



Odyssey

Collaborative Trust

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Cherry Tree Hill Primary
has a new member of
staff - meet Brody on
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As is always the case, it's wonderful to see through this newsletter a recap of the fantastic things that have happened across Odyssey schools this term.

What you'll read about in the next few pages is just the top of the iceberg - from innovative transition activities supporting children into their next stage of education, to choirs across the Trust coming together to sing (have a listen [here](#)) there have been so many examples of our vision for our children, colleagues and community thriving being brought to life.

As well as this newsletter we have recently collected some

examples of great teaching and learning in a journal which you can read [here](#). The articles give a deep dive into some of the exemplary practice we have. I encourage everyone to have a read.

All of this can only happen through the dedication of staff - thank you to all of the 355 colleagues across the Trust. I hope you all have a peaceful summer break.

Ian Dewes

Odyssey Collaborative Trust CEO



Children Say 'Ni Hao' to China on trip of a lifetime

>>> OUR CHILDREN THRIVE

Pupils from Cherry Tree Hill Primary and Portway Junior School in Derby have returned from the trip of a lifetime after embarking on an unforgettable educational visit to China.

The schools joined forces to take 22 Year 6 pupils on a week-long cultural exchange to Shanghai and Hefei in May, creating an experience to broaden horizons, develop life skills, and experience a different approach to education.

More than 18 months of planning went into the project, with staff from both schools working side-by-side on everything from safeguarding and logistics to preparing pupils and their parents for time spent away from home.

Regular joint 'China club' sessions enabled the children to get to know one another before travelling, meaning they arrived in China not as two separate schools but as one united team.

During their visit, the children immersed themselves in Chinese culture by attending lessons in local schools, learning traditional calligraphy and martial arts, trying authentic cuisine, visiting historical sites via high-speed rail, and experiencing cutting-edge educational

technology including robotics, drones and AI-powered interactive learning tools. For many, it was their first time travelling so far from home.

Olivia Ball, age 11, who joined the trip as a pupil from Portway, said: "I was definitely really scared because I've always been scared of planes, but once we got there it was amazing. I'd tell anyone to take opportunities like this because you learn so much."

Jaxson Brazier, age 11, and a pupil at Cherry Tree Hill, said making friends across the world was one of his highlights: "It showed me that you can get along with people from different countries even if they speak another language."

"Everyone was so welcoming and kind, and we had so much fun together."

Back in Derby, the impact of the trip is still being felt.

The pupils have brought home educational resources from their partner school, including mathematical puzzles to use in class, as well as fresh ideas and experiences they are eager to share with their classmates.

Cherry Tree crowned Derbyshire's best and Springfield celebrates too

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>>> OUR COLLEAGUES THRIVE

Congratulations to everyone at Cherry Tree Hill Primary School, which has been named Primary Age Education Provider of the Year at the 2026 Lots for Tots Awards.

The annual awards celebrate organisations making an outstanding difference to children and families across Derbyshire, with more than 103,000 public votes cast before finalists were assessed by an independent judging panel.

Judges were full of praise for Cherry Tree Hill, highlighting how parents had "shared how welcomed and reassured they felt during big transitions, praising kindness, dedication and genuine care shown by staff throughout the school."

The award is wonderful recognition of the commitment, passion and care shown every day by the whole school team, and reflects the strong relationships they have built with pupils and families.

There was more success for Odyssey Collaborative Trust at the awards, with Springfield Primary School staff (pictured) shortlisted in two categories – a fantastic achievement that recognises the exceptional work taking place across the school.

Congratulations to everyone at both schools. Your dedication to supporting children and families makes a real difference every day, and we are incredibly proud to see your hard work recognised.



A taste for healthy eating

>>> BEAUFORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Healthy eating was firmly on the menu at Beaufort Primary School when pupils took part in an interactive day designed to inspire lifelong healthy habits. The school welcomed catering partner Mellors for a special assembly, where children watched a live cooking demonstration showing how a delicious pasta sauce could be made using fresh, nutritious ingredients – including an impressive 10 different vegetables.

Pupils were then invited to take part in a live taste test, with many giving it a big thumbs up. The event forms part of Beaufort's ongoing commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and helping children develop positive habits.

Schoolboy honoured after raising £2,000 to help save children's holidays



Derbyshire Children's
Holiday Centre

>>> OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES

Ten-year-old Corey Dobson, from Springfield Primary School, for a wonderful surprise when he was given a Young Volunteer of the Year award at a special evening celebrating the city's community heroes.

Corey was amazed when his name was called out at the Derby Voluntary Service Awards from Community Action Derby.

He was honoured in the awards for his work raising more than £2,000 for the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.

Corey raised the money after being a guest at the centre on several occasions and then learning it could not open last year due to a shortage of funds.

Devasted by the news, he resolved to do something about it and undertook a 100-mile sponsored walk over the course of a month, plus cake sales at school.

Corey's efforts impressed the charity so much he was made its junior ambassador and its chief executive Janine Holmes said she could not be happier he had won the award after nominating him herself.

Janine said: "Corey was brilliant in raising so much money for us so we could help other children have a holiday just as he did.

"We are so grateful to all our fundraisers and for him to have raised so much for us at such a young age shows commitment and spirit.



"It's the kind of thing that lets us know our work is hugely worthwhile and we are very grateful. I'm delighted he has won this Young Volunteer award."

Thanks to Corey and hundreds of other fundraisers The Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre has re-opened and the first busload of youngsters visited the seaside in May.

Corey said: "I'm very glad that I was there because they have changed my life. I'm also very glad that they were able to re-open."

Janine added: "It's brilliant that Corey has shown at a young age how important volunteering can be. Volunteering is



essential for us as a charity moving forward."

