

Wellsway Multi Academy Trust Parent and Carer Newsletter

18 September 2020



Message from the Chief Executive

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to the start of a new school year! It has been a delight to welcome back the children and young people across our thirteen schools, some of whom have not been in school for six months. Whilst we remain in a challenging situation nationally, it is heartening to see the positivity in our schools. All are reporting that the start to the year has gone very well indeed and staff and pupils alike are pleased to be back together as a school community again.

The re-opening of our schools has been the subject of a rigorous risk assessment process and the safety of adults and children continues to be our over-riding priority. We will continue to review and revise our risk assessments, in light of experience and in response to changing national guidelines, and will communicate any significant changes to you. A reminder that the [full risk assessment can be viewed on the trust website](#).

We are very proud to be opening a brand new primary school this September: Two Rivers Church of England Primary School in Keynsham. The school has opened in temporary accommodation on the site of Wellsway School whilst its permanent building on the Hygge Park development is built. I visited the school at the start of term and was impressed by the quality of the temporary building, which is providing a lovely learning environment for the children. You can read more about Two Rivers later in this newsletter.

As always at the start of a new school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome parents and carers who are new to our trust. We look forward to working with you and hope your child has a really positive experience in a WMAT school. You are not just joining a school, you are joining a family of schools who work closely together for mutual benefit to provide opportunities for children and staff over and above that which an individual school can offer.

Our focus as a trust is to support our pupils coming back into school, both educationally and emotionally. The questionnaire you returned over the summer has been extremely useful in helping our schools provide the support that each individual child needs. We want to alleviate any anxiety they may be feeling whilst supporting them to make up any ground lost over lockdown. Every child and young person in this country is in the same position though so there is no need to feel anxious about having to 'catch up', a phrase we do not use. We are also continuing to develop our remote learning packages should they be needed again over the coming months.

I would like to wish parents, carers and pupils all the very best for the new school whatever it may hold. As schools, we are in the business of **hope, positivity and optimism**. These concepts were never more relevant than they are now as we look to the future and adjust to the new measures in place. We will need to be flexible, and there may be situations where some children have to spend time at home again, but we know we will find ways through this and will continue to make sure that children and young people get the care and education they need to thrive.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

Wellsway Multi Academy Trust

Our Family of Schools

Primary



Chandag
Infant School



Chandag
Junior School



Cheddar Grove
Primary School



Saltford
CofE Primary School



St John's
CofE Primary School



The Meadows
Primary School



Two Rivers
CofE Primary School



Wansdyke
Primary School

Secondary



BEDMINSTER DOWN
SCHOOL



IKB
ACADEMY



SBL
SIR BERNARD LOVELL
ACADEMY



WELLSWAY
SCHOOL

Special



ASPIRE
ACADEMY

Teaching school



Two Rivers CofE Primary School



Two Rivers CofE is officially open as we now embark on a very exciting journey together. The classroom smells like a new house with amazing new resources and lots of space! We have such a committed staff team at Two Rivers and are enjoying working together as a newly formed team.



We have started welcoming children into the Reception classroom and they all look so smart in their new uniform - a very pleasing turquoise colour.



The children are absolutely lovely and we feel that they have settled well into their new school and environment, especially in these uncertain times. They are happy, outgoing and independent children and long may this continue.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our newly formed team at Two Rivers. I can't wait to see what the future brings!

Mrs Carver, Head of School

Pupils grow to love learning outdoors

At Chandag Infant School there has been lots of amazing learning going on and lots of it taking place in the great outdoors; as you can see in the pictures of our adventurous year 2 children at forest school. We are so proud of how all of our children have shown an amazing ability to adapt and as always an infectious enthusiasm for learning.



Summer Works



The Trust carried out approximately £500,000 worth of works over the summer break. Among the highlights are a smart new entrance and visitors' waiting area at The Meadows, a remodelled entrance at Wansdyke, new windows for part of the 6th form block at Wellsway and new toilets at SBL.

Wellsway also had its admin block reconfigured, although this has been slightly delayed. It is nearing completion but our apologies to those staff affected by this delay.

Chandag Juniors had several toilets refurbished and the main hall has received a makeover. When you next visit Chandag Infants you will notice the newly resurfaced lane down to the school, now complete with overhead lighting.

Thanks to area estate managers Steve Smith and Jordan Shiel for overseeing all of these works.

Tim Howes, Chief Operating Officer and the estates team

Action packed summer builds relationships and confidence



Over the summer holidays, many of the students at Aspire Academy attended a summer activity programme which was organised by the Aspire staff. Students were offered a range of outdoor activities aimed at providing them with experiences that would not usually be accessible for many of them during the summer break. This was also a great opportunity to reintegrate into the school community a number of the students who had not been attending school since COVID restrictions were put in place and were incredibly anxious about returning.



Our activities included fishing, mountain biking, coastal hikes, rock pooling, power kiting, crabbing and even exploring disused army barracks.



The students had a fabulous time and have all returned to school this September in a positive frame of mind about rebuilding their relationships with staff and students alike, overall a huge success!

More books in the pipeline

St John's primary's fund for a new library has been given a £500 boost thanks to Bristol Water.

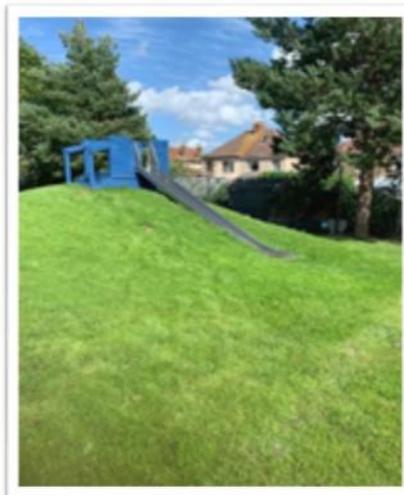
The school was successful in the monthly draw from the company's Together for Good scheme. A Bristol Water spokesman said: "We couldn't be more pleased to be able to help."



Any community group or charity within the area can apply to Together for Good for funding for a specific project.

Improved outside areas at St John's

A huge thank you to St John's fantastic caretaker, Mrs Perrin, who has done a remarkable job not only installing a new slide for the children but also revamping the Spiritual Garden and many other outdoor spaces.



These are all lovely spaces for the children to enjoy. We are delighted that over the next couple of weeks, bubbles will be able to take turns each week in using areas such as the slide, new outdoor gym and spiritual garden.

Claire Graham, Headteacher

Sports Centre: Teen Gym

Unfortunately, we will not be offering Teen Gym in term 1. We will be reviewing this in October half term and will announce any changes on our websites –

www.sblsports.co.uk, www.sportwellsway.com and our social media pages.

Zest's Summer Feeding Project

DO GOOD

HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN ZEST'S SUMMER FEEDING PROJECT 2020

WE TRULY COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT

6.5 TONS OF FOOD DONATED FROM FARESHARE SW & MORRISONS BATH

WITH FOOD

28 WMAT VOLUNTEERS AND 12 VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

OVER 2500 MEALS WITH FOOD AND RECIPES PROVIDED IN OUR WEEKLY FOOD BOXES

OVER 100 FAMILIES FROM WMAT SCHOOLS SUPPORTED