

Barley & Barkway's Courageous Advocacy

The children of Barley and Barkway Federation are working alongside the Friends of the Rib and Quin to campaign for the protection of the chalk streams in the county. They have explored where these streams are, what their natural qualities are and the animal species and vegetation native to them. It is clear that these streams need protection. Pupils have investigated the negative effects that pollution, climate change and over-extraction are having on the streams. The school's Eco Council has shared information in their classes and talked about the global problem of sewage and that the local sewage infrastructure is unable to cope with the large volumes of toxic waste that need to be processed. They have been monitoring the local spillages.



They have been supported by Mark Williamson, from the Friends of the Rib and Quin, who came to give the school a detailed presentation to build on what they already knew. The Eco Council wrote a letter to Thames Water to complain about the severe overspill of sewage in the local rivers. The school also wrote a letter to Steve Barclay, former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expressing their concerns and disappointment with the current situation and asked their local MP, who came to meet the school's Eco Council to discuss their work, if he could deliver it to the minister in person.

Vacancies Webpage

The Vacancies page on the diocesan website gives you an additional platform to advertise job openings in your school free of charge. Do send any vacancy advertisements to hpuddfoot@stalbans.anglican.org

Park Street's Colour Run

Families, staff and members of the community recently came together to celebrate a successful Colour Run event at Park Street Primary School. The event truly showcased the strength and unity of the school community and featured lively stalls, music and a delicious BBQ.

The Colour Run, the highlight of the day, saw participants of all ages dashing through clouds of colourful powder, quickly transforming their previously white t-shirts! Laughter and cheers echoed across the school and recreation grounds, as children and adults alike embraced the playful spirit of the event.

In addition to the run, there was a selection of stalls offering everything from homemade crafts and baked goods to games and face painting. The success of the Colour Run event was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Park Street PTA and volunteers who spent countless hours organising and preparing.

Funds raised from the Colour Run and the associated activities will go towards enhancing school resources, ensuring that pupils continue to receive a high-quality education in a nurturing environment.



Forest School Worship at Nash Mills



To develop their worship offer Nash Mills Primary have introduced Forest School worship. Each Key Stage has a regular slot planned where they use their outdoor spaces to consider the world around them and how fortunate they are to have it. Using a range of stimuli, including the Diocesan 'Heart for the Earth' resource, the children are able to spend time looking at all of the amazing

things in the environment and consider the awe and wonder it inspires.

Bishop Jane Visits Northaw



On 20 March, Northaw Primary were visited by the Right Rev Dr Jane Mainwaring, the Bishop of Hertford. After a tour of the school, she joined them for collective worship led by the school's Reflection Champions. Bishop Jane shared with the children some of the symbols identifying her role in the Church of England, including a mitre and crozier. Before leaving, she also dedicated their extension.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Clophill St Mary's New Early Years Space

On Friday 21 June, Clophill St Mary's held the long-awaited official opening of their brand new, bespoke Early Years outside space.

This area has been transformed to complete and enhance their Early Years provision, to cover all the areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Their Acorn Nursery and Chestnut Reception children love using this space.

At the opening the school were joined by parents, pre-school families, members of the local church and community, members of the PTA, Governors and Ruth from the Diocesan School Team, with guided tours led by Hazel Class who have been taking part in the Young Leaders award this year.

The sunshine and refreshments supplied by the PTA made it a very delightful afternoon indeed!



Dagnall Attend the Great Science Share

Dagnall CE School sent a team of ten budding young scientists to represent the school at the Great Science Share held at Whipsnade Zoo on Wednesday 11 June.

The children had been given the task of creating and carrying out a scientific investigation linked to the topic of sustainability. The group from Years 3 and 4 chose to investigate the good work that worms do for our soil, as well as drawing attention to the possible impact of litter and pollutants getting into their ecosystem. The group from Years 5 and 6, on the other hand, opted for an investigation into the most effective ways to clean up and remove oil spillages from marine animals and their habitats. Each group prepared engaging display boards to help present their work and findings to the children attending from other local schools, and even had some fun, hands-on activities for them to do to help bring the science to life. The event was a huge success and the children did an amazing job of showcasing their scientific knowledge, as well as helping to spread a really important message about looking after our planet. Well done to everybody involved!



Oliver! Jr comes to Townsend!



