCOME

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable half-term break and were able to take time to relax. It has been wonderful to welcome children back this week for term 4 and to see so many of them revelling in the opportunities our schools provide, both within and beyond the classroom. This newsletter reflects a rich variety of activities and experiences – from poetry writing to police cars, from eating fish and chips to handling a corn snake!

Each of our schools is at the heart of its community and has its own academy governance committee. Parents, grandparents and carers get involved in school life; this issue shows them supporting charity events, enterprise projects, foodbank collections and gardening initiatives. We are proud, too, of our young

people who provide service in their local areas. I'm sure the members of Saltford's Community Computer Café very much appreciated the support, skills and knowledge of Saltford School's digital leaders!

The next time I write to you, I will be addressing a much larger group. The 15 schools in Futura Learning Partnership will be joined on March 1 by the 13 schools in the Clevedon Learning Trust. As I have explained before, this is an exciting step that will make the future more secure for your children. As well as bringing financial stability – very welcome in these uncertain times – it heralds great opportunities for both staff and children.

While you will see little or no difference in your children's day-to-day experience in school, you can be assured that being part of the expanded trust will enhance our provision in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. Our two trusts have already begun working together and sharing expertise for mutual benefit. For example, nursery

and reception classes are now part of an Early Years Foundation Stage network led by Tamara Dexter, headteacher at Chestnut Park Primary in Yatton, and are working together on a new Futura EYFS toolkit. We are also setting up a pupil premium network, led by Ro O'Reilly, headteacher at St Nicholas Chantry Primary in Clevedon, who is a government expert in this important area of provision for disadvantaged children and young people.

But why should my child's school, in our corner of Bristol, Bath, North East Somerset and South Glos, care about a school in deepest North Somerset or Somerset, you might ask? Well, because improving education ultimately benefits us all. We can be surprised and reassured by the things we have in common and can learn from the things we do differently. To make this work in practical terms, we have linked all the schools in Futura in groups of three, which we are calling 'triads'. So don't be surprised if your child comes home and tells you their class has been talking to counterparts in Westover Green or Woolavington!

We are very much looking forward to this new chapter for Futura Learning Partnership. We are adopting the CLT strapline of Children, Choice and Collaboration as this chimes so well with the core values at the heart of our organisation. We remain committed to working with parents and carers to enable every child to experience success and have fun, within a safe and nurturing environment.

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](#).



## LEO AT THE HEART OF SCHOOLS' FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Chandag Infant and Junior Schools are taking action this month in support of the charity Heart Heroes.

Pupils are being encouraged to wear red on Monday February 27 and bring cash donations for the cause.

The day before, staff will be taking part in a sponsored walk in Kelston to raise more funds.

Heart Heroes is a charity supporting children aged up to 16 and their families – among them five-year-old Chandag Infant's pupil Leo Nicholls.

Leo was born with four separate heart conditions and first underwent surgery at seven days old. He has had several more operations and faces more surgery as he gets older. This means he has a long scar from his throat to his navel.

His mum Aimee Roberts has written a book, *Leo's Heart*, which has been published by Heart Heroes, explaining why his heart 'is a little bit different', why he has a scar and how his voice is different because surgery has damaged his vocal cords.

Heart Heroes supports Leo, Aimee and dad Alex Nicholls. They are able to meet other child heart surgery patients monthly to enjoy activities together.

The charity is keen to get schools talking so that children who have heart conditions feel less alienated.

If you wish you can donate online to [Heart Heroes](https://www.heartheroes.co.uk), any donations however small, will be gratefully received.



## MAGIC! NUMBERS DAY AIDS NSPCC



Well done St John's for your wonderful contribution to the NSPCC Number Day which raised a total sum of £163. The children and staff looked amazing in their Dress for Digits, In addition Year 1 to Year 6 competed in the Times Table Rock Stars number day challenge.



## INVENTIVE PUPILS TACKLE ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Salford School's Year 4 attended a workshop called 'Hold Back the Flood'. The children were challenged to design and construct a building that would protect a Lego person from getting wet in a flood. The workshop was a great introduction to the profession of engineering and the children came up with excellent designs using teamwork and problem solving. Many thanks to Mrs White for organising the workshop and to Fraser and Karolina from Buro Happold Engineering for leading the workshop for the children.



## BUDDING BRUNELS GO OUT AND ABOUT FOR INSPIRATION

Foxes and Otters class from Aspire went to visit Clifton Suspension Bridge as part of their DT project on bridges. When they returned to school, they built their own model suspension bridges.



# ‘COME DINE WITH ME’ AT THE MEADOWS

These last two weeks, we have had our ‘Come Dine With Me’ sessions where the parents of all children were invited to a fish and chip lunch. This event has been a great success and our children have really enjoyed having parents and carers coming to eat with them. We want to thank you for coming along, as well as Zest Catering for organising, and our lunch rangers for helping make the lunch hour run successfully.



Staff, students and families at SBL Academy have been thanked for their support of Kingswood Foodbank.

Organiser Peter Shears wrote to the school expressing gratitude for their recent donation of more than 415kg. Mr Shears said that in 2017 the foodbank fed 1,177 people. Numbers increased annually, especially during Covid, and last year it fed 4,485 people.

“Luckily for us and those people, donations have also increased and we have always been able to meet the demand. Your school and its supporters have played an important part in this,” he said.

# FEELING THE LOVE (AND £400 PROFIT) AT FOUR ACRES



The pupils at Four Acres Academy were challenged to design and create products to sell to the public with a class budget of £20. Luckily all the classes made a

profit, and the children raised around £400 towards playtime equipment. The children were very creative and came up with chocolate hearts, lanterns,



valentines cards and many other items. A big congratulations to all the classes for showing excellent maths and design skills.

