

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CE MAT NEWSLETTER

'All God's Children Learning and Achieving Together'

ISSUE 3: AUTUMN 2024



A Message from Katy Kent, CEO



Welcome to our final newsletter of 2024!

I would like to praise each of our schools for yet another successful year and to thank our hard working and dedicated staff and children for all they have achieved. Thank you also to our wonderful parents and carers for supporting the children throughout this year, whether that be with getting the children to school on time, reading with them, attending school assemblies and events – your support and contributions are very much appreciated and the positive impact they have on your children is very much noted.

The autumn term has been particularly busy, with an array of educational and extracurricular events and activities to celebrate, including sporting events, spelling bees, singing competitions, Christmas events and performances, in addition to the continuation of our Leading Excellence and Development curriculum conferences and our annual Leadership and Governance Conference.

Our attainment data reflects some excellent outcomes for our pupils, with most pupils and schools significantly above national figures in phonics and at the end of KS2 assessments, with value added improvements from entry to the end of Year 6. This reflects our high standards of teaching and learning, our rigorous assessment systems, and our determination that all can achieve.

Attendance and persistent absence have also continued to improve across our schools. In many of our schools, attendance figures are well above national averages and our persistent absence figures are well below national averages. This demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that all pupils have access to high-quality education and that we promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations. We continue to implement our effective and robust strategies to raise attendance in all schools across the Trust.

We are very proud of our achievements, and we continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of our work. This reflects the impact of school and Trust leadership, as well as the commitment and expertise of our school leaders, our wider work force and the hard-work of our delightful children.

Wishing our children, staff, families and wider school communities a happy and restful Christmas break.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Katy Kent, Chief Executive Officer



Love



Trust



Compassion



Forgiveness

Performance Data

We are delighted that once again, our schools' performance data indicates a remarkable level of pupil achievement in overall performance at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2024, with schools in many cases significantly surpassing national averages in these key assessments.

Our Trust averages for reading, writing, maths and combined at the end of Key Stage 2 were 86%, 88%, 90% and 81%, respectively. **St Bartholomew's CE Primary School** once again had the highest attainment in Wolverhampton and **Oak Meadow Primary School** the second highest proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard.

This sustained excellence is testament to the hard work of our children, the support from our parents and carers, in addition to the high-quality teaching and thorough assessment procedures at our schools. We are very proud of our children and it's lovely to see them flourish and achieve their potential.

We are incredibly proud that four of our schools (**St Bartholomew's Primary, Gnosall St Lawrence Primary, Haughton St Giles Primary and Oak Meadow Primary**) ranked in the Times' top 1000 primary schools in England and **St Bartholomew's CE MAT** was also ranked 43rd nationally in the DfE Multi-Academy-Trust attainment league tables in 2024.

Ofsted Inspection

On 12th and 13th November this year, **St Bartholomew's CE Primary School** was Ofsted inspected and we are exceptionally pleased that the school was rated as 'Outstanding' in every inspection area (Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, EYFS and Leadership and Management).

Mrs Kilmister, Headteacher commented, "This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our wonderful pupils, staff, and the entire school community. We are incredibly proud of the children. Their positive attitudes, determination, and enthusiasm for learning have been central to this success. The Ofsted inspectors were impressed, not only by the high standards of attainment, but also by the wider personal development of our pupils, including their exemplary behaviour and respect for others. This outstanding result could not have happened without the continued support of you, our parents and carers. We are so grateful for the trust and partnership we share in guiding your children on their educational journey. Your engagement and encouragement play a crucial role in helping us maintain the high standards that have been recognised by Ofsted". Congratulations to all at **St Bartholomew's!**



Katy Kent (CEO), Rachael Kilmister (Headteacher), Stephanie Banks (Deputy Head) and children from St Bartholomew's CE Primary School.

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspections



Following successful SIAMS outcomes for **Haughton St Giles** and **Woodseaves** at the end of 2023 and early in 2024, **Gnosall St Lawrence** and **St Benedict Biscop** have all received positive inspection outcomes this year, indicating that both schools are living up to their foundations as Church schools and are enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

SIAMS inspections focus on the impact of a Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults, which involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision, and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

At **Gnosall St Lawrence**, it was found that the wide variety of experiences offered by the school were 'inspiring and transformative on the spiritual development of adults and pupils', and the impact of this was evident beyond the school building. Inspectors praised the 'exemplary behaviour of pupils', which is 'shaped by a positive culture which has the Christian vision and associated values at its centre'. 'Respect, kindness and forgiveness' were also found to 'resonate through relationships within the school', which is consequently 'a happy and thriving place to be'. Headteacher Kirsten Sweet commented: "Our recent SIAMS inspection report celebrates so many exceptional aspects of our school and its community. It's wonderful to have the excellent work of our children, staff, governors and wider Church community recognised in this way. We are incredibly proud of the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development that takes place within our school."

