



Welcome to our first Trust Community Newsletter. 2020 has been a year of challenge, change, and of course Covid but also a time when I've witnessed inspiring dedication and determination from staff, young people, and our communities to do what was right for our schools whilst caring for each other. We have put this newsletter together to highlight these inspiring moments during the undeniably challenging past few months, while also pointing towards the exciting future of 2021. A heartfelt thank you to you all for the parts you have played, some seen and some not, to enable our children and young people to thrive.



Thank you also for the support given to me in my time as Interim CEO. I have enjoyed the challenge, but I am excited now to pass on the baton to our incoming CEO, Dan Morrow. I look forward now to focusing solely on my passion of school improvement. I believe there remains so much potential in our schools and colleges and look forward to sharing many success stories with you in 2021.

Hazel Fox CEO (Interim), Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT).



We wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to a better and brighter 2021.

With warmest wishes from the Trustees



As we look ahead to 2021, the Trust is thrilled to be joined by Dan Morrow, who will be taking the helm as CEO from January. Dan is currently Trust Leader and CEO for Woodland Academy Trust, an Educational Charity serving several thousand children in the South East of London and employing 350 staff. He is a passionate believer in helping children of all ages, and from all backgrounds, achieve their ambitions. This is something he knows personally, having grown up receiving free school meals before becoming the first person in his family to go to university, where he read History at Oxford.



A Trust Highlight of the Year - Food Hampers

A big thank you to all those staff, local businesses and volunteers who made the delivery of the food hampers possible during the first lockdown. We have delivered in excess of 15,000 hampers and in particular thanks go to Dr Marilyn Livingstone for coordinating summer provision, and to Sharon Perkins who has been leading on this on behalf of the Trust. It was a huge effort which was much appreciated by families across the Trust.



You will hear from Dan in due course, and he is extremely excited at the prospect of working so closely with everyone across the Trust. He has big plans to make sure DMAT is serving every community and will use his positive and inspiring leadership to support every child in our schools.

He said: "I have spent a lot of time in Devon previously and have always been stunned not just by the beauty of the landscape but also by the strength and bonds of community. I wanted to find a role that I can really invest in and one where we can make a change together- having such a strong community as a basis really is a privilege."

"I was a bit lost as a child myself; nervous, anxious and often not confident to speak out. I may have grown past that but we must always remember that every child is gifted and talented- it's our job as the adults in charge to find what that is for each and every unique learner."



Christmas jokes from the children at St James C of E Primary School





2020



A challenging year, but a time when our family of schools came together. Here are some celebrations from each of our schools.



Lydford Primary School has been awarded a gold award by the Woodland Trust for getting involved in green activities including tree planting, visiting a local woodland, reducing carbon emissions and recycling. Lydford Primary School children have planted new trees in their school grounds and worked hard to reduce their carbon emissions and joined in various other Woodland Trust activities.



At **North Tawton Community Primary School** our virtual end of the month assembly recognised and celebrated the efforts of all the children who continue to work with such passion and dedication.



At **Highampton Community Primary School** the children created this Remembrance Day wreath and reflected on those who had given so much so that we could be free.



South Tawton Primary School is nestled right on the edge of Dartmoor, with beautiful views of Cosdon Beacon from our playground. We love our amazing location and aim to teach the children to value, enjoy and be safe within it. Outdoor education takes place for all classes all year round and, come rain or shine, children can be found investigating nature in our Outdoor learning area, using our new playground markings for maths and phonics, or even climbing Cosdon Beacon!



As part as Heroes for Change topic **Black Torrington C of E Primary School** combined this project with children in need where children dressed as sporting heroes. Here we have England cricketer Ben Stokes and Chelsea footballer N'Golo Kante.



At **Bradford, Bridgerule C of E and Black Torrington C of E Primary Schools** we are proud of our ambitious curriculum that responds to the needs of our learners and reflects the ever-changing world in which we live. Our 'Heroes' topic this term has been carefully designed to focus on diversity and equality with rich learning experiences for all.



