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# Spring Newsletter

Edition 4

April 2022

## Welcome from the CEO

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Pupils,



As we come to the end of the Spring term, I would like to thank every member of our community: pupils, staff, parents and carers for your ongoing **support and dedication. The ODBST'S vision is to** ensure all our unique schools excel and despite some on-going Covid-19 challenges in some of our schools, I am delighted to say that it has been a term of considerable successes, where pupils have been working hard and enjoying their learning. A lot of these wonderful moments have been captured and collated in this edition of our ODBST Spring newsletter, with a view for you to get a real flavour of life at our schools. I am incredibly

grateful to our staff who go above and beyond to make sure our pupils have a wide range of positive learning experiences and opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. I am thrilled to see that staff have restarted running trips and events, and that our pupils are so eager to take part in these again. Please **continue to visit your school's website regularly and follow us on Twitter to see** our live updates.

For our school communities, Jesus is our guiding light who teaches us the way that we should live our lives. This is such an important message, especially right now where we see acts of violence inflicted on people - in Ukraine but also in many other places around the globe where destruction and violence take place but do not always get the same amount of coverage. In a world experiencing sadness and pain, the Easter message calls us all to have faith and trust in God. Through faith and love I hope that we may be transformed by the power of the risen Christ to know the real joy of Easter.

Thank you again for your continued support and prayers this term. I look forward to a vibrant and joyful summer term.

Have a blessed Easter holiday.

With best wishes,

Mrs Plesse

Chief Executive Officer,  
**The Oxford Diocesan Bucks School's Trust**

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**A Message from the Chair of Trustees**



Dear Parents, Carers and Staff at the ODBST,

We continue to witness the resilience of our school communities as they work through some of the challenges that are still faced with as a result of Covid-19. It is humbling to see the resourcefulness, hard work and care shown by our staff, pupils and parents. We have adapted and coped to make sure that every child is supported in every way possible; socially and academically.

As Trustees, we are committed to championing and strengthening our communities, who are at the heart of everything we do. We will continue to fully engage with our entire school community of staff, pupils, and parents to understand how best to support all whom we serve.

Wishing you a blessed Easter,

Mr Malcolm Peckham

Chair of Oxford Diocesan Bucks School's Trust

Farewell and thank you to Eileen Northey.

It is always a sad time when a member of our Trust family leaves us and we find ourselves saying a very fond farewell to Eileen Northey this Easter time. Eileen was already familiar to some of our schools before the ODBST opened as a MAT and she has worked alongside many of our schools; her work is highly valued and appreciated by all.



Eileen has a wealth of knowledge, experience and understanding about how children learn best and she is passionate about improving their outcomes and their life chances. Eileen is also highly skilled at bringing about the best in our leaders; never one to shy from any conversations she has worked tirelessly with our leaders to ensure that they too are able to grow and develop into talented individuals who together empower our school to be the best they can be.

Eileen has also shown herself to be a kind and compassionate member of our team, sensitive to the needs of others and with an infectious sense of humour that shines a bright light on challenging situations.

Our ODBST family will miss Eileen very much but we wish her well as she begins her retirement and we know she has many exciting plans to look forward to with her family and friends.

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**What has been happening at Longwick this term?**

The Longwick Art Show, in its 33rd year saw the work of over 80 artists on display and for sale in February. What a success this was!



More recently, we have held a collection at school of vital supplies to go out to Ukraine to the families who have had to flee their homes with nothing. The response to the appeal was incredible, with enough toiletries, clothes, blankets and nappies collected over 2 days to fill a minibus.



There have been a lot of collaborative sporting activities going on across the Bucks' schools, and we are incredibly proud to announce that 6 Longwick runners from Years 5 and 6 have been selected to represent the county in the Bucks Swans team at the National Cross Country Championships, being held at Market Harborough Showground on the 26th March. We wish them the very best of luck!

It wasn't just the children taking part in physical activities this term, between the 14th of January and the 14th of February our Longwick staff completed a personal physical challenge. With the school community coming together, we hit our target figure of £500.



During the spring term, the children have been busy with their learning. Some of them have investigated what bones are made of, some children have created 'Memory Boxes' in school and some children also took part in Dementia awareness on our journey to become a Dementia Friendly school.

We are all looking forward to this year's Longwick May Fayre, which has not been held recently due to the pandemic. Our Year 4 class will be showcasing maypole dancing and the whole school will be working together with members of the Women's Institute to create flower garlands. As if that wasn't enough to be excited about, the Parish Council have agreed to release the funds needed for the school to develop its own Forest School area, which will be such a wonderful opportunity for our children. As the weather is starting to improve, we are hopeful that we can feel the benefit of the sunshine on our faces and appreciate the joy in the new life starting to emerge in the countryside around us!



