

We hope you enjoy this and future issues which will be uploaded at the beginning of every term.
"We cannot publish this newsletter without your help!" (More details at the back).

NEW PUPIL TRIES OUT NEW EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA...



In February 2019, playful Bishop Rob opened the new Learning Area at **Trent, Cockfosters** by encouraging the children to remind adults how to be playful and creative, how to enjoy being carefree and as trusting as a child. He then decided to take his own advice... by actually crawling through the playground tunnel, to the utter delight of the children all around him and cut the golden ribbon to declare the playground officially "Open" with the oldest and the youngest of Trent's pupils.

On the brightest and most summery of days, Bishop Rob blessed some water and sprinkled it all over the children, the parents who came to watch and all over the staff... no-one escaped a thorough 'blessing'.



PARIS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DELEGATION...

On 22nd January 2019, **Hampden Gurney, Marylebone** received 24 inspectors, advisers, secondary and primary headteachers, from the Paris Academy, Department of Education. Although the focus was the use of digital technologies in UK primary schools, they also wanted to observe the practice of an Outstanding UK primary school. The Parisian visitors were hugely impressed with Hampden Gurney's very high standards, quality of provisions, exemplary pupil behaviour and excellent learning atmosphere and gave lots of complimentary feedback. Headteacher, Evelyn Chua, had a time convincing the inspectors they were not a private school but a state funded primary!



INSPIRE...

On Friday 9th November 2018, 1800 students and teachers attended an INSPIRE celebration of peace event at St Paul's Cathedral. There were lots of contributions from the schools, including, the Chamber Choir from Lady Margaret school performing a beautiful blessing, and the making of peace motifs and prayers which were collected at the beginning of the service and then dropped from the Whispering



Gallery during the event. There was a 1 minute silence to remember the fallen from past conflicts; listened to words of Jesus, Isaiah, MLK and Malala as well as Dean David Ison and Steve Chalke from Oasis who reflected on present situations of suffering and violence. Towards the end of the service everyone committed to be peacemakers by saying together: "We pledge ourselves to work together for peace, remembering those who have died in conflict, and committing ourselves to being peacemakers in our communities and in the world." At the end of the service the peace motifs were swept into a circle under the dome and handed out to the congregation attending evensong that evening, and to visitors who were coming to the Lord Mayor's Show Day the next day. Young People's Laureate Momtaza Mehri wrote and performed an incredible poem - Threads *(opposite)*



LDBS schools that attended: **Bishop Ramsey, Burdett Coutts & Townshend, Chelsea Academy, Christ Church Albany Street, Holy Trinity Tottenham, John Keble, Kentish Town, Lady Margaret, St Andrew's Barnsbury, St Ann's Tottenham, St Barnabas & St Philip's, St Clement Dane's, St Gabriel's, St George's Hanover Square, St James and St John, St John's Whetstone, St John's Highbury Vale, St John and St James Hackney, St Jude & St Paul's, St Luke's Kilburn, St Mary's Kilburn, St Mary's Twickenham, St Mary Abbots, St Mary Magdalene Academy, St Mary & St Pancras, St Mary's & St Peter's, St Matthew's Viewsley, St Matthew's Westminster, St Michael's Camden, St Michael's Enfield, St Michael's Wood Green** *(photo above)*, **St Paul's Brentford, St Paul's Winchmore Hill, St Paul's Mill Hill, St Paul's and All Hallows, St Peter's Hammersmith, St Saviour's Poplar, St Stephen's Westbourne Park, The Blue Isleworth and Trent Cockfosters.**

THREADS... by Momtaza Mehri

History is shrouded in folds, woven into our daily presents, like a heirloom held close to the chest. Every centenary has its centerpiece, the evidence of our survival. A hundred years. A hundred and thirty eight survivors. We are all ripples in each other's lives. Reverberations of reverberations. Held together by the fabric of faith, our commitment to one another. To bear as one

what can't be carried alone. The weight of yesterdays and possibility of tomorrows. To clothe one another in compassion, a drapery of grace.

Petals fall like a mercy of rain, colouring the air with the scent of sacrifice. We stitch the future together. One stitch is all it takes, either way. To weave, and unweave, thread and unthread, one stitch at a time to change all that needs to be changed. To preserve what remains. There isn't enough language for what war does. We wear its truth on our skins. Symptoms revealed in the body's scriptures. Grief is a language the hands understand best, sorrow pulled from fingertips, thread by thread. The needle's prickling love is a sting we remember in our bones.

