

LINK ACADEMY TRUST SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER



FROM NICKY DUNFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear parents and carers,

What an amazing year again and clearly shown in the variety of photographs from all our schools enjoying wonderful experiences and activities. We are so lucky to live in the South West and have such a wealth of locations and organisations that support us to explore and experience so many learning situations and activities! This access to wider curriculum is what gives children across the Trust such a brilliant overall education. We have welcomed new schools into the Trust again this year- Sparkwell, Wolborough and Littleham and have benefitted from the wealth of great practice they bring as well as being able to support their development within our family of schools. As a result we are both flourishing and improving as we collaborate and share great practice.

I would really like to focus on our staff this year and highlight some of the amazing practice we see and the living out of part of our Trust Vision 'people matter, every moment, every interaction'. We have had a number of Early Career Teachers this year that have been able to network and collaborate together as well as being supported to ensure they have had the best start to their career in education. Well done to them, it is never easy to start a new job let alone pick up the level of responsibility teaching requires! Our teachers continue to grapple with and provide a brilliant curriculum that interests and develops our children, while subject leaders are also constantly reviewing the latest pedagogy and practice to ensure pupils learn well and staff are well informed. School Improvement Leaders continue to collaborate with school staff and Academy Heads to keep us all up to scratch for when the Ofsted Inspectors arrive!!! Support staff in our schools are often the hidden gems, they do everything they can to make the teachers life easier while always listening to the children and considering their needs. They do everything from making that vital cup to tea to keep us all going, to stepping in front of a class to deliver a teaching session when needs must! We mustn't forget the 'behind the scenes' staff- Will with his white van full of every tool imaginable and a lot of additional materials keeps our schools well maintained, not always easy now we are 19 of them. We have Mealtime Assistants that also 'go the extra mile' and keep lunchtimes safe and orderly. Not to mention the Administrators in every school that look after the needs of parents and everyone else as well as completing a ton of paperwork! I am sure there are plenty I have not mentioned but we are a team that really understands we each have a role in keeping this Trust as a well-oiled machine, doing the best we can for our families. This job, at whatever level we do it, is a vocation- we all get huge satisfaction from seeing the positive impact we can have. We are so lucky to be in this role and to be able to say we have made a difference.

Thank you as always for your support as parents. We could not do all we do without your generous and unstinting support. Let's hope the sun shines all holidays and we can come back in September with even more experiences to share. Have a great summer break!

All the very best,
Nicky

Bearnes Primary School



What an amazing summer term we've had here at Bearnes! Redwoods and Sycamores children had a fabulous Enrichment Day at Decoy Country Park where the children tried kayaking and BMX biking. Despite some of them having never tried these activities before, the students showed they are risk-takers and open-minded by having a go and making it a wonderful day. Oaks and Chestnuts children had a spectacular day exploring the Forest School area in Hennock for their Enrichment Day. The children made beautiful crowns using natural resources from around the area, explored clay and made prints of flowers and leaves. They even got the chance to roast a marshmallow on an open fire! It was a brilliant experience for all the children and a great way to explore the natural environment. Our World Explorer Day this term saw us "visit" St. Lucia. All classes enjoyed learning about the country and its culture and enjoyed a variety of activities such as; dancing, craft, mapping and a Kahoot quiz. Miss Lockhart has put together the Bearnes Primary Vocal

Company this term. The children in the group have performed at a local care home and were delighted to host their first Summer Concert at the end of term. They had a fantastic turnout from families and friends for this event and are already looking forward to the Winter Concert at the end of the year. We have continued our work with the Restoring Stover Project. All classes have visited the Courtenay Centre to help keep the new raised beds clear of weeds and take care of the tree saplings until they're strong enough to be replanted at Stover Country Park. Lastly, I would like to say good luck to all our Bearnes leavers, including Mrs Hayes, our Admin Assistant who is retiring, we wish her every success for the future. Have a wonderful summer break and we'll see you in September.

