

We would like to congratulate all the staff and pupils at Morningside Primary School. They have recently had an Ofsted inspection and were graded as an outstanding school! Some of the key findings in the report included:

* ***“Strong leadership at all levels has driven improvement in all aspects of the school’s work since the previous inspection.***
* ***Outstanding teaching ensures that pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, make rapid progress in a range of subjects, including English and mathematics.***
* ***Pupils are extremely well cared for.”***

I first became a Governor at Springfield School in 2009, which joined the federation a couple of years later. In that time, it’s been amazing to see federation schools supporting each other to the benefit of all pupils. I expect this to continue with the recent inclusion of De Beauvoir and Gainsborough schools, after a consultation in Autumn and a unanimous vote by governors. The federation really is greater than the sum of its parts, supporting not only its own schools but others as well.

Now that we are eight schools it is necessary to review our governance, to make sure we are effective, transparent and accountable. The Federation’s Central Governing Board has started to meet at least three times a year, as have the Scrutiny and Business Committees which support its work. One Central Board governor is drawn from each of the individual school committees – now called Local Advisory Boards – and they report on decisions taken in their school. You can find out more about the federation governors and what we do at <http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk/our-governance>. As a team we have a range of skills and play an active role across the federation. Our focus is always on the ‘big picture’, rather than the day-to-day running of the schools.

Each of the eight schools will continue to have their own distinctive ethos, with most decisions still made at a school level by the Local Advisory Board. You can find out more on individual school websites.

Lastly but by no means least, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank the former Chair Gwen Gutzmore. She has made an amazing contribution to the federation over the past eight years. I am particularly glad to say that she will be staying on as a Governor with the federation and at Holy Trinity School, so I can call on her advice and support.

You can contact the federation governors using [governors@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:governors@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk). I’m really looking forward to meeting you all at some point soon.

Yours faithfully

Louis Coiffait

Dear parents and carers,

**Stronger together – the next step in the Primary Advantage Federation journey**

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Primary Advantage Federation. I first moved to Hackney in 2007 and my day job is in education research and policy. I’m passionate about education and governing is a great way to volunteer in the local community.

**A message from our Chair of Governors**

**Well done Morningside!**

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 – Headteacher

St Matthias Primary School

Orlene Badu – Headteacher

St John the Baptist Primary School

Alyson Tyler – Headteacher

Morningside Primary School

Janet Taylor – Headteacher

Gainsborough Primary School

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

Laura McPhee – Interim Headteacher

De Beauvoir Primary School

Rebecca Mackenzie – Headteacher

Primary Advantage National Teaching Schools

Lucy Blewett – Head of Teaching Schools

**Who’s who**

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 Louis Coiffait  
Executive Principal Chair of Governors