# DIGITAL LEADERS LEND SUPPORT AT COMPUTER CAFÉ

Digital leaders from Saltford School took part in the Saltford Community Computer Cafe. They had the opportunity to support people in the local community with their technology and were very knowledgeable. People attending the cafe and the members of Saltford Community Association running the cafe were highly complimentary of the support the children were giving and their behaviour. The digital leaders also supported the Safer Internet Day assembly on February 7th.



# HELLO, HELLO, HELLO: EYFS CHILDREN MEET POLICE



Police visited the EYFS children at Bridge Farm as part of their work related to the local community.



# WARMING UP WITH HOT CHOCOLATE AT WANSDYKE



Children in Wansdyke School's Dig It club braved some freezing weather to tend to their garden. Here they are making a den in their after school club then warming up with a hot chocolate before they go home.

**Community gardening morning** - On **Saturday 25th February** children and adults are invited to join a community gardening morning between 10 o'clock and midday at Wansdyke Primary School. If adults would like to bring their own gardening tools, this would be a great help. Children must be supervised at all times.



## GUIDE DOGS VISIT TWO RIVERS

Guide dogs Harrison and Winnie and their owners visited Two Rivers School. Pupils learned about the role of a guide dog in the life of a partially sighted or blind person. The children asked brilliant questions and were very respectful of the dogs and their owners.

## ANIMAL MAGIC AT ASPIRE?

Zoolab came to visit Aspire Primary. The children were allowed to handle the giant land snail and the corn snake. Some of them weren't sure whether they liked this or not!



## EGGCITEMENT FOR BRIDGE FARM



The eggs provided by Living Eggs at Bridge Farm Primary have hatched, to the delight of pupils in Year 5.



# BDS STUDENTS EXCEL AT POETRY WORKSHOP

Acclaimed Bristol-based poet Deanna Rodger visited Bedminster Down School to run a poetry workshop for eight keen writers. It was part of Lyra Bristol Poetry Festival's project to search out and develop young poets across the city and our pupils certainly rose to the occasion.

Deanna led them expertly through a series of writing activities exploring what Bristol is and it was wonderful to see our pupils respond so intelligently, honestly and creatively. They shared their work as the session went along and also performed a final piece at the end – to suitable applause! It was a warm, lively, productive and thought-provoking session.

Our thanks go to Danny Pandolfi from the Lyra Bristol Poetry Festival, poet Deanna Rodger and, most of all, to our Bedminster Down students for making the event such a great success.

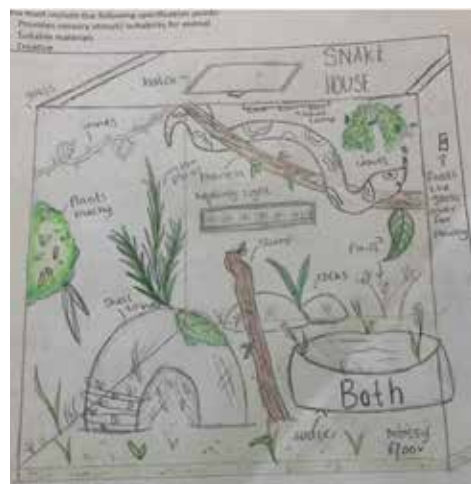


## Bristol Personified – Some Thoughts

Bristol's breath smells of cigarettes, fish and old suits, Chinese takeaway, vape clouds, Thatcher's Gold.  
 Bristol is jogging on the spot.  
 Bristol is carrying a river, a boat, guilt, boredom, triumph.  
 Bristol's eyes are shifty, curved, old, poor, cultured, bold.  
 Bristol's eyes flood when they cry, shout and protest when angry, glow when they're happy.



# KEEP AN EYE ON ARTISTIC TALENT OF KS3 AT WELLSWAY



A huge well done to all KS3 students who took part in drawing/design assessments this term. There is so much to be celebrated! Here are two examples.

- Year 7 - Observational leaf drawing
- Year 8 - Observational eye drawing
- Year 9 - Observational Big Ben drawing

### DT tasks

- Year 7 - Design an educational toy for a child
- Year 8 - Design an animal house or product
- Year 9 - Use recycled materials to re-design a new product





# WORLD OF WORK

IKB Year 12 Engineering students have completed their ten days of work experience with the following employers:

- AB Catering Engineers
- ALD Carpentry
- Alliance Design Services
- B&D Carter
- BCJ Loft Conversions
- Belcan
- Bristol & Bath Car Services Ltd
- Buro Happold
- Driver Group Plc
- Farrans Construction
- GDLS UK
- GKN Aerospace
- Harvey Shopfitters Ltd
- Horstman Defence Systems
- Robbin Engineering Limited
- Royal Mail Group
- Syntegon Weston Garages

Many thanks for the support from these employer partners.



## OFF TO THE SLOPES

Wellsway School Year 10s went on a ski trip to Passio Tonale in Italy over half term. The trip was led by Miss Coles and Miss Davis, supported by Mr Barter, Mr Evans, Miss Hayward and Mr Doherty.

## STUDENTS SHINE AS INDOOR CRICKET PROVES POPULAR



Wellsway School welcomed teams from Clevedon and Hayesfield for an U13s indoor cricket fixture as part of the Lady Taverners League. The students demonstrated some brilliant batting, bowling and fielding throughout the competition. Wellsway lost their first game but found their feet in the second to come away with a win against Hayesfield.

Well done to Eva, Molly and Belle who took wickets and Niamh who scored enough runs to retire.

Indoor cricket club continues on a Friday lunchtime in term 4.