



# Primary Advantage Federation Newsletter



## Spring Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter to the local communities of the schools in the Primary Advantage Federation. Our schools have come together to share news of activities and events that have taken place this term.

Sian Davies  
Executive Principal

John Clark  
Chair of Governors

### A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear parents and carers,

Our spring term started with an Inset day staff to help us think about how we educate children about our impact on the environment. Through David Attenborough's television programmes, we are aware of the effect of plastic on life in our oceans. This day gave teachers the opportunity to think about how we can work together with our pupils to be active as global citizens who are trying to create a better and more sustainable world. Keynote speakers from a variety of different organisations – the World's Largest Lesson, Greenpeace, and the local council – provided plenty of food for thought. We hope that these ideas will be developed in our schools over the coming year.

In January we welcomed Ben Stickley to the Federation's staff team. He has taken the key post of Business Manager for the Federation and has started working closely with the finance managers in each of our schools. Ben's wide experience in similar roles will be invaluable as we look to be more efficient and effective in our use of school funds. The Federation's Central Board has also been strengthened by the addition of Hilary Ryan, who will lead the Outcomes & Provision Committee, drawing on her expertise and experience of working for many years in primary schools.

As the Spring terms draws to a close, members of the Local Advisory Boards have been meeting to discuss major issues facing their schools, these range from key staff appointments to budget allocations. There's lots of educational innovation in each school and Boards hear from a lead practitioner on these new developments, for example, in the teaching of Maths or of reading. Whilst budget and staffing issues are addressed, Board members have in mind every school's focus on our pupils, of finding new ways of ensuring their progress and of making their education as enjoyable as possible.

John Clark

Chair, Primary Advantage Federation

### Who's Who

#### **St John & St James Primary School**

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

Jo Smith – Head of School

#### **Holy Trinity Primary School**

Yvonne Barnett – Headteacher

#### **Springfield Primary School**

Fiona Judge – Executive Headteacher

#### **St Matthias Primary School**

Orlene Badu – Headteacher

#### **St John the Baptist Primary School**

Toni Mason – Headteacher

#### **Morningside Primary School**

Janet Taylor – Headteacher

#### **Gainsborough Primary School**

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

#### **De Beauvoir Primary School**

Rebecca Mackenzie – Headteacher

## News from our schools and federation activities

### Primary Advantage Teaching Schools: Working Together



This year class teachers from across the Federation have continued to meet to compare how they assess children's work. On 11th March teachers met at Morningside - Years 1 to 6 looked at Maths books and Nursery & Reception looked at Writing. There were some really positive examples of how children express their learning and ideas were shared between teachers to develop best practice. Working collaboratively in this way is helping to ensure that teaching and assessment is consistent across the Federation.

We are currently designing new training opportunities for teachers for the next academic year to enhance and support teaching in classrooms across our schools.

To find out more about the Federation please visit [www.primaryadvantage.co.uk](http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk) or follow us on twitter @PrimaryAdv



### Accenture

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, a selection of children from St John & St James' were invited to visit the Accenture offices in the City. They had some really exciting opportunities presented to them, which included trying out some challenges in different virtual reality rooms, which were accessed using a special headset. Later on in the day, the children were given a brief about designing an app which could be used in schools; they were split into smaller groups and had to consider every aspect of the app and how they would market it, before presenting it to one of the senior leaders at Accenture. The groups came up with lots of fantastic ideas, from a virtual worry box to recycling old playground toys. We would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to the members of our winning team; **Izaiah (6S), Zephaniah (6S), Melady (6F), Stephanie (6F) and Chika (5).**



### What a busy week for our Digital Leaders...



This week our digital leaders have been incredibly busy showcasing the learning that is happening across our school to hundreds of visitors. The visitors have either travelled to school to spend half a day finding out what we do or they have attended the Apple Leadership Summit where six of our fourteen digital leaders have been presenting. Those who were presenting at the Summit, hosted at Tobacco Docks, were exhausted once the three days were over however were also thrilled with the experience they had. Whilst at the summit the pupils from years 4, 5 & 6, presented a digital tour guide to East London, a piece of collaborative learning that they had been working on together through Pages. At the event they took visitors through their learning journey and explained to them how to use a variety of apps, including Clips, Sketches School, Schoolwork, Keynote and Pages. All the Digital Leaders in the differing roles that they have played this week, have been highly praised and have really shown off what pupils in the school are capable of.



## News from our schools and federation activities



### Springfield's New Playground



Springfield have been busy developing their outdoor space. Over the past few weeks, work has been taking place to improve provision for outdoor play at the school. A new exciting climbing frame has been

installed, platforms and nooks have been built into the trees and a beautiful mud kitchen installed. We can't wait to start using the new space.



