

Wellsway Multi Academy Trust Parent and Carer Newsletter

20th July 2021



Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of another extraordinary academic year, I am sure you will want to join me in thanking the staff in all our schools for their outstanding efforts to ensure children and young people have received the best possible education and opportunities in the most challenging of circumstances.



I must also thank you for all you have done to support your children and our schools. While we have all been through tough times, there have been many positives and some unexpected benefits to the past 18 months and one of these is improved communication between schools and families. Long may that continue!

While dealing with bubble closures and other continuing Covid-related matters over recent weeks, we have also been taking a longer and more strategic view of our provision and how we can improve it. As you know, we are returning in September with our new identity as Futura Learning Partnership, which will better reflect our position as a group of 13 schools including nearly 6000 children and 800 members of staff.

Our Trust supports young people from nursery age until adulthood and one of the most exciting developments for 2021-22 is the launch of Futura Sixth. This will be a fully aligned and inclusive post-16 that we believe can meet the needs of all students and prepare them for adult life.

Danny Wilkinson, the Trust's Director of Post 16, said: "Futura Sixth will offer students the best of both worlds. They can choose a home school for their studies but have access to courses on three sites - Wellsway, IKB and SBL - with free transport provided.

"Aligning our provision and collaborating in this way means we can run a broader range of A-levels and vocational subjects, allowing students access to the very best teaching across our Trust. Our young people can retain a pride in their home school and receive support and pastoral care from staff who know them well while at the same time benefiting from wider academic and enrichment opportunities and experiences."

Futura Sixth offers pathways that meet the needs of every individual student, from our Futures programme for those aiming for Oxbridge or a competitive course such as medicine, to A Levels, vocational courses and a bridging year for those who need to improve their Level 2 qualifications.

The sharing of the wealth of expertise in our Trust means we are able to ensure equity for all, including vulnerable students, who are supported to apply for bursaries to help them fund travel to school, books and resources.

We are confident that our approach will help all our students to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge they need to realise their ambitions and fulfil their potential. It is already proving popular - applications for sixth form places in the Trust are up by 100 on last year - and we expect numbers to rise further as students understand the many advantages of being part of Futura Sixth.

This is a very exciting time for us and we look forward enormously to getting things under way in September.

But first, let's all have a rest! I wish you and your family a happy summer break.

With best wishes,

Andrea Arlidge

Chief Executive

Outstanding Achievement

Huge congratulations to Tina Tabor at Wellsway School who completes 40 years in the teaching profession at the end of this school year – and all of them in Wellsway School!!

Tina joined Wellsway School in September 1981 as Miss Fry, having graduated from Exeter University with a degree in mathematics. She has held a number of posts over her 40 years at Wellsway most notably as a Head of Year, Head of Maths and Assistant Headteacher. Her two daughters, Rhianna and Alexandra, attended Wellsway School and both are extremely successful with families of their own now. Wellsway is definitely in her family's DNA!

Tina is an outstanding teacher who has nurtured and inspired countless children over her long career. She is a fantastic colleague to work with and she has supported and inspired countless teachers and other colleagues as well. To say that she is loved and admired is an understatement.

The contribution that Tina has made to Wellsway School is exceptional and it is humbling to see that she still has the same passion and enthusiasm for teaching as she always had. We would like to congratulate Tina on reaching this milestone and pay tribute to her outstanding achievement. Thank you Tina, for all that you have contributed and for making such a difference to so many.



Thanks to all our governors and trustees

Two leaders of governing bodies at Trust schools are stepping down this summer, with our thanks and best wishes.

They are Dr Catherine Phillips, who has been on the governing body at Chandag Infant School for four years and Chair for two, and Megan Jackson, Co-Chair of governors at Saltford School.

The CDI community has thanked Catherine for the positive impact she has made during her tenure and wishes her all the best for the future, knowing that she will remain a friend of Chandag Infants. The Chair's role has been filled by Sarah Church.

