

Welcome...

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter to keep you updated with news across our Trust.

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

2018 already begins with some exciting news – we have grown from seven first and middle schools to eight.

We extend a very warm welcome to Emmanuel CE Middle School, which has joined the Trust from January.

In this issue of the newsletter we will tell you more about Emmanuel 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. At the bottom of this newsletter is a contact point where you can contact us.



I hope you enjoy this issue of *Academy News*.

Liz West, Chief Executive Officer

Seven now becomes eight

We are delighted to welcome Emmanuel CE Middle School into our family of academies.

Based in Verwood, Emmanuel shares many qualities with our other schools.

The school has a very caring ethos, staff ensure pupils feel safe and the children are excited about learning and enjoy the wide range of experiences available to them.

Led by head of school Rob Christopher, Emmanuel will also receive strategic support from Ron Jenkinson, in his new role as executive headteacher for both Emmanuel and St Michael's CE Middle School.

At St Michael's, Mr Jenkinson will still retain the day to day leadership of the school, but in his new role he will also



Emmanuel's head of school Rob Christopher (left) welcomes Wimborne Academy Trust's Liz West and Ron Jenkinson

support Rob Christopher in the running of Emmanuel.

Mr Jenkinson's extensive experience of leading Church of England Middle

Schools means he is perfectly placed to provide support to our newest school.

Our Trust has an excellent

track record in delivering first and middle school education, and all our schools are rated Good or Outstanding. As a teaching school we also deliver training and support to many schools in the area.

Emmanuel joins us as they require this expert support to bring about improvements.

Rob Christopher said: "Everyone at Emmanuel is incredibly excited about joining Wimborne Academy Trust.

"We have already benefitted from the Trust's advice and are seeing improvements put in place.

"Now we look forward to the benefits of being a full member of such a successful multi-academy trust and sharing in the best practice of our fellow academies."

Children have the maths factor

Hundreds of eight and nine year-olds dedicated a whole day to maths problem solving in a fun factored event that was hosted by the Trust.

Year 4 children from first schools in the Wimborne area attended our Maths Day event at St Michael's and Allenbourn Middle schools to get a taste of what maths at a higher level is like – and just as importantly – how fun it can be.

Run by nationally acclaimed mathematician Angela Gould, the event saw the children tackle a series of maths puzzles, from creating jigsaw puzzles to building paper pyramids. Year 8 pupils at St Michael's and Allenbourn assisted their younger peers on the day.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust Liz West said: "It was fantastic to see so many children attend our two middle schools for this event.

"As a teaching school we take great pride in sharing our knowledge with schools and children throughout the area. We place great emphasis on our maths teaching and this event provided children an invaluable opportunity to see how numeracy is



taught at our middle schools."

The maths activity day was designed to raise motivation and attainment by giving the children enriching, yet challenging, numeracy to do.

Each task was directly linked with work in the classroom, focusing on improving problem solving and mathematical thinking skills.

Working in small groups, the children completed maths puzzle trails, numeracy card games and number challenges, folded shapes such as pentagons and kites from paper, and

solved fractions, decimals and percentages questions.

The event culminated with the building of giant pyramids using 64 sheets of paper – and making them big enough for the children to sit in.

Angela Gould, Director of Building Motivation and Attainment in Maths, said: "It was a real pleasure to work with the children and teachers.

"They were so enthusiastic and engaged all day, working through a wide range of maths activities to improve attainment."

Me and my shadow

Some of our parents were invited to go back to school for the day.

Their return to the classroom was organised by Allenbourn Middle School for a Year 5 shadowing week.

The parents were invited to drop into the school and see first-hand how their children are taught.

Headteacher Cindy Pritchard explained: "This is the third time that we have held the Year 5 shadowing week for

parents. They are invited to come in during that week and observe their children's lessons. We find this event gives our mums and dads a real insight into their child's learning."

During the week, parents got to sit in a wide range of lessons, including maths, English, science, PE, French, technology, history, music, art and Geography.

One parent wrote afterwards: "It is great to see as a parent such a



happy and integrated team in Allenbourn with the teachers and support staff working well together."

And one particularly impressed mum said:

"Brilliant lessons, lots of different styles of learning observed.

"The level of parent engagement at the school is excellent and always appreciated."

Learning in the great outdoors

Desks have been swapped for logs and climbing frames for trees as our schools take lessons out into the great outdoors.

