

Wellsway Multi Academy Trust Parents and Carers Newsletter

12 March 2021



Message from the Chief Executive

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted to report that the much anticipated return to school is going extremely well across the Trust. There is a real sense of joy in fact as youngsters get to see their friends and teachers again and start to get back to normal. It is a testament to the resilience of children and the calm positivity of adults that this is the case. What a delight it is to have schools open again and children and young people back where they belong.



We know that this will not be the case for all children and young people though and each school will be looking very carefully at the additional support that some children may need to help them get back into the routine of attending school. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you have any concern about how they are settling.

All primary schools opened fully from March 8th but students are returning to secondary schools on a staggered basis to enable the testing to take place. We are very grateful for the support of parents in consenting to this important measure, which is going smoothly. Regular testing of staff and secondary aged students will help us to control the transmission of the virus and keep schools open. Likewise with the wearing of masks in secondary school classrooms; we are strongly encouraging this as an additional control measure to support the return to school and are equally grateful for the support of parents with this. We have come such a long way, and made so many adjustments and sacrifices along the way, but we need to keep going and continue to make every effort to keep each other safe. This is why these new measures have been introduced and is why we support them fully.

'We are very grateful for the support we receive from parents and carers...'

You may have read that the government has appointed Sir Kevan Collins to be its Education Recovery Commissioner. He is tasked with putting together a comprehensive programme of catch-up aimed at children and young people who have lost out on learning during the pandemic, with £1bn of additional funding earmarked to support this. No announcements have been made as yet but we will keep you updated about what this will look like and how it will impact our schools and pupils.

In the meantime, all our schools will be working very hard to get children back into school and back to face-to-face learning. They will be looking carefully at where each individual child is in her/his learning and personal development and will be planning lessons and interventions to support their catch-up. This is what teachers do and is at the heart of the craft of teaching. There is a real sense of relief that we can now start to get back to schooling and make sure that children and young people have a positive fulfilling and rewarding experience that helps them to develop as confident, well rounded young adults.

Many thanks for your continued support and for the gargantuan efforts you have made to keep your child(ren) learning over the recent lockdown. Education is a partnership between home and school and the importance of this partnership has certainly come into sharp focus over the past year. We are very grateful for the support we receive from parents and carers that makes such a difference.

With thanks and appreciation,

Andrea Arlidge,
Chief Executive

Saltford's Isla wins forest art commission



Photo credit: Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust

Isla, a Year 4 pupil at Saltford Primary and her Dad, Robin, have been commissioned to create a sculpture featuring Isla's poetry for the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail.

They thought up ideas, visited the site, wrote a proposal together and won the commission.

It's Isla's first proper sculpture/art commission and daughter and father are taking it very seriously. We hear she is super excited! We at school are super-proud.

Read the [full article on the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust's website](#).

TV subtitles can boost your child's reading skills

Research has shown that turning on subtitles while children are watching TV can greatly improve their reading skills. It's a quick, simple, free way to make TV time reading time! Celebrities such as Stephen Fry are backing a campaign to raise awareness of this easy way to improve reading. Find information including the research at [Turn on the Subtitles](#).

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 [vacancies across the WMAT](#).

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021

Salford School

Have you ever been told a story by a fried egg? For this year's World Book Day Salford School went online with a masked reader challenge so that all children, whether learning at school or at home, could join in.

New videos were released over three days that featured sixteen clips of mystery readers – possibly Salford staff – with a range of disguises from a burger to a birthday present to a fried egg. And who was that cool kid?

Younger children also participated in Share a Story Corner.

On the day, we announced the four winners of our design-a-bookmark competition which had kindly been arranged by one of our parents. We received some beautiful and creative entries which were judged by three parents who are authors.

Generous prizes of vouchers were supplied by Mr. B's Emporium of Reading Delights. Of course, all children received their World Book Day vouchers too.



