



Odyssey

Collaborative Trust



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In February we held our annual trust-wide training day. You can read more about this later in the newsletter, but I would like to thank all of the staff for attending and particularly those who put on professional development sessions where they shared good practise. A particular mention to our Thrive Award winners whose outstanding contributions were celebrated. Again, you can read more later in the newsletter.

Working closely with the local governing boards, we have made two important appointments this term. At Borrow Wood we will be saying a fond farewell to our headteacher Zoe Fletcher at the end of August. Natalie Bartlett, an experienced head of school at Pear Tree Juniors has been appointed as the new headteacher from September.

At Asterdale, John O'Leary has been appointed as the permanent headteacher after holding the role on an acting basis since the start of the school year. I look forward to working with Natalie and John in the future.

Finally, you may have seen banners outside our school for our post graduate teacher training programme in partnership with the University of Derby. We are looking forward to training the next generation of teachers from September. If you, or someone you know would like to find out more, they can do so [here](#).

I wish you all a great Easter break.

Ian Dewes
Odyssey Collaborative Trust CEO

Our pupils reach new heights during Beaufort Primary's first-ever residential



»»» OUR CHILDREN THRIVE

This term, children at Beaufort Primary School enjoyed the school's first-ever residential trip. Year 6 pupils embarked on an adventure to Willersley Castle, a new outdoor residential centre in Derbyshire.

They had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, including climbing and abseiling, archery, axe throwing, zip lining and tug-of-war competitions. Teacher Laura Barrass, a member of the staff who led the residential, said: "This was an incredible experience for the pupils and a truly significant moment for our school.

"Providing 10 and 11-year-olds, who are preparing to transition to secondary school next year, with the chance to step out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves, forge closer bonds with their classmates and gain a sense of achievement and independence is incredibly important.

"As a teacher, it was wonderful to observe the children's growth throughout the duration of our stay."

"Providing children who are preparing to transition to secondary school, with the the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves, form closer bonds with classmates and gain a sense of achievement and independence is incredibly important."
Teacher Laura Barrass



Enhanced Resource Facilities created at two Odyssey schools for children with additional needs

►►► OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES

A new Enhanced Resource Facility (ERF) to provide specialist education for children with communication and interaction needs, such as autism, is being created and another existing facility extended at two Odyssey schools - which provide almost 50 additional spaces for children who need extra educational support.

At Borrow Wood Primary School in Arundel Drive, £385,000 is being spent to refurbish a building on the site to provide a new ERF with 16 places and is due to open soon. Springfield Primary School in West Road opened its first ERF 10 years ago and demand for places soared. It now caters for 41 pupils and is at capacity. It has received £1.85m to create a new building on the site so it can provide places for a further 30 children, bringing the total to around 70. The new building is planned to be ready during the 2025/26 academic year.

Ian Dewes said: "In Derby, and indeed across the country, demand for specialist places within mainstream schools has increased dramatically. We have seen this at our existing ERF at Springfield Primary School, which opened 10 years ago with the intention of increasing spaces up to a maximum of 12 and now has 39 children registered.

"We are committed to supporting children to thrive which is why we are pleased to be able to expand the number of spaces Derby has available. It will allow us to provide a calm environment and the right support for children for whom a full-time mainstream place is not suitable."

Placements in ERFs are allocated by Derby City Council, not Odyssey Collaborative Trust.

Councillor Paul Hezelgrave, Derby City Council Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills, said: "Derby City Council wants Derby's young people with SEND to achieve their potential and we're committed to ensuring they and their families receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.

"ERFs allow children to access the mainstream curriculum and participate in a wide range of opportunities within an inclusive environment, while receiving tailored support that addresses their unique needs. By increasing the number of places available in ERFs, we aim to enable more children to attend school within their local community, fostering strong family and social connections while receiving the necessary support to thrive."



"We are committed to supporting children to thrive which is why we are pleased to be able to expand the number of spaces Derby has available."

Ian Dewes, Odyssey Collaborative Trust CEO

Bringing 300 of our colleagues together for an inspirational day

»»» OUR COLLEAGUES THRIVE

This term we brought together nearly 300 colleagues from across the Trust for a training day at Derbyshire County Cricket Club.

