

Futura Learning Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Headteacher Claire Graham and children enjoying learning in their fantastic new Two Rivers CofE Academy



WELCOME

Dear parents and carers

I would like to thank you for your efforts to support your children and our schools through this wet and windy November. While the days are getting shorter and darker, there's so much going on in classrooms across our trust to brighten all our lives.

I have been privileged to visit a number of our schools in recent weeks and have seen some excellent teaching and successful learning taking place. Our shared work on curriculum development is certainly bringing benefits and enabling children to make strong progress. I have also been pleased to work with other multi academy trust leaders on a collaborative effort to ensure that schools across our area maintain the highest of standards.

This month has seen a milestone for Futura Learning Partnership: the pupils and staff of Two Rivers Church of England Primary School have moved into their wonderful new buildings on the Hygge Park development in east Keynsham. The school has made such a successful start since it opened in temporary accommodation on the Wellsway School site in 2020 and it is fantastic that it now has the facilities it deserves to develop and grow. There are places available now in Reception and Years 1 and 2, so if you know any families moving into the area, do spread the word.

Two Rivers is truly a school for the future. We are so proud that the building meets the exacting Passivhaus standards and are grateful to Bath & North East Somerset Council for providing additional funding to enable us to make this contribution towards tackling the climate emergency.

We have seen other green initiatives this month too, including participation in the Keynsham Eco Festival and planting of trees at Wellsway School for the Queen's Green Canopy.

Two Rivers school generates its own energy from photovoltaic panels, air source heat pumps and heat recovery systems. It was therefore the obvious choice for the first meeting of our Futura Eco Council, where pupils from Bridge Farm, Chandag Infants, Chandag Juniors, IKB, Saltford, SBL, St John's, The Meadows, Two Rivers, Wansdyke and Wellsway schools met to start developing a trust sustainability strategy and action plan. How fitting that this took place just as world leaders were meeting for COP27 in Egypt.

In the shorter term, and closer to home, energy efficiency is not only good for the planet but saves money, which is an important consideration for all our schools. As you will know, education budgets are severely stretched at the moment and the economic situation is likely to get tougher.

As a trust, we are constantly looking to make the best use of our resources. A recent example is the decision, now finalised, to merge Chandag Infant and Junior schools into one all-through primary from September. We have received firm support from the school community for this proposal, which will create a stronger school, providing continuity of education that will better support children's development and progress, alongside wider opportunities for staff. Over the coming months, stakeholders will be consulted over a name and uniform for the new school.

We are also continuing to work to increase our family of schools by merging with Clevedon Learning Trust next year. A bigger trust will allow further economies of scale and make us more resilient, thus ensuring we can develop our capacity to support schools to improve.

The merger will provide even more opportunities for children and staff.

While we are excited about the potential this growth will bring, we remain determined that each of our schools will retain its own identity at the heart of its community. It has been lovely over recent weeks to see schools welcoming in families and friends for events such as fireworks displays and craft fairs and to see children taking part in neighbourhood events.

Wellsway School has been a focal point in Keynsham for more than 65 years and, as I am one of its former headteachers, it has a special place in my heart. I was saddened to learn of the death of Joan Ellison, the last of the school's founding teachers, who touched the lives of many hundreds of families in the town over more than five decades. My condolences to her family.

We also mourn another longstanding member of our family of schools, Debbie Parfrey, who was a teaching assistant at Saltford School. She was part of the Saltford staff team for more than 15 years, but had been connected with the school and trust over a much longer time than this, as her two daughters attended both Saltford and Wellsway and her husband was a governor in both schools. Debbie made a huge contribution to the life of the school. Her funeral was a very moving occasion and I was honoured to be there to pay our respects to a much loved and respected colleague.

Debbie and Joan participated in so many school events both within and outside the classroom. We know that it is often the 'extras' that provide fun and lasting memories for staff and students. We have enjoyed events such as Odd

Socks Day (an anti-bullying initiative) and Children in Need this month – these provide so much fun while sharing serious messages.