Limbs have a memory of their own. The whistling of shells, the wet soil of trenches, resting places of mud and madness. From the Cape's golden coasts to Dublin's windy walkways, Canadian prairies to Essex's leafy hamlets. A mishmash of accents & beginnings, fate making a daisy chain of their destinies. Binding each to the other. They answered the call. The world in service of the world. Beyond hospital beds, beyond unmarked graves. In evergreen French fields, History is a fork in the road.

A turning point they could not turn away from. White coats, white sheets, white winters, carbolic soap, stained bandages, the bleached aprons of nurses. Their hands were a dance of colour, an interruption. Palm branches welcoming saviours. A chalice set with red stones, the colour of a healing wound. Birds of paradise mid-flight, their wings an archway of dreams. Violets, pinks, the soft blues of bruises. Stitching with stuttering hands and frayed nerves, they made neighbors of strangers. Drank from the cup of suffering, shared it with generations unborn, generations to come.

A tapestry that survived them, that speaks to what they could not say. Words give way to hands, to our collective remembering. The hope of each new day.

Our obligation to each newborn dawn. We owe ourselves, we owe those who surround us, those beyond us, its promise of peace.

PROMS PRAISE FOR SCHOOLS...

PP4S was held at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 19th March 2019 - "The Exodus – Let My People Go!" and explored the story of Moses with drama, music, dance and more. It featured a choir of over 3000 children, accompanied by the All Souls Orchestra, and included special guest artists Paul Kerensa, Faith Child, along with performers from Springs Dance Company and West End Has Faith.



METAL BEATING...

St Cuthbert with St Matthias, Earl's Court Y5 class were invited to the opening of Japan House in Kensington in the autumn term and took part in a metal-beating workshop. They



also sharpened their skills with chopsticks. Special guest was Prince William,

The Duke of Cambridge.

PLAY STRUCTURE...

The Mayor of Islington visited **St Andrew's, Barnsbury** on Monday 13th March 2019, to open their new play structure.

Sue Daley who is the Chair of the Friends of St Andrew's (F.O.S.A.) was instrumental in



fundraising the money for this project as well as all the children, staff and parent members of the F.O.S.A. committee.

SAVE RANG-TAN...

Class three at **St John's, Bethnal Green** took part in the 'Save Rang-Tan' video campaign in association with Greenpeace to speak out against destroying the rain forest for palm oil in November 2018, by posting a youtube video: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Fd2xwI6HO1c&feature=youtu.be>



ST PAUL'S SERVICE OF CELEBRATION...

LDBS held its third Service of Celebration in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 25 January 2019, to celebrate our family of Church of England schools which has become a special event in the LDBS calendar and coincided with our Cathedral's Patronal Festival.

Each school was allocated 12 seats to be shared between students, staff and governors and those schools who were celebrating a special anniversary were given more seats.

Bishop Sarah joined us for her first LDBS celebration and we had a Q&A feature with her as part of the service. *(photos courtesy of Graham Lacdao)*



TAKING THE GOD OPTION: WHY I SEND MY CHILDREN TO C OF E SCHOOLS...

No, it's not because they get better results, but because they teach peace, hope and compassion.

'It's the same old story — pay or pray,' said my oldest friend, sardonically, when I told him I was sending my children to a Church of England school. I could hardly blame him for being cynical. He'd known me since we were teenagers, when we were both devout and pious atheists. Yet now I was educating my kids for free, while he was forking out a small fortune to go private. No wonder he felt a bit put out. Since I started going to church again, our friendship has not been quite the same.

For cash-strapped parents, the C of E system is a have-your-cake-and-eat-it solution to an age-old dilemma. Can't afford school fees? Don't fancy the look of your local state school? Then go to church, get a letter from your vicar, and bingo — a middle-class education, free of charge. I can see why my friend felt so disgruntled. The way he saw it, the C of E school system was a racket, a ruse for two-faced mums and dads to get something for nothing. However, my experience of C of E schools, as a pupil and a parent, has been a world away from this stereotype. We all know the case for the prosecution. Here's the case for the defence.

When I was a kid, my mum took me to our local Anglican church, St Mary's, in Woolwich. I loved that church and so did she, so going to the primary school that shared its name seemed like a natural thing to do. It was a nice school, but it wasn't remotely posh or difficult to get in to. Then, as now, Woolwich was not the smartest place.

