



DARTMOOR MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

EASTER NEWSLETTER 2022



**Welcome from Dan Morrow, Trust Leader and Chief Executive Officer**

As the sunshine begins to break through the clouds, it feels like a metaphor for the positive changes happening around us as we emerge from the difficulties of the last two years. Whilst we are not clear yet, we do have hope and we are now starting to truly build on the changes of the last 15 months to ensure that excellence and our cooperative identity are both felt and valued across our family of schools.

The children, staff and communities that make up the DMAT family are truly special indeed and it is a privilege to see our collective heads lifted in partnership, cooperation and excellence. Thank you sincerely for your continued support and for your patience with our strong improvement journey. Together we can, together we will, together we are the DMAT family.

Dan Morrow, Trust Leader and CEO

What breed of dog do magicians have?  
Abracalabradors.

Why did the teacher need to wear sunglasses?  
Because her class were so bright.



**The Promise School Update**

A considerable amount of work is underway to ensure that we are ready to open our new school this September. Thank you to the whole project team for their tireless work. As you can see from the photos, work is steaming ahead with the new build in Okehampton. The roof is now going on! All is currently on track for the building to be ready for the Spring of 2023. If you would like to follow the progress of the build, you can do so using the following link: <https://api.t-lap.se/108a68/>

As you are aware, when the school opens this September, pupils will initially be in hubs at both St James Primary School and Okehampton Community College. Our Principal Designate, Tracy Ashton is working with the principals at the two schools to ensure that this is a smooth process for all.

In other news, we are pleased to announce that we have appointed a Vice Principal who will also be the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO). She will start after Easter.

The school website is now live, with information being continually uploaded. Web address is <https://www.thepromiseschool.org.uk>. You can also follow the school and its progress towards opening via Twitter @school\_promise.



What do you get if you sit under a cow?  
A pat on the head.



## Bell Ringing at Black Torrington CE Primary

Preparations for our Easter celebration are in full swing. We have been learning the songs for our Easter service at St Mary's Church and are starting to learn some music on the bellplates, thanks to the kindness of off Mrs Richmond and Mrs Bones who have agreed to teach us!



*Psalm 98:4*

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*

Our new Arc Toddler Group is up and running, we are so happy to welcome local parents and their little ones into Black Torrington school on a Friday morning from 9.45-11.30am.



## St Patrick's Day at Exbourne C of E Primary

In our SMSC learning, we have looked at the history of St Patrick and the significance of the shamrock for St Patrick's day. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to traditional Irish music and engaging in discussion about their beliefs and values.



## Eventing Success at Holsworthy Community College

A team of four riders from "Cornwall Trec" recently competed in the British riding clubs arena eventing national championships. One of the members of the team was a student from Holsworthy Community College, Sid. We are very proud to say that he and his team came 3rd in a competition that brought competitors from all over the UK. Sid was riding his young horse Puzzle whom he has trained from scratch. The competition took Sid and the team over show jumps, cross country jumps and through a water complex. Well done Sid and Puzzle!



## Lydford Primary School

### Devon Wildlife Trust

Last week our wildlife champions enjoyed a visit from the Devon Wildlife Trust. The topic was bats and the children learnt about the ideal environment for bats to thrive. They made seed bombs to grow flowers which will encourage insects that the bats like to eat.



### Comic Relief

Mr Luxford bravely agreed to eat a sandwich made with fillings chosen by the children. There were some fantastic ingredients including hot sauce, baked beans, lime pickle, black pudding and sardines.

They were blended together for Mr Luxford to enjoy!!

Thank you for your generous donations. We raised £104.40 for Comic Relief.

## Wren Music Concert at St James C of E Primary

At St James CE Primary the Wren Music Concert was a real treat—thank you to the Friends of St James for providing us with such as delight. We learnt about different instruments and listened to and join in with a variety of folk songs. Here are some views from the children:

*"My favourite instrument was the double base because it has a very deep sound."*

*"I loved everything because I loved how they were all singing the songs and playing the instruments."*

## Exploring at South Tawton Primary School

As part of their 'Out and About' theme, the Reception Class children from South Tawton Primary School explored the village on wheels. They used their road safety and balance skills to cycle and scooter along the pavements and roads. They were so speedy that they even had time for a scoot and cycle through the park.