Broadhempston Primary School



Broadhempston have had a creative year where the children really have made a difference to both school and wider community. As part of our Citizenship and Green Flag Eco award children have been advocates for change and shared their actions with the local community as well as our families. Alongside supporting the Wear Yellow Day in support of Cystic Fibrosis, the Refugee Run and sharing bags of kindness with the elderly in the community our children have completed the beach cleans, the Big Plastic Count, community litter picks and have made and sold bees wax wraps. We feel sure this will maintain our Green Flag award and keep us at the centre of the village. And finally on the creative front, our KS2 have performed Matilda, the musical for parents and the local community. The performance was magnificent! The quality of the singing, the efforts the children made to inhabit their roles, and the skilful use of the stage were fab. There was such a lot of talent on display! You sensed the energy and commitment rising throughout the performance right to the very end when, absolutely justifiably, the audience

stood up to show their total appreciation. The children should all feel very proud of their efforts ~ I feel sure this will live long in their memory. Praise, too, should go to all the staff involved. They, too, should share equally in the justified glow of satisfaction that comes from a job really well done - on all fronts!

Cheriton Bishop Primary School



The summer term has been busy for all children. Both key stage 1 and 2 children headed to Haven Banks in Exeter to experience climbing and spending time on the water. The year 6 children joined Drake's and Otterton school's on residential at Pixie's Holt on Dartmoor. They enjoyed mountain biking, orienteering, weaseling and bouldering as well as making new friends and sleeping in dorm rooms with their friends. Class 1 and 2 enjoyed a Teddy Bear's Picnic which was declared 'THE BEST DAY EVER'. The sun came out for a bouncy castle, biscuit icing, bear yoga, parties, bear Olympics, teddy bear crafts and a photo booth. The day finished with a grand teddy bear parade around the school. Well done all! A huge thanks to Cheriton Bishop School PTFA for helping with the funding, Mrs Laity for her epic biscuit baking skills and Mrs Sachon for all the planning and organization. The year 6 children are starring in the end of year production of Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits before we say a fond farewell and good luck - you've all been amazing!

Diptford CofE Primary School



What a wonderful year we have had in Diptford as we settled into our amazing new building and classrooms. With the year coming to an end, it has been lovely to look back to see all that the school has achieved by working together with the local community, church, parents and, of course, our fantastic pupils. The summer term is always one of additional enrichment opportunities, a commitment which is a priority for us here in Diptford. One particular highlight was our participation in the Exeter Cathedral choir project which culminated in a stirring and emotional choral performance in Exeter Cathedral in June. This event brought much joy (and a tear or two) to both families and staff and we couldn't be prouder of all our Key Stage 2 children who took part. The whole school recently enjoyed a fabulous trip to the River Dart country park taking part in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities to step out of our comfort zones! All of our Key Stage 2 pupils also had the opportunity to spend time away from home during the residentials, Hawks braved

Bantham for their annual surfing trip, Robins and Little Dippers enjoyed a visit to the aquarium as part of geography learning about the oceans and Kingfishers explored Stover Country Park to support their science work. We are very grateful to our FODs group who have been busy this term continuing their fantastic fundraising efforts. This has supported the school in many ways for example, to purchase additional ipads, provide enrichment pots for each class, support school trips and has also provided us with a superb new outdoor classroom. Thank you to everyone for the wonderful support and we look forward to building on our successes next year. Meanwhile, on behalf of all the staff and pupils, have a wonderful summer and see you all in September.

Drake's CofE Primary School



The summer term has been action-packed with Sports Day, SATs, Residential, a Watersports Day and performances to name a few. This year the school Ethos group have chosen to support the charity - HopeWalks. The children raised money with a sponsored walk along the River Otter picking up litter along the way. They met some members of the Budleigh Lion's Club and did a litter pick on Budleigh beach - www.hopewalks.org Heron Class had a wonderful trip to Stantway Farm to learn about organic farming. They learnt about the crops they grow and went on the people trailer to go on a 'cow safari' as well as learning how they support wildlife. They learnt so much about how food is grown locally to support their DT learning about seasonality and food production. We had the pleasure of hosting Emma from GOSKETCH for a workshop on painting skills, centered around the parable of the mustard seed. This experience was incredibly valuable for the children, as they had the opportunity to learn key skills such as effective colour mixing and blending. They also explored various

painting techniques under the guidance of an expert. The workshop not only enhanced their artistic abilities but also inspired creativity and confidence in their artistic expressions. A big thank you to the PTFA for funding this workshop! The year 6 children are playing a big role in the summer performance - Ocean Commotion and are looking forward to the next steps in their education - good luck at secondary school!

Harbertonford CofE Primary School



Harbertonford have ended the year with another action packed term. Their sports week was a huge success, with every child taking part in an adventurous activity on the Monday, followed by an opportunity to try a variety of Olympic sports on the Wednesday. The school held its first ever MasterChef competition earlier in the term. All the children in Eagles class designed and cooked a meal, using the skills they have been learning with Britt, our Kitchen Manager, over the past two years. The judging panel, including the Deputy CEO, had a tough decision to make, but in the end the group that made homemade chicken burgers emerged as winners. We have also been incredibly lucky to have the support of our local community in revamping our library. A local pub held a quiz to raise funds for new furnishings and decoration materials, raising nearly £500, which was matched by our wonderful PTFA. Volunteers from Ivybridge Young Farmers gave up a Saturday to repaint the walls and ceilings and the final details were added by our extremely talented TA Miss Pike. The children are loving

their new reading space and are extra keen to spend time there. We finished off the year with an amazing production of Cinderella Rockafella and Global Citizenship day exploring mental health. We wish you all a sunny and restful break.

Hennock Primary School



There has been a wealth of highlights this term at Hennock. As usual sport has played a key role in Hennock life with the children having the opportunity to take part in tournaments with other schools. Reception took part in the Inclusion Games, Y1/2 in a multi-skills tournament, Ash had swimming lessons and all year groups took part in a sun-soaked Sports Day at Teign Village field. On the musical front, Birch were very lucky to be taught to play the ukulele by Kip Pratt. Their performance for parents of both songs they had learnt as well as some of their own compositions demonstrated an impressive acquisition of skills. Enrichment Week saw us squeeze Sports Day, an animal day, an art day, an outdoor day and a Party on the Pitch into a busy week. The term got busier as it went on. During the last couple of weeks Year 6 visited Go Ape, Saplings went to the beach, Birch and Ash put on a barnstorming production of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' and Ash went on a residential to Pixies Holt, where they took part in climbing, scrambling and weaselling. On our last day of term, we will say goodbye to our leavers at a special assembly at the beautiful church of St Mary's Hennock. After which we wish everyone a very good Summer holiday.

Illesington CofE Primary School



The end of a great year at Illesington! The children and staff have worked hard to achieve a good set of academic results across the school whilst also having time for enrichment and fun along the way. Trips to River Dart, Bear Trails, Bristol, Dartmoor Zoo and the ancient bronze age settlement at Grimspound have all been successful. The children have all taken part in sports day, a range of sporting enrichment opportunities, the local summer flower show and have enjoyed being involved in music workshops, school plays and more. No wonder they need a holiday! As the term ends, Miss Stewart-Watson is preparing for her wedding and sabbatical abroad and I am retiring from my role as Academy Head. So, I would like to thank everyone at Illesington C of E Primary and across the school community for all that they have done to support the school and its teachers and myself. We have amazing children and a fantastic team and I know that Miss Kat Williams will thoroughly enjoy the opportunity of being the new Academy Head in September and Mrs Halewood will be excited to teach Middlecott. They will have the support of the

family of the Link Academy as the school moves into its next chapter, and I wish everyone happiness and success in September.

Landscope CofE Primary School



Uganda through the Food for Thought programme; a key aspect of this is to give Ugandan pupils the skills to be able to feed themselves and their future families using sustainable methods. Godfrey, a garden trainer from Uganda visited Landscope and held workshops for us. We now have planted garden bags in the same organic way as the children do in his Ugandan school. Letters have been exchanged and our links will continue to be forged in the autumn. What a busy and exciting year!

Global citizenship has been high on our agenda this year. We have had several visits from cultural champions this year, the last one focussed on Sandyha's experience of racism, she really challenged the children's thinking and responses which was great! From this discussion all the classes have been taking part in arts project - Inspired by Angélica Dass' project 'The beauty of human skin in every colour'. The children's art shows what unites us, brings us together, expresses our harmony and shows how racism can be conquered.

Our global charity work has been far reaching and the children are now fully understanding and mindful of the fact that funds raised help empower people. After speaking to a volunteer from CED (Christine Engineers Development), who explained to us about the difficulties school children in Tanzania face each day in accessing clean drinking water our children's Ethos Group set about successfully raising enough money to would pay for a 1,000-litre tank for people with greatest need. We are now linked up to a school in

Littleham CofE Primary School



This term marked our 'official' start with the Link Academy Trust as the school fully entered into a new chapter. The support and warmth of the Trust has been felt by the whole team and Littleham community and this was exemplified with our most recent announcement that our school logo and uniform is changing in September to match our new vision: Greatness grows from small beginnings.

In other news, our new trim trail was FINALLY installed in June, which is now being thoroughly enjoyed by our pupils. Over the year, the school has raised over £34,000 to improve our outdoor provision which has been a real focus for improvement with the latest project an inclusive quiet garden with outdoor classroom expected to be built in the Autumn term. Behind the scenes this term, we have all been working hard in preparing our new curriculum offer for September. We all realise, despite the progress, there is a mountain to climb but the team is excited that we have a curriculum ready for September, which will excite and motivate the children. Our recent partnership with Libraries

Unlimited will support changes to the Reading Curriculum, including experiences and author visits. In July, we were lucky to have Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre, authors of 'Adventure Mice', in to share their series of books and to lead an illustration workshop for the whole school. Needless to say, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all! With a new curriculum rollout, trim trail, library, outdoor area for our nurture hub and soon to be quiet garden, this year has been all about reaping the benefits of collaboration. The Trust, school and wider community have been integral to positive changes to our school and we hope this is a sign of things to come! Have a good summer everyone.

Morcharad Bishop CofE Primary School



It has been a hugely successful year at Morcharad Bishop C of E. We have achieved lots around the school and the children have experienced some incredible learning opportunities. As always, we have continued to offer a rich and diverse range of sporting opportunities throughout the year and are proud of everyone that has represented the school at any of the festivals or tournaments. We have continued to support the children's love of reading and have had inspiring visits throughout the year. Most recently, we welcomed Jenny McLachlan who showcased her new book 'Fairy vs Wizard'. It was great to see the children so inspired by her visit and continuing to create their own characters in school and at home. As we look forward to next year, we are continuing to look at areas to develop the school and will be focussing on the outdoor learning environments and spaces to play around the extensive ground that we are so fortunate to have access to. This will include the kitchen garden and forest school area which have proved increasingly popular across this year with the children. A big final thank you to everyone

who has contributed to the schools successes this year. We wish you all a happy and healthy summer break and are looking forward to continuing our work together next year.

Moretonhampstead Primary School



It has been a very busy term at Moretonhampstead in the classrooms and out and about! The children have enjoyed their swimming lessons at Moreton Pool developing water confidence, swimming ability and stroke technique. The lessons concluded with a whole school gala with children of all ages and abilities taking part in races and excited parents cheering the children on. Our older children took part in the annual enterprise project - Grow £5. The children were given £5 to start of their project and used this to 'grow' funds. Ideas included: goal scoring, car washing, jewellery and 'home made' lemonade being made and sold. During the process, children reviewed and improved their 'business designs' and made a good sum of money, which will be used for curriculum 'enhancement' activities in school. There was also an 'auction of promises' with Ted winning 'be the Headteacher for the day', a task he took on seriously and effectively! We had a visit from local illustrator, Sandy Nightingale who came into school to work with children on collage and sculptures. The children produced some super work which was displayed

at North Bovey Fair for the community to view. We think our younger children are to blame for the soggy start to the summer! They made rain shakers in Design Technology, these definitely worked! They also had visitors from the community including a local nurse who talked about her role and how the children could keep healthy; then a farmer with two pet lambs, Bob and Betty! The children learnt how to feed them and care for them. We do hope you all have a happy and healthy summer, the Moretonhampstead Staff team.