My secondary school, a state grammar, wasn't a C of E school as such, but the headmaster was an Anglican priest and we had prayers and Bible readings and religious instruction every day. Our RE teacher was a kindly Irish Catholic, who taught us that each and every one of us was unique and loved by God, whoever He was. 'You are all special,' he said. I still believe that was the most important thing I learned while I was there.

At university I adopted atheism (it's easy to be an atheist at university) but as real life began, the church started to draw me back. When I had a breakdown in my early thirties it was an Anglican priest who saved me. I started going to his church, I started taking my son to church, and when the time came for him to go to school I wanted to send him to one where he might meet teachers like those who had helped me. The reason I tell this story is not because it's unusual, but because it's rather common. The Church of England is famously self-effacing (Anglicans hate to make a fuss) but I've met lots of inspiring people in C of E schools, teachers, parents, pupils, who have reinforced my fragile faith, people whose religious roots run a lot deeper than you might think. My son and daughter went to St Peter's, Hammersmith. The intake was a fair reflection of this inner-London district: mixed-race, mixed-ability, with a wide range of incomes. It's a super school and I'm glad they went there, but it wasn't the most prestigious state school around. There were several non-religious state primaries in the area which were just as highly regarded, maybe more so. However, what set St Peter's apart, for me, was its Christian ethos, and when we moved out to the suburbs I wanted to find a school with the same outlook on life.

I found a place for my daughter at Bishop Winnington Ingram, Ruislip. It's not the most sought-after school in the area and its academic record has been variable, but I've never come across more caring teachers. My daughter felt cherished there. After a while a place came up at Whiteheath, a non-religious school with a better reputation. I didn't want my daughter to leave BWI, but I didn't want to make her a martyr to my brittle Christianity. I asked her if she'd like to transfer. She said she was happy where she was. Now she is at Bishop Ramsey, Ruislip. It's a fine school with great teachers and great results, and lots of people want to go there. But just because it's difficult to get into doesn't make it elitist. The school is in a smart white suburb, but its racial profile is far more diverse than the area around it. Religious criteria give it a broader intake than the local catchment area ever could. My own experience has taught me that C of E schools aren't middle-class enclaves. They aren't the poshest schools, or even the most high achieving. But if they really are better, on average, than non-religious state schools (and, on balance, I believe they are) then what's to stop those other state schools copying their Christian principles? Jesus is a prophet in Islam. His teaching is broadly compatible with most major religions, or so it seems to me.

Here's the real secret about C of E schools: they aren't doing anything very different from most state schools of yesteryear. They're still doing the things that other state schools today have forsaken: hymns in assembly, daily prayers and the moral message of the New Testament. You might think this is happy-clappy nonsense, but as a parent, I can't better the mission statement on the BWI website: 'The Christian values of service, forgiveness, peace, hope and compassion are our focus this academic year.'

Article by William Cook, (published in The Spectator on Saturday 16th March 2019)

SPRING EVENTS 2019...



St Michael at Bowes, Enfield Y3 Easter production took place at St Cuthbert's Church on Friday 5th April 2019.



They also took part in another highly successful London Borough of Enfield Dance Festival in early

April 2019 to celebrate the unifying force of dance; 65 primary schools, 5 secondary and 6 special schools with over 1100 pupils danced across 5 performances. This year's theme 'Feel the Rhythm' focussed on the health and wellbeing aspect of dance and how dance makes you feel; not only as a performer but also as a spectator. The whole week oozed creativity, confidence and camaraderie.



Tuesday, 2nd April marked the second Charity Day of the academic year for Bishop Wand, Sunbury who raised £2,300 for their school charity – Save the Children. Over 500 Krispy Kreme doughnuts and 250 Crème Eggs sold in just 20 minutes at break time. At lunch there were some amazing performances from Rock School in the Foyer. After school, around 100 students from all year groups joined in their first Great Easter Egg Hunt. Staff from across the school set up challenges in 20 different locations – favourites included 'Float the egg' in Science, 'Egg-pong' with the Reception staff and the 'Gladiator challenge' from PE.

To mark Lent St Mary's & St John's, Hendon staff and students were challenged to do something creative each day.

