

# Newsletter

December 2023

## Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near Christmas, we are writing with an update on Trust events and progress for all our families. This has been a long and eventful term, and we are so grateful to all school staff who continue to work so hard for our families and schools. No matter what the role, everyone at Oak Trees works flat out to make every school successful, and we couldn't be prouder of our achievements.

## MAT Awards

As you may know, Oak Trees MAT won 'Most Improved Multi Academy Trust' at the MATA Awards last year. I'm delighted to share the news that Oak Trees has been shortlisted for three awards for the 2024 awards event by the Multi Academy Trust Association for: 'Best Trust', 'Best Trust Leadership Team' and 'Inclusion'.

The awards ceremony takes place in London in March, and whether we win or not it's fantastic to be recognised nationally as a Trust for our success. Fingers crossed we will have some positive news on March 7th 2024.

## MAT Events

We continue to run MAT events to engage our children, and this term we have had a number of events, including our MAT Health and Wellbeing day, World Mental Health Day and Christmas KaraOak-Tree at Hilbre High in December.

Our October INSET day for all our schools was SUMO Guy, an international Wellbeing and Resilience Lead working with over 300 staff at Hulme Hall for the day. We are so lucky to be able to do these things together!

We would like to thank Mrs Eastwood, Headteacher at Egremont, for her

fantastic organisation and hard work in organising the Christmas KaraOAKtree event last week. It really was a fabulous night, and we are grateful to Mrs Eastwood, all the schools who took part and Hilbre High School for all their support. It was a wonderful night!

## Great Meols

Congratulations to Great Meols for a fantastic OFSTED report. The school had not been inspected for a long time, and is the last of the early Trust schools to have been inspected.

OFSTED visited in November and there were so many positives in the report, including:

*'Pupils are happy and enjoy attending Great Meols Primary School. They said that the school is a great place to be and they love spending time with their friends.'*

*'Children in the early years receive the best possible start to their education.'*

*'Staff have a secure subject knowledge. They skilfully check that pupils have retained key subject concepts in their long-term memory before delivering any new knowledge.'*

*'Adults successfully encourage pupils to develop a love of reading across school.'*

*'Governors and trustees have a thorough understanding of the school and they perform their statutory and delegated duties well.'*

The report is a testament to the hard work of the whole school community, and we couldn't be prouder of you all. Well done Great Meols!

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## Oak Trees Growth Strategy

We are delighted that Thingwall Primary School joined Oak Trees on 1st October 2023, and we are really pleased to announce that Heswall Primary will definitely be joining us

on January 1st 2024. We are hopeful that in February/March Hilbre High, Ridgeway High, Irby Primary and Black Horse Hill Juniors will join us, and this will enable us to have the necessary pupil numbers to become a large Trust and have the necessary capacity to support all our schools. Once these conversions hopefully happen, we will have around 6000 pupils and 700 staff at Oak Trees schools; this is testament to the success of Oak Trees in supporting Wirral schools and families.

## And finally.....

We are very sad that Adrian Martin, our School Improvement Lead since 2019, retires at the end of term. Adrian has had a fantastic career both as a Headteacher at Greasby Juniors and working for Oak Trees, and his impact since 2019 has been immeasurable. We are all so sad to see him leave us, but we know he is excited about retirement and has lots of plans for the future.

Adrian has had a huge positive impact for all schools in terms of OFSTED and leadership, and we cannot thank him enough. We wish Adrian good luck in the future and look forward to Claire Arnold taking over the role solely from January 2024.

Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing our children back on 9th January 2024.



Tony Lacey  
CEO



Jane Owens  
Chair of Trustees