

NEWSLETTER

Spring - February 2024



Sharon Mullins
Trust Leader

January always seems a long month with darker days, cold weather and a great deal to achieve across schools. This year it has been no different and January has proved to be a busy time for all our schools.

The first glimpse of snowdrops recently made me smile and served as a reminder that the next stage and new growth is never far away, even at this colder time of year.

Growth is important to us and our schools work closely together as part of our key values which include collaboration, wisdom and inclusivity. We believe that working together and supporting each other to become better strengthens all that we do for our children and young people.

By building networks which enable our teachers and support staff to meet regularly and work closely together, our curriculums, teaching, and learning opportunities will become stronger. We are able to talk, share ideas and develop excellent practice as part of a trusted group, which can then be taken back directly into our schools for our children.

At Embrace we achieve this through our use of technology and all schools and staff use Microsoft Teams to communicate, write and share key plans and documents as well as meeting online for network meetings and discussions. This is a core part of our Trust's digital strategy.

I have been able to attend and join key meetings and networks recently including one for our Primary Early Career teachers. Being able to listen to the work they have undertaken in their classrooms was a real pleasure and reminded me of how important it is to nurture and support each other so that we are **all** able to develop and grow.

Let's all keep a close eye out for the daffodils next....



Staff spotlight



Joe has recently been appointed Head of ITI. He works closely with all of our schools, and the Central team, to ensure all needs and requirements are met. He is also an EdTech Leader, meaning he develops the digital educational strategies across all of our schools, with the aim of engaging students, improving outcomes and reducing teacher workload.



During his free time, Joe likes to watch and play football and go on day trips with his children - his favourite food is a cheeky Nando's!



As Operations Manager at Brockington College, Judith is an integral part of the school.

She oversees all aspects that are non-educational, including HR, Premises, Catering, IT, Administration

and Finance. As a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Judith creates an essential link between teaching and non-teaching staff.

During her free time, Judith enjoys caravanning, walking her dog Walt, reading and watching live bands! Her favourite food is a roast dinner with all the trimmings - yum!



Arnesby

Peace Class recently took part in a pirate-themed afternoon!

After learning about the history of pirates and their jobs, the children picked their own pirate names, which resulted in a lot of laughs! They also learnt some pirate sayings, such as 'Ahoy, matey' and 'batten down the hatches'.



The class created their own pirate ships and flags, using a variety of different materials, and then tested them to see if they would float or sink.

The children then designed and drew their own treasure maps and went digging for 'loot'!



Rawlins



Year 8 students, Emma, Charlie, Cleo and Evie participated in the Cyberfirst Girls Competition last term, which required them to spend 10 days cracking codes and problem solving.

More than 12,500 girls took part from 750 schools, with 13 teams claiming top prizes. Unfortunately, we were not one of the winners, however the team have grown in their skillset and confidence through these challenges.



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0116 4820880



admin@embracemat.org



Swinford



Our Seahorse class recently enjoyed a fantastic day out at the local Fire Station!

The children got a tour of the station, learnt some great facts about the firefighters and even got to sit in the fire engine!



Sherrier



In the early 1800's, Edward Sherrier donated £200 to provide 5 local, underprivileged boys an education. His act of kindness and generosity inspired Headteacher, Miss Beckett, to create the 3C's Challenge and to find out what £200 can achieve now!

She donated £30 of her own money to each Sherrier year group and tasked them to come up with creative ideas of what to do with it - any profits they made could be donated to the local community or charities of their choice.

Click here to find out what the children got up to!

St Peter's

Our whole school Christmas Competition, in which we asked children to decorate a pebble to reflect one of our school values, proved to be extremely popular! We had some wonderful designs and plan to create a path outside of school that we can all enjoy. Well done to Albie, Year 1, and Charlie, Year 3, for their winning creative designs.



Huncote



We have once again had a superb season of cross country at the Blaby Area Schools Races!

The Year 4 Girls Team and the Year 6 Boys Team both came 1st in their races! All of the participating year groups performed exceptionally well, and altogether the whole cross country team won overall 1st place for the small schools!

Well done everyone, what an achievement!



Manorfield



Our School Council had the brilliant idea of putting Buddy Benches in our KS1 and KS2 playgrounds!

Although our playgrounds are friendly, fun places to be, there are times when children may feel that they have no one to play with. If this is the case, they can sit on the Buddy Bench, where peers will notice them and invite them to join in with their fun!



The School Council are confident that these will make break times even more enjoyable.

Brockington



Riley, Year 7, recently attended the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy and had 'the best week of his life'!

He played in an international tournament, where participants completed eight matches throughout the week against talented players from over 59 different countries!

Riley won 5 out of his 8 matches and he also won competitor of the week!

Well done Riley, we are so proud!



Croft

Some of our Year 6 students represented Croft at the SLSSP Basketball Tournament last month.

They received the Spirit of the Games award for determination, passion, respect, honesty, self belief and teamwork.

What an amazing achievement!



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Online Safety

A recent national survey has shown that UK parents are worried that screen time is taking over family life and damaging their children's physical health, yet young people say they feel more confident online and their "digital wellbeing" has improved, according to a major survey.

Although parents were more anxious, their children provided a more positive view of their lives online, and reported feeling safer, more confident, more independent and empowered.

To support parents with ways they can support their child online, over the coming newsletters we will share different ideas and suggestions.

Click here to view a Facebook settings checklist to help with privacy settings following the most recent updates.



Safeguarding Monitoring Software: our software is designed to closely track student activities on their devices. It captures screen recordings and logs their online interactions. This allows us to promptly address any concerning behaviour and provide timely support.

By combining these measures, we actively work towards creating a secure digital space for our students, ensuring their well-being, and fostering responsible online behaviour.

Safer Internet Day 2024

Tuesday 6th February was Safer Internet Day and the focus was on making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.

The internet can influence us in both a positive and negative way, however we want our pupils to feel safe and supported in all parts of their life, including online.

Discover hundreds of free online safety guides here, providing you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to keep children safe in the online world!

The NSPCC has also produced an excellent series of resources for families, to help educate and inform about online risks and also services that can be accessed.

The National College®

NSPCC

At Embrace, keeping students safe online is a top priority. We take several proactive measures to achieve this including:

Internet Filtering: we have robust internet filtering in place. This technology actively blocks and filters websites that may pose risks to students. By restricting access to harmful or inappropriate content, we create a safer online environment.



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