Chandag Junior School

Last week, we celebrated Book Week in collaboration with the infant school. We had a Masked Reader event where each teacher read a poem or short story and the children guessed who was behind the mask.

We looked at Lauren Child's *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?* where the main character falls into a book of fairy tales. We then wrote our own narratives inspired by the book and created illustrations in the style of Lauren Child. The children also created their own artwork inspired by a book or character. On World Book Day, we all wore pyjamas to celebrate the joy of a bedtime story. It was a great week!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Wansdyke

Activities For World Book Day From Year 5 and 6 have spread over the whole week.

On Monday Y5 and Y6 welcomed Stewart Foster into our Teams meetings. We read extracts from his book *The Perfect Parent*, we asked questions and then completed some writing tasks. The children all had a great time, and Stewart loved Wansdyke. The enthusiasm and engagement of the children both from the class and online was inspiring.

On Tuesday, we learned about Rosalind Franklin and Charles Darwin as part of our evolution and inheritance project.

On Wednesday, we linked to our class book *Letters from the Lighthouse*. We wrote short arguments deciding on the fate of the lighthouse.

On Thursday, we joined a live World Book Day event with Tom Palmer as part of our WW2 project.

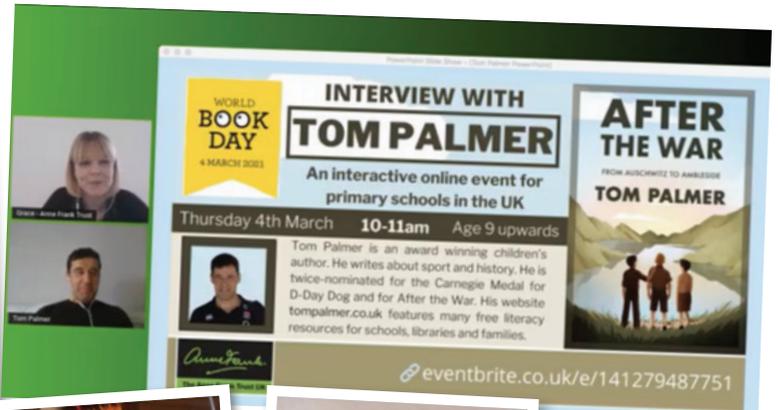
On Friday, we celebrated by sharing our toilet roll pictures, making characters from our favourite books from home and in school.

Here are some lovely examples of reception children's work they prepared at home with their parents using toilet rolls to depict their favourites.

Many thanks to all our parents who have been so wonderful, supporting their children at home in their learning. The children have returned happy and ready to work and keen to engage.

Throughout the week Year 6 have been recording themselves sharing a favourite book aimed at the younger children in our school. A real Jackanory moment for those old enough to remember! This exercise has seen the children grow in confidence both in their reading and their presentation skills; we are so proud of them all.

'The enthusiasm and engagement of the children both from the class and online was inspiring.'

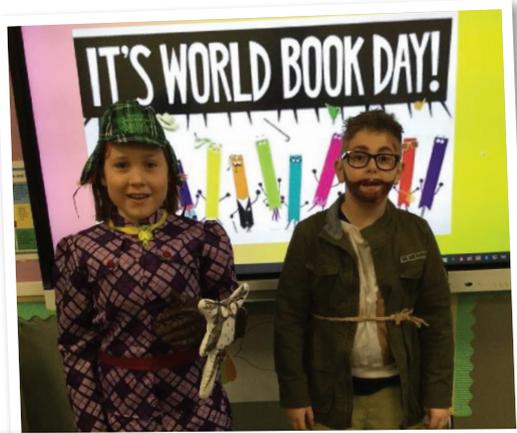


WORLD BOOK DAY

Cheddar Grove

Cheddar Grove joined many other schools across the country in celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. This year was a first for us as it was our first virtual celebration of this event. The entire second week of term 2 was dedicated to all things literacy.

Children at home and at school enjoyed the traditional book character dress up days and a real highlight was having our teachers read favourite stories which were either live streamed or pre-recorded and uploaded to Seesaw and the ILD.