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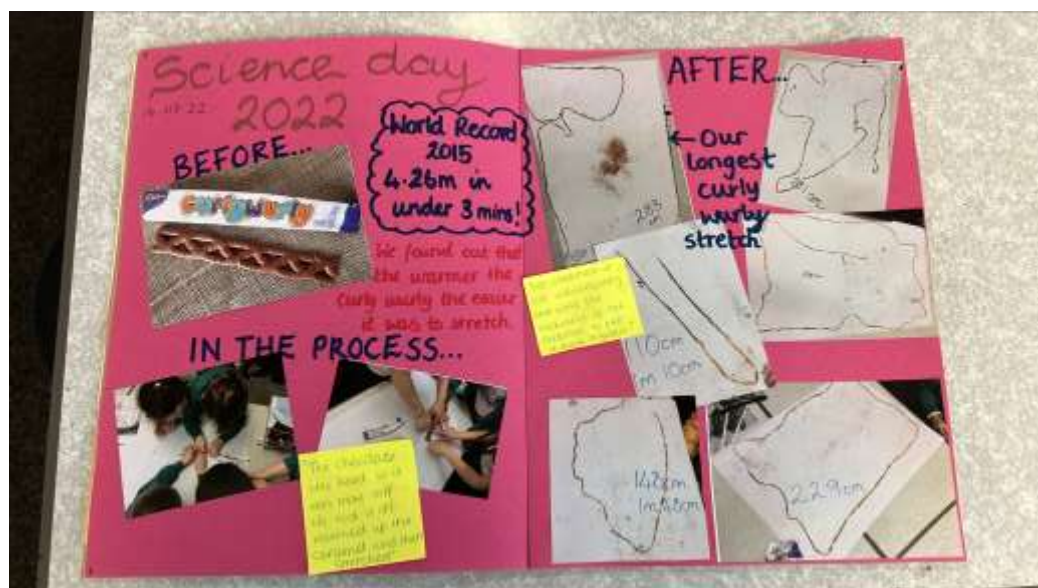


## What has been happening at St Mary's Aylesbury this term?

On Wednesday 16th March we held our annual science day at St Mary's CE School. The theme this year was 'Growth'. As a whole school, we investigated 'Are the children with the largest hands able to hold the most marbles?' Every child in school took part. The results were mixed – some classes found that 'yes' this statement was true, whilst others discovered that the child with the smallest hands held the most! Check out our website to find out more! Photos from our science day can be found on the [school website](#). We hope you enjoy looking at them!



Mrs Dearman, our Science Leader, set a challenge that used Curly Wurlys! No, it wasn't to see who could eat the most! She wanted to see if the children could work together, in groups, to stretch them out to beat the current world record which was created by Tracy Sullivan in Frome in 2015. She managed to stretch one to 4.26 metres! Class 4I won with a whooping 283cm!



All of the children were asked to design lab coats around the theme of food and food waste. Completely open to interpretation by the pupils, this could be illustrations of fruit and vegetables, favourite recipes using leftovers, food distribution, or nutrition. Whatever the direction or inspiration, we believe the more creative our children are, the better! This was part of a competition run by Baylabs, who are based in Reading and are on a mission to support children in becoming well-rounded scientists. If one of our designs is chosen, we could win a set of lab coats as well as other great prizes.

At St Mary's we love to see the children sharing their learning with parents at home. There are lots of experiments for the children to try at home (please visit the science home learning web page) or they might like to take their own spin on 'Growth' by combining ingredients to grow/bake a delicious treat, or maybe get out in the garden to plant some seeds! The possibilities are endless!

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**What has been happening at Great Horwood this term?**



We are extremely pleased to announce that at 8pm on Thursday 31st March, Hawthorn Class were crowned the winners of the Buckinghamshire Schools Sumdog Competition. All of the children worked incredibly hard during this competition and should be very proud of the effort and perseverance they showed to achieve this.

The children at Great Horwood fully embraced the spirit of April Fool's Day and took to breaking a number of school rules to help raise money for school resources,. The children were able to break as many rules as they liked (from a carefully selected list...) and donate 50p for each one.

The children marched through the gates with: pink, green, red and even purple hair, bright coloured nail varnish, their own tops and jumpers on and some extremely bright socks!



As part of our Wanderlust themed learning this half term, Acorns started to explore the themes of Spring! Within this, we have discussed the differences in the natural environment from winter and have explored the different themes of; nests, spring flowers, bugs and beans!



Conkers enjoyed learning about Shrove Tuesday and celebrated it by making pancakes and tasting different toppings! Once they had made them, they created a set of instructions of 'How to Make Tasty Pancakes!' I am sure they will remember how to make them for next year!

During the Spring term, Maples have been studying the French artist George Seurat. He developed the paint techniques Chromoluminarism, Pointillism, and used Conté crayon for drawings on paper with a rough surface. Inspired by the Valentines theme and Great Horwood's School value of Love, the children then decided to create heart shaped artwork using the Pointillism approach.

Following the same theme, Maples considered the true meaning of love and what this might look like. They analysed a selection of love poetry, including 'The Owl and the Pussycat' and the lyrics to the song 'Magic Penny', before discussing how this compares with the love described in the bible (Love is patient, love is kind -1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Later they shared their own ideas of what love meant to them at a celebration assembly for parents, alongside the song Magic Penny.

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**What has been happening at Chesham Bois this term?**



On Wednesday 23rd March, all of the children and staff were invited to take part in a variety of prayer based activities in the hall for our Prayer Day. The children were deep in thought and enjoyed taking time out to participate in the various invitational prayer activities. Thank you to Mrs Lambert, Foundation Governor, for her time and effort in creating the activities for the children and ensuring they were accessible to all at CBS. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make Prayer Day such a success. Please enjoy reading some of the children's reflections below:

"I enjoyed the planting as it reminded me of how Jesus sacrificed himself for us"

"It reminds me to think about people in Ukraine and be thankful."

"The sunflower made me think of the power of nature God has made."

A final reflection from a class teacher, "It was lovely to see the children engaged in spiritual reflection in our super busy and often confusing world"



On Tuesday evening, twenty four children from Year Five with Miss Mitterhuber, Miss Tilbey and Miss Quarry, joined hundreds of other children from forty Buckinghamshire Junior Schools to perform in 'Echoes'. What an amazing experience for all the children performing, their families and others in the audience. The quality of the singing was exceptional and reflected the hard work put in by the children in learning words and practising a variety of parts from the melodies to different harmonies.

I know how much work is put in by the adults, particularly Miss Mitterhuber, to prepare for a concert like this. Was it worth all that effort? Oh yes! The music was well chosen and the singing magnificent, as was confirmed in the long rounds of applause at the end of each song. After the performance, many families waiting to collect their children, expressed their pleasure and respect for what their children had achieved.

Congratulations Year Five, Miss Mitterhuber, Miss Tilbey and Miss Quarry for all your hard work, you all lit us up with the tunefulness, exuberance, and pure delight of your performance. You were such a credit to the school and yourselves. Thank you!

Graham Warr – Creative Curriculum Governor



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**What has been happening at St John's this term?**



It has been an exciting term at St John's. A highlight was when our Reception children at St John's Lacey Green entered their classroom to find that it was replaced with a crime scene. They were left a video from a police officer who had discovered the crime scene over the weekend. The police officer also left them some evidence to help them find out who committed the crime! Using the evidence provided the children concluded that it was Goldilocks who committed the crime due to the porridge, the broken chair, a lock of blonde hair and ribbon that was left. Throughout the course of the day the children were able to practice using their phonics skills to write, role-play with their peers, and they even got to make CCTV to see if they could catch a glimpse of the perpetrator!



There was some wonderful collaboration across the ODBST family of schools this term with pupils from Great Horwood and Padbury joining our pupils at St John's for a fabulous session run by James Carter. James Carter is a published poet, known in literacy circles and works for the Centre for Primary Literacy. He has visited St John's twice in the past and due to the success of the sessions, he was invited back to lead a writing workshop for our most able pupils. James encouraged the pupils to take risks, play with and manipulate language so that they could invoke powerful images in their own poetry. The results were fantastic.

In a wonderful fundraising drive, pupils wore yellow and blue for a day, as they spent time thinking about all those people who have been forced to leave their homes due to atrocities affecting Ukraine. The pupils donated to First News' Ukraine Schools Appeal. The money that First News raise will be going to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine appeal, and will help to supply urgent food, hygiene supplies and medical care to refugees and those trapped by the conflict.



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**What has been happening at Thomas Harding this term?**



We had a very exciting day in March, when the Fin-Tech company, Finastra spent the day with us. Every single child received a coding lesson and a lesson based around Financial literacy. The children were so excited and absolutely loved learning about the career and skills of a Software Engineer. Additionally, the company helped renovate a classroom into a brand new tech lab - with furniture and 30 new laptops!