At **St Benedict Biscop**, 'the four core Christian values of generosity, forgiveness, friendship, and perseverance' were found to be 'rooted in the life of the school' and 'demonstrated by adults and pupils alike' and the impact of this was 'deeply felt amongst the community'. Religious Education was found to be 'well-planned and skilfully led'. The curriculum was found to be 'engaging and clearly builds on prior learning'. This has led to pupils demonstrating a deep knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews. We are delighted with the outcomes for both schools and congratulate all children and staff on their wonderful achievements.

Leading Excellence and Development Days

This year has seen the successful delivery of our Leading Excellence and Development (LEAD) conferences, for Science, English, EYFS and History, led by the Trust's Director of Education, Joanne Harrison and Rachael Kilmister, Director of School Improvement. These events have provided vast opportunities for subject leader networking (both within and outside of our Trust), review of the latest Ofsted research and training; personalising what this means for our schools; solution sessions around challenges that may be faced in the current and future educational landscape, and the sharing of ideas to refine, innovate and stretch curriculum offers from good to outstanding, whilst further developing subject leader expertise in the wider curriculum. These very well received events have emphasized the importance of collaboration and evidence-based approaches in driving improvements and creating opportunities for *all* children to excel in their learning. We look forward to offering further development days in the New Year focused on Assessment and SEND.

School Games Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that both **Woodfield Primary School** and **St Bartholomew's CE Primary School** have been awarded the prestigious gold School Games Mark. Continually seeking to promote sport within the schools, a host of sporting activities are on offer each week at **Woodfield** and **St Bart's**, including netball, football, table tennis, multi-skills and dance. All the clubs are actively attended and support children's positive wellbeing, enjoyment, health and fitness.

The School Games Mark is a government-led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision and assists them in developing an action plan for future progress.



Woodfield's Executive Headteacher, Simon Arnold reported "We are delighted to have been recognised for our success. In former years, we have been successful in achieving a bronze award for our sporting participation and engagement but I am thrilled with this year's result". This accolade acknowledges Mrs Bayliss' and Mrs Benbow's outstanding leading of PE at **Woodfield** and **St Bart's**, respectively. Thank you to them both, and to all staff who support the events and most importantly, to the children who participate so willingly and with such enthusiasm.

Musical Achievements

In October, Rebecca Welton, Christian Distinctiveness Advisor for the Trust arranged two 'I Sing Pop' collaborative worship workshops for children from across the Trust. I Sing Pop, while grounded in Christian values, embraces the diversity of schools, celebrating various faiths, beliefs, and cultures. It uses the power of music and singing to unite children, with the mission to uplift every child, by instilling in them a sense of purpose, value, and ability to choose love over hate, courage over fear, and to persevere when times get tough.

During these workshops, children had the chance to reflect on "Our World" through song, recognising their duty and responsibility to care for the planet. The children had an amazing day, joining together with peers from other schools and proudly sharing the songs they had learned with family and friends.



In other musical news, Children from the **St Benedict Biscop** choir performed at the Wombourne Music Festival held at St Benedict Biscop Church. They also participated in a church service to raise funds for Project Gambia, a joint initiative between the church and the school. As part of their involvement, the children filled shoe boxes with gifts for young people in Gambia who might not receive presents at Christmas, learning about the project's mission and the importance of helping those less fortunate.