### Hackney Tag Rugby Champions

St Matthias love sport, any sport. The active lifestyle and the competitive element are some of the reasons why we love sport! Our Sports Coach, Mr McCarthy, entered our team into the Hackney Tag Rugby Tournament and we were lucky enough to win all the rounds we were entered into. We really utilised our values of Respect Collaboration and Resilience to ensure that the children did their very best of all time. Their aim was not to win everything but to do their very best; and they did! So much so that we have been entered as the Hackney Team for the London Youth Games for their age category! We are super excited and wish them the very best of luck! We are so excited that our Headteacher is attending with them to be their Number.1 Cheerleader! Well done St Matthias!



### SJB loves to read!

As part of our celebrations and love of reading, SJB had a special World Book Day this year! Everyone came in to school dressed as their favourite book character. The SJB staff joined in by dressing up as characters from Dr Seuss's story, 'The Lorax'. During morning assembly, staff performed 'The Lorax' to the children, sending them an important message about sustainability and looking after our planet. Throughout the day, the whole school took part in 'Drop it and read' where everyone had to drop everything they were doing when they heard an air-horn and read a book for 7 minutes. Just before home time, classes swapped teachers to have a story read to them. Also, all the children received a brand new book to take home. It was a wonderful day celebrating everyone's love of reading.



### British Science Week



At Morningside we decided to use British Science Week to explore sustainability. The children have been inspired to save resources and to re-use and recycle wherever possible. They have been sharing their learning with the grown-ups. We have all made pledges to save water and our school councillors are lobbying at local and national level to try to ensure that our politicians and leaders get the message loud and clear. All of our artwork is centred around sustainability and we hope that as many families as possible are able to come along to the exhibition at Holy Trinity church at the end of March to see the results of our hard work. We have incorporated weaving, sculpture and collage into our pieces and have used materials that people would ordinarily throw away.

## News from our schools and federation activities



### Gainsborough's Curriculum Campaign

This term we have been campaigning hard across Gainsborough as part of our Campaign Curriculum. We have been completing actions across the school to raise awareness about issues affecting our local community and the wider world. We are working hard to help our school meet the UN sustainability goals and to become global citizens. Here are some of the successes we have had this term:



Year 2 have been helping us **Keep Green** by challenging classes to keep a tally of the recycling they produce. This has challenged staff and children to waste less paper and recycle more frequently. So far we have collected over 50 bins worth of recycled paper.



Year 3 have been helping us to **Keep Giving** by promoting **Fairtrade Fortnight** across the school. They organised a Fairtrade assembly and cake sale. Year Three sold over 150 cakes and biscuits and made almost £30 which they have sent to the Fairtrade foundation.

Year 4 have also helped fundraise for charity in their campaign **How can we make sure everyone has clean water to drink?** by promoting Water aid and organising a Wear Blue for Water Aid event.



Year 6 have been learning to **Keep Safe** in their campaign **How can we keep safe outside of school?** They have attended Ben Kinsella Trust workshops and thought about how to reduce knife crime in Hackney. They have used their findings to write some very persuasive letters to our local MP.



### Supporting Positive Mental Health at De Beauvoir



We are very pleased to be taking part in Place2Be's Mental Health Champions programme, which will involve training for our staff team in the coming year. Place2Be is a charity which provides emotional support to children, and the adults who work with them, in schools. They also provide training to help develop awareness of how to support children's mental health and well-being. Mental Health Champions training helps schools to develop the mental health experience for the school community and provides guidance on what more can be done to embed a culture of supporting positive mental health. As part of the offer, De Beauvoir will also be providing an in-school Place2Be service, including a counsellor, for our pupils and the school community. The training has been fully funded, and the in-school provision heavily subsidised, by UBS.

We have also been working with the charity Power2. The Teens and Toddlers programme, run by Power2, targets teenagers at risk of not achieving their academic potential and is designed to help the young people build relationships and develop self-esteem and a sense of responsibility. Group sessions, led by trained facilitators, help to boost confidence and aspirations and the participants receive an accredited NCFE Level 1 in Interpersonal Skills. The mentors were fantastic role models for our pupils and the work they completed was featured during Comic Relief's Red Nose Day programming, on BBC News and during the evening programming. This footage can be seen on our Twitter page, @DeBeauvoirSch



### Have a lovely Easter Break!

From all the staff, the Governors and Associate Members of Primary Advantage, we want to wish you all a Happy Easter! We hope you all have a lovely break and we will be providing more fantastic stories in the new term!





