



# Primary Advantage Federation Newsletter



## A message from our Chair of Governors

Dear parents and carers,

Sustainability has been the theme for the school year with an excellent Art exhibition in March and our participation in the Bike around the Borough event, building our pupils' confidence to get onto two wheels, reducing pollution in London. The Federation aims to get a balance between educational success as measured by progress in reading, writing and maths alongside wider ambitions, such as our focus on creativity through musical performances, for example, and care for the environment through gardening and forest school activities.

This term we have been joined by Dan Hyslop as our Governance Manager, he will become a central figure in the running of the Central Governing Board and our schools' Local Advisory Boards. Dan brings a wealth of experience from the wider public sector. In September he will be organising the elections for a new parent governor and staff governor. We appreciate the work put in by Nina Pope and Anna Case in these roles. Being a governor is a way of making a difference to the education of our pupils and their lives in our schools, we hope that some of you will take up this opportunity to join us.

At the end of this term we will be saying a huge thank you and farewell to Orlene Badu as Head of St Matthias. Over the years of her Headship she has helped the school to transform itself so she will be missed. Lucy Blewett is taking on this role and from her previous work in the Federation we can be confident that progress at St Matthias will be maintained.

Jenna Clark is also changing her role in the Federation. Jenna has been working across both St John & St James and Gainsborough for a number of years and both schools have benefited in working in partnership. Gainsborough has joined Primary Advantage Federation and Jenna has made the decision to focus her time solely at Gainsborough. Jenna leaves a fantastic legacy at St John & St James. I am pleased to confirm that Jo Smith who has been Head of School is now appointed as Headteacher at St John & St James.

On behalf of the Governors and Local Advisory Board members I'd like to thank all parents and carers for their support of our schools over the past year, it really makes a difference.

John Clark Chair, Primary Advantage Federation

## Teaching Schools Update

This year there have been nearly thirty student teachers working across our eight schools. Our Federation teachers have really enjoyed training the students at the weekly HUB sessions and supporting their journey as they become confident teachers. This week is the students' final HUB training session with us. We are looking forward to celebrating their success and wishing them good luck in their first teaching posts in September - many within the Federation's eight schools. Head of Teaching Schools Lucy Blewett is leaving our team this summer for another role in the Federation. Lucy has done an amazing job leading the Teaching Schools for the last 5 years, and we are sorry to lose her from our team but excited for her as she takes up the post of Headteacher at St Matthias in September - Good Luck Miss Blewett.

To find out more about training to become a teacher at Primary Advantage or the work we do please visit [www.primaryadvantage.co.uk](http://www.primaryadvantage.co.uk)

## Summer 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. We hope you have a wonderful summer and will be providing more fantastic news in the autumn.

John Clark - Chair of Governors  
Sian Davies - Executive Principal

## Who's Who

### St John & St James Primary School

Jo Smith – Headteacher

### 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

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 Year 6 Transition Day

Primary Advantage hosted their first ever Transition Day for Year 6. Across the federation, children from Year 6 will be going to their secondary schools in September. The purpose of the day was to encourage the children to meet others that will be attending the same school. The morning was filled with fun activities such as going from the Math classroom



to the English classroom; meeting pupils from their secondary school and preparing their school bag for the week! They even discussed what they would do if they were the headteacher! It was a wonderful opportunity to ensure that all children knew someone from their secondary school and had the chance meet representatives and children from their school. They were able to ask questions of current year 7's and their teachers and felt well informed (according to their evaluations). Overall, the children really enjoyed the day. A big thank you to Mrs Badu for creating this project and organising the day as well as our teachers, teaching assistants and support staff for supporting. Primary Advantage are excited to continue the tradition for years to come!



## Shakespeare Week

SJSJ enjoyed taking part in our annual Shakespeare week performances. Throughout the week, the children worked incredibly hard to perfect their performance of the famous play Macbeth. There were numerous activities running across the week. These included drama workshops which were organised by the very talented West End in Schools Company who encouraged the children to use their bodies in order to interact with the audience whilst conveying the storyline and art workshops in which children worked alongside some incredible artist from the Stamped Art company in order to create the backdrop for the different scenes of the play. On Friday morning, the whole school came together in the amphitheatre to take part in the final performance of the play which was enjoyed by pupils, staff, parents and carers.

## Holy Trinity's Scientists!



We have been Scientist this term and across the school we have been carrying out experiments, testing predictions, observing closely and going on field trips. In Year 5 children have been designing and making parachutes to learning about gravity and air resistance. In Year 1 children have been going to the Dalston Curve Garden on a weekly basis, learning about plants, animals and habitats. Reception children have been studying the life cycle of butterflies, starting with caterpillars through to cocoons before finally releasing the butterflies.