Saltford School said Megan was departing as her children leave the school. She has made a huge contribution to Saltford School, including her role as safeguarding governor. Megan was presented with a gift at the final AGC meeting of the academic year in appreciation of all her hard work.

The executive and trustees would like to add their thanks to Catherine and Megan, who have both been excellent Chairs and brilliant supporters of their school and the Trust.

Thanks also go to other governors who are stepping down: Stuart McManus, Andrew Muncer and Simon Butler, from Chandag Infant School, and Dominique De iuliis from The Meadows Primary School.

Bernadette White from Sir Bernard Lovell Academy and Jane Ware, former Chair at Wellsway School, left their schools earlier this year, and have taken on second governorships this summer at other academies in the Trust, Bernadette at Aspire Academy, and Jane at Sir Bernard Lovell, as Chair.

Also stepping down are trustees Graham Shaw and Susan Robbins, who also served as governors (Graham as Chair) on the new AGC at Two Rivers Primary School.

Governance is an incredibly important service that members of our parent, staff and local (including church) communities bring to our academies, and as volunteers we are very grateful for the skills and experience they have brought individually and collectively to our trust family.

Thank you.

Changes to contact tracing in schools and colleges – updated guidance for parents and carers from Public Health England

The following guidance has been issued by Public Health England following the Prime Minister announcement on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

The information below sets out in more detail how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.
2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), they and other members of their household must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of the LFD test.
3. PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.
4. PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

5. If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.
6. You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

7. At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.
8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.
9. From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

Feeding your family in the summer holidays

Thanks to Marcus Rashford and others, we all know that many families find it hard to meet the cost of providing healthy food for their children during the school summer holidays. It is likely that more households than ever will struggle this year because of the impact of the pandemic: illness, bereavement, job losses, furlough ending, self isolation will all take their toll.

The good news is that many local services are ready to respond and make sure that children and their families are fed and stay fit this summer. No one should feel ashamed of using this provision – we are all part of the community of support.

South Glos

- [Juice Community Project](#)
- [South Glos CC – One You](#)
- [South and East Bristol Foodbank](#) – also join their Facebook page

Keynsham

- [Keynsham Foodbank](#)
- [Keynsham Community Fridge](#) – 20 Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1EH – Join their Facebook page
- [The Crown, Bristol Road, Keynsham](#) – Free children's lunches available weekdays 12–2pm – various choices of hot meals, look on Facebook each day for what is on offer. Join their page for the latest information

South Bristol

- [Counterslip Cares Foodbank, Whitchurch](#)
- [Carpenters Food and Support, Withywood](#)
- [Refresh Bedminster](#)
- [Heart of BS13](#) – Join Facebook page for more information

Online

- [Olio](#) – Food exchange app. Olio connects neighbours so food and household items can be shared for free
- [Too Good to Go App](#) – The app provides an overview of shops and restaurants in your area that have surplus food being offered at a reduced price.

Building work starts at Two Rivers Primary

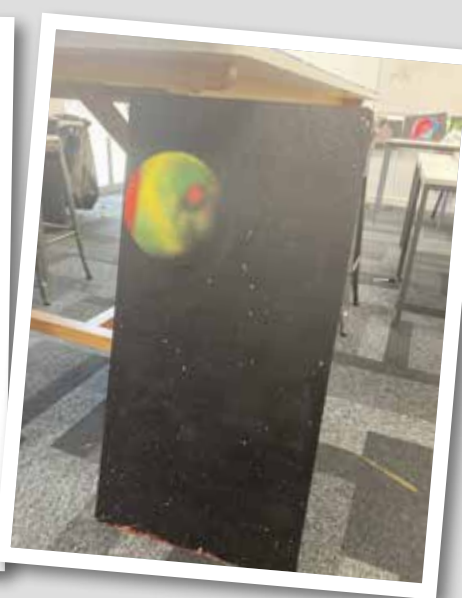


Photo: Nigel Cotes Photography

Work has now started on the new Two Rivers building in Hygge Park. Construction will take a year to complete before the school moves into its amazing new home in 2022.