Aspire Primary

This year our theme for World Book day was 'Traditional Tales' and a fine band of characters arrived.



A knight battled two dragons.



Red Riding Hood was protected from the big bad wolf by Jack, who had a chainsaw to cut down the beanstalk!



Foxes class was joined by Daddy Bear, Robin Hood and the three little pigs.

We could not all be together in the same room so Mr Headach read us a story over Teams - 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig' made us all laugh.

Super smiles return at St John's

The children at St John's have returned with happy, smiling faces and lots of enthusiasm for learning!

The Reception children had their Hook Day to launch their Wonderful World theme, where they planted seeds, sewed bugs and made clay flowers.

St John's have received some lovely messages of thanks from their parents:

"Thank you once again for all your hard work and providing work for my child to do at home."

"A massive thank you for absolutely everything you have done for my child. Lockdown this time has been harder for all but with a little bit of structure coming from you guys we have made it. My child and I have looked forward to seeing your videos to see what learning challenges lie ahead. I admit some of them had me tutting at especially when it's playdough or paint... but we have had so much fun."

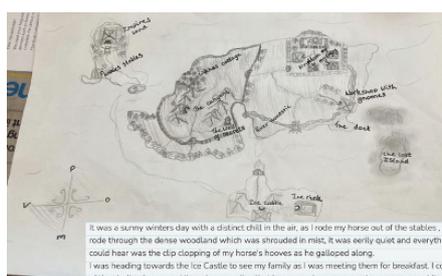
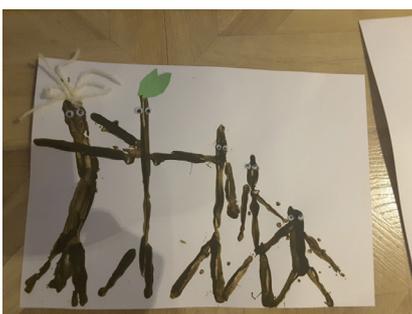
"Thank you so much for all your support and efforts over the last couple of months it's been very much appreciated."

"Thank you again for all the hard work and dedication during these last few months - it has really made a difference to my child. She actually said to me today that she will miss your comments every morning but is excited to see you in person."

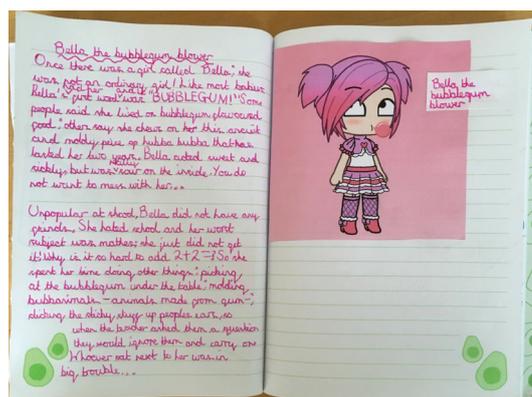


WORLD BOOK DAY

Although the children at St John's couldn't all be in school to celebrate World Book Day this year, they did not disappoint with their enthusiasm in engaging with this annual event.



It was a sunny winters day with a distinct chill in the air, as I rode my horse out of the stables. (a black beauty) I rode through the dense woodland which was shrouded in mist, it was eerily quiet and everything was still all I could hear was the clip clopping of my horse's hooves as he galloped along.
I was heading towards the Ice Castle to see my family as I was meeting them for breakfast. I could smell the aroma of the sizzling bacon and it made me realise that I was very hungry as my tummy was rumbling after my ride. I made my way out of the Castle and was going to see the Gnomes in their colourful workshop as they were making magical potions, for delivery to the Kingdom of Mystery.



Saving animals at risk of extinction

Red squirrel



Fact file

Diet: nuts, fruits and seeds.
Height: 19 to 23cm
Weight: 250 to 340g
Colour: ginger
Lifespan: up to 6 years
Habitat: woodlands
Type: mammal

Why are they endangered?