From insights into staff pensions with our CEO Ian Dewes to LEGO Education therapy workshops and sessions for teaching assistants on supporting children with ADHD delivered by Derby City Council, superb displays of education tech from L.E.A.D. IT Services and much more on top, it was a jam-packed day full of useful info and inspiring ideas.

Thank you to all our colleagues and speakers for sharing their knowledge and making it such a productive and supportive day.



Children nominate staff for Thrive Awards



We once again celebrated colleagues who have been recognised by children across our schools for going above and beyond.

Congratulations to all our Thrive Award winners:
 Asterdale - Katrina Breame
 Beaufort - Holly Moore
 Borrow Wood - Jo Coleman
 Oakwood - Jade Carter
 Portway - Dee Niewiarowski
 Springfield - James Wainwright
 Cherry Tree Hill - Steve Wadsworth



You can hear the heartwarming reasons children gave for their nominations in this [video](#).

Red noses shine bright for charity

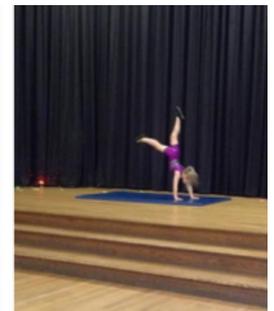
SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY



Our schools celebrated another hugely successful Comic Relief this term, raising funds for this great cause with activities from fancy dress to red nose designs. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the families who supported events - we know times are tough and it is hugely appreciated.



Children keep on moving at Cherry Tree



CHERRY TREE HILL PRIMARY

It's been an active term at Cherry Tree Hill Primary School with children learning the skills and confidence to cycle on today's roads with Bikeability. The girls' football team played two matches against Portway, winning the first 2-0 and drawing the second 0-0. And finally, a huge well done to everyone who took part in Cherry's Got Talent - they proved we certainly have!

Pupils share their love of reading with others

»»» **ASTERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Reading ambassadors recommended their top reads to other children during Storytelling Week as they continue to champion reading at Asterdale Primary School.

The year 5 and 6 pupils are on a mission to make reading a pleasure for more children. As well as introducing reception children to the school's library and helping them select books, they keep the books in order, do audits of every classroom's reading corner to ensure they have a good selection and listen to younger pupils read.

Well done everyone! We're super proud of you.



Sport stars

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OAKWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Oakwood Junior School children kicked off the Spring term celebrating their success on the football pitch.

The school in Holbrook Road hosted its first football tournament in aid of Derby County Community Trust's Kenya Appeal while the girls' football team won its league for the third year in a row.

Head of PE, Joshua Seaman, said: "It has been a great end to the first term with a real buzz about the school for the football tournament and great sense of community, as well as pride in our school teams."



Our pupils dress for success

➤➤➤ BEAUFORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children at two of our schools embraced two national events designed to inspire a love of numbers and support mental health.

At Beaufort Primary School, children across all age groups took part in the charity Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of the week was "know yourself, grow yourself".

Pupils dressed up in clothes which expressed themselves. Interpretations included Stephen, 10, who wore a shirt and shoes with splashes of bright yellow.

He said: "To me the colour yellow represents joy and I wanted to be joyful."

Michelle and Lilian both wore dresses which shared something about their culture.

Lilian said: "My aunt made my dress, she is Nigerian. I sometimes wear it to church and it is part of my culture."

Michelle said: "My dress is a traditional Indian dress and I wear it to family events because it represents me and my tradition."

Other children wore their favourite fancy dress costumes from princesses to policemen.

PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL <<<

Meanwhile, on the same day at Portway Junior School, children were in fancy dress of a different kind. They donned digits to celebrate all things numbers for the NSPCC's Numbers Day.

Teacher Rachel Abbott said: "Today was about having fun with numbers and encouraging children to enjoy their maths by doing something a little bit different."

Children took part in quizzes such as 'Who wants to be a Mathionaire' and created number costumes – including a giant calculator and a machine which calculated the number of exercises people should do.

All children also gave donations to the NSPCC to dress in clothes which had a number theme - which included football kits and personalised clothes.

Ian Dewes, CEO of Odyssey Collaborative Trust, said: "It is wonderful to see all the ways our schools get behind national events designed to help our children thrive.

"From supporting positive mental health to encouraging a love of numbers, colleagues across our schools go out of their way to ensure our children experience fun activities which support their learning and growth."