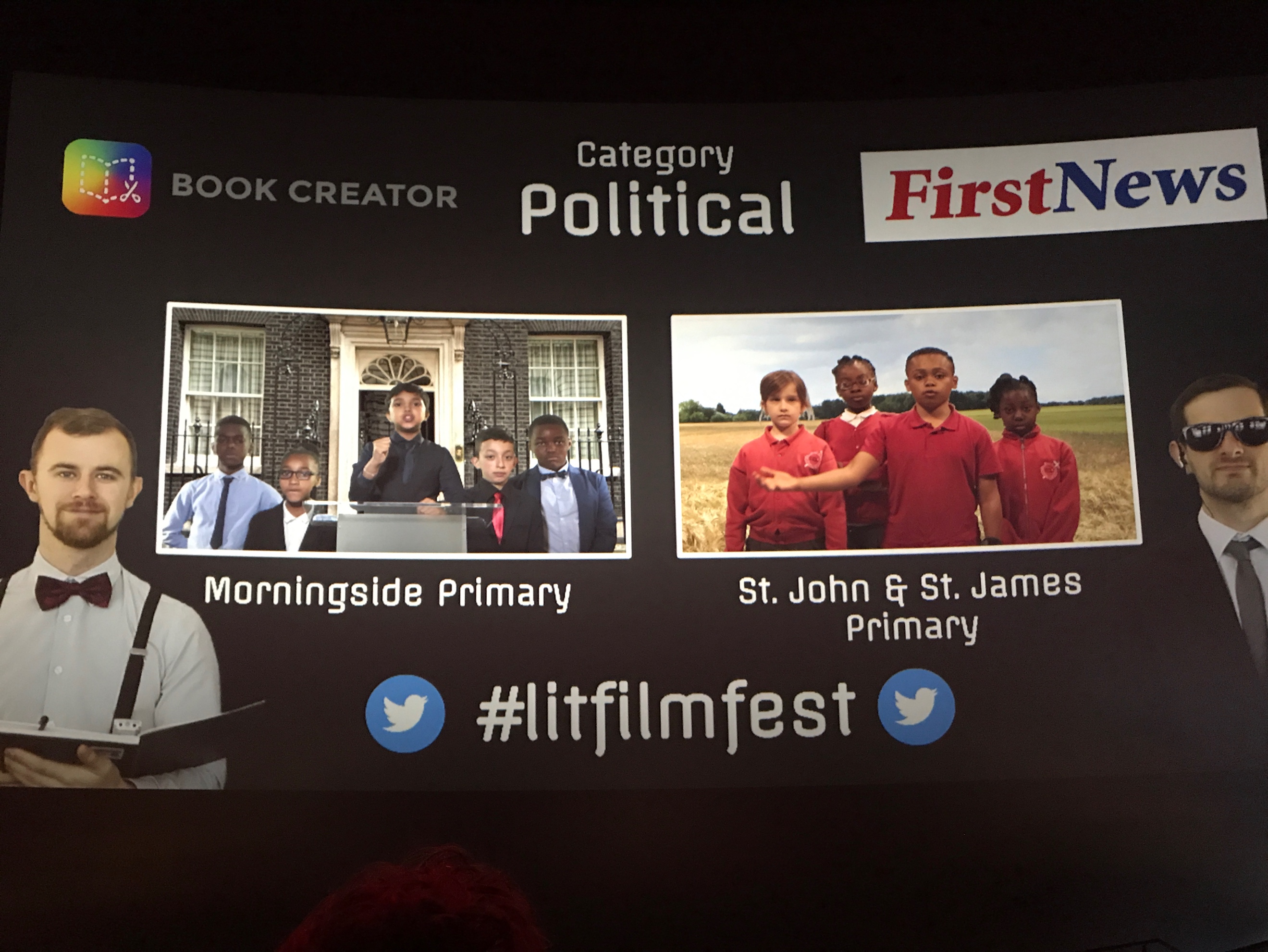
**Summer Newsletter**

Primary Advantage Federation Newsletter

[**www.primaryadvantage.co.uk**](http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk)

**Newsletter 5**

**Summer 2017**



**Into University**

Springfield Community Primary School were delighted to receive the Primary Science Quality Mark this term. This mark celebrates a commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning and is a significant achievement for a school. It recognises the high profile and quality of science teaching and learning, both in and outside the classroom and the efforts the school is making to develop positive attitudes to science.

**Twelfth Night**

During the final week of first summer half term, all of the children from St John & St James’ took part in a number of workshops which prepared them to give a whole school performance of Shakespeare's ‘Twelfth Night’ as part of our Shakespeare Week celebrations.

Over the course of the week, the children worked really hard to learn their lines in preparation for their Friday afternoon performance for our parents and carers. The children really shone during the performance; their hard work paid off!

**The Mysterious Egg!**

St Matthias had an egg-citing STEM (Science, Technology,Engineering,Mathematics) topic week. There was a ‘mysterious’ egg that landed in the school and the children had to hypothesise about how the egg got onto the school grounds. The children then used STEM skills to create an egg-drop defender that would withstand a two- metre drop and keep a real egg in-tact. The children worked collaboratively and there were some fantastic designs.

**Hackney Primary Debate Challenge & the Literacy Film**

**Project**

Congratulations to the Holy Trinity Debate Team for becoming champions of the Hackney Primary Debate Challenge, for a second year running! They were lucky enough to spend the day at Linklaters Law Firm, and defended their title against 16 other schools to take the title on the day.