Remembrance Day was also marked appropriately in our schools and was a reminder, particularly in the year that Russia invaded Ukraine, that there are always people among us who are grieving. Sadly, this includes those at Bridge Farm Primary following the death of teaching assistant Alejandro Borrego Morales in a collision with a lorry as she cycled to school. We have contacted her family to express our sympathy and are making plans to celebrate her life with the children. I know everyone at the school is grateful for the support and comfort they have received from their school community at this tragic time.

In happier news, preparations for Christmas concerts and productions are now in full swing in our schools and I look forward to attending some of them and sharing in the festivities and fun. So far, we are seeing a more 'normal' build-up than in the past two Covid-hit years. I hope you and your family remain in good health and able to participate in seasonal activities with joy and gratitude.

Thanks and best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

WELLSWAY MOURNS FOUNDING TEACHER JOAN ELLISON

Joan Ellison, who notched up half a century at Wellsway School, has died at the age of 86.

Joan was the last of the five original teachers who were at Wellsway when it opened in 1956, unusually with a secondary modern school and a grammar school on the same site.

Joan Laramy, as she was then, taught PE and games, for eight years until she left to have her family. She returned to supply teaching in 1973 to what had become the comprehensive school and later rejoined the staff team, becoming head of special needs provision. Joan retired in 2001 but continued supply teaching until after her 50th anniversary.

She regularly took part in the popular annual Maths Weekends in the Forest of Dean in the 1980s and 1990s and was involved with foreign exchanges and overseas trips. She was a key participant in the Wellsway School 60th celebrations in 2016.

Joan lived in Keynsham throughout her married life. Her husband Fred, a retired primary headteacher, served for some years as a governor at Wellsway. Their daughter Katrina and son David both attended the school.

Former colleague Richard May, now Head of IT services for Futura Learning Partnership, said: "Joan cared deeply about all the children who passed through her care. While unashamedly 'old school' in



her insistence on politeness, manners and standards in general, she moved with the times and was, without doubt, one of the most respected and liked members of staff throughout her time at Wellsway."

Tina Tabor, who recently retired after more than 40 years at the school, added: "Joan was a lovely lady and totally dedicated to the young people she worked with."

Andrea Arlidge, a former Head of

Wellsway School and Chief Executive of Futura Learning Partnership, said: "Joan was a wonderful teacher who made a difference to the lives of thousands of young people in the Keynsham area. We are proud to have known her and send our condolences to her family."

Joan's funeral took place at St John's Church, Keynsham, on Tuesday November 15.



Left: The maths weekend photo, from mid-1980s, she is kneeling in the centre. Right: Joan is bottom right in the 1959 photo of the combined Combined Keynsham Grammar School and Wellsway County Secondary School staff.

STAFF AND CHILDREN MOVE IN TO TWO RIVERS BUILDING

Staff and children at Two Rivers CofE Primary have moved into their new 'eco school' buildings on the Hygge Park development in east Keynsham.

The school has nearly 60 children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 and will grow year by year, becoming open to all age groups from September 2026 with space for up to 420 pupils.

The new Two Rivers Church of England Primary School has been developed to very strict environmental standards set by the Passivhaus Institute in Germany. Bath & North East Somerset Council has contributed nearly £1m, mostly from contributions it has received from housing developers, for alterations to the design to help create a building that has low impact on the environment and high energy efficiency.

Two Rivers School produces its own energy from photovoltaic panels on the roof. Other features include:

- A very airtight form of construction
- High levels of insulation with no thermal bridging
- High performance triple glazed windows and doors with insulated frames

- A mechanical ventilation system incorporating heat recovery systems
- Two electric air source heat pumps
- Low energy building services and equipment
- All electric services (no gas supply to the building)

Headteacher Claire Graham said the children and staff were delighted with their new surroundings after moving in at the start of November.

"We are very lucky to have such a wonderful environment where children feel

safe, supported and inspired to become inquisitive learners. We look forward to more opportunities to show it off to our community following our first successful open days," she said.

• To find out more about Two Rivers School, which has places available in Reception and Years 1 and 2, email enquiries@tworiversschool.org.uk or phone 0117 916 1027.



SCHOOL WELCOMES COMMONWEALTH GAMES SWIMMER LUKE



Two Rivers started the new term in their brand new building and welcomed Luke Turley, Commonwealth bronze medallist in the 1500m freestyle swimming, to the school. Luke ran some amazing PE sessions and the children were inspired by his commitment and perseverance.