Friday 1st April was fencing day at Thomas Harding, with every class having a session with a Fencing instructor – such an exciting buzz around school. Miss Thornhill has promised to book the coaches again to deliver the more advanced course and we CAN NOT wait!

We celebrated Number day in February and it was so exciting to see the variety of costumes on display across the school. As usual, our children and their families have excelled themselves with their creative responses. Miss Christian organised the day to raise energy and enthusiasm for maths across the school and she certainly achieved this!

All classes competed to beat Buddy's Challenge. I am sure that you would have been able to hear the excitement from outer space as we completed the clues as a school. There was another, even more, serious purpose to the day - and that was to raise money for the NSPCC who fund ChildLine and who often come into school to talk to our pupils about staying safe both online and in the 'real world.' Miss Christian, ably supported by the House Captains organised a cake sale at break, lunch and after school to raise money for this incredible charity. We are pleased to announce that we raised £338 for the NSPCC, so an enormous thank you to all of our wonderful parents who donated cakes and sent in small changes to buy cakes. Your money really will make a huge difference.





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**What has been happening at Woodside this term?**



This term, the whole school participated in an interactive presentation with Paula McMohan, a very successful Civil Engineer and STEM Ambassador. One of her missions is to talk to children across the country about the issues we face with climate change and to share ideas as to how we can all help. Paula loved talking to our Woodside children and was very impressed with their questions and knowledge about this ever-increasing concern.



Woodside pupils have been very busy taking part in a variety of sporting events. We were very proud of Year 4 pupils, who played in a Benchball Festival at Amersham School. Children played with enthusiasm and determination. One of our Woodside teams achieved 2nd place. Year 4 were also fortunate enough to take part in a Handball festival and wore Moki trackers to measure their activity levels. Year 3 also took part in the Challoners High Dance festival where they learnt

a dance from Hairspray and performed their own creation to the other schools in attendance.

Year 6 went on their residential to Osmington bay this term. They were able to take part in a wonderful variety of activities at the PGL centre. There were climbing walls and a giant swing with some children showing real resilience in overcoming their fears. There was orienteering, survival skills and even a chance to go rock pooling. The children found small crabs, water snails, fossils and a star fish!



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**What has been happening at Padbury this term?**



I'm pleased to say we have had a term of returning to things we used to do pre-pandemic! School visits have resumed with our visit to Padbury village, Winslow earlier in the term but also Maple class (Reception children) have been to Rectory farm for a Lambing day and learning about life on a farm while Beech class (Year 1 and 2) visited Whipsnade Zoo in the wind and the snow to learn more about animals they have been studying in science! Next term, Oak class (Year and 4) are off to the Living Rainforest when they study the rainforest in Geography and Sycamore Class (Year 5 and 6) are heading to Hudnall Park in Hertfordshire for their long-awaited residential visit. It feels good to know we are getting back out there and learning beyond the school grounds.



Last week, it was lovely to welcome the parents of Oak class into school to see their Viking performance-again, this will be a first since pre-pandemic. While Covid is still very much in the air, we are finding ways to get around it and keep going. We will also be back with parents together in the church for our Easter assembly in the last week of term which will be a real treat.



We also held an outdoor Mother's Day event last week where the weather was thankfully glorious. Children from Maple and Beech sang beautifully and said some very special things about why their Mummy was a superhero. They then enjoyed time together playing with some of the new equipment in the Maple outdoor area, the field and the playground. A special day for them all. Residents of Padbury will have noticed Forest School in Millennium woods has got underway. The children are loving the time spent in the woods on Fridays and standing back and watching them play and interact with each other to problem solve and find solutions has been great.

As we look to the summer term, even more should fall back into place. Sports Day for example in July is something everyone is looking forward to along with a French Breakfast for parents of Sycamore class. We will hopefully also be able to say a traditional goodbye to our Year 6 children as they look to start their secondary education in September.



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**What has been happening at Curzon this term?**



We have had a wonderful term at Curzon. It has been great to be able to welcome back visitors and get out and about into our local community.

This term we have been celebrating reading. Our World Book Day was a huge success with a range of beautiful handmade costumes. The best part was when our Year 6 children shared their favourite picture books with groups of Key Stage 1 children. The Year 6 children did an amazing job and it was wonderful to see them able to work with the younger children again. We have since been holding weekly reading at home competitions, resulting in some excellent results.



The whole school held a Design Technology paper making week. This exciting week saw some pupils making papyrus, Year 4 recycled paper and Year 6 learnt about printing presses and created and evaluated their own printing tiles.