SMSJ Bennett House Drama Club and Choir, directed by Mrs McGinnis and Miss Strange performed a fantastic version of the passion of Christ. The performances took place in St Mary's Church and all students from Y5 to Y11 saw the production. Staff and students were given the opportunity to reflect on the story and its relevance to their daily lives.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS...

All Souls, Foley Street annual candlelit carols service at All Souls Church looked slightly different last year as, for the first time, the service was led by the school choir. Children from the choir performed three Christmas songs for the rest of the school to enjoy. They also gave readings to lead the school through the whole Christmas story, starting with the story of Creation in Genesis and working through Isaiah's prophecy to reach the nativity scene in Bethlehem. Ten children were brave enough to sing either as a solo or in a small group - their beautiful singing had many of the staff and parents in tears.

joy
peace
Love
Christ
Family
Laughter
believe
memories
warmth
TOGETHER
warm & cozy
Happiness
hugs and kisses
harmony
magic



St John's, Bethnal Green enjoyed a Peter Pan Christmas Panto.



St George's, Freezywater

St Cuthbert with St Mathias, Earls Court after their Nativity play, processed around Earls Court Square with their adopted donkey Alice. Alice had a few treats in store for everyone: a few loud donkey brays and some wide smiles. The school choir took part in the Community Carols at St Cuthbert Church.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS CON'T...

Joy
peace
Love
Christ
Family
Laughter
believe
memories
snowball fights
TOGETHER
warm & cozy
Happiness
hugs and kisses
harmony
magic

Trent, Cockfosters Y3 in Christmas Show 'Lights, Camel, Action.'



Lady Margaret, Parsons Green held a Christmas jumper / Christmas wear day and overall activities raised £12,851.65.



Holy Trinity, Northwood wore Christmas jumpers and raised £300 for Hillingdon Food Bank for those in need.



Latymer All Saints, Edmonton raised a staggering £1,700 for 'The Children's Society' as part of celebrating their 50th annual Christingle event.

All of the pupils were given collection boxes provided by the Children's Society, and took part in a fundraising activity to collect as much loose change as possible. In return, they were able to make a Festive Christmas decoration (Christingle) with a candle in an orange. The school held a special assembly, led by Father Stuart Owen from All Saints Church, to bring together the whole school community to celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

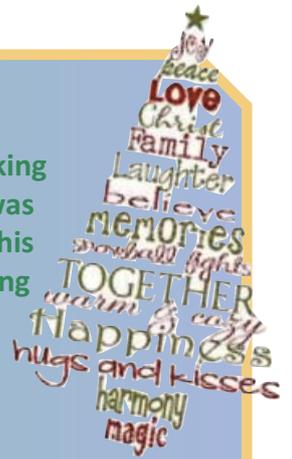


To make this all possible, 600 oranges were kindly donated by a local business – Archer's Quality Fruit & Veg – in Edmonton Green Market.

This was all part of their activities in the final week of the autumn 2018 term which they had dedicated as RE Christmas Week. The theme of the week was the BIG Question – 'Why Celebrate Christmas?' The children looked at the question from a range of perspectives – themselves, Christians, and those who won't celebrate Christmas, either because they are unable or choose not to. Each year group chose a carol to sing to the other year groups around the school whilst they were in their classrooms and they all watched an appropriate version of 'A Christmas Carol' to understand Scrooge's opinion of the festive season, love and money.

"The opportunities for children to respond have been fantastic, with a particular and poignant focus on the importance of family in making Christmas special," - Mr Anderson, Y5 Teacher.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS CON'T...



Christ Church, Barnet Y3 children enjoyed making table decoration to take home and share. It was lovely for family groups to work together on this and raised £279 which went towards supporting the work of the charity Crisis At Christmas. The school choir and musicians visited local Care homes to spread the Christmas message which the residents thoroughly enjoyed.

St Mary's, Finchley children worked really hard to create wonderful Christmas banners, which were featured in the school atrium.



In early December 2018, Y6 Travis and 3 friends – Oscar, Lewis and Jack, from **Bishop Winnington Ingram, Ruislip** embarked on an epic adventure to deliver gifts to homeless people in London.

Their journey started at Marble Arch around 2:30pm where they delivered their first present to a homeless lady, this was the start of what was about to be a very rewarding and indeed challenging afternoon for the boys.