This term over 50 students from Year 7-12 took part in Townsend's annual school show, which this year was 'Oliver! Jr.' So many students auditioned that the school ran two casts for the principle roles to give more students the opportunity to excel on stage, including two Year 7 students as Oliver:

"As Oliver, I found the experience really fun and creative. My favourite part of the show was when I got to run around in the audience. My song 'Where is Love?' was a bit scary, because I had to memorise a whole song and perform it by myself in front of loads of people." – Ella

"As the other Oliver, I found the experience exciting. It was a bit daunting knowing that I'm being watched by loads of people in the audience. It was my first time in a main role. The most fun part of the show was being put in a coffin!" – Brecon

"It was so much fun to play Dodger, being in front of an audience. My favourite part of the show was 'I'd do Anything' as it's a really cute song." - Holly

Dunton and Wrestlingworth 'Sing Up'

sing up

Help kids find their voice

This term both Wrestlingworth and Dunton Lower Schools took part in a special 'Sing Up Day'. Since 2010, Sing Up (an organisation that encourages

and supports singing and musical learning with children and young people) has set aside a special day to celebrate the power of song. Both schools filmed their children singing and submitted the performances to be part of Sing Up's 'digichoir'. Many schools across the country, and even the world, all sang the same song to be united as one.

The folk/country song chosen by the Sing Up team was extremely powerful this year. It encouraged children to think of their Christian Values, in particular: friendship, courage, compassion and thankfulness.

Intercessions at Tring School



Students at Tring School were tasked with discussing who they would like to pray for on a local, national and global scale. They then chose people close to their hearts and during collective worship, the chaplains dedicated a minute in silence to pray for them.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Graveley Celebrate it's 150th Anniversary



Graveley School marked its 150th anniversary with a whole week of celebrations. The children travelled back in time to the Victorian age when Stevenage Museum came to visit and all children dressed up and enjoyed learning what life was like at a school during the 1870s. Across the school, all the pupils also had a chance to learn how to maypole dance.

Past generations of staff and students joined the school for an afternoon tea and had a guided tour of what life is like at the school now. There was a lot of reminiscing, trying to find familiar names in the register as well as those that had made the punishment book!

The children finished the week enjoying a picnic on the field with their families and having the chance to show them all that they had learnt across the week.

TCS London Mini Marathon



A team of children from Years 3-6 at Hertingfordbury Cowper School took part in the TCS London Mini Marathon at the start of the Summer Term. It was an extremely special day, and the school are very proud of all the children for completing the one-mile course. The children ran from Horse

Guards Parade, past Buckingham Palace and down The Mall to the official marathon finishing line where there were lots of happy smiles as the children received their medals. The children managed to fundraise over £2000.

Teacher at St Mary's Wins RE Award

Congratulations to Miss Caroline Goringe, a teacher at St Mary's East Barnet, who was nominated for, and won, a Religious Education Award!

Maria Constantinou, Headteacher at St Mary's East Barnet, serves on the Barnet SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) board and put Miss Goringe forward for her creative and innovative approach to teaching RE at St. Mary's. Here are a few words from the nomination:

Miss Goringe approaches RE teaching with great care, sensitivity and consideration. She creates an environment within which children can safely but bravely engage, enquire, explore, reflect and connect with questions about faith and religious practices. The children's outcomes in her RE lessons are excellent.

Miss Goringe was awarded by the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr. Tony Vourou, who was very complimentary and thanked Miss Goringe for her service and hard work.

St Mary's awarded Wellbeing in Schools Mark

Congratulations to St Mary's High, Cheshunt, who have achieved Advanced Practice status in the Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark, awarded by the Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Education team (EMWiE) at NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board.



The Schools Mark involved a visit by members of the EMWiE team and the completion of self-review documents, reflecting on current practice and identifying both strengths and areas for improvement.

The areas reviewed are: Leadership and management; environment and ethos; curriculum, teaching and learning; pupil voice; staff development, health and wellbeing; identifying need, impact and monitoring; working with parents, families and carers; and targeted support and appropriate referrals.

Aligned to the principles proposed by the Department for Education's guidance for promoting and supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges, the Schools Mark was co-designed with education professionals in the EMWiE team, which is part of Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health System. The Schools Mark replaces the Healthy Young Minds in Herts accreditation which St Mary's previously held.

St John's Vision Morning



In the first half of the Summer term St John's, Radlett held a Vision Morning. The purpose of this was to familiarise the children with the school vision which is 'Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it' Proverbs 22:6.

Revd Ollie led a Worship to begin the morning. He spoke about going on journeys and pilgrimages and linked this to life being like a journey. The school joined in with chanting the school vision as Revd Ollie took some children on a journey around the hall.

Everyone then took part in discussions in their classrooms related to what kind of person they want to be when they are older and what values are important to achieve this. The children then created a piece of artwork on tiles based on the vision. The children enjoyed this activity and created beautiful pieces of art, some of which has been used to make a display in the school entrance hall.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

St Michael's Achieve Wellbeing in Schools Mark

St Michaels Primary School, Bishop's Stortford, have received congratulations from the Hertfordshire Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Team on achieving the Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark. This award reflects the commitment the school has in place to put the mental health and well-being at the forefront of all they do. Part of the process in achieving the award was welcoming one member of the Hertfordshire team in to visit. The response received in the subsequent report stated what an extremely welcoming place the school was to visit.