"This was the best week ever - I loved being able to choose my materials and try things out," Year 5 pupil.

The term will end on a high note with ISingPop. This Christian company is leading workshops and teaching our pupils a selection of catchy songs. Two performances, attended by parents and local ministers will be held in the Parish church. This event had originally been planned for April 2020 as Mrs Coles' (previous headteacher) leaving present to the school. It has been quite moving to hear such beautiful whole school singing once more and we are sure that this event will be very special and a fitting way to say thank you to Mrs Coles. As Jake, the ISingPop leader said, "Key Stage 1 yesterday sang better than I've ever heard a Key Stage 1 group sing. That isn't me exaggerating either; I was gobsmacked by how much they knew and how confidently and beautifully they could perform! I was genuinely amazed. The concerts will be great, and I cannot wait to see Curzon again."





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**What has been happening at Elmtree this term?**

We had an amazing visit from a Steel Pan Band. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took part in a whole school session, which included carnival dancing and class workshops. Each child was invited to have a go on a pan.



Reception children were able to attend a local sports festival. They had their first school coach trip! They enjoyed a range of playground games lead by the students at Chalfont Community College. Year 2 pupils also attended 'Fitness Fun' lead by the students at Chalfont Community College. Sadly, due to Covid-19 the Year 1 pupils missed out on their sports festival, but we have rescheduled this for the summer term.



For World Book Day, we were delighted to welcome the Year 6 pupils from Thomas Harding Junior school to Elmtree for an afternoon of shared reading from Nursery to Year 2.

On the 21st March the whole school joined in Down Syndrome awareness day, wearing odd socks and donating £156 to 'Sparkles' charity.

This term, our Reception children have been learning about signs of spring and new life. On Monday 28th March 10 eggs were carefully delivered in a special incubator. On Wednesday 30th March we were blessed with 10 fluffy chicks; two girls and eight



boys. The children have been exploring the different stages of life, how to describe the chicks and their changes and craft arts related to life cycles.

We also have had an end of term disco! On Thursday 7th April the children came to school in their party wear to celebrate their achievements so far this year- especially after an incredibly tough two years.

We will be ending the term with a touch of magic, a surprise magic show for all the children on Friday 8th April.

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**What has been happening at Christ the Sower this term?**



We have really enjoyed the warmer and drier weather over the last few days- it makes such a difference to be able to get outside at lunchtimes and playtimes.

This week we have heard that a large number of our Year 2 and Year 6 children have had some of their poetry writing accepted to be published in the Young Writers book of poetry. About 30 children across the school have been selected. This is a fantastic achievement! We also learn that Farah in Year 5 has had her design for a mosaic chosen to be part of the larger mosaic at The Reading Garden in Shenley Church End, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are really proud of all our children's accomplishments!

Our Year 5/6 Netball Team took part in a Festival at The Hazeley Academy. The girls had an opportunity to work with Hazeley's young leaders to practise some shooting and footwork before moving into games. The progress from the first game through to the end was brilliant! The girls picked up lots of experience of netball and also experience within a competitive environment that they definitely benefit and learn from. Not to be left out, our Year 3/4 Netball Team also attended a Festival at Hazeley a week later.



Two sisters who attend Christ the Sower, Kyla and Jasmine, helped to raise money by selling loom bands that they hand made and have donated the proceeds to the Ukraine appeal. The school also took part in wearing blue and yellow with monies being donated to the DEC.



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**Great Horwood School Ofsted success**

On the 26th January, Great Horwood CofE School became the second school in the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust to have an inspection by Ofsted since joining the Trust.



We would all like to offer our warmest congratulations to Ms Shaw, all of her team and their wonderful pupils as Great Horwood was judged to continuing to be a good school. A good school provides well for the needs of its pupils and prepares them effectively for the next stage of their education or employment.

Great Horwood was described as a welcoming and nurturing school where pupils feel safe. Leaders have created a school where all communities are welcome. The inspector noted that pupils trust that staff will help them deal with any worries and concerns they may have and the relationships between staff and pupils are warm and respectful. Pupils actively play a role in the local community. They write letters and poems which they share with the elderly residents, sing at the village church and perform with the local brass band. One pupil said: 'Our school values of love, perseverance and respect guide us. They always help us think about what we can do to help ourselves and others.'

On the subjects of Leadership and Trust governance the report found Leaders, including the Local Governing board and Trustees, know the school very well. Governors hold leaders to account effectively, for instance in probing their actions to ensure that pupils learn and achieve well in all subjects. Teachers and leaders value the specialist training and support provided by the Trust. Staff feel appreciated and motivated by the talented headteacher. They are rightly proud to work at this school.