Sporting Successes

We are delighted that our children have been able to participate in a range of sporting events and activities over the course of this term. Below is just a sample of some of the exciting events that have occurred across the Trust:

Woodfield Primary School

- To promote the children's enjoyment of physical activity and fitness, **Woodfield** was visited by Olympic athlete, Chelsie Giles. Children participated in a range of fun and physically challenging activities, as part of 'Fitness Friday', led by the Olympian. Alongside developing the children's enjoyment of exercise and highlighting its importance for their physical health, children were sponsored for completing the challenges. As a result of the children's enthusiasm for participating, an outstanding sum of £2,560.84 was raised! This will be put towards further enhancing the outdoor climbing frames on the children's playground, thus developing their physical, cognitive, emotional and social development further.
- Continuing with boosting children's sporting skills and prowess, netball tournaments have been hosted at **Woodfield**, led by PE subject leader, Mrs Bayliss. Teams from **All Saints'** and **St Benedict Biscop** participated in the tournament. All children were commended for their demonstration of sportsmanship and competitive spirit.
- **Woodfield** has also taken part in an indoor athletics competition for schools in the Penn area of Wolverhampton, hosted at Highfields Secondary School. Competing with eight schools locally, **Woodfield** was thrilled to place third overall and as a result, was invited to take part in the City's athletics finals to take place in the near future.



Chelsie Giles, Olympian visits Woodfield



Children from Woodfield Primary School's athletics team

Oak Meadow Primary School

- On Wednesday 18th September, **Oak Meadow** celebrated National Fitness Day! The school took part in a fun physical bingo, where children performed a physical movement to match each number on their bingo card, ranging from star jumps and high knees, to sit-ups and burpees. What a great way to stay fit! Well done **Oak Meadow**, you were all fantastic.



- On Wednesday 2nd October, at Fordhouse's Cricket Club, **Oak Meadow's** incredible cross country stars (A and B teams) demonstrated extraordinary determination, resilience and teamwork as they competed against 28 other teams! It was so lovely to witness the support and encouragement the children gave to push their teammates on to the finish line, with the 'A team' finishing in third place overall. We were so proud of all who took part.



- On Thursday 3rd October, a group of children represented **Oak Meadow** at Aldersley Leisure Village to take part in an 'All Aboard' event. The children completed a range of activities alongside other schools from around the City, attempting to beat their 'personal bests' and encouraging their team mates as they went. One child said "This was the best day ever... I want to do this every day!".



- On Tuesday 15th October, **Oak Meadow's** netball team entered their first competition against other schools in the City, at Our Lady and St Chad's Academy. The team played extremely well, demonstrating spirit and resolve throughout the evening. All children showed great improvement after each game, exhibiting their keenness to learn and develop their tactics and skills. We look forward to future games!



St Benedict Biscop CE Primary School

- Children from **St Benedict Biscop's** KS2 took part in a local cross country competition. We are really proud of all the children who trained consistently for this event and demonstrated great determination and perseverance in their races. All of the school's teams progressed through to the area finals, with three children taking first place in their age group. The area finals will take place in the summer term.
- The **St Benedict Biscop** football team participated in the local Wombourne friendly matches, achieving third place out of the eight schools who participated.
- The school's netball team also took part in inter-school friendly matches arranged by **Woodfield Primary School**, winning all of their matches.

All Saints' CE Primary School

- The **All Saints'** Year 5 and 6 football team played in a tournament with six other schools over at Cheslyn Hay Academy on Wednesday 13th November. Some excellent football was played - the children communicated well and supported one another sportingly. The team won all of their matches and came third overall. Well done to all the players involved and good luck for the next game!



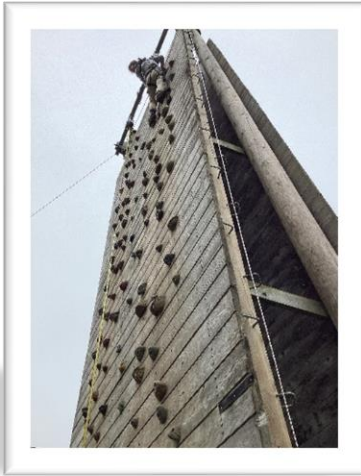
Fairhaven Primary School

- In October, the Year 6 children at Fairhaven went to PGL, Swindon for five days. The children had a brilliant time taking part in a variety of team building activities and outdoor pursuits, including a giant swing, abseiling and vertical challenge climbing. In the evenings, the children sang around a campfire, danced at the disco and took part in a game of ambush (hide and seek in the dark!).



Haughton St Giles CE Primary Academy

- Children from Year 3/4 loved taking part in a cross country competition alongside some of the other schools in the Trust. The children had lots of fun and were delighted with receiving a variety of 1st, 2nd and 3rd certificates in the different categories.



Fairhaven children enjoying the activities on offer at PGL, Swindon, with Mr Ben Wade (Assistant Headteacher)



Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

- In addition to participating in the inter-school cross country competition, children from **Woodseaves** have also enjoyed swimming lessons at school in a portable swimming pool, where they have had the opportunity to learn to swim or improve their swimming skills.

Haughton St Giles Eco Council and Operation Christmas Shoebox Appeal

The children from **Haughton's** Eco Council were thrilled to join forces with the local council to plant a beautiful new wildflower meadow in Haughton village. The children's enthusiasm and hard work are helping to create a vibrant, eco-friendly space for everyone to enjoy. Let's continue to nurture our environment and make Haughton even greener!

In addition to this work, the school has also been actively raising awareness about how Christians help those less fortunate around the world. Through a heartfelt donation drive for Operation Christmas Shoebox and the local charity House of Bread, the School Council, in collaboration with the local Church and the school's dedicated PTFA, has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school's charitable efforts reach those in need. Together, they are helping as many children as possible experience the joy and warmth of the festive season.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this wonderful cause.



Haughton's Eco Council and Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



Other School Events and News

- Children at **St Benedict Biscop** donated items to The Well, a Wolverhampton based food bank.
- At **Woodseaves**, EYFS and KS1 classrooms have both been refurbished; KS2 children attended the opening night of Disney's Aladdin at Birmingham's Hippodrome Theatre; children from Year 3 visited Chetwynd Deer park for a nature afternoon, learning about the natural environment through talks with specialist deer rangers, even bringing a deer antler back to school!



- At **Gnosall St Lawrence**, children from Year 6 had the honour of attending the Remembrance Festival at Memorial Hall, where they proudly read poems they had written in class. The school's Eco Monitors also took part in a competition whilst visiting Victoria Park in Stafford. The children designed a piece of honeycomb themed artwork, to encourage people 'to save the bees'. We are thrilled to announce that their efforts were rewarded with a beautiful planter for the school after winning the competition!
- Remembrance Day events were held at both **Woodseaves** and **Gnosall St Lawrence**, with an assembly for parents and families at **Woodseaves** and a lesson for young people in Years 5 and 6 at **Gnosall**, to reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought for our country and the significance of Remembrance Day.
- **Oak Meadow** hosted a Spelling Bee for Year 4 children, with participants from **Oak Meadow**, **All Saints'**, **St Bartholomew's**, and other local schools. **St Bart's** emerged as the overall winners, with **Oak Meadow** runners-up. Everyone had a fantastic time, and we are proud of all the children's efforts.
- Children at **St Bartholomew's** entered a Tag Rugby competition at the Grammar School, winning the values award for Teamwork, Respect and Most Improved player. The **St Bart's** choir also took part in the Massed Choir Concert with **Woodfield** and Goldthorne Park Primary at St Bartholomew's Church.
- One of the **All Saint's** families organised two collections for the Haven in Wolverhampton. Ninety advent calendars were donated to children, alongside over 100 gifts for them to open on Christmas Day.



We look forward to celebrating and sharing with you further events and successes in the New Year!

Schools within our Trust

St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

Headteacher: Rachael Kilmister

<https://www.stbartholomewsprimary.co.uk> (01902 558855)



St Benedict Biscop CE Primary School

Headteacher: Nicola Scott-Worthington

<https://www.st-benedictbiscop.staffs.sch.uk> (01902 892197)



Woodfield Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Simon Arnold

<https://www.woodfieldprimary.co.uk> (01902 558835)



All Saints' CE Primary School

Acting Head of School: Katie Davies

<https://www.allsaintstrysull.co.uk> (01902 894452)



Gnosall St Lawrence CE Primary Academy

Headteacher: Kirsten Sweet

<https://www.st-lawrence.staffs.sch.uk> (01785 822391)



Haughton St Giles CE Primary Academy

Headteacher: Victoria Hulme

<https://www.haughtonstgiles.org.uk> (01785 780511)



Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

Headteacher: Michelle Easthope

<https://www.woodseaves.staffs.sch.uk> (01785 284212)



Oak Meadow Primary School

Head of School: Paul Lane

<https://www.oakmeadowschool.uk> (01902 558517)



Fairhaven Primary School

Acting Headteacher: Louise de Graaff

<https://www.fairhaven.dudley.sch.uk> (01384 8418385)



We hope all of our wonderful children, staff and parents have a happy and restful Christmas break.