The journey took them along Oxford Street , Carnaby Street , Piccadilly Circus , Leicester Square , Trafalgar Square and on to Charing Cross. During the 5 hour endeavor, they had to battle Christmas shoppers in the thousands, SantaCon (hundreds of people dressed as Santa who embarked on Trafalgar Square and cold rainy conditions.

The boys met many homeless people (some with dogs and a cat) along the way and the comments from the boys continuously was how appreciative everyone was to receive a gift. They had Christmas shoppers stopping in their tracks to watch and admire their great work, with some stopping to praise their efforts. Despite the weight of the rucksacks and carry bags not one of the boys complained that they were tired and they soldiered on through the afternoon.

Their hard work paid off when they stumbled across a volunteer soup kitchen setting up outside Charing Cross station; here they met a crowd of homeless people who were lining up to get some food and a warm drink. Needless to say, the majority of the over 300 donated presents were distributed.

The four boys ended their day with one last stop to a homeless man and his dog on the Strand whom Travis had met before to give him and his dog their last presents. Tired and cold, they called it a day around 7:30pm and headed home to get some much needed rest.



'LEST WE FORGET'...



Holy Trinity, Northwood raised £289.51 for The Royal British Legion.

On Sunday 11th November 2018, Holy Trinity's House Captains represented the school at Northwood War Memorial and laid a wreath of

poppies as well as offering an anthology of poems by Y6. The community of Northwood remembered and prayed for peace in our world in a moving act



of Remembrance

marking the 100th year since the end of the First World War.

On Tuesday 13th November 2018, Y6 visited the 'There But Not There' art installation at Emmanuel Church in

Northwood. It was a breath-taking visual representation of all the men who died from the parish during WW1. The

children were all allocated a soldier and were able to

present their personal 'thank you' to a silhouette of that

soldier. This helped the children understand the sacrifices

made by an entire generation.



Christ Church, Chelsea children, staff and parents made approximately 1,000 poppies both at school and at home for St George's Church in Ypres who ended up with 15,000 poppies - almost double their original target and as they had so many, Christ Church decided to send 20 of their poppies to Ypres which were included as part of 'The River of Blood' display running down the middle of the bell tower. (To look at their magnificent display click on:

<https://www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com>)

The school kept the remainder of their poppies to decorate their school gates to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice and St George's Church sent Christ Church another thousand poppies that they had left which were included in the school gate display (see below).

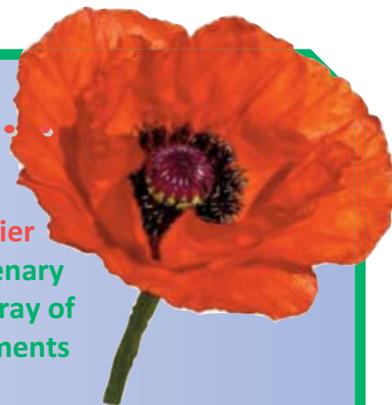
At 5am a group of 50 students from Y9,10,11,12 and 13 as well as staff left **Bishop Wand, Sunbury** for a day in France to experience some of the key sites from World War One.

Following a crossing on Eurotunnel they travelled to the first battle site at Vimy Ridge where they had the opportunity to see the preserved trenches and front line from 1917 during the Battle of Arras as well as the stunning memorial. They then travelled to Newfoundland

Memorial Park following a brief stop at Sheffield Park to view the front line on 1st July 1916.



'LEST WE FORGET' CON'T...



On Tuesday 6th November, Bishop Rob of Edmonton was given a tour of the World War One Museum created by children and staff at **St Michael's, Brigadier Hill** following their 'Themed Week'. The Museum, commemorating the centenary of the Armistice and showcased the children's work, alongside an amazing array of artefacts from the First World War, including medals, helmets, original documents and photos, loaned to the school by families and friends.

During Themed Week, children learnt what life was like for soldiers and civilians 100 years ago, taking part in a variety of activities, from 'Boot Camp' to making Trench Cake, looking at the changing lives of women, writing letters and poems from the trenches and learning songs and dances from the era. The infant children made poppy wreaths and laid them at the Enfield War Memorial and, on the last day, everyone dressed in costume from the period.

St Michael's has amazing archives and, central to the Museum were the Memorial Boards, listing the staff and ex-pupils who gave their lives during the conflict. Researching the lives of these brave men and reading letters and diaries from those who served in WW1 made a real impact on the children. Every child wrote a prayer for a soldier - including ex-St Michael's soldiers - and these formed an amazing poppy: 'Lest we forget'.