Headteacher, Miss Rachel Griffiths said, *"We understand that the positive mental health of our staff, children and families is vital to achieve the best that we can as a school and so it is fantastic that the work we do in this area has been recognised. Part of the process in achieving this award was to draw up a plan of action of how we will ensure that this work continues and we are committed to striving to support our whole school community to live 'Life in all its fullness' through promoting and developing positive mental health and wellbeing."*

Sutton School's Curriculum in Church

As pupils began preparing for transition to the next year group, Sutton School's Curriculum in Church session had a focus on facing and coping with change. Revd Alex asked the children about changes that they had experienced or were going to experience soon. He shared the story of St Thomas who moved to Kerala, India to build a Church.

The children were encouraged to reflect on the story and think about whether change was always only positive or only negative. They talked about the mixture of emotions experienced when facing and going through change.

Revd Alex explained that during change it is helpful to remember our identity and our purpose. Pupils were reminded that they have a Sutton School identity and their purpose is to 'shine as lights in the world' by living out the school's values.



Celebrating the Good in the World

Students at Edwinstree Middle School have spent time celebrating the beauty of nature and wildlife, both locally and around the world. They highlighted that technology was one of their 'goods' about the world and their hope that it will help to reduce climate change. They celebrated human endeavour in sport and exploration, the beauty of the arts and music.

When we consider creation and all that is good, we should temper this with the ongoing news about climate change and the increase in plastic pollution. The school have been working hard to support their students to know that making one very small change in the way we live our life can make all the difference. In May, students were encouraged to embrace 'No Mow May' to create an environment where insects can thrive.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS TEAM

Focus on Governance—Foundation Governor Recruitment

Throughout the current school year, I have heard from many schools how difficult recruiting foundation governors continues to be, particularly in rural areas and for VA schools. Many schools have also struggled to identify governors to take on the role of Chair or co-Chair.

Governor recruitment is a national issue, with approximately 20,000 governor places vacant countrywide (NGA estimate, 2022). The situation is not helped by the imminent withdrawal of government funding from the national recruitment agency *Inspiring Governance*, which could sometimes reach potential volunteers that it was hard for schools to identify independently.

If your governing board is struggling to recruit foundation governors, do ensure you are exploring all available avenues. A great many are still drawn from local parish churches, but there is also a sizeable minority from other Christian denominations and from the wider local community. It is of course, essential that schools' Anglican Christian ethos is upheld by governors; but it is also vital to ensure that there are sufficient governors on the board with a range of skills to carry out the statutory duties of governance.

There is no diocesan 'pool' of potential governors, but governing boards (and PCCs where they are a foundation appointing body) are welcome to contact me directly for advice on governor recruitment and possible points of contact, specific to your local context. Please do contact me directly in September if you would find some input from me helpful for the 24/25 school year. Briefing papers on foundation governor recruitment and appointments are also available on our website on this page: [School Governance - The Diocese of St Albans \(stalbandsdiocese.org\)](https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/school-governance-the-diocese-of-st-albans)

Belinda Copson

Governance Officer and School Reorganisation Lead (bcopson@stalbandsdiocese.org)

And finally...

Headteacher Changes

Our thanks and best wishes accompany those who are leaving or have left their school this term:

Ania Vaughan, Christ Church Primary, Ware; Belinda Canham, Essendon Primary; Louise Foley, Furneux Pelham Primary; Mandy West, High Wych Primary; Kaye Healy, St Helen's, Wheathampstead; Lynne Osborne, St Mary's Primary, Northchurch; Andrea Sharkey, Tewin Cowper Primary

Our appreciation also goes to all those who have, or are about to, step in as interim or acting heads.

News From St Albans Cathedral's Learning Department

40 Years Celebration Event

In 2024 St Albans Cathedral are celebrating 40 years of the Education Trust and Education Centre. Schools are invited to join online via Zoom for their celebration event on Monday 7 October at 12.30pm, where acclaimed author **Cressida Cowell**, known for **How to Train your Dragon** will be reading from her new book and doing a talk.

Moon Installation

Measuring seven metres in diameter, featuring 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface, St Albans Cathedral are looking forward to a stunning large-scale art installation of the Moon in the Nave for the first half of the Spring term. Activities for schools will include as KS2 Science Festival day will which will be themed around the Moon/Space, as well as wellbeing sessions where students will have the chance to do Yoga/Meditation under the moon.

For more information contact education@stalbanscathedral.org

The Bishop's Harvest Appeal for 2024

This year's Bishop's Harvest Appeal **Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka** in partnership with The Leprosy Mission was officially launched last Sunday during a fun-filled evening at St Andrew's Church, Bedford.

More information about the appeal, including links to children and schools' resources such as prayers, ideas for collective worship and fundraising activities can be found here: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024/>



We wish you all a restful summer break!

Living God's Love in Education: Enabling Life in all its Fullness

Schools Team, Diocese of St Albans, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HE

01727 818170 schools@stalbans.anglican.org

www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools