

# Embrace Multi Academy Trust Newsletter



Welcome to our spring term newsletter, bringing you news and events from across the trust

## Sharon Mullins, Trust Leader



Being able to share all of our positive news and learning from schools around the trust is a real privilege.

As a trust we work together at Embrace based on our key values of wisdom, collaboration, respect, integrity, inclusivity and compassion. We believe and use these values to work together as a collective and support each other to be stronger through meaningful partnerships.

As part of our work together, we have developed our strategic priorities and these have been formulated with trustees, governors and headteachers. These allows us all to focus on improving our schools and experiences for our children. Through the idea of working together, we aim to create 'A Stronger Embrace', which will create schools that are places of excellent curriculums and buildings.

We are committed to this provision and services and it is fantastic that we have been able to further develop our team at the centre, helping our schools with aspects of finance, HR, school improvement, estates, governance and IT.

My favourite part of being trust leader is being able to visit our schools and witness first-hand the wonderful learning that is happening. It is good that we can share some of this with you as part of this newsletter and celebrate together the many aspects of curriculum and activities that have taken place across the trust.

Sharon Mullins

## Central Support Team Updates

We are delighted to welcome four recent additions to the Embrace central support team.

Laura McWhinnie, joined in a new trust role of Director of Education, focusing on school improvement. Laura will be a familiar face to lots of you by now, but please say "hello" if you see her about and have not met her yet.



Mike Burton is our new Chief Financial Officer who joined us at the start of term. Mike previously worked at a specialist trust in Birmingham and brings a wealth of experience and business and finance knowledge to the role at Embrace.



Toni Fletcher is settling into her role within the finance team as a part-time Accounts Clerk. Toni works Monday to Wednesday and is based at the Embrace offices at Croft Primary School. Sam Callaghan and Carla Hackett, our two existing Finance Support Officers (FSOs) are spending more time based at the schools they support and we are currently recruiting another FSO to join us as the trust grows.



Riley Crookes is our new Mobile IT Technician apprentice and is eagerly learning the ropes from Joe Baum the Trust Network Manager.

## Learning Around The Trust - Arnesby

Arnesby's new play equipment and the introduction of dancing have transformed playtimes to a fun time to interact and discover new skills.



When the weather allows, children will be able to make the most of the new 'quiet garden' area for reading, drawing and board games.

We have been thinking about wellbeing and have introduced 'Peace Tables' for conflict resolution and reflection in each classroom. Our next endeavour is to establish a 'nurture room' with soft furnishings and sensory lighting for those times when children (and staff!) need a safe space to reflect.

We have also introduced 'sharing assemblies' for each class to share their learning with parents and we're also increasing the frequency of our writing, inspired by the Blue Peter Amazing Authors competition.



## Learning Around The Trust - Brockington



Year 11 students took part in an Interview Techniques Morning last month, involving a mock interview by members of local firms who kindly gave up their time to support this annual initiative. Although for some it was a nerve-wracking experience,

it will provide an excellent foundation for them as they embark on their future careers.

One of the highlights of the week at Brockington is handing out our WOW Awards (work of the week) which are nominated by staff. It is wonderful to see other students celebrate their peers' successes too with big rounds of applause!



## Learning Around The Trust - Croft



EYFS have been very busy this week. In forest school the children enjoyed giving the trees some clay faces they made and building houses in their woodland outside area.



Pre-school had a visitor who came in to teach the children about germs and why we all need to wash our hands properly. She did a range of experiments to help the children understand about bacteria.

## Learning Around The Trust - Huncote

This term, EYFS have been taking part in Birdwatch and have set up their very own birdwatching area in their quiet room. They have enjoyed spotting the many different birds and even made their very own binoculars.



Year 1 and 2 had a visit from an explorer as part of their topic about Antarctica. As a scientist he works on a ship exploring Antarctica for weeks on end each year. The children enjoyed hearing about life there and got to try on some of his work kit.