Otterton CofE Primary School



The Summer Term at Otterton C of E primary has been jam packed with experiences, adventures, team building and all-round exciting opportunities! The Year 6 children have been on their school residential, having a wonderful time on Dartmoor with their friends from Drake's and Cheriton Bishop. They took part in mountain biking, orienteering, weaselling, bouldering, climbing and spent quality time together developing independence and resilience before starting their next journey at secondary school. The children in Heron class have showcased their wonderful artwork at their gallery event for parents and carers. Otters have been pottery pros and created beautiful kiln dried sunflowers. They've continued to be courageous advocates and have ensured the school and village have been litter picked regularly, using our very own litter pickers donated by the Budleigh Salterton Lions Club. Heron class have also been agents of change and taken part in many sustainability challenges during this term. Our Year 4 and 5 children have now trained as Mental Health Ambassadors and are

enthused to put lots of support in place for their peers ready for the new academic year. We've continued to strengthen our links with the local community and held a successful Village fete, along with St Michael's Church, Parish council and The Kings Arms. All the children should be proud of their achievements this year, many of which have been celebrated during our end of term service. We wish our Year 6 children the best of luck at Secondary school and thank all who have supported the school throughout this year.

Sparkwell Primary School



Sparkwell have enjoyed our first year with Link Academy Trust and are grateful for the support and opportunities it has offered our school, yet without it fundamentally changing our ethos or values as these already aligned with the Trust. This year we have enjoyed lots of trips, including a visit to a local farm, ferry ride to Mount Edgcumbe for KS1 and residentials for KS2, including a stay at the Start Bay Centre on the hottest day of the year, with a very hot climb up from the beach! As always our children are exemplary to take out of school. We also enjoyed our annual visit to Delamore, a local sculpture and art exhibition in aid of charity. We make links with our local community, visiting Dartmoor Zoo termly and engaging with our local Church at Christmas. Our Subject Ambassadors have enjoyed planning and leading sessions for the local Nursery. We were proud to be recognised by the Forest School Association as a 'Recognised Provider' for the 6th year in a row and continue to deliver quality outdoor sessions to every pupil in school. The children have enjoyed working together on many projects, including in Book Week, Science week and for sports day. We look forward to another exciting year and sharing our successes across the Trust.

Stoke Gabriel Primary School



Stoke Gabriel have had a year of so many successes and adventures. We have loved hosting class assemblies and open classroom sessions with each class showcasing a unit of learning. The children have relished the opportunity to perform in front of an audience or use their oracy skills to discuss their learning. We are proud of the enrichment activities which have seen our children sailing, coastering, kayaking, climbing and canoeing ... the list goes on! The resilience shown on these adventure days has developed so much and we see the impact of this in the children's learning behaviour. FOSS have worked incredibly hard to fundraise and they brought back the village Wassail celebration which was a huge success. Their efforts have supported the final training of Moose and the adult handlers who work with him. The impact of this work has been vast for many pupils. Without this we would not be able to provide the children with such a vast range of opportunities to enrich our curriculum. Our school goes from strength to strength and the dedication of our staff and the community around us are pivotal to this, thank you all. Have a wonderful summer break.

Tedburn St Mary Primary School



Another year draws to a close, what an amazing year it has been for everyone and my final year Tedburn. Our recent Ofsted highlighted how well our school operates and in particular the outstanding behaviour that all our children display. A huge thank you to all the staff, who continue to work hard to ensure that all our children thrive and have lots of super opportunities within their learning. The summer term has demonstrated the lovely ways in which teachers enhance the curriculum with lots of trips and visits. Willow, Birch and Ash all headed to the Clip and Climb and Haven banks, Oak class had an amazing activities week and residential at Okehampton. Our amazing choir even performed this year at the Devon County Show. We finished the year with the last of our World Explorer days in France and the children have enjoyed learning about lots of different countries and cultures throughout the year. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work and efforts not just across this year, but all the years I have been at Tedburn. We hope you all have a lovely summer break.