Aspire street art encourages future Banksys!

Ex-Aspire student Calvin Ellis came to the school to work with a group of students. The students created masterpieces using spray cans and learnt about using stencils to design their images. Some chose to create an undersea image to celebrate international shark day while others created space themed pieces.



Could you make a difference?

The growth of our Trust means we need more inspirational and professional people to join our dedicated and passionate staff team.

If you are planning your next career move, and think you could help make a difference for our students, please take a look at the [WMAT iTrent Jobsite](#).

Role	Location	Closing date
Attendance Improvement Officer	Wellsway School	06/08/2021
Senior Site Assistant	Wellsway School	25/07/2021
Catering Assistant	Saltford CofE Primary	08/08/2021
Catering Assistant	Aspire Academy	08/08/2021
Sales and Business Development Manager	Corporate Team	24/07/2021
Higher Level Teaching Assistant	SBL	25/07/2021

Please contact hr@wellswaymat.com for further information and support.

Building work starts at Aspire

The builders have arrived and have started on the groundworks as part of the Aspire developments.

Over the next few months, work will continue as we prepare to welcome more children to the school.

We will be expanding into the old Studio School site and the children will benefit from more space and improved facilities for science, cooking, art and sports. Through the expansion, we will also be able to broaden our curriculum offer, eventually being able to deliver vocational courses such as construction and hair & beauty with brand new purpose built facilities.



We are all really excited about the future and it is great to see the work starting. We look forward to welcoming the new students from September this year.

A taste of Italy in Salford

In a brand new fundraising initiative, Salford School PTA arranged a pizza night in early July.

Nearly 200 kits were sold for families to enjoy making and eating their pizzas. Participants were sent a link to a pizza making video filmed specially by one of our parents (who happens to have been a pizza chef!). They were encouraged to hold Zoom parties and send photos into school.

It has been a tough year for fundraising so the PTA also secured sponsorship from local businesses to launch the event. Over £900 was raised – that's a lot of dough – and a lot of fun was had in the process. The

school would like to thank the sponsors, Stella Events, Salford Kitchens and SBS Design and Build, Kings Antiques and Collectables and Dixons Plumbing and Heating.



A spray to remember for Year 5

Salford's Year 5 end of year treat was linked to their graffiti project in English. It was a great opportunity for the children to learn more about the positives of graffiti and to show their artistic talents. In a workshop run by a visiting graffiti artist, Steve from Graffarty, they each tried their hand at using spray paint to create their own name and then used stencils to create some original artwork. All the children produced brilliant work which they'll be able to take home to remember the experience by. It was a great couple of days.



Yo ho ho and a barrel of fun, me hearties!



Salford were very excited to be able to give the children a "Day of Fun" to mark the end of what has been another challenging year for all. With grateful thanks to the PTA, we were incredibly lucky to have Super Pirates visiting school to spend the day helping the children to be "the most awesome version of themselves" through play and having fun.

What a day of fun it was! The Super Pirates were every bit as awesome as they promised and the children had a whale of a time in the craft area, disco dancing and playing on the huge range of inflatables.

Back in class the children continued with their fun with a range of activities including junk modelling, origami bookmarks, Lego, flour stress balls and a whole range more. What a great way to end the year.

Bubbles bursting with pride at summer fair

The Salford School summer fair is usually a highlight of the year and the major fundraiser but, of course, this year required some compromises. Everyone was determined that the children should still be able to enjoy their favourite stalls, games and treats, so the PTA set out to provide a fair that could be enjoyed by the children in their bubbles. Year 6 children supported the running of the stalls and games, the weather was perfect, and everyone had a great time. All the children and staff were awarded a commemorative pin badge from the PTA to mark the year it's been. Local businesses and families generously supported the raffle by donating prizes and the many winners will be enjoying their prize hampers for weeks to come.



