

AVONREACH ACADEMY TRUST

Collaborating for Success



January / February 2018

I am delighted to introduce the first newsletter of the Avonreach Academy Trust. I hope that it provides a flavour of the vibrant activities within our four schools in what has only been the first term of the Trust's existence. In addition to school events and achievements, the opening months have been typified by the spirit of close collaboration that was a major reason why we first came together in August 2017.

Subject specialists in Mathematics and Literacy from the four schools got together in November and January, with Special Needs staff due to meet in March. It was intriguing to see genuine cross-phase learning, reinforcing a long held belief of mine that secondary staff can learn a great deal from the breadth and skills based focus of primary trained colleagues.

Avonreach Academy Trust has achieved a great deal in a short time and whatever the outcome of the change of age consultation, it will expand over the course of this year to bring in new schools that share our ethos.





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Vision Statement

Avonreach Academy Trust strives to build, via intelligent and controlled growth, a family of schools that use effective collaboration to ensure ambitious outcomes are achieved for all our pupils, allowing them to achieve their full potential to become positive, confident and active members of tomorrow's global society.

We will maintain and enhance relationships with other Multi Academy Trusts, individual schools, faith groups and members of our local communities to become a proactive and supportive organisation.

Schools within the Trust are encouraged to develop and flourish with their own unique ethos and identities, promoting respect, responsibility and a life-long love of learning within caring, compassionate and stimulating environments.

The initial Avonreach Memorandum of Understanding is to be found in the documents section of the website.

www.avonreach.org

Cherry Orchard First School

Getting Fit

At the start of the school year the Sports Council and Mrs Bitcon, the headteacher thought it would be a good idea to encourage everyone to get fit. They decided that it would be a good idea if we tried to run a mile a day. Over the Autumn term they have been increasing the amount of time they run and Mrs. Bitcon has been so impressed with the children's efforts that she has agreed to have a running track built in the school grounds, so that they can continue to run in all weather.

Hurricane Irma

The School Council were horrified by the widespread destruction that the hurricane Irma had caused and decided to become superheroes for the day. They linked the idea with our mile a day run and ran around the school building to help raise money to help them rebuild their lives and communities. They were joined by parents, staff and School Governors and raised £155.17 for this deserving cause.

Links with the community

Leading up to Christmas the children wanted to go out into our local community to help people who often feel lonely at this time of the year. The Year 3 children went to sing carols at a local Residential Care Home. Once they had finished they then joined the residents in decorating biscuits which they all enjoyed eating afterwards. As a surprise for the children the home had organised a couple of reindeers to arrive which added to the festive fun. The residents applauded the children and wanted them to sing again which they agreed to willingly. It was agreed by all parties that this was a special moment for both the children and residents.



Inkberrow First School

YOUNG VOICES

'On Monday the 8th of January we went to the Genting Arena in Birmingham. We went to take part in a Young Voices concert; we were in a choir of approximately 6,295 children from schools around the country. When we got there we were amazed with how big the arena was and how many seats there were! We had to wait a little while once we got there whilst all of the different schools arrived. After that we started doing a rehearsal which was about 2 and a half hours long, we were starting to get a bit hungry luckily not long after we were allowed to eat our home packed tea. At 6 o'clock the parents started to arrive and the arena started to fill up and it was quite noisy then at 7 o'clock the concert began, we performed a total of 17 songs some of which had actions also.

Written by Starra and Surinder, aged 8.

"It was so much fun" – Carmen, aged 7.

"I had a fantastic day performing with my friends" – Natalie, aged 8.

"My favourite song was 'Africa'" – Ed, aged 8.

"My favourite song was 'Human', I had a really good day and I was very lucky to be able to go" – Jacob, aged 8.



Norton Juxta Kempsey CE First School

AWARDS FOR ALL GRANT

We are delighted to have secured a Lottery funded grant of £10,000 to improve our outdoor area for the reception children. Our EYFS teacher Mrs Parton and the children worked together to decide what they would like to do to improve the space. Plans were drawn up to include a giant storyteller's chair, chalk boards, mud kitchen and a section of all-weather surfacing complete with den building posts.

The transformation took place at the beginning of January and the children were fascinated by the delivery vehicles, skip and busy builders! 850 kg of stone was delivered and there were lots of opportunities to talk about real-life maths!

Since then the area has been in constant use and the mud kitchen has been particularly popular. A willing group of parent volunteers are also coming into school to help organise the resources so that the children can have easy access to the new storage shed. This will greatly enhance the opportunities for the children to extend their learning with even more problem solving and imaginative play. We look forward to many years of igniting pupils' natural curiosity and interests.



Pershore High School

PHOTOGRAPH AND ESSAY WRITING COMPETITIONS

It has been a busy time for competitions at Pershore High School with two national Rotary Youth Competitions reaching the end of the first stage this week. The Rotary Club of Pershore sponsors both a Young Photographers competition and a Young Writers competition, with students at both Intermediate and Senior level taking part. Under the theme "A Different Perspective" entrants had to produce either a portfolio of three photographs or write a short story.

The photographic competition has been organised for some years with the judges commenting on the continuing improvement in the quality of entries. This year, the winner of the senior competition was Merrin Dewson and Lewis Webster was the runner-up. Highly Commended awards were also made to Celine Skidmore and Amy Edney. First place in the Intermediate competition went to Chloe Munroe with Alistair Cornock as runner-up.

Two outstanding and intriguing short stories were judged winners in the writing competition. Alice Forson won the senior competition with her story of the aftermath of war and Gregory Sidaway with his unexpected take on rejection, won the Intermediate competition. Meghan Dodds and Anya Radley were the runners-up.

The winning entries now go through to the Regional stage of the competition. Winners at this stage go on to the National Final . Pershore Club President, Ron Davis attended a short presentation ceremony at Pershore High School to give the prizes and certificates to all students who took part. Phil Hanson, and Rotarian Kit Carson, the competition organiser, were also present.