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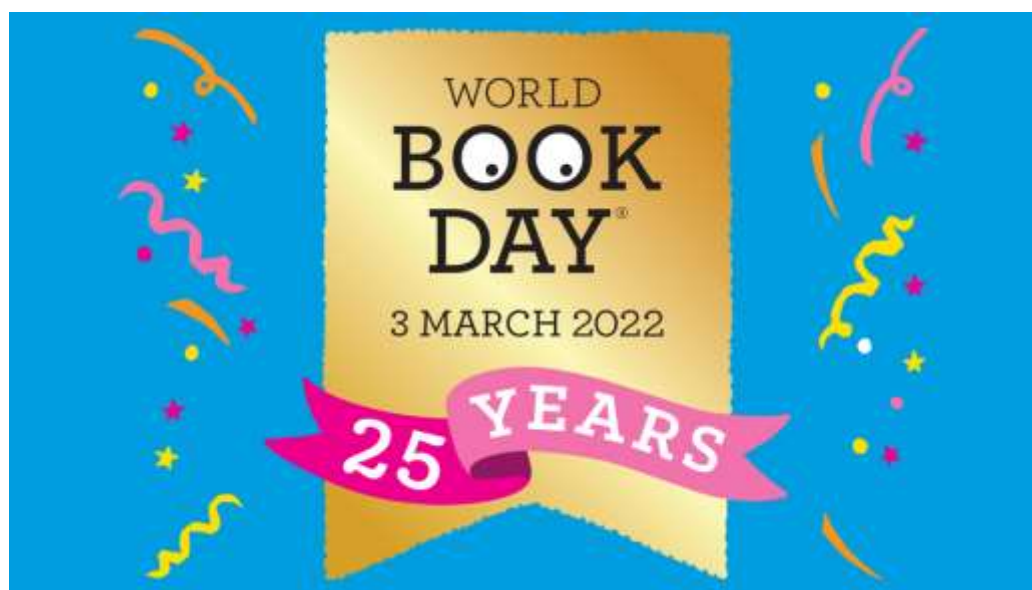
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**News from the shared services team**

**Management Information System (MIS) Update April 2022**

As part of a wider IT infrastructure program at the ODBST, the initial roll out of the new MIS called Bromcom is almost complete. The aim of this system change is to improve efficiency, reduce the need for third-party applications and to save money through economies of scale by having a single contract. By 4th April all 11 schools will be operating with the live system.

Bromcom is a cloud based or server free one stop shop in terms of what it offers schools. This means the schools can either immediately (or as their contracts need renewing) transfer to using the one system when communicating school matters with parents and children. This will save the schools over the 5 years contract several thousands of pounds as third-party bolt on applications will no longer be required to be purchased. As the schools' third-party contracts run out, they will migrate fully to Bromcom for communication, assessment, payment, bookings and more. Look out for when your child's school migrates to the new communication APP called MyChildAtSchool (MCAS). MyChildAtSchool is an online portal that enables parents to view their child's performance at school in real time via any modern web browser (e.g. Edge, Firefox, Chrome, Safari etc.) and for today's busy parents, an app (for android or iOS) which offers the same features.

**Features & Benefits**

- MyChildAtSchool.com enables parents to access their child's information through a portal, either browser or App, promoting communication between both schools and parents, and parents and their children
- All the data is in real time
- Ability to manage payments online securely for all kinds of school activities – Clubs, Trips, Wraparound Care, Dinner Money, School Shop
- Comprehensive communication between parents and schools about their child(ren) meaning expensive text messaging will no longer be required to be purchased by school
- An excellent means for schools to communicate useful information to parents, such as upcoming school events or important documents
- Parents can update their personal contact details online so that the school always has their most up to date information
- Fully GDPR compliant with option to collect Parental consent/allow parents to revoke consent

Rachael Hollinshead  
Chief Operating Officer

**Bromcom**   
No.1 Choice for Cloud MIS & Finance

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**News from the shared services team**

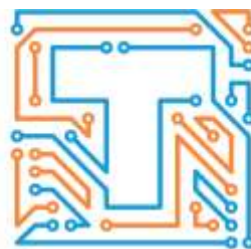
**New ICT Managed Service**

Starting on the 1st April, turn IT on will be delivering the ICT Managed Services across all of the ODBST Schools and to the central ODBST Team. turn IT on are not new to ODBST and have been supporting the majority of the schools within the Trust for a number of years. turn IT on are thrilled to have been successful in their appointment as the preferred bidder via the tender process for ICT Managed Services and are particularly looking forward to working with Christ The Sower Ecumenical and Curzon schools.

