



# Primary Advantage Federation Newsletter



## A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

### The Primary Advantage Federation of schools

A big welcome to all of the children, families and staff who have joined us at the start of a new school year. Hopefully everybody is already feeling settled and able to contribute to our community of schools. I know staff have had inductions and training, and that we are already benefiting from the experience and skills that they bring.

I've recently visited the two schools to most recently join the federation, Gainsborough and De Beauvoir. It was great to see so many children learning and having fun, and I saw first-hand how being part of the federation comes with benefits. For example both schools are using PA Maths, and I know that staff and governors are working together between the different schools.

We've had no-less than three successful Ofsted inspections, which is a huge achievement for everyone at the schools involved. Overall across the federation, children's outcomes are above both borough and national averages. 88% of teaching is good or outstanding. But I know we're not resting on our laurels, and continue to work hard every day. Thanks to everyone for keeping attendance as a priority, as children can't learn if they're not in school.

Finally, the schools are already taking steps where they can to improve air quality, monitoring pollution levels and taking measures to help such as 'green walls'.

You can always find out more about the federation governors at <http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk/our-governance> or contact us on [governors@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:governors@primaryadvantage.hackney.sch.uk).

Louis Coiffait  
Chair, Primary Advantage Federation

## 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  
Executive Principal

Louis Coiffait  
Chair of Governors

## 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

Fiona Judge – Executive Headteacher  
Lucy Blewett – Headteacher and Head of Teaching Schools

### Morningside Primary School

Janet Taylor – Headteacher

### Gainsborough Primary School

Jenna Clark – Executive Headteacher

### De Beauvoir Primary School

Rebecca Mackenzie – Headteacher

## Become a teacher in our schools

Primary Advantage Teaching Schools is recruiting trainee teachers.

Are you interested in training to teach? Or do you know anyone wanting to become a teacher?

Visit our website: <http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk/train-to-teach>

Here you will find out more about routes into teaching and explore the opportunity to work in one of our excellent Federation schools.

Last year we trained over 20 student teachers, many of whom now have their very own classes across our schools.

We look forward to receiving your application!

## News from our schools and federation



### Roald Dahl Day

This year, the children at SJSJ celebrated Roald Dahl day by taking part in a drama workshop which was presented by a drama company called Drama4All. The children enjoyed taking part in performing snippets of some of Roald Dahl's famous titles before returning to their classes to complete a number of activities based around the famous story book that their classes had been assigned. Each class was asked to create a piece of work based on the story that they had been focusing on in class.

*Year 2 looked at George's Marvellous Medicine and created their own potions.*

*Year 3 looked at the story Fantastic Mr Fox. The children were given half a portrait of Mr Fox and were asked to complete the picture.*



*Year 4 looked at The BFG. They received a letter from the BFG who asked them about their dreams for the future. The children then created dreamcatchers for their class display.*

*Year 5 looked at The Twits; they were asked to turn themselves into a character that was 'ugly enough to appear in the story.'*



### Holy Trinity Pupils Attend Coding Workshop



On 11.10.17 a group of ten children from Year 6 travelled to the Regent Street Apple Store to attend a Swift coding workshop for the launch of EU code week. Little did they know the surprise that was in store for them.

'We started by playing a game called Salmon, Bear and Mosquito to help us understand how coding is a set of instructions. It was fun and broke the ice with the Apple team before we launched into how to code using Swift. They were surprised by how much we already knew so it wasn't long before we had the robots out.

First we played races and programmed spheros to follow a path before finally getting out a set of Meebots and programming

them to dance. We decided to team up and get our 4 robots to dance the same routine. As we were practising this, who should walk in but TIM COOK - CEO of Apple!!!

We couldn't believe our eyes, we thought we were dreaming. Next thing we knew he was asking if we could show him our robot dance, it was hilarious, particularly when one of the robots kept falling over and it looked as though we had programmed it to break dance!!!

It was definitely the best trip we have ever been on and we all came back to school with signed certificates, a T-shirt and USB wrist band each. Those of us who are in the school swift squad got to wear our hats and Tim signed those too. We can't talk about what else we saw!'



### Year 5 and Year 6 Projects

At Springfield we believe that learning isn't just about what happens in the classroom but should also be about finding opportunities to engage children in learning beyond the classroom. Year 5 and 6 have certainly engaged in some very rich learning experiences this term which have taken them away from the classroom .

Springfield attended a Focus Week at IntoUniversity. Throughout the week, the children worked collaboratively to understand what life was like on the Home Front. Through reading and discussion, they discovered details about evacuation, the Dig for Victory campaign, the black out, and the effects of the Blitz. To deepen their learning, the children worked creatively through drama and model-making to consider the perspectives of different people at the time. Mid-way through the week, they visited Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms and HMS Belfast to walk in the footsteps of those who led and fought in the war. To finish their week, all of the children attended their IntoUniversity graduation where they proudly shared their learning with teachers, parents and carers.

