

Welcome...

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter keeping you updated with news across our Trust.

You are receiving this newsletter because your child attends a Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) school – and we are very proud that your child and their school is part of our Trust.

2018 began with some exciting news when we welcomed Emmanuel CE Middle School to our

family of schools – and I'm delighted to say we are ending the 2017/18 academic year with equally exciting news!

I am thrilled to announce, and also extend a very warm welcome, to Lockyer's Middle School, which has joined the Trust from July. That now brings us up to nine first and middle schools.

It has been a very busy and productive spring and summer, and in this issue

of the newsletter we will tell you more about Lockyer's and share some successful stories from our other schools.

By bringing our news altogether in one newsletter we hope to enhance that sense of working together and being part of one Trust family.

Everyone in the Trust community plays an important role in our success and we are always



keen to hear any feedback or ideas parents may have.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Academy News.

Liz West,
Chief Executive Officer

Now eight becomes nine!

We share a vision of putting children at the heart of everything we do and now we have joined forces to provide the best education for youngsters in Corfe Mullen.

Lockyer's Middle School is the newest member of the Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) family and we are thrilled to welcome them on board.

CEO of the Trust, Liz West, said: "This is a coming together of like-minded organisations, as we both share the same vision and ethos, which is putting our children first in everything we do. We look forward to building on the many existing strengths Lockyer's already offers, through collaborative working, shared best practice and staff development."

Lockyer's Middle School, which was rated 'Good' in



Joining the family (from left): CEO Liz West, Lockyer's head Mark Legge and WAT chair of trustees John Dickson

its last Ofsted, has joined WAT to benefit from partnership work with

other schools, particularly the Trust's other middle schools – Allenbourn, St

Michael's and Emmanuel.

By joining WAT, Lockyer's will also receive on-going support from the Trust's leadership and school improvement team.

Lockyer's Middle School provides education for children from years 5 to 8.

With Lockyer's addition to our team, we now have in total 2,900 pupils and 450 teaching and support staff.

Lockyer's Headteacher, Mark Legge, said: "This is an exciting coming together of similar schools with shared goals, all working together to improve the education of local children.

"I am passionate about middle school education and to be able to work so closely with other middle schools is an opportunity not to be missed."

St Michael's celebrates Good Ofsted

Everyone at WAT and at St Michael's CE Middle School celebrated a 'Good' Ofsted report this spring.

And there was further reason to cheer as this was the first Ofsted inspection carried out within Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) since we formed three years ago.

St Michael's was judged 'Good' across the board and Ofsted praised headteacher, Ron Jenkinson, and WAT for raising standards.

In his report, lead inspector Andrew Lovett, said: "The headteacher has led the school through a period of renewal with determination.

"Supported by his senior leadership team, he has put the necessary foundations in place, and the school is well placed for further improvement.

"The multi-academy trust and its leaders challenge school leaders robustly. They provide high quality advice to leaders and teachers to support the school's improvement."



The children were also singled out for praise for making good progress across all year groups and for being well-behaved, polite and respectful.

Inspectors said the joint work of school's middle leaders in English and Maths with WAT's support staff is resulting in significant improvement in standards across all year groups.

Parents, the report said, value the quality of care and opportunities available to their children at the

school and pupils also benefit from a rich and broad curriculum.

Headteacher of St Michael's, Ron Jenkinson, said: "We are absolutely thrilled that the hard work of both our staff and pupils has been officially recognised by Ofsted.

"Our next step is to continue to embed the improvements we have introduced and become an Outstanding school."

Don't get trapped by the web



Colehill First School dedicated a whole week to raising e-safety awareness among its children and parents.

The school held an e-safety week, which was kicked off with a coding and e-safety workshop for parents and carers.

Adults observed their children using coding to create simple web programmes. Then, after witnessing their wannabe Bill Gates in action, the parents were introduced

to the different websites, apps and games that children commonly use – and what they need to be aware of to keep their children 'e-safe'.

Headteacher, Andrew Turrall, said: "Our children were born into a world where so much can be accessed and achieved through the internet. It is very important that we not only teach our pupils to be tech savvy but to be safe online."

Friendly rivalry



Three of our schools came together to compete in a special multi-skills festival.

Year 1 youngsters from Colehill First School and St John's CE First School travelled to Hayeswood First School for a dose of healthy sporting rivalry.