Enjoying the great outdoors



Children from Wansdyke Primary have been out and about this summer. Year 5 went to the Ashford Water centre, where the children enjoyed making dens in the wood while Year 2 visited Windmill Hill City Farm. They talked about how plants grow, got a bit muddy digging, and tried some edible flowers and leaves, some with more enthusiasm than others! Dig it club had their last session this week. They talked about their harvest and have had a wonderful time learning how plants grow. They have also raised £32 from the sale of wild flower “Wansdyke Posies” to put towards more plants for when we come back in September.

Performance poetry contest winners

Thank you to all the children who sent in entries for the poetry competition and the Y12 judges for their thoughtful discussions. The winner of each category will receive their book token next term.

KS1

- 1st place - Roseanna (Saltford C of E)
- 2nd place - Rose (St John's C of E)
- 3rd place - Isabelle (Chandag Infants)

LKS2

- 1st place - Frankie (Chandag Juniors)

UKS2

- 1st place - Dylan (Chandag Juniors)
- 2nd place - Ava (St John's C of E)
- 3rd place - Sophia (Saltford C of E)

Saltford's Year 6 go into battle

Year 6 camp was not possible this year, but it was important to mark their last term at Saltford by arranging some special activities, including a visit to the local battle archery centre based in Avon Valley Park.

Battle archery is an exciting, fast-paced team archery game, using foam tipped arrows. The children wear masks and arm protectors. The aim is for children to master the bow and arrow, to learn how to work as a team and, to enjoy themselves. They played humans and zombies, battle royale, hunger games and shoot the hat off the teacher. Unfortunately, the children did not succeed in shooting the hat off Mr Godwin as they seemed to be aiming more for his body and head!

Orienteering is big hit with St John's pupils

All KS2 children at St John's were given the opportunity to work with PE specialist Brendan Rouse. They were set, in pairs or small groups, a variety of orienteering tasks and games that involved them exploring the school grounds.



Children take off in new directions

Year 4 children at St John's had a lovely sunny day out at Keynsham Park, where they used compasses to do some orienteering and made some sculptures after a scavenger hunt.



May the show go on

It has been a challenging time to make music with students over the past year and a half. No more singing as a school, no school musical and wind instruments seen as a danger! At Wellsway School we have adapted and attempted to offer performance opportunities when moments allow. We have embraced a co-curricular model, of teaching units of work on ukuleles, including a performance piece, which could then be part of our outdoor Summer Concert. Sadly the concert was cancelled due to the weather but we managed to record each year group's performance and share with students and their families. It was also a delight to see our sixth-formers form a band and perform. You can [watch their performance](#).



Here's hoping our students will be performing with one another in the near future. Maybe our young musicians from across schools could visit and inspire other students within the Futura Learning Partnership next year.