In February 2020 a team of children from **Exbourne C of E Primary School** competed in a challenging Cross-Country race around Simmons Park, Okehampton. There were some notable successes with Kelsey finishing 5th and Skyla finishing 15th (out of 63) in the Year 3/4 girls' race and Neve finishing 15th (out of 84) in the Year 5/6 girls' race. Everyone put in great effort and finished the course, which is a success in itself!



Bridestowe Primary School Quad Kids success: Children in Key Stage Two recently took part in the West Devon Quad Kids event.

We are delighted that our Year 3/4 team won overall Gold! The top two children from each discipline collected the medals: Mason, Liam, Poppy, Elliot, Ellenor, Jolie, Charlie and Myla. Mason achieved individual Silver whilst Liam won individual Bronze. There was success in the Year 5/6 event also with Zola winning a Bronze medal whilst the team finished 4th overall. Well done everyone!



The children at **St James C of E Primary School** are very excited as they are getting ready to put on a whole school Christmas performance of "Baubles" by Antony Copus. The play centres around a school caretaker who wants to remind the children of the true story of Christmas.

This Christmas play has specifically been designed for children to perform in bubbles, and so each one of our bubbles are acting out certain scenes and then they are being edited together to create the final performance to share with our families. Lots of fun and excitement has been had by all of the children in preparing for this show!



At **Bradford Primary School** as we cannot hold a nativity performance for the community this year, Class 1 performed a Nativity in their class bubble, and in Class 2 Year 6 decorated their Christmas Tree.



Black Torrington School Wedding: As one of our staff was getting married, we celebrated as a school by holding a school wedding. Two of our Year 2 children were the bride and groom, attended by their classmates. All the other children had a role to play including the wedding photographers, guests and even the vicar! The celebration featured all the usual traditions including speeches, cutting the cake and dancing! We all had a lovely afternoon celebrating the marriage and teaching the children about weddings in a fun and memorable way.



All of our reception children at **Northlew and Ashbury Parochial C of E Primary School** have been fantastic at retelling the story of 'The Gruffalo' using the story language that they have been developing with Mrs Walter. They have also created their own story board together and performed the story to the rest of the class.



Over lockdown **Holsworthy Community College** set various challenges. As well as a way of reaching out to all students that we were unable to spend time with, we thought that it might have been a difficult time for some and we hoped that embarking upon one or more of our challenges may have provided a bit of distraction time, which we hope they enjoyed too. Students were set a series of 2-week challenges. It was lovely to hear back from them and see their take on the various tasks. The challenges set were to take a photo of a rainbow, write an acrostic poem, a pizza art challenge, make a spaghetti bridge to hold the weight of a household object and to write a letter to their future self. The letters and some of the images will go into a time-capsule that we are preparing.

This Autumn, the children at **Chagford C of E Primary School** have been focusing on the value 'hope.' They made this beautiful mosaic display.



Drama workshops have been delivered by Harriet Davis at **Boasley Cross and Lydford Primaries** for a couple of years now, most recently staging high quality theatre productions in local primary schools with her charity Show Up and its fundraising arm the Edwin Davis Memorial Fund, a Community Interest Company (CIC) - everything from Shakespeare, Hans Christian Andersen plays, Charles Dickens to this year's 'The Nutcracker'. In our current climate, the work that Harriet does goes hand in hand with our increased focus on pupils' sense of self and positive mental health, the results are truly astounding!



60 children in KS2 at **Okehampton Primary School** have started producing some beautiful artwork for our forthcoming young artist's exhibition for Summer 2021, exhibited in our local museum. We are celebrating living in such a beautiful rural community, with some stunning wildlife. The artwork produced has been created in specialised acrylic workshops led by Luna Redhead.



At **Okehampton College**, groups of Year 8 and Year 10 pupils and staff from the Okehampton Community have undertaken a project to improve the aesthetic look of the school come spring time. The students planned the whole project, deciding on the areas of school to improve.