turn IT on will be bringing a considerable amount of experience within both strategic and transformation approaches within the education sector. A major “move to the cloud” project is already underway which will include new and innovative platforms and systems to deliver ICT as a service across the Trust as a whole. This will see existing elements within each school transitioned into a central Trust cloud-based tenancy. The concept is that as much as possible, ICT will be hosted in The Cloud with minimal onsite equipment, with a greater emphasis on end user devices which underpin and deliver Teaching and Learning and open new ways of learning whilst also continuing to deliver established best practice and methodology. The move towards The Cloud will allow a gradual shift to more centralised ICT monitoring and remote support, reducing costs and improving speed and efficiency.

**Wi-Fi upgrades at Woodside and Great Horwood**

As part of a process of upgrading the network infrastructure across schools with the Trust, to date Great Horwood and Woodside Junior schools have both received brand new Ruckus based Wi-Fi systems using the latest technology available. This now delivers the Wi-Fi 6 standard and means that both these schools can benefit from faster throughput on their wireless systems and have the confidence to know they have a platform which allows for increased device numbers whilst also delivering security in line with best practice. Behind this new wireless provision is a Cloud based management platform allowing visibility into the wireless estate across the Trust as whole. Other schools in the Trust are also planned to have their Wi-Fi systems replaced and further updates will follow in future newsletters as the roll out continues.



**turn IT on**  
Connecting schools and technology



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**News from the shared services team**

**Staff Well-being**

Staff well-being continues to be a high priority for the Trust. We recognise that this term has been particularly challenging due to the spread of covid and isolation requirements; many of our staff have gone above and beyond and we appreciate all the efforts that have gone into supporting our children.

In January we established a well-being ambassador group made up of representatives around the trust focused on improving staff well-being. The group launched a monthly well-being newsletter in February to share stories, tips, inspiration and resources to support staff in looking after their own well-being. Each newsletter has a different area of focus and takes account of topical themes or events that month.



We are also proud to have signed up to the Department for Education's Staff Well-being Charter to guide us in our well-being work and demonstrate our commitment to staff well-being. The trust already has a number of procedures in place under the charter's 11 commitments and is continuing work to strengthen the commitments with an update on one area provided in each newsletter. Each month in Well-being Matters, the newsletter produced by our ambassador group, we will focus on a different commitment and share with you.

The well-being ambassador group has a number of other initiatives underway to enhance the ODBST experience for employees and will be conducting a trust-wide staff survey in the summer term to gain better insight into how staff are feeling and what may enhance their health and well-being. In the meantime, we are open to ideas any members of the ODBST community may wish to put forward.

Sarah Rowe

Director of HR

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**Trust Well-being Ambassador Group News...**



This month our focus is on the commitment of “Give staff the support they need to take responsibility for their own and other people’s well-being”. As a Trust we are committed to improving staff well-being but it isn't something that we can do without a little effort from all of you. We want to share tips, resources, events and more, but it is up to you to access them. We can only provide the platform for improved wellbeing and ensure that the Trustees and SLT of ODBST are adhering to their commitment to staff well-being. Each member of staff has to take responsibility for their own well-being.

April is Stress Awareness Month. Research shows that acts of giving and kindness can improve a persons mental health and wellbeing. We all have so much going on in our lives that it is easy to forget to take time to appreciate others. Studies have found that acts of kindness are linked to increased feelings of wellbeing. Helping others can also improve our support networks and encourage us to be more active. This, in turn, can improve our self-esteem. There is some evidence to suggest that when we help others, it can promote changes in the brain that are linked with happiness. It doesn’t mean spending money or giving up large chunks of time, just small things like making a colleague a cup of tea; telling someone how appreciated they are; spending 10 minutes to sit and actually listen to a friend or family member, can make a huge difference. What can you give this month? If every member of the Trust gave something to another person imagine the difference we would be making.

**Kindness can transform someone's dark moment with a blaze of light. You will never know how much your caring matters. Make a difference for another today. Amy Leigh Mercree.**

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Empowering our unique Schools to Excel

What training do we have coming up for our family next term?