## Okehampton Primary School – Millionaire Readers

Here is a picture of our first two Millionaire Readers! These two Year 6 girls have read over one million words on Accelerated Reader since September. We are very proud of them! We are sure there will be other children across the school joining them soon in the Millionaire's Club!



## Cricket at Okehampton College

Well done to all who took part in the Girl's U15 County Cricket Finals, we are very proud of the Okehampton College Team who won and will represent Devon in the West of England Regional Finals in May.



## North Tawton Year 4 Class go Back in Time

Year 4 have been learning about the Anglo Saxons. We went to Escot to find out more about this time in history.

We were met by the teaching team, dressed up in historical costume, who took us to the Saxon Village. They showed us around the village and taught us more about Saxon life.

In the workshop we learnt to carve wood on a lathe, chisel runes into wood and see many tools they used and items they would have made in that time.

In the forge, we were blacksmiths and learnt how to heat and twist metal to make a brooch.

In the home, we milled grain to make flour, then made bread in a traditional wood fired oven. We sat in fox decorated thrones and saw the kinds of materials people would have used in their homes.

Of course we also enjoyed fighting to defend our village, and putting criminals in the stocks and pillory!

In the afternoon we went on a nature walk and learnt about plants and how they were used as medicines. We visited animals which would have roamed the Devon countryside in Saxon times including wolves, boar, wild cats and lynx.

The team were really impressed with the knowledge the children came with, it was clear they have enjoyed learning about this period of time in class, and this experience had added enormously to their understanding.



## Polytunnel Arrives at Highampton Primary

During the half term break, members of the PTFA gave up their time to put a polytunnel up in our school grounds. School gardening brings learning alive, and growing food, plants and being involved in learning outdoors all contribute towards children's wellbeing, personal achievement and empowerment. We hope that the children at Highampton will find the polytunnel a peaceful place to be, where meditation and mindfulness come naturally while working with plants. Sincere thanks to the PTFA for the funds, effort and time you have given to make this innovative project happen!

## Mini Medics at Bridestowe Primary

KS2 children at Bridestowe Primary have completed a Mini Medics course with Joe Rice First Aid this term. A huge thank you to FoBS who have supported the children's learning in this valuable life skill.



# WORLD BOOK DAY

3 MARCH 2022



## SCHOOLS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF WORLD BOOK DAY



### World Book Day at Chagford C of E Primary School

Great fun was had on our Chagford World Book Day.

Costumes were spectacular and a grand parade was enjoyed around the school grounds. The Highway Rat even made an appearance on his trusty steed! Everyone enjoyed a day exploring new books and authors and the palpable buzz of enthusiasm for reading was a joy to feel.



### Okehampton Primary School



### North Tawton Community Primary



WORLD BOOK DAY T-SHIRTS

### Bridgerule CE Primary School





## Boasley Cross Primary School

Here are some photos of our Littlemoor children dressed up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day.



Happy  
25th  
Birthday  
to us!

Northlew & Ashbury Primary School



## Powerful Partnerships Benefit the Community

Last week saw the opening of a new cardiovascular training suite based at Okehampton College.

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust's community team were successful in their applications to access grants, focusing on opening school facilities to the community after the pandemic. The grants were lottery funded and delivered by Active Devon who the Trust and OCRA are pleased to be working with.

Derrick Brett, Executive Director of Civic Leadership at the Trust, was able to use local Okehampton contacts and partnerships with Okehampton College and OCRA to purchase reconditioned gym equipment which would be used by college students for lessons and after school clubs and by local community groups during out of school hours through independent bookings made via the OCRA booking service. In due course, the Primary Care Network will aim to work with OCRA to provide supervised prescribed exercise sessions, using the new equipment.

This project will enhance the opportunities for young people and members of the local community to be more physically active beyond the school day and remove barriers to participation.

The launch was attended by Matthew Bailey, Acting Head of PE Okehampton College; Rebecca Skinner, Programmes Manager at Active Devon; Ian Blythe, OCRA General Manager; Christine Marsh, Trustee of OCRA and Town Councillor, and from Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust - Derrick Brett, Executive Director of Civic Leadership and Melissa Trudgill, Community Engagement Manager.

Both the Trust and OCRA are looking forward to working with Active Devon in the future. Derrick Brett said 'we are most grateful to Active Devon for their support in developing this facility which will be valuable to the College and to the work of OCRA in the community'.



## HOW OUR SCHOOLS HAVE SUPPORTED UKRAINE



### Chagford CE Primary School

Chagford Primary children have had their hearts and minds with the people of Ukraine. Desperate to help, they immediately requested a bake sale. At very short notice, a huge array of delicious cakes, breads and biscuits appeared at school - many decorated in the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag and using the image of the sunflower, the country's national flower.

The sales were equally impressive with the event raising a superb £233 towards the Ukraine humanitarian appeal.

Their next project to raise money for the appeal is a 'Sunflowers for Ukraine' project. The gardening group have already started preparing a space for a sunflower field at the front of the school - by summer we hope it will be a glorious riot of yellow and gold with a band of blue provided by cornflowers. They will be selling sunflower seeds to raise some money and asking children to grow them on at home then bring them back to school to be planted.

We are very proud of the support that the children are giving to those in need at this worrying time.



### South Tawton Primary School

At South Tawton Primary School some of our pupils were asking questions about Ukraine and Russia, and talked with their parents about what was happening. They discussed ways they could help and decided to try and raise some money.

The children made some cupcakes and sold them in Belstone from their garden. They raised £63.70 to go to the Red Cross. Well done and thank you.



### Exbourne C of E Primary School

At Exbourne Primary we have been reflecting on the current situation in Ukraine. On Wednesday 16th March, we spent time learning more about what is happening through newspaper reports and discussion on what we have seen/ heard in the news. We have been reflecting on our focus value COURAGE and writing about who is showing courage across the world as the war unfolds – Ukrainian children, mothers, men over 18, soldiers, healthcare workers and charity workers. The children were amazing when talking about what life would be like as a Ukrainian child at the moment and it really made us think about how grateful we should be to have loving families, safe homes and each other. Class 2 children wrote a collective prayer –

Dear Lord,

**We thank you that we are safe and that we are not going through crisis like the children in Ukraine. Help them to have COURAGE to keep going and to stay alive. We pray for the Ukrainians to show COURAGE and PERSEVERENCE.**

Amen



### Northlew Primary School

Northlew Primary children showed their support for Ukraine by wearing blue and yellow, and raised a fantastic £100 in donations.



## AWE Project at Boasley Cross Primary School

Boasley Cross Primary had identified to Melissa Trudgill and Derrick Brett, the Trust's Community Team, that, as an AWE project, their large pond needed some hard work and attention in order for the children to be able to use it again for their wildlife and science lessons.



The pond was overgrown, had debris and rubbish in it, but mostly had some very dense reeds which dominated one half of the pond.

There were many planning conversations with Boasley in-house wildlife specialist Lorriane Simmons who provided good links between the School, the Estates Team and Melissa.

Grateful thanks to Sharon Perkins and the Estates Team who had organised and undertaken the invaluable preparation work - creating 3 compost bins made from pallets ready to receive the sludge, reeds and green waste from the pond. Extra safety measures had also been installed by their team.

Derrick and Melissa had sought prior wildlife expertise and advice from Lucy Alford of the South West Lakes Trust and she had quickly dismissed an earlier idea of workers submerging in the pond and wearing waders in order to ensure wildlife was protected due to the time of year.

The team on the day were fab and included Philip Duthaler, Premises Manager Small Schools Team; Gary Friend Caretaker Small Schools Team; Derrick Brett Executive Director of Civic Leadership; Melissa Trudgill Community Engagement Manager and Boasley Cross Parents Emma Daniels and Susan Turner.

The work might well have been cold, smelly and dirty, but the team were rewarded by many close encounters with beautiful frogs and newts and hot drinks and cake afterwards.

Thanks so much to all who helped and for the warm welcome from Boasley Cross Primary School.