They are endangered because of:

- predators
- viruses
- changes to the landscape
- Grey squirrels

Where do they live?

They live in Europe.

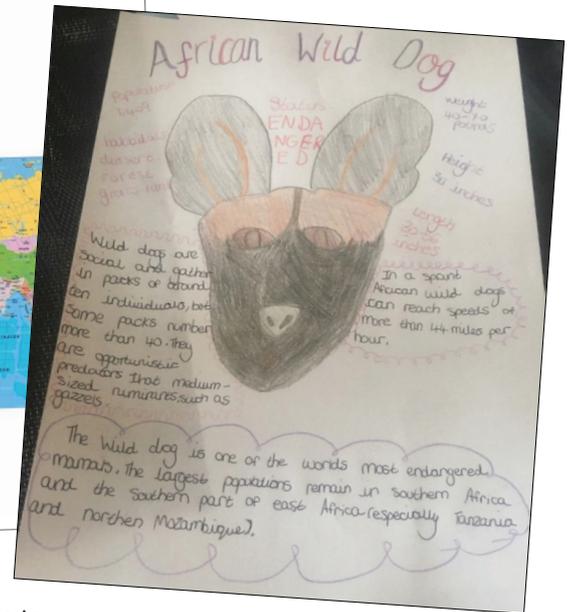


How many are left?

There are approximately 140,000 left in the wild.

What is being done to help?

There is habitat management to help red squirrels, education and awareness projects, monitoring of squirrel populations and targeted control of grey squirrels in areas where red squirrels are at risk of extinction.



During remote learning, children in Year 6 at Chandag Junior School created projects about an endangered species to raise awareness of what can be done to help. They used a wide range of methods to present their work, from posters and PowerPoints to homemade videos and recordings. Here are a couple examples of their informative projects.

Raising a smile

Callum Yeoman, a student at SBL, has been back on the fundraising trail.

During the lockdown last year, Callum ran regularly around his home area in fancy dress.

In February, he did the same, vowing to run 5k every day that month for the MND Association.

The cause is close to Callum's heart as he lost his grandad to Motor Neurone disease in 2020.

He said: "After my success and the amount of joy that people got in the summer whilst seeing me running in fancy dress I thought it had to return. The second time round has been even more successful.

"With everyone going into a lockdown I thought it was the perfect opportunity to try and put smiles on people's faces whilst raising money at the same time. The support has been unreal.

"Everyone in my local area has really got behind my running with people beeping whilst in their cars, shouting out their windows cheering me on and many people clapping. I am shocked and can't thank the people who have supported me enough. "

Callum's efforts in February have already raised £3,265 – smashing his £100 fundraising target. If you are able to you can make a donation through his [JustGiving page](#).

Callum Yeoman

Callum's Fancy Dress 5K Everyday In February

I'm running a fancy dress 5k everyday for Motor Neurone Disease Association because I lost my grandad to MND during the first lockdown

1798 %

£1,798

raised of £100 target
by 148 supporters

Give Now

Share

In Memory of Grandad Arch

Making books for les enfants

As part of their class work on how to use prepositions in French, some Wellsway School Year 7 students produced books aimed at young children. They produced sentences using a variety of nouns, prepositions and sometimes adjectives and illustrated them to show meaning. There was amazing creativity and French accuracy demonstrated, as this example from Hayden shows.

Un ours en peluche est derrière la chaise.



Feeling soft about Fudge

Zoe in Year 9 at Wellsway School is taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. As part of her textiles section, Zoe made a cushion out of recycled material for her cat Fudge. Zoe reports that Fudge loves his new pillow! Zoe made this on her own at home during lockdown.

Glad to be back in the swim



Children at Wansdyke Primary each decorated a fish for a whole school display as part of their remote learning. Head teacher Adam Smith said: "They were proud and excited to see their work displayed in the hall when they returned on Monday."