Year 3 & 4 took part in a Dodgeball Festival at Brockington College. They practised lots of dodgeball skills then played in matches against a number of Blaby schools. Great fun was had by all and the Huncote team received the 'Spirit of the Games Award'.



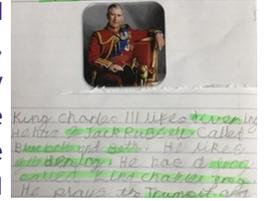
The Fire Brigade Service visited school to deliver a talk to Year 1 & 5, who enjoyed learning about what to do to keep themselves safe.

Year 5 & 6 tasted Sushi as part of their topic on Japan and then set about making their own sushi as well - some enjoyed it more than others!



## Learning Around The Trust - Manorfield

Year 1 have been learning all about King Charles III this week, including some fun facts. They used this knowledge to write some questions they would like to put to the King and they will be writing a letter to him next week to send to Buckingham Palace.



Year 4 had a wonderful arty time recently exploring the different ways they can use paint. They created marble ink backgrounds, printed with objects and black ink, and used watercolour and acrylic paints and made bubble art by blowing soapy paint mix. They also made a class collaborative art project. They each had a rectangle to colour, that built to create a beautiful giant piece of art work.



As part of children's mental health week, Year 6 spent some time thinking about how we build connections with others and how these relationships make us feel. They discussed how listening, talking, paying attention, trusting and being kind are just some of the ways to build relationships with others and then captured some of these ideas on jigsaw pieces representing connections with others.

## Learning Around The Trust - Sherrier



During Children's Mental Health Week, Year 1 learned some new stretching and breathing exercises.

Year 4 had a great time at Lapworth Geology Museum and enjoyed becoming geologists, volcanologists, architects, engineers, palaeontologists, and demolition workers- all in one day! They even met Roary the dinosaur!



The children remembered a lot about volcanoes and really impressed the museum staff.

Year 5 have been true to one of the Sherrier values of being community-spirited. They shared their fabulous poetry with all the customers of Costa in Lutterworth!



Year 6 were very lucky to have an online visit with Tom Palmer, the author of 'After The War', which is the current novel they are studying. Tom shared his approach to

the writing process and how he researched the stories he tells through his characters Yossi, Leo and Mordecai.

## Learning Around The Trust - St Peter's

As part of their topic on Darwin's Dragon, Year 6 have learnt about inheritance, natural selection and artificial selection - all of which are determined by DNA.



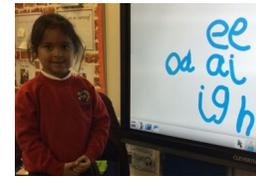
To make this come alive, the children worked scientifically, following a method to extract DNA from a banana! Using simple ingredients (salt, washing-up liquid and surgical spirit) we managed to see and touch strands of DNA.

We discovered that we share 50% of our DNA with a banana (!); 99.1% of our DNA with a chimpanzee and 99.9% of our DNA with all other humans. It is the 0.01% of our DNA which makes us all unique.

## Learning Around The Trust - Swinford

In Collective Worship we have been looking at the "I am...." sayings of Jesus. In the Bible it says that God provides all that we need, so we thought about how we could share what we have with others and started our House Team Foodbank Challenge.

Year 6 took part in the Dodgeball Tournament at Lutterworth College. Team 1 narrowly missed making their semi-final and Team 2 won their group. We are so proud of their teamwork.



In phonics, the children have learned lots of new Phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs. They loved segmenting and blending words with these new sounds in.

In a visit from Severn Trent Water, we learned about the importance of water to stay healthy. The children made a promise to try and save water and learned



about the water cycle. They found it fascinating (and hilarious) that all water on Earth has been here pretty much since its creation so we are essentially drinking dinosaur wee!



In music, the focus has been on rhythm and understanding musical symbols. Year 3/4 had a go at using body percussion to the rhythm to Encanto's 'We Don't talk about Bruno' - it was fascinating to watch!