

Primary Advantage Federation Newsletter

Autumn 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

Gwen Gutzmore

Executive Principal

Chair of Governors



Primary Advantage Governing Body Targets

In April, our Governing body reviewed and evaluated the targets they set at the beginning of the academic year. On our website you will find our impact statement outlining how we have achieved our targets.

Our new targets identified for the next school next year are:

1. To improve attendance so that all schools are at least in the top 50% with all schools working towards being in the top 30% of schools nationally.
2. To secure attainment to continue to be at least in line with national expectations or above with a continued focus on the attainment and progress of more able pupils.
3. To continue the focus on Governance to secure the direction of travel for PAF schools.

We will review our new targets throughout the year.

Primary Advantage Consultation with Gainsborough De Beauvoir Primary School

In the Autumn term Primary Advantage ran a consultation to propose an expansion to include Gainsborough and De Beauvoir Primary Schools.

The consultation for the Federation of Primary Advantage Federation with Gainsborough and De Beauvoir Schools took place between 7th September and 19th October 2016. Paper copies and a link to an online form of the consultation document were made available for parents and staff of all the schools, and the Diocese of London were sent a copy.

Feedback

Overall, the significant majority of respondents agreed with the proposal to federate Gainsborough and De Beauvoir Schools with the Primary Advantage Federation. 72% of respondents agreed with the proposal, with 3% disagreeing.

There were a number of positive comments which highlighted the benefits that joining the Federation would bring to De Beauvoir and Gainsborough schools.

The responses were also very clear that staff and parents feel that the Primary Advantage Federation would experience a mutual benefit from the arrangement.

In November, the Full Governing Body of Primary Advantage, as well the Governing bodies for Gainsborough and De Beauvoir held a meeting to decide whether the expansion should go ahead. A unanimous decision was made that Gainsborough and De Beauvoir will join Primary Advantage.

We are very excited to welcome Gainsborough and De Beauvoir to Primary Advantage! They will officially join us in April 2017. Stay tuned!



News from our schools and federation activities



Hackney Night Shelter

During the autumn term, the Year 5 class at St John & St James have been selling hot chocolates every Friday evening after school in a bid to raise money for the Hackney Night Shelter. We have now had our final count and they've managed to raise a staggering £261.00! Sending huge congratulations to all of the pupils and staff that have helped to make the hot chocolate sale such a huge success; well done to you all!



Official Opening

Holy Trinity had its official opening event on the 20th October. It was a huge success with a blessing given from the Bishop of London, a whole school song performance, a presentation from the school council and finally the balloon release. The children are settling into their new spaces and the mazing new playgrounds are the talk of the town!



Into University

Year 6 Oak graduated! We had a wonderful time at Into University, it opened our eyes to the opportunities available to us and the different courses that we could study. We also learnt a lot more about our WW2 topic by travelling to the HMS Belfast and Winston Churchill's cabinet war rooms. Ask us about the Anderson shelters and the air raids—and interviewing Neville Chamberlain! We learnt a lot and had lots of fun, we can't wait to go back in June!



SIAMS and Apollo Music

What a busy term we have had here at St Matthias CE Primary School this term! We had our SIAMS RE Inspection and we were very proud to get good in all areas, an improvement on our last inspection five years ago! We were very proud of the children and they represented their school very well.

We have had Apollo Music working with year 4 this year compiling classical music with the orchestra who visit each week. This culminates in a performance at the end of the year for all the children that participated.



Don't We Look Smart!

By the SJB NEWS team (Eleanor Y6, Jojo Y4, Nayma Y4, Zina Y4)

Since September 2016, the children of St John the Baptist have got a new and smarter uniform.

Year 5 children asked Alyson (the head teacher) if we could wear ties and she said yes! The children don't only look smart but they act smart and sensible. A lot of other schools in the area have copied our awesome new style. Sarah in Maple said, 'I like the jumpers because of the red v-neck. I think I look smart.' Children in Year 6 have been given blazers again this year. Jonathan in Maple said, 'We look smart with our jumpers and ties and shirts. I really enjoy being smart in school.'



Theatre and Drama

This term we had some truly wonderful drama productions. Last week every child in the school took part in our Christmas shows.

Year 4 performed the musical "Trench Brothers." It told the story of soldiers from India and the Caribbean during the 1st World War.

Year 5 took part in the Shakespeare in school's festival. They performed Romeo and Juliet at the Pleasance theatre. It was a fabulous production and the children were delighted that a special guest (Jeremy Corbyn) saw their play.



In the new term, each school council in the Primary Advantage Federation will be coming together to share some of the work they will be doing in their schools. A school council is group of students who are elected to represent the views of all pupils and to improve their school. Our next newsletter will focus on how schools can work together to achieve more!