IT'S GREEN FOR GO AT FUTURA'S FIRST ECO FESTIVAL



While the eyes of the world have been on Egypt during the COP27 summit, pupils at Futura Learning Partnership have been focusing on the environment closer to home.

They met for an Eco Festival, looking at issues including climate education, river protection, energy use and food security.

The event took place at our newest school, Two Rivers CofE Primary, which has just opened on the Hygge Park estate in east Keynsham.

The pupils listened to a talk from the Avon Rivers Trust before exploring the school's grounds and the river that runs through them, and then developing an action plan.

The event was the first of what will be an annual event and saw the start of the

development of a Futura Eco Council, at which students can discuss sustainability and environmental issues and share details of actions they are taking in their schools.

Children aged six to eighteen from Bridge Farm, Chandag Infants, Chandag Juniors, IKB, Saltford, SBL, St John's, The Meadows, Two Rivers, Wansdyke and Wellsway took part in the eco festival. The next step will be to involve the trust's other primaries and secondaries and special schools.

Organiser Katie Pilkington, assistant headteacher at Two Rivers, said the event had been a great success.

"It was lovely to welcome children from other schools in our trust to our wonderful new building and to see them working together and showing their passion for creating a better future.

"Two Rivers has been built to very high standards with excellent energy efficiency and a low impact on the environment. We are very lucky to have such a school and were proud to show off its amazing features," she said.

Andrea Arlidge, Chief Executive of Futura Learning Partnership, said: "Two Rivers provides fantastic opportunities for children in our trust to learn about sustainability. The Futura Eco Council is an excellent development, bringing our young people together so they can take meaningful action on the green issues that are so important to them and to all of us."

SALTFORD'S YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 VISIT SLIMBRIDGE

Saltford's Year 1 and Year 2 children had a wonderful time visiting Slimbridge Wetland Centre over two days. They had a go at pond dipping and identifying all the living things that were in the pond. After exploring the different areas of the park and enjoying seeing all the resident birds and wildlife, the children finished their day in Welly Boot Land for some splashing fun!



CREATIVE MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES ON OUR DOORSTEP

Have you ever wondered how to become the next David Attenborough? Post-16 Creative Media students were recently given the opportunity to find out at a BBC Natural History Unit careers day in central Bristol.

Bristol is home to a vibrant TV and film industry. A cornerstone of this is the BBC's Natural History Unit, which has produced ground-breaking wildlife series such as Planet Earth, Blue Planet and Frozen Planet.

As part of the SBL careers development programme, students were able to meet established wildlife filmmakers and apprentices at the new BBC headquarters in Bristol. They learned about the many different career paths available within the BBC and the various roles required to work together to produce wildlife programmes.

Students talked with researchers, camera operators, production managers



and edit assistants. They had the chance to learn about some of the more experimental drone technology being used to film wildlife, as well as try out different cameras that are used to film in some of the remotest parts of the planet.

With the installation of an industry-

standard TV studio, SBL Academy has committed to providing vocational education in TV and film production for Key Stage 4 and 5 students across the Futura Learning Partnership.

EWAN'S MEDAL SUCCESS



Ewan from The Meadows Primary has been promoted to the junior advanced gymnastics squad. He also won three medals at a competition where he competed against the squad as well as others from gyms across the county. He won silver on floor, bronze on bar and a bronze overall. Well done Ewan!



PARENTS LEARN TOO!

Chandag Infants welcomed parents to a series of interactive phonics and reading workshops. Teachers shared best practice through modelled lessons, where parents had the opportunity to work alongside their child. The aim of these sessions was to provide practical tips on how to build fluency and comprehension skills at home and to share the language and questioning used to promote deep thinking around texts. We are looking forward to facilitating a Year 2 Creative Writing workshop later this term. What would you like us to offer next? Let us know. Thank you to all those who attended; the children loved having you in school!

MEET THE ECO WARRIORS



Eco-Warriors from Chandag Juniors took part in a local 'litter-pick' along with some members of the Keynsham community group. All children at the school are passionate about the environment and often save the estates team from having to check the site for litter!

STEM GIRLS MAKE VOICES HEARD



Governors at IKB have been into school to hear the voices of our STEM girls. The girls were able to get to know two governors who are successful female engineers at Buro Happold in Bath.