Butterflies make a bright start

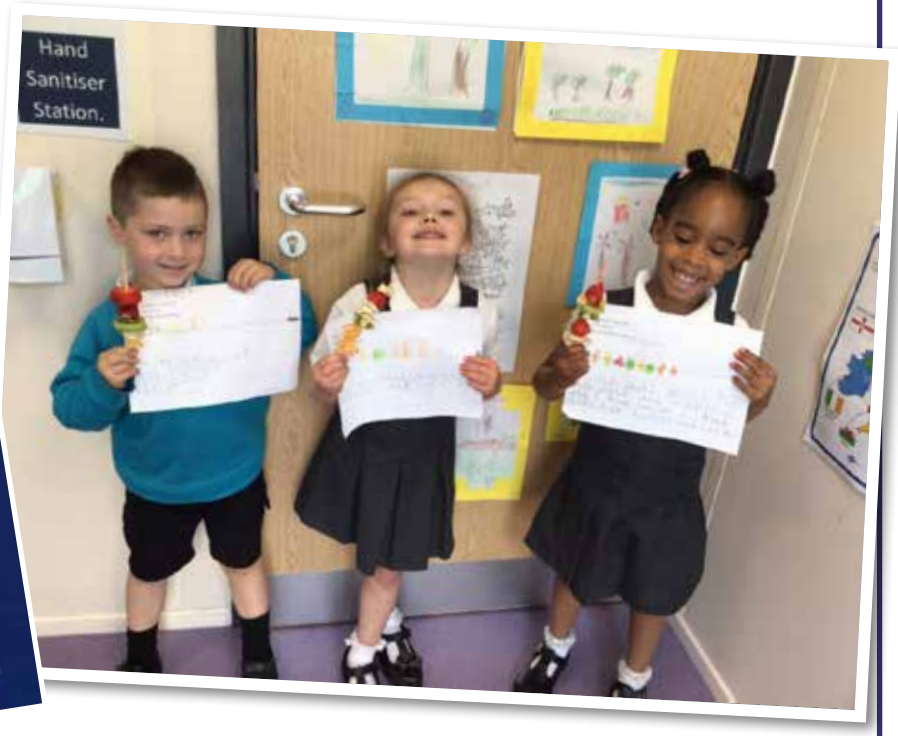
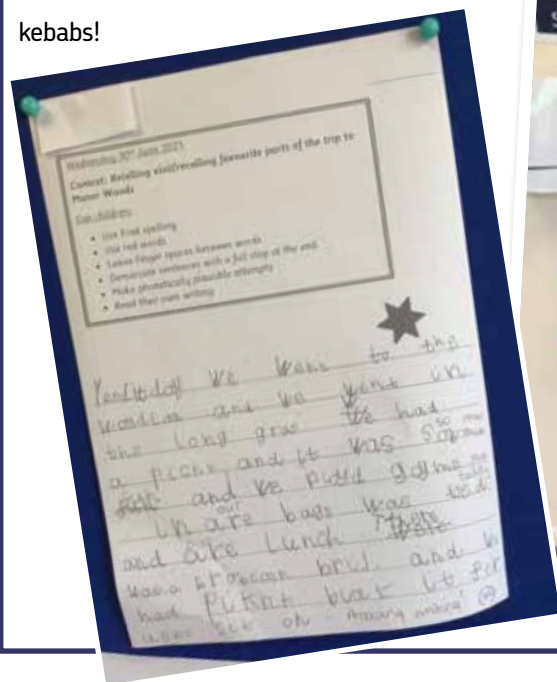
The first intake of children at Two Rivers Primary have made some amazing progress during their year in Butterfly class.

We are so proud of them. Look at this example of excellent writing from our classroom display.

A recent project the reception children enjoyed was designing and making fruit skewers.

They drew and coloured the fruit using the right colours and wrote a list of the fruit to use.

Then they made their kebabs following their plan before the best bit, when they ate their kebabs!





Big-scoring cricketers go out in style

Wellsway's 1st XI has played two cricket fixtures in the last week. The first match for the team, which meets as an extra-curricular club, was against a team from the MCC, the oldest cricket club in the world, based at Lords in London. The MCC batted first but unfortunately the rain came just after lunchtime and the match had to be abandoned with 4 wickets down. We then played the Forty Club, also an adult team, which until recently had HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as its president. The Forty Club was 144 for 9 before declaring with all our bowlers contributing wickets including Zac Mabey, John Williams and Jonny Turner all on debut. In reply, Will Burston and Alex Butler reached 145 undefeated, with Will scoring 114 not out and Alex 30 not out. Will's innings of 114 was a fitting end to his Wellsway cricket career, albeit a year late for obvious reasons. Thanks too to Ben Clarke, Sam Lowe, Sam Parson and Ed Bartlett, who also marked their end of their Wellsway cricket careers in fine style. Thanks also to Ruby Fox who scored for the Forty Club match.

Mr May

First sports day is a winner

Two Rivers held their first sports day this week with a sprint race, relay race, egg and spoon race and backwards race. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