Over at St John's CE First School, the Reception children have been spending part of their lessons deep in the woods.

The little ones have been attending the town's Forest Garden for specialist Forest School sessions.

The weekly sessions are led by a fully trained Forest School Leader, in addition to the children's usual class teacher and teaching assistants. The youngsters have been swinging on a tree tyre, getting mucky in the mud kitchen and making their very own hill to climb.

Head of school Katharine Anstey said: "Forest School is a specialised learning



approach using the outdoors to complement classroom teaching.

Meanwhile, Merley First School is creating a new band of outdoor adventurers. This group of children tasted their first experience of being outdoor adventurers during special sessions in

the autumn term.

They sat around the camp fire and learned how to stay safe with fire, used butter knives to strip the bark off of hazel sticks, toasted marshmallows on a fire and built dens.

Some children independently decided to



write on wood using the suffixes they had been using in the morning in class.

Headteacher Jane Phillips said: "Not only have they learned new skills but they have also found inspiration for their classroom lessons in the great outdoors."

Church visit was quite an experience

Some of our children were given a special insight into the history and modern day activities of a local church.

The Year 3 pupils from Colehill First School were invited by St Michael and All Angels Church to 'Experience Church.'

The experience took the youngsters on an interactive journey around the church building to discover what Christians do.

During their visit



the children took part in a range of activities at different stations.

Headteacher Andrew Turrall said: "We are very grateful to St Michael's Church for providing our children with a memorable

experience.

"They learned so much about the day to day workings of a church and also how Christians live and worship. The visit was fun, engaging and very interesting and has really enhanced their learning."

Bringing the past to life

There was great excitement at St Michael's CE Middle School when we unveiled a 4,000-year-old burial mound that lies in the school grounds.

Cllr Derek Burt unveiled an interpretation board, flanked by Archaeologist Julian Richards, Headteacher Ron Jenkinson and five pupils who had contributed to the project.

Julian Richards said: "I've been working with the pupils to

help to bring back to life a Bronze Age burial mound.

"It's a very prominent mound and sits right on the top of the hill here, so in the Bronze Age times it would have been visible for miles around. It's the burial place of someone important!"

Ron Jenkinson added: "It's an amazing thing to have on the school site, but it was completely hidden and pupils were walking past it, totally unaware."

When it comes to history, lessons for one group of our children have been far from half-baked.

In fact our pupils from Witchampton CE First School have discovered so many different ways of learning about one topic that they are destined to rise to the top of their class.

In the autumn term, pupils from Years 1 and 2 were studying the Great Fire of London, which started in a humble bakery in Pudding Lane in 1666.

As part of their studies they baked bread, made Tudor houses out of cardboard boxes, dressed up in 17th century costume, reflected by candle light and enjoyed a visit from Dorset Fire and Rescue.

Tales of yeast-erday



Head of school Cathie Bolton said: "Studying a topic like the Great Fire of London is far more than just a history lesson for our children.

"We used themes from the topic to inspire us in maths, creative work and

even personal safety.

"Thanks to Dorset Fire and Rescue we were able to teach them about fire safety and through making bread they have learned the cooking skills used by the real-life bakers of Pudding Lane."



And the children were on a roll during this topic. Back in the classroom they continued their Great Fire of London studies by comparing life in the 17th century with today.

They are sure to rise to the top in their studies!

Corfe Castle under siege by school children

Corfe Castle has been invaded again – but this time the invaders were of the much friendlier and inquisitive kind.

Our Year 1 youngsters from Hayeswood First School descended on the historic ruins as part of their topic learning all about castles.

And they couldn't have chosen a better castle to explore.

Corfe Castle, on the Isle of Purbeck, dates back to the 11th century but was famously destroyed during the Civil War in the 17th century.

Class teacher Jill Spencer said: "This was a really wonderful experience for the children and they totally immersed themselves in the history of this great castle.



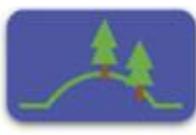
"They came back into school absolutely buzzing from their trip and have been using what they learned in their topic about castles."

For the trip the children had their own guide who took them around the fortification and explained to



the pupils how different and busy the place would have been in medieval times.

Their day ended with a gruesome story about wicked Queen Elfrida who plotted the death of her stepson King Edward at the castle.



Colehill First School



St Michael's Middle School



Merley First School