The students spoke of their aspirations in AI and computer science, medicine, chemistry, product design and veterinary medicine and were also able to share the reasons they chose to come to IKB and their feedback with the governors. It is great to have governors who can be such strong role models for students in school and also receive the positive feedback and suggestions for improvements from our STEM Girls who are so important to IKB.



IKB VISITS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CAREERS FAIR

Year 11 students from IKB enjoyed a morning at the Engineering and Technology Fair in Bristol.

Exhibitors were ready to tell the students all about what it is like to work for them, what they might expect from pursuing a career in Engineering and Technology, as well as giving away some free gifts.

Students were able to discuss careers and apprenticeships with national and international companies and made good contacts for the future.

HOW MANY BONES ARE THERE IN THE HUMAN BODY?

This term the Year 3 pupils at Cheddar Grove have been looking at the human skeleton in science and have been using arrays in maths. They have found out some amazing facts about the human skeleton, the size and number of bones for example (206 in an adult). In maths they have found using arrays really helpful.

Reception class have been growing pumpkins and these are the amazing results. Well done, Reception.



EX-STUDENTS SHINE AT POST-16 OPTIONS EVENT

Bedminster Down School held a successful Post-16 evening for Year 10 and 11 pupils, parents and carers. There were over 30 providers on hand to offer advice and guidance, including the area's major sixth forms, colleges, employers, and training and apprenticeship providers. Mr Harris gave a series of talks outlining the possibilities available to pupils when leaving school. Also on hand were Heads of House and the school's careers advisor, who were able to offer one-to-one support to pupils and parents. Sam Notley, the school's enterprise advisor, also attended to offer advice and guidance. Sam is an ex-BDS student who is now a company director of a successful recruitment consultancy. It was great to see a number of ex-pupils representing various providers and sharing their experiences with parents, carers and students.

If you missed the event or have further questions regarding your child's Post-16 options please contact the school's Careers Leader, Mr Harris: sharris@bedminsterdown.org.uk.

RUNNERS' CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS



Saltford's Souad in Year 6 and Oscar in Year 5 gained places to race in the Avon Cross Country Championships on Saturday 19th November. It was a very competitive set of races with Souad claiming 5th place out of 47 runners and Oscar finishing a very respectable 29th place out of 62 runners. Both fabulous achievements. The school is so very proud of them both.

BDS DRAMA LEARNERS ENJOY TRIP TO THE THEATRE



The BDS Performing Arts team took 27 Year 10 drama students to the Tobacco Factory on North Street to watch the stage play *Revealed*. The play features three generations who tell the story of contemporary Britain through their eyes, exploring their own views, experiences and prejudices. Set in a Caribbean cafe in Birmingham, they unknowingly make a personal journey of discovery whilst taking shelter from the violence that surrounds them.

M SHED VISIT INSPIRES LEARNING AT ST JOHN'S

Year 5 and 6 had a fantastic time during their Hook day, which took place at the M Shed. Throughout the day, they explored the museum finding out all about Bristol through time: its places, its people and their stories. Alongside this, they took part in an immersive workshop looking at everyday life on the Home Front during World War 2.

The children were impeccably behaved and a real credit to St John's Primary School. Thank you very much to the adults who joined us on our trip.



BRIDGE FARM PAYS ITS RESPECTS

The Year 6 pupils of Bridge Farm Primary were honoured to be invited to the Whitchurch and Pensford Royal British Legion to celebrate Remembrance. It was humbling to be in the company of the veterans that attended and led the service and those who are still serving in the armed forces. The pupils were fantastic ambassadors of the school and showed reverence and respect during the service. They demonstrated the British Values and our school values impeccably. Our pupils are now extremely excited to start our World War One and World War Two history topics, to provide context to our visit and the history behind Remembrance. Talking to the veterans about their experiences of war certainly sparked their interest. The pupils also enjoyed selling poppies in school to raise money for the British Legion charity.

ZEST CATERING FACT SHEET



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.

KSI 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

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.





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

www.sblsports.co.uk



CHRISTMAS ROLLER DISCO

**TUESDAY 20TH , THURSDAY 22RD &
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

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