Thank you to Country Lanes Garden Centre, The Lions Club and Devon and Cornwall Police for their support towards the Okehampton College community. The Lions Club kindly donated the bulbs, Country Lanes kindly donated equipment and Devon and Cornwall Police kindly gave their time to help pupils plant 200 daffodil bulbs around the school site. We look forward to seeing the results after the winter months.



Trust Champions

We are delighted to announce that we have four new 'Trust Champions' to help spur opportunities for learning for all the Trust's pupils. The Trust Champions, who will be starting over the coming months, are a key step in the fostering a collaborative community across the Trust.

The new Trust Champions will use their improvement expertise to elevate the curriculum, invigorate teaching practice and promote positive change across the schools to impact on every child's learning experience.

The Trust Champions will be joining the Trust's Educational Services Team, working across senior leadership and respective local school improvement teams to boost educational provision and opportunities for pupils. They bring with them a wealth of varied educational experience and will each add their own unique perspective on how to drive positive change across the Trust.



Ed Finch



Rebecca Mullins



Gareth Smith



Veronica Lloyd-Richards

Okehampton Primary School are looking forward to being involved in The Moor Otters project next year, in collaboration with Dartmoor National Trust. Six lucky winners will be painting their own mini otter, to support the Main Otter Art Trail which spans across Dartmoor and hosts over 80 decorated otters. Luna Redhead will lead an art workshop for the six chosen winners to create their own miniature version, which will then join an exhibition of work from school children in Plymouth next Summer.



As a Trust we are delighted that we have been able to provide **Chromebooks** for children in years 11, 10, 6 & 5 who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and do not have access to a device at home. We are currently trying to source further devices to be able to support children within the other year groups. By providing devices to these children, they will be able to access learning from home, should we be in a lockdown situation or if they need to isolate for any reason.

Going Green in 2021

2021 will be the Trust's 'Greenest' yet, thanks to our successful bid for government funding. Through its Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy has awarded us a fantastic £220,000!




This will be used to improve the Building Management Systems across our schools, source new air source heat pumps, install LED lighting across many of our campuses and much more. Not only will these changes greatly reduce our energy output and carbon footprint, but also save the Trust a potentially huge amount of money. In fact, we have calculated that these changes may lead to energy savings of more than 450,000 kWh per year, which in turn could save the schools more than £45,000 per year.

While you will soon see changes come to life across our schools, a huge thanks must first go to Keith Webber, who has been an inspirational driving force behind this!



Lydford Primary School are looking forward to being able to make use of their new shelter for the forest school area in 2021. The building work commences this week. This has been funded by FoLS (Friends of Lydford School), parent teacher association.



Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust Poetry Competition

We're very excited to invite staff, parents/carers and students to enter our first ever Trust-wide competition.

Write a poem on the theme of HOPE

Overall winners in Primary and Secondary will win the opportunity to become Trust Primary/Secondary Poet Laureate for the year 2021

Other prizes of £20 book vouchers for the student categories 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and £50 of books for schools to be won in the parent/carer and staff categories.

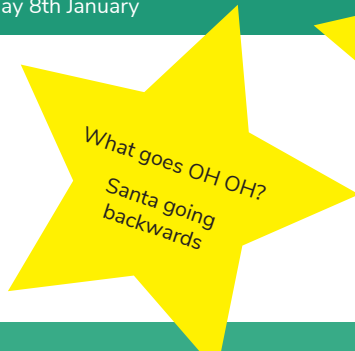
Entries will be judged by a mixture of panels of students and staff, including one of our new Trust Champions, Ed Finch

Please send in to ckelly@dartmoormat.org.uk and specify name, year group (students only), school, and category (see below)

Categories:

Parents/carers	Trust Staff
Trustees/Governors	KS1 Children
KS2 Children	KS3 Students
KS4 Students	KS5 Students

Closing date Friday 8th January



Christmas jokes from the children at Bradford Primary, Class 2