BEFORE



AFTER



## DMAT's Delegates Assembly – Litter and the Environment voted as top issue for the Community!

Last month three pilot schools involved in our partnership work with Citizens UK of Okehampton Primary School, Tavistock College and Bridgerule CE Primary School, met to discuss the issues which they believed were a priority in their local community and vote on key themes which could be adopted across the Trust.

They had launched listening campaigns in the Autumn Term where the students had listened to the concerns within the school and then the wider community including parents, voluntary groups, community police officers and town councillors. The sessions, led by our enthusiastic students, were designed to encourage people of all ages across the community to discuss what is great about the places they live and what could be done to improve these areas.

The Delegates Assembly was hosted by Okehampton Primary School with delicious refreshments provided by Steve Parr, Executive Chef for the Trust, and his team. There were musical interludes provided by the talented students of Okehampton College.

Jayden Horncastle - Okehampton Primary School, Amber Butterworth – Bridgerule Primary School and Issey Perse – Tavistock College chaired the event. Students outlined the themes which had come up during their listening campaigns and chose one idea for change in their town or village. Amongst priorities for the 3 schools, were more youth clubs in the evening and more sports opportunities for girls. Everyone at the Assembly also voted on a topic which could be common to all children across the Trust and this was litter and the environment. The next steps will be to find ways across all the communities where this can be tackled, and also working with more schools in the Trust to be involved in the Summer Term.

Derrick Brett, Executive Director of Civic Leadership said 'It's been wonderful to see the children develop their leadership and presentation skills through this process and hear what their priorities are for the areas they live in. We are excited to see them empowered to lead on these ideas.'

Dr Sebastien Chapleau, Lead Organiser, Citizens UK said 'What DMAT is clearly showing, by getting involved with Citizens UK, is a clear desire to develop the collective agency of its young people and teachers. In a world where many people feel their voices don't matter, DMAT schools are bucking the trend and are focusing on taking action across their communities.'



**ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST**

# PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

**DEVON & CORNWALL**

**AGES 5 -11 BOYS & GIRLS**

**East Cornwall & North Devon**  
 Bodmin  
 Bodmin Girls  
 Holsworthy  
 Launceston Girls  
 Launceston GK's  
 Okehampton  
 Okehampton Girls  
 Liam.Bryant@pafc.co.uk

**Plymouth**  
 Manadon  
 Plymstock  
 charlie.hardcastle@pafc.co.uk

**West Cornwall**  
 Falmouth  
 Falmouth Girls  
 Pool Academy  
 Truro  
 Brannel  
 liam.chinn@pafc.co.uk

argylecommunitytrust.co.uk

## LEARN. PLAY. SUCCEED

**AIM GROUP** Inspire. Develop. Empower.

**Dartmoor** MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Are you worried about the world your children are growing up in?

The AIM Group alongside Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust recommend an amazing short course...



SCAN ME

**Adverse Childhood Experiences**  
 Government funded Level 2 qualification

Why should we pay attention?



Parent Separation

When in the early stages of adolescence, major change can cause disruption in a child's behavioral patterns. How can you really tell what your child is thinking?



A Global Pandemic

The world was shocked by a pandemic that restructured the way we go about life. Many children would have been impacted by the changes and grief this may have caused.



Ukraine

Being exposed to such upsetting situations, even through the news. Can have a huge impact on a child's mental health. This can lead to increased levels of stress and anxiety.

### Exeter Chiefs February Half Term Holiday Camp

In February half term holiday, over 80 local children participated in an Exeter Chief's 'Train Like a Chief' camp held at Okehampton College - the most successful camp yet. Children from schools within the Trust benefited from a subsidised rate so the day was accessible for all, and part of the Trust's ongoing partnership with Exeter Chiefs.



Despite the sometimes inclement weather, much fun was had and outdoor sporting activities were enjoyed, but also valuable life skills such as respect, friendship, valuing difference and diversity, leadership and team building skills.

Local organisation OCRA were on hand to manage the changing rooms and their assistance is greatly appreciated.



We are always keen to hear your **feedback** about our Trust newsletter.

Please email [news@dmatschools.org.uk](mailto:news@dmatschools.org.uk) with any of your comments and/or suggestions.