Beaver's, Hounslow held a very moving remembrance service and assembly last week, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War. Some children read the poems "In Flanders Fields" and "We Shall Remember Them", they then placed crosses in the garden of tranquillity. Governor John Woolley laid a wreath.



Lady Margaret, Parsons Green welcomed Revd. Tim Stilwell from St Dionis Church to speak in assembly on Thursday 8th November 2018.



INTERNATIONAL EVENING...

On Friday 22nd March 2019, **Christ Church, Bentinck** held their annual International evening event to celebrate the cultural diversity of all the pupils at the school. To further enrich the learning opportunities for the children, the school raise money from the evening, which includes a raffle and a prize for the best national costume. It was a wonderful evening filled with fun, dancing and flavours from around the World.



ACCOMPLISHMENT...

St Paul's, Whitechapel and Shapla Schools held three activities taking place across three mornings: 4th, 5th and 6th of March 2019 for International Women's Week.

On Monday, a group of 38 went to watch "On the Basis of Sex", at the Genesis cinema. This was a movie that looked at one woman's contribution to gender equality. The movie generated much discussion around how women can change their future and the impact they can have and many mothers discussed how the life of their daughters could be changed.

On Tuesday, over tea and cake there were presentations and discussion around wellbeing and sustainability. Many of the women were going to look into food apps such as Olio. Being able to sit, relax and discuss, in a safe environment encouraged mothers from the two schools to mix and get to know each other.

Wednesday, saw a 'Ready Steady Cook' challenge of creativity, team work and ingenuity in the school kitchen classroom. It was lovely to see how, when placed in teams, leaders emerged and how everyone worked together and rose to the challenge. The food that was created was then judged with marks for taste, creativity and presentation and it was fun to see how competitive it became between the two schools. Of course everyone was a winner. The group considered how they need to look at all aspects of health (especially food and diet related) and how we look after ourselves was not overlooked.

All four teams left feeling they had accomplished something useful.



FIGHTER CONTROL ...

On Thursday 8th November 2018, **Holy Trinity, Norwood** Redwood class visited Bentley Priory. They learnt about the important role it played as Headquarters Fighter Control during the Battle of Britain.

The children stepped back in time and recreated the role of the RAF during Britain's darkest hour. They plotted incoming enemy raids and learnt about the important stories of 'The One' - Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding; 'The Few' who took to the air to defend our skies and 'The Many' without whose tireless work on the ground victory would not have been possible.

They discovered how technology, leadership and courage helped to secure victory, allowing Britain's darkest hour to also be her Finest Hour.



PLOGGING ...

St Mary's, Twickenham junior pupils had a visit from the co-founder of Plogolution (<https://plogolution.com>), a charity which is inspiring schools to keep fit and also help our planet at the same time. As a result, Deputy Headteacher, Dan Cadman, organised a new Plogging Club (picking up rubbish while jogging) which started on Wednesday March 13th 2019 after school for an hour and will run every Wednesday. The children enjoyed the experience and were amazed at how much rubbish there is in Twickenham.

Pupils in the club received a free T-shirt and water bottle and will spend their time cleaning up Twickenham whilst keeping fit.



HIGH SCORES...

St Michael at Bowes, Enfield attended the London Borough of Enfield Gymnastics Festival in early December 2018. This has become an annual tradition and they looked fantastic, performed

tremendously well, like true professionals and improved on the vault, scoring highly across all year groups. The children were complimented on their politeness to the judges and represented themselves and the school with distinction.



GIRLS' FOOTBALL TRIUMPH...

The school also celebrated the humungous achievements of their Y5 and Y6 Girls' Football Team who in April 2019, retained their League title for a 3rd consecutive year, without registering a defeat. A tremendous achievement by all accounts. It went down to the final two games of the season, nothing short of two wins would be enough to clinch the title and sure enough, a 7-1 victory followed by a 4-0 win sealed the championship for the team on a thoroughly deserved victory and undefeated campaign.



NATIONAL GYMNASTICS SUCCESS...

Over the 6th May 2019 bank holiday weekend, six children from **Laleham, Surrey** competed in the British Schools' Gymnastics National Finals. Laleham had two partnerships competing: a mixed pair and a group. Each partnership had to perform a 2-minute routine, including a number of individual and pairs moves and, for the group, a balance.