## C U R R I C U L U M

Date	Title	Time	Location
05/05/22	English KS1 Teachers and TAs	16:00-17:30	Zoom
16/05/22	<b>Improving Children's Writing part 3</b>	15:45-17:15	Zoom
14/06/22	English KS2 Teachers and TAs	16:00-17:30	Zoom
27/06/22	<b>Improving Children's Writing part 4</b>	15:45-17:15	Zoom
30/06/22	PP Session	15:45-17:15	Zoom
13/07/22	Art: Print and Printing techniques	16:00-17:30	Zoom

## L E A D E R S H I P

Date	Title	Time	Location
26/04/22	IT Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
05/05/22	English Leader Network	14:00-15:45	Zoom
19/05/22	Addressing staff performance and capability concerns	15:45-17:15	Zoom
20/05/22	Math Leader Network	14:00-16:00	Zoom
24/05/22	Art Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
26/05/22	Science Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
07/06/22	EYFS Leader Network	16:00-17:30	Zoom
08/06/22	Geography Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
14/06/22	History Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
16/06/22	Music Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
21/06/22	PSHE Leader Network	15:45-17:15	Zoom
23/06/22	Staff Absence Management	15:45-17:15	Zoom

## G O V E R N O R S

Date	Title	Time	Location
26/04/22	Governor Induction Training	18:30-20:00	Zoom
10/05/22	HT Performance Management training	10:00-11:30	Zoom
10/05/22	Governance Briefing	18:30-20:00	Zoom
24/05/22	Monitoring the School	19:00-20:30	Elmtree
07/06/22	Chairs Network	18:30-20:00	Zoom
07/06/22	Governance: Inspection, the basics	18:30-20:00	Zoom
28/06/22	LGB: Complaints	14:00-15:30	Zoom
28/06/22	Governance: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development	19:00-20:30	Zoom



# ODBST

## “Empowering our unique schools to excel”



Each of our schools has a unique character of its own and we will work to ensure that this vision embraces all our pupils and adults, regardless of background and belief. We empower our schools to deliver a broad, enriched and exciting curriculum, coupled with a shared zest for life and learning.

**We aspire for every pupil and adult to ‘experience life in all its fullness’** [John 10:10](#)



Our **inclusivity value** will be seen in action when our differences become our strength and achievement.

**“Our differences are our strength as a species and as a world community”**  
Nelson Mandela



Our **community value** will be seen in action when pupils and adults are learning, loving, achieving and flourishing together.

**“The minute we become an integrated whole, we look through the same eyes and we see a whole different world together”** Azizah Al-Hibri



Our **service value** will be seen in action when pupils are seeking the common good in all that they do.

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”** Mahatma Gandhi



Our **empowerment value** will be seen in action when our pupils are able to say, ‘I am special because..... and I am learning to excel at.....’

“There is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind” Virginia Woolf

### St Marys CE Combined School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** <https://www.st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk/>

### Chesham Bois CE School



**Ofsted:** Outstanding  
**email:** [Office@cbschool.co.uk](mailto:Office@cbschool.co.uk)  
**website:** [www.cheshamboisschool.co.uk](http://www.cheshamboisschool.co.uk)

### Curzon CE Combined School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@curzonschool.com](mailto:office@curzonschool.com)  
**website:** [www.curzonschool.co.uk](http://www.curzonschool.co.uk)

### Thomas Harding Junior School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@thomasharding.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@thomasharding.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** [www.thomasharding.org.uk](http://www.thomasharding.org.uk)

### Christ the Sower Ecumenical School



**Ofsted:** Inadequate  
**email:** [school@ctsmk.org.uk](mailto:school@ctsmk.org.uk)  
**website:** [www.cts.milton-keynes.sch.uk](http://www.cts.milton-keynes.sch.uk)

### St John's CE Combined School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@stjohn.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stjohn.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** [www.stjohn.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.stjohn.bucks.sch.uk)

### Woodside Junior School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@woodside.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@woodside.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** [www.woodsidejunior.co.uk](http://www.woodsidejunior.co.uk)

### Longwick CE Combined School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@longwick.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@longwick.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** [www.longwick.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.longwick.bucks.sch.uk)

### Great Horwood CE Combined School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@greathorwoodschool.org](mailto:office@greathorwoodschool.org)  
**website:** [www.greathorwood.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.greathorwood.bucks.sch.uk)

### Elmtree Infant and Nursery School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@elmtree.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@elmtree.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** [www.elmtreeschoolandnursery.co.uk/](http://www.elmtreeschoolandnursery.co.uk/)

### Padbury CE School



**Ofsted:** Good  
**email:** [office@padbury.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@padbury.bucks.sch.uk)  
**website:** [WWW.PADBURY SCHOOL.CO.UK](http://WWW.PADBURY SCHOOL.CO.UK)