Years 5 and 6 travelled to the BFI IMAX for the final part of their ‘A Tale Unfolds’ Literacy Film Project. Both classes won the categories that their films were entered into Year 5 won the feature length adventure film and Year 6 won the war story trailer category.

Well done to all of our students! We are very proud!

Primary Advantage Teaching Schools would like to congratulate our trainee teachers on competition of their training year. This year, we have been able to support 26 trainee teachers to gain qualified teacher status. It has been a challenging year, both learning on the job and for many completing the PGCE masters level assignments. We are proud to welcome many of the students back in to our schools as Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) in September. They have the perfect start to their teaching career as they are already established in the schools and are well known and respected by the children. For 2017-18 we will be welcoming a new cohort of student teachers and wish them all the best. As a Teaching school we are committed to training new teachers, both as students and as NQTs. Collaboration between each of our PA schools is the key to the success of both our Federation and our teaching school.

**Well done to our Trainee Teachers!**

In June, classes from across KS2 from all of our eight Primary Advantage Schools attended the IMAX cinema for our own private screening of films made by our children. The build-up to this day was highly engaging and interactive allowing for a deep cross-curricular links between Literacy and ICT. The project organised by ‘A Tale Unfolds’ enabled the children to develop fabulous writing and film. Children recorded their footage at both the YouTube and CNN head offices and many children were interviewed by news broadcasters on the day. What greater motivation for writing than seeing your production on the big screen! Congratulations to all involved.

**Primary Advantage Literacy Film Project**

News from our schools and federation activities



**Our New Playground!**

We recently had a successful moderation visits to confirm our Early Years and Year 2 assessment judgements! School Council have been consulting with pupils about the markings that pupils would like to see on the new playground resurfacing and have also been working on a ‘Playground Charter’. A group of parents who are professional artists have installed a large mural at the entrance and have offered to help us update the De Beauvoir school logo. Painting of the walls surrounding the playground has been booked and will commence shortly. We are going to be using the recommendations from our up-coming Greater London Authority air quality audit to further improve the playground, with a particular focus on improving the air quality at the school.

**STEM Learning**

Morningside spent last week focused on STEM learning. The children from year 4 dissecting hearts to learn more about how they work. We have also built robots and visited workplaces across London to see scientists and engineers in action. A number of visitors came to school to tell us about their careers and the children are now very keen to pursue STEM careers in the future.

All Governors from the Primary Advantage Central Governing Board and members of staff would like to wish all children, parents and carers a wonderful break! And we look forward to hearing more stories from within the federation in the Autumn term!

**Have a lovely summer!**

On Thursday 6th July, twenty children from each of the eight Primary Advantage Federation schools were chosen to compete in the joint Primary Advantage Federation Sports Day at the Lea Valley Athletics Centre in Enfield. Throughout the day, all of the children competed in 75m sprints, 300m sprints, vortex, long jump and shot put.

The children were extremely supportive of one another and showed great sportsmanship throughout the day’s events. Children cheered, encouraged and celebrated every achievement; even those who didn’t quite make the top three in their event were celebrated and cheered on by all of the other spectators!

St Matthias were overall winners and were awarded the Golden cup which they were extremely proud of. St John & St James came a close second and in third place Gainsborough.

The children, staff, coaches, parents and carers who went along to the event had a wonderful day and we are already looking forward to the next event!

**Primary Advantage Federation Sports Day**

**Year 6 Engineering and ICT Project**

In year 6 we have a lot to do after SAT’s. The children complete one of three chosen projects which appeals to their skills set: biking, an engineering project or the school play. The aim of the engineering project is to educate year 6 children about possible employment opportunities in the construction industry using art and design. There will be an exhibition of project photography and model bridges at the school for pupils, teachers, pupils and stakeholders.

**Safer Streets Initiative**

St John the Baptist is the pilot school in Hackney for their new Safer Streets initiative.  On 26th June, Crondall Street was closed to all motorists.  Children had a treat by coming in to school on the ‘official’ Hackney Council red carpet (along with a few parents who enjoyed their catwalk experience!).  We had a street party at the end of the day complete with face painting, games and delicious treats.  The road is now closed to all but residents at the beginning and end of each school day.  It has increased safety, reduced noise and anti-social incidents - and we hope it will reduce pollution.

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