Find out more by visiting [Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre's](http://DerbyshireChildrensHolidayCentre.org.uk) website.

"It's brilliant that Corey has shown at a young age how important volunteering can be. Volunteering is essential for us as a charity moving forward."

Janine Holmes, CEO of Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre

World Cup inspires global learning

»»» BORROW WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



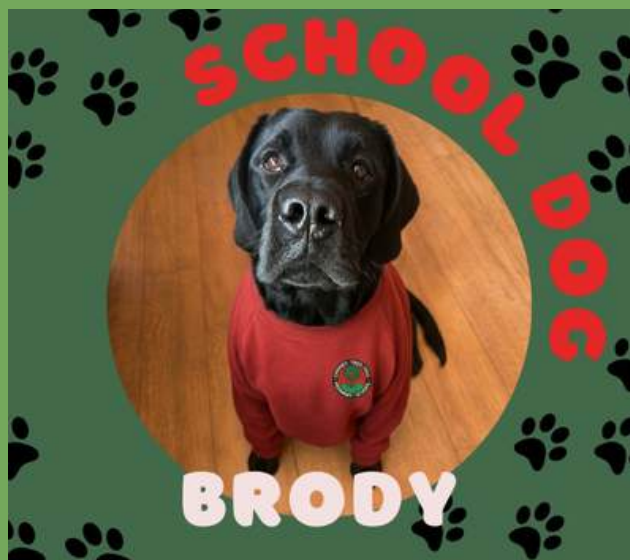
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Pupils at Borrow Wood Primary enjoyed a fantastic day celebrating the start of the World Cup. Children proudly dressed in the colours of their nominated countries, learning fascinating facts about different nations and cultures from around the world. The celebrations continued at lunchtime, where everyone enjoyed

lunchtime, where everyone enjoyed some delicious World Cup-themed cakes together.

There was also plenty of creativity on display and everyone was particularly impressed by the fantastic homemade T-shirts designed by the ERF staff.



A paws-itive addition to school

Cherry Tree Hill Primary is delighted to welcome a very special new member of the school community – Brody, Miss Watts' friendly Labrador, who is preparing for his important new role as the school's wellbeing dog.

School dogs are known to have a positive impact on children's wellbeing, confidence and learning, and Brody will soon be spending time with pupils and staff to help create a calm, supportive and welcoming environment.

Whether he's listening to children read, joining them on wellbeing walks or simply providing a reassuring presence, Brody is sure to become a much-loved member of the school community. We can't wait to see the difference Brody makes as he settles into his new role.

Gracie turns diagnosis into a lesson for everyone at Beaufort

>>> BEAUFORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

A lesson in highs and lows has helped pupils at Beaufort Primary School better understand Type 1 diabetes.

Eight-year-old Gracie Clarence was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes shortly after last Halloween when her parents realised something wasn't quite right.

Like many children, Gracie had been enjoying Halloween treats, but her dad, who also has Type 1 diabetes, quickly recognised the warning signs and made sure she received the treatment she needed.

Now, Gracie's diagnosis has become an opportunity to teach the entire school about the condition - where the pancreas stops producing insulin, meaning she has to carefully manage her blood sugar levels.

Pupils and staff gathered for a special assembly led by diabetes specialist Hayley Wright, from Royal Derby Hospital, who explained what diabetes is,



how it affects the body and the warning signs everyone should know. Gracie even helped bring the lesson to life by acting out the role of insulin, showing her classmates how the pancreas works.

Gracie, who dreams of becoming a doctor one day, said: "It was really nice having Hayley come into school to tell all my friends what it is like having diabetes and answer the questions they always ask me."

Pupils magical performance at Derby Theatre

>>> PORTWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pupils at Portway Junior School took part in the Celebration of Dance at Derby Theatre. This year's theme, 'Once Upon a Time', inspired a fantastic performance, with every pupil showcasing their talent, creativity and confidence on stage.

The children performed brilliantly throughout and were wonderful ambassadors for the school, demonstrating not only their hard work and dedication but also their enthusiasm and teamwork. Performing in front of an audience at such a prestigious venue was a fantastic achievement, and everyone involved should be incredibly proud.



Ofsted hails Asterdale Primary's "strong" approach to inclusion and getting it right for every child

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Asterdale Primary School has been praised by Ofsted for its commitment to children, regardless of barriers or their starting points. The school was judged "strong" in the "inclusion" category under Ofsted's new inspection framework, with inspectors concluding that "pupils who find learning the hardest benefit from high-quality, inclusive teaching".

The report added: "Across all groups, leaders monitor pupils' progress rigorously and assess the impact of interventions and support strategies. This considered, proactive approach ensures that pupils who face barriers to their learning are well supported and able to succeed."

The school also achieved "strong" ratings for attendance and behaviour, early years, and leadership and governance. Achievement, curriculum and teaching, and personal development and wellbeing were all rated at the "expected standard".

Inspectors said the school's positive culture encourages pupils to attend regularly, helping to keep persistent absence low among all groups, including disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

➤➤➤ ASTERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

In early years provision, Ofsted highlighted the school's strong relationships with parents and carers. The report stated: "Partnerships with parents and carers are prioritised. Staff work quickly to get to know every child well. They swiftly and accurately identify children who face barriers to their learning and wellbeing. They ensure that children get the support they need."

Head teacher John O'Leary said the inspection outcome reflected the school's focus on its core values and shared vision.

He said: "It's extremely rewarding to see the 'everyday excellence' vision that we have implemented across our school working for every child. We pride ourselves that every child is championed to be able to demonstrate being their best selves – with any barriers to their learning being addressed early so that all can achieve highly."

"At Asterdale, we focus on getting it right from the start, so that every child has the best learning journey possible – our vision of excellence for all promotes this across all of school life".