Year 5 and 6 are also taking part in some amazing drama projects this term. They are currently working with Punchdrunk, an immersive theatre company based in Tottenham Hale. Real life was definitely suspended as the children visited the village of ' Fallow Cross' on three different occasions to try to save the villagers from an evil sorceress. Alternating between gameplay in the classroom and visits to Fallow Cross, the pupils have been set the challenge of recovering missing objects to restore protection to the village. We are not sure who has enjoyed the experience the most – the adults or the children . What we can say is that it has been a magical experience and one the children will never forget.

## News from our schools and federation activities



### Mayor's Fund for London

At the end of the last school year, several Year 5 and 6 students from St Matthias C of E primary school in Hackney submitted a video entry to the Mayor's Fund for London promoting their ideas for a social action project, called Drop a Knife, Save a Life. The Mayor's Fund was offering students £1,500 for the winning project idea along with the Mayor's permission to roll the social action project out in their community.

Within the Drop a Knife, Save a Life program the children at St Matthias would like to attend numerous primary and secondary schools around the Hackney area, letting students know the dangers of gangs and knife violence. On top of this, they would provide the students with lists of afterschool clubs in their area so that Hackney's youth are kept busy and less likely to get into trouble. They will provide: club names, prices, maps, and any other additional information. Furthermore, the St Matthias team will be teaming up with Gwenton Soley, and ex-con who delivers talks to students about the dangers of gangs, and the Ben Kinsella Trust, an organisation whose sole purpose is educating young children on the risks of carrying knives and how to avoid gang violence. Lastly, the students are also hoping to work alongside the local police where youths can drop off knives with no questions asked.

12 video entries were submitted by schools all over London but only 6 would be chosen to attend the final round where their team would pitch their project to a panel of judges at City Hall. Some of the other projects centred on child obesity, caring for the elderly and raising money to foster and adopt animals.

"This is a very brave initiative that you children have taken on," said one of the announcers. "But it's something that needs to be done and I'm proud to live in a world where children are the ones who want to make the difference."

The St Matthias team made their school incredibly proud on June 28<sup>th</sup>, where they were presented with a (very big) cheque for £1500.

"I'm proud that we're trying to make changes to our communities," said Pharrell, a year 6 student at St Matthias and part of the Drop a Knife, Save a Life team. "It will be nice knowing that children will feel safer in Hackney because of us."



### St John the Baptist Outstanding

St John the Baptist was graded Outstanding in all areas following our OFSTED inspection last month. A special assembly was held to celebrate with the children and every family was given a copy of the report. Pupils were reported to make outstanding progress across the school and display outstanding behaviour, with positive attitudes to their learning. Teaching and learning are noted as being consistently strong across the school. Congratulations to our staff, pupils and community!



### Black History Week

At Morningside the whole school community worked together to celebrate Black History Week.

Each class did writing, art, history, cookery and drama work. We had some fabulous visitors and have created a display to celebrate our learning. The children in all year groups took part in a creative writing session and were very enthusiastic to learn about Mae Jemison.

On Thursday evening the parents came along and we all watched performances from the drummers, singers, dancers and poets of Morningside. The kitchen team made some delicious food and everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who performed, helped out and came along to support our fabulous children.



## News from our schools and federation activities



### Hackney Music Service Annual Gala

Miss Fort is very proud to announce that at the Hackney Music Service Annual Gala last week, Gainsborough was awarded two Mayor's Music Awards! These awards recognise the quality of music education in Hackney schools and the funding that we receive will help support our aspiring young musicians at Gainsborough. Here is a picture of our certificates.



### Primary Advantage School Games

Gainsborough Primary School was proud to host the Primary Advantage (PA) Sports League. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October we hosted the first round of the PA Football League. Over 100 children took part in 21 matches scoring a total of 43 goals. We look forward to the next round of the league.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October we hosted the PA Basketball Competition. Congratulations to De Beauvoir A team on winning the competition.

All the children enjoyed the events and displayed fantastic sportsmanship. Well done!



### De Beauvoir News Report!

At De Beauvoir we have been working on improving our reading pathway so that we can increase pupils' exposure to phonics and their ability to apply their skills to reading.

Our Nursery offer will increase to full time in January so that we can ensure that pupils are 'Reception Ready' by the end of the year. We are still significantly under roll and have developed a pupil roll strategy to address this. As part of the strategy, a group of volunteers (including our LAB chair!) contributed to improving the front of the school's appearance through a gardening project during half term.

Following the results from our Hackney air quality audit, Hackney Council asked GLA to complete a further audit and offer advice, which has now taken place and we are awaiting a report from it.

Year 5 are going to be working on a project with the Policy Studies Institute, which will involve communicating their views about shared urban spaces using a variety of media, including innovative ICT and photography. Their work will help to inform the development of play spaces in De Beauvoir Estate.

Our Black History Month Event was attended well by parents and carers and pictures from a range of events have been shared on our new web site, which went live very recently!

### Have a lovely Christmas!

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