The 90 youngsters began the day with a fun warm-up before they were set five challenges to complete.



Liz West, CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, said: "We are great believers in healthy competition as it encourages the children to try their best and work hard for their goals.

"It is fantastic that our schools can work collaboratively and produce such a successful event that all their children can benefit from."

Farm visit is a moo-ving experience!

Our smallest school, Witchampton CE First School, took every single member of staff and pupils to enjoy a day out at Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston.

The event, which gave the youngsters a real insight into the countryside and environment, was made possible thanks to the farm owners who are also our parents.

Head of school, Cathie Bolton, said: "Being such a small school gives us the advantage of being able to take every member of staff and all our pupils to enjoy a wonderful day out like this.

"We are very grateful to the parents who invited us to their working farm so we could learn about the rural environment we live in."

During their visit the



children engaged in a variety of activities, including making novelty-shaped bread and sweeping the meadows to find insects, to learn how important they are to the farm's ecology.

One highlight was a cow safari which saw them ride around the farm on a tractor to learn about its



cattle. And any visit to a farm this time of year wouldn't be complete without meeting and petting the lambs.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, said: "Being a rural school, it's essential the children learn about the environment they live in and how the countryside



plays an important role in supporting society and the economy.

"Experiencing a day on a farm gave them all valuable lessons outside the classroom."

Two wheels are better than four

Our Emmanuel school children made a big push for wheel power when they undertook a concerted drive to leave their parents' cars at home.

They swapped driving and walking to school for wheeling in on bike or scooter during a special Pedal Power week.

The school was taking part in the sustainable



charity Sustrans' Big Pedal challenge.

Every pupil and member of staff was encouraged to come to school on two wheels in what is the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting

challenge.

Head of School, Rob Christopher, said: "We had an amazing week and it was quite a sight to see so many of our pupils take up the challenge and arrive on either bike or scooter."

Science under the microscope



Allenbourn pupils spent a whole week unearthing new discoveries in a fun-packed Science Week.

With a theme of 'explore and discover', a different activity was held every lunchtime for children to pop in and try.

From getting a microscopic look at creatures from the River Allen to building 3D constellations in the library, the students got to enjoy a wide range of



the sciences.

Headteacher, Cindy Pritchard, said: "Our special theme was designed to give our students the chance to explore and discover scientific topics that might not be covered in the curriculum.

"This wonderful week was made possible thanks to our science teacher Cheryl James who planned and ran all the events."

St John's welcomed more than 100 grandparents for a special afternoon of thanks and celebration.

The school held its annual 'grandparents' day' as a show of appreciation to the very important role they play in our pupils' lives.

For their visit, the nans and grandpas were given a guided tour of the school by their grandchildren, before enjoying tea and cake laid on by the PTA.

Headteacher, Katharine Anstey, said: "It was wonderful to welcome so many grandparents to our school. Some of them we see on a regular basis, as they often bring the children on the school run, but others travelled quite far and made a special trip to come.

A grand day out



"It was a joyous occasion with lots of laughter and sharing in the work of their grandchildren's school."

Before they left to go home the grandparents were treated to the whole school performing a fitness routine as part of its 'Fit

and Fruity Friday'.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, added: "This is a fantastic way of saying thank you for the valued support grandparents provide our children, their families and, of course, the school.



"In turn we hope they had a very enjoyable time and received an insight into their grandchildren's education."

Merley flies the flag for the environment

Merley First School is flying the flag for the environment after receiving international recognition for its green credentials.

The school has been awarded the Eco School Green Flag, which is now proudly hoisted on its grounds.

This flag is recognised across the world and Merley is one of just 1,200 schools in the UK to have been given this honour - making everyone at WAT incredibly proud.

The Green Flag recognises schools which get their pupils to lead on environmental projects that encourage whole-community involvement.

Headteacher of Merley First School, Jane Phillips, said: "Our special team



of pupil Eco Warriors have worked so hard on introducing a number of new environmental measures at school.

"I am particularly pleased for them that it was their work which so impressed the external assessor

who awarded the Green Flag."

Merley's team of 10 Eco Warriors, with support from teacher Jennifer Benn, have trail-blazed a number of new green initiatives, including a new walking zone and food waste recycling for composting.



Colehill First School



LOCKYER'S MIDDLE SCHOOL



Merley First School



St Michael's Middle School



WITCHAMPTON FIRST SCHOOL