

Newsletter

May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term, I am writing with an update on the Trust news and some of the exciting events which have been happening in recent weeks. This has been a very successful half term, with so much packed in over a short period of time, and it has been fabulous to see so many children enjoying a wide range of activities and events beyond the classroom.

Parent Survey

Many thanks to all the parents who took the time to respond to our survey in April. Each headteacher will respond to the parents of their school so if you haven't yet received this, you will very shortly. The vast majority of responses were very positive about the work each school is doing and it is particularly heartening to know that an overwhelming majority of parents say that their children are happy and safe in our schools. Those of you who completed the survey will know that the final few questions were set in collaboration with Liverpool Hope University as part of a research project to look more deeply into children's mental health. The anonymous responses will be analysed by the university over the summer and will inform our strategies and approaches to supporting our children's mental health in the future. This is an important issue for us and it is exciting to be a part of a project which will hopefully lead the way in supporting schools in this area.

Growth

We are delighted that Heswall Primary and Thingwall Primary have

both been given Academy Orders from the DfE to join Oak Trees later in the year, and we are also delighted that Irby Primary and Black Horse Hill Junior School have officially applied to join us early in 2024, subject to DfE approval. This will take the Trust, we hope, up to around 3500 children and around 400 staff, and we are looking forward to welcoming new schools into the Trust next year.

Headteacher and MAT Appointments

Across our Trust, we have made a number of significant appointments for September, including:

- 1. Susannah McShane**, current Headteacher at Woodslee Primary, has been appointed Headteacher of Stanton Road for September.
- 2. Rachel Fry**, current Deputy Headteacher at Brackenwood Junior School, has been appointed permanent Headteacher from September.
- 3. Claire Arnold**, currently Executive Headteacher at Brackenwood and Poulton Lancelyn, has been appointed to be Primary School Improvement Lead for Oak Trees from September.
- 4. Andy Milne**, currently Deputy Headteacher at Poulton Lancelyn, has been appointed as permanent Headteacher from September.
- 5. Lisa Finnegan**, currently at the Pennine Trust in Burnley, has been appointed as Trust Deputy Chief Executive Officer from September.

We are very excited about all these appointments, and we are very lucky to have such an excellent team of

school and Trust leaders within our organisation.

MAT Events

There have been some fabulous events over the past half term, and feedback has been very positive for everyone who attended, including:

- 1. MAT cricket festival** hosted by Wirral Cricket Club and organised by Cheshire Cricket.
- 2. MAT cross country event** organised by Wirral Athletics and Mrs Parkinson at Poulton Lancelyn.
- 3. MAT football competition**, won by Greasby Juniors who beat Great Meols in the final, at Tranmere Rovers, brilliantly organised by Mr. Milne and Mr. Johnson from Poulton Lancelyn.
- 4. 'Euroakvision' event** at Hilbre High, wonderfully organised by Mrs. Eastwood and Hilbre High staff and won by Poulton Lancelyn, with Egremont second and Stanton Road third.

We will continue to organise and run events in the future, and have exciting plans for next year.

Thank you again for all your support for our schools, and have a great half term.



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