Widcombe-in-the-Moor Primary School



Hello from Widcombe! Our summer has been packed full of adventure with all our children heading out and about into the moors and beyond to complete many adventurous activities. Our Reception, Year 1 and 2s, have been hiking, climbing and orienteering around Dewerstone; Year 3 and 4 have been rocking climbing on our local tors; Year 5 and 6 have been coasteering at Fishcombe and paddleboarding at Goodrington whilst camping for two nights in Stoke Gabriel. A little closer to home, Frances Tophill (BBC Gardeners' World) and Claire Brown (Superweeds author) hosted a fascinating and inspiring Weed Workshop at our forest school site, Southcombe Barn. We learned that many weeds have medicinal and healing properties and that we all need to allow some room in our gardens as they attract a whole range of birds, animals and insects. Spread the word! Taking of birds, we visited The Curlew Conservation Project in Princetown. These beautiful birds used to be a common sight on Dartmoor but are now quite rare. We learned how the Duchy of Cornwall Curlew project is raising curlew

chicks to release on to the moor to aid their conservation and we are now fully involved too! Not many schools can host a walk to school day through the moors on a summer's day! We can and we loved it! This year we meandered through the moors until we found ourselves back in school where the international storyteller and children's author - Clive Pig! - entertained us with creative and witty stories. Oh, and we had a little cake on the side too! As our term ends, we are now looking forward to sending our leavers off in style as they venture onto their next adventures - we wish them all the best. From us all at Widcombe, have a lovely summer!

Wolborough CofE Primary School



As we come to the end of another fantastic term, I am once again amazed at all we have achieved together. The dedication and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and community continue to inspire me. Here are just a few of the highlights from this term. Our whole school, book swap was a tremendous success, fostering a love of reading and sharing among students. It was wonderful to see the excitement on the children's faces as they discovered new books to enjoy. We are thrilled to announce that our school has achieved the Platinum Sports Award for the second time. This prestigious award recognizes our commitment to promoting physical education and sports, and it reflects the hard work of our students and staff. This term, we began the Food for Thought programme, working alongside a primary school in Uganda. This project focuses on sustainable gardening and has provided our students with valuable insights into global citizenship and environmental stewardship. We also worked with artist Sam Lock creating incredible fish from recycled plastics. You will be able to see

these creations displayed as part of the Recycled Art in the Landscape trail in Teignmouth. We ended the term with Year 6 giving an outstanding performance of "Wind in the Willows." Their talent and dedication shone through, and it was a joy to watch them bring this classic story to life. It's been a brilliant term, have a great summer!

Yeoford Primary School



This term at Yeoford Primary has been packed with excitement and achievement, reflecting our school's vibrant spirit and dedication to both fun and learning. There has been plenty of sport on the menu, with our students demonstrating outstanding athletic prowess, clinching victory in the Year 3 and 4 inter-school football tournament. Our students also had the opportunity to showcase their skills in a thrilling handball tournament. Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an athletics festival at QE Secondary School further fuelled their enthusiasm for sports. The competitive spirit continued with a rounders tournament, and our hotly anticipated annual Sports Day saw team 'Yeo' (Red) triumph. All students took part and gave it their best shot. We even managed to source a proper high-jump for the day!

Adventure and challenge were at the forefront with exhilarating trips to Clip 'n' Climb and Haven Banks, where our students engaged in kayaking and climbing activities, pushing their limits and building resilience. Additionally, a trip to Crealy Adventure Park is in the diary and set to take

place before the term ends. Beyond physical activities, we nurtured a love for reading with an inspiring visit from the local library, encouraging our students to dive into the world of books. Creativity and hands-on learning were celebrated as Year 5 and 6 students constructed new outdoor equipment for the Early Years area, including innovative apparatus for water play. Our culinary adventures saw students making delicious smoothies and vegan cakes, while sensory exploration was embraced through the creation of 'Moon Sand' and 'Cloud Dough.' These activities fostered a sense of curiosity and creativity among our young learners. Lots of fundraising has taken place, with Pyjama Day coming up and on the final day, a summer BBQ where throwing wet sponges at the headteacher and a large inflatable obstacle course sure to be favourites among the students. Our children also expanded their global awareness by writing thoughtful letters to the President of Brazil, learning about international issues and practising their communication skills. As we look ahead to the end of the year, the students are diligently preparing for the upcoming leavers' and music concert, which promises to be a spectacular showcase featuring fond farewells and an energetic 80s medley. This term has truly been a whirlwind of activities and achievements, setting the stage for more exciting adventures to start in September at Yeoford Primary School.

school's out for
summer