## News from our schools and federation activities



### Growing at Springfield



The children were very excited when they returned after the Easter holidays to find a secret garden at school. We found an abandoned space at the back of our school and build lots of vegetable beds over the Easter holidays. The children planted seeds and have been watching carefully as their seeds have begun to grow. We now have potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, peas, squash and cucumber growing, all hopefully ready to be harvested when we return to school in September.

### Springfield's New Playground

Springfield At Springfield we have been working hard to raise the profile of music at the school. We were really pleased to be able to host the Hackney ukulele concert at Springfield this year. Nine Hackney schools

participated in the event and almost two hundred children showcased their skills on the ukulele. It was lovely to hear so many keen musicians playing together. Three classes attended the annual Hackney Music Festival this year along with a group of musicians playing guitars. They absolutely loved the event and were really inspired to hear older children playing instruments. This has inspired them to continue practising.



### Saints Days



St St Matthias had a fantastic RE day this term entitled 'Saints Day'. Every class participated in the school in our core subject and engaged in some really fun and exciting activities. Each class had to do a range of activities during the day to support their knowledge and understanding of the world and their place in it.

The day kicked off with a whole school assembly and then each class had a storytelling visitor

who shared some exciting, thought provoking stories with all of the children. They had other exciting activities which included artefact investigations, letter writing

and sharing of stories.

The highlight of the day was they had to produce their own Saints portraits which were absolutely spectacular. The children had a wonderful day in which they explored a number of key themes.



### SJB loves to read!

Last half-term SJB was featured on the BBC 6 o'clock news in a report about the importance of school break times. We were selected to demonstrate what we did well. Research has shown that school break times have been getting shorter over the past two decades to allow for more lesson time. Our children spoke to the BBC about how much they enjoy break time and why is it important that all children have time outside of the classroom during the day. The report also featured our Reception children on their trip to the Forest School - a specialised programme of learning that focuses on children developing confidence and skills through woodland and the natural environment. Reception classes love their weekly sessions at Clissold Park where they have collected different items describing colours, textures and shapes, explored tools and took part in games.



# News from our schools and federation activities



## Morningside's Sporty Summer!



Despite the weather we are enjoying a sporty summer at Morningside. Everyone is taking part in the Daily Mile and enjoying the feeling of getting fitter and healthier. Five staff members completed the

Hackney half Marathon and our Breakfast Club pupils have also clocked up 13.5 miles by running each morning. Year 3 have worked with year 11 at The Urswick School to learn new basketball skills. Last week we were delighted to welcome long jump athlete, Ezekiel Ewulo, to Morningside. Ezekiel led the children through an exciting series of series of fitness circuits which were hard work but enjoyed by all. Ezekiel hosted an exciting assembly where he told the children how he became an athlete and how he trains in order to ensure that he is at the top of his game. Ezekiel was very impressed with the athletic ability of the children and Morningside and thought that we had some stars of the future. We are all very much looking forward to Sports Day on July 19th.



## Making the Headlines!

Gainsborough have been making headlines with some award winning work!

We entered a competition in which schoolchildren were asked to put their thinking hats on and consider what objects should be buried in a time capsule as part of the **East Bank development** at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. One of our entries had been chosen! The start of construction in July will be marked by four schoolchildren from Gainsborough burying the capsule with the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

**Royal Academy Young Artists Show** - Gainsborough have been shortlisted in the Artists' Summer Show will recognise artworks made by talented young artists at primary and secondary school level. Selected artists will have their work exhibited online or onsite at the Royal Academy, with special prizes also awarded.

**London College of Fashion x Fashion District Innovation Challenge** opened a competition to find a piece of work to be made and presented on the Olympic Park. We have been shortlisted to present our ideas to a panel-watch this space!



## Edible Playground Update



The Edible Playground has been completed at De Beauvoir Primary and classes have planted their raised beds. The children all had training from Trees for Cities to teach them how to look after their area; this included learning how to weed, dig, plant and water. The children have planted seeds and seedlings and have been looking after their plants carefully. As you can see from these pictures of Year 2's beds, the plants are growing well! We are looking forward to using some of the vegetables to make delicious meals.

## Year 5 Visit to Sky Studios

Year 5 pupils at De Beauvoir recently visited Sky Studios, where they produced a news report linked to their curriculum learning about activism. The children tried out different roles, taking turns to be cameramen, directors, producers and editors. Their finished report is fantastic and they are rightfully proud of it!