Charlotte (Y3) and Henry (Y5) competed in the u11 mixed pairs category and despite being up against some much older Y6 partnerships; the Laleham pair confidently performed a cheeky routine and won silver medals, second place in the whole of Great Britain which is an absolutely fantastic result and one that bodes well for the

future as these gymnasts can both compete again next year.

The mixed group (Amara, Henry, Genevieve, Jenny, Charlotte and Cassie) also triumphantly medalled 7th out of 14 regions in Britain, again a brilliant result for such a young team. This was a massive achievement considering one of the group suffered a dislocated knee just before the competition. Despite this, she bravely went out and performed cartwheels, handstands and balances with the rest of the group. Their "zorba" routine was beautifully in time, with very few errors.



SLIME, WALK, WASH & DANCE...

There have been various fundraising events by both parents and children at **Christ Church, Barnet** during March 2019:



Susannah and Silvia in Y6 raised £231.11 towards 'Feed the Hungry' project by selling slime. The slime project took weeks of planning and far exceeded their, and the schools', expectations and

they never imagined that slime would be so popular.

Children took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for 'Feed the Hungry' and the school Playgrounds. It was a cold, windy day but with perseverance and determination they managed to walk laps around the whole school and many of them walked the maximum number of laps. So far, they have raised over £3,000.

The Family fun car wash event raised £544. The children enjoyed an art and craft room with various activities including slime making and bath bomb explosions. Refreshments and cakes and face painting were enjoyed by all. The car wash was a great success with volunteers washing and polishing as you drove through the church car park with music playing. There were dancing car washers to be seen, including their very own vicar.

The local churches held a women's event together called 'Glow' where there was an opportunity to hear faith stories, enjoy live music and make new friends. Their last event raised £108 for the 'Feed the Hungry' project.

SLEEPING BAGS...

In November 2018, **Lady Margaret, Parsons Green** raised over £450 and



donated toiletries, for the Glass Door Charity to buy 30 sleeping bags for people

who were homeless over the Winter.

HAIRDOS...

Beavers Community School, Hounslow held a coffee morning and cake sale in early October 2018, raising £284.87 for Macmillan. Children and staff embraced the day with wacky hairdos.





EAT WHAT WE GROW...

Holy Trinity, Tottenham children harvest produce from school planters at lunchtime and the kitchen staff use everything harvested in school lunches the next day.



HAIR SHARE...

In early May 2019, **St John's, Bethnal Green** Amy in Class 4, sported a new,



much shorter hairstyle by demonstrating the school value of kindness by sharing that she had donated her hair to Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs to children and young people with hair loss.

GOOD SHEPHERD'S...

St Paul's, Whitechapel Y5s worked with **St John's, Bethnal Green** children at The Good Shepherd Mission setting up beds for people that had nowhere to stay in the community at the end of November 2018. The children collaborated to get everything ready and parents and staff from both schools helped prepare a meal.



AFROBEATS...

Greig City Academy, Hornsey KS3 dancers triumphed winning first place in the London Youth Games Mixed Dance Competition in April 2019, where students from over 40 schools represented various London boroughs for a day of high quality dancing.

Each team was scored on five areas: choreography, concept, performance skill, floor use and soundtrack. There was a wide range of music and themes - GCA's upbeat performance was set to a medley of popular Afrobeats. The girls are looking forward to the national finals in June.



F1S SUCCESS...

On Friday 15th February 2019, **Bishop Wand, Sunbury** had three teams of Y8 and Y9 students competing at the Regional Finals for F1 for Schools. Each team had to create a pit display, design and develop a F1 model car, research and test the aerodynamics of their model, present to the judges their project and race their car against competing schools.

As a result of their individual hard work and teamwork, they won the 'Judges Choice award' for the way they had clearly worked together as a large team in developing and testing their designs using a wind tunnel in school, which showed an impressive team spirit and collaborative approach. The award is reserved for the judges to give credit to a team or teams, who deserve special recognition for efforts that stand out in the competition.



ART CORNER...

St Alban's, Holburn held a whole school art week; each class chose a theme and then focused on developing key art skills throughout the week before October 2018 half term. At the end of the week they created an art gallery in the hall and invited parents to come in view their work accompanied by tea and cakes.



RECYCLED MATERIALS...



St Paul's, Whitechapel Art Week began on Monday 25th March 2019, with a visit from David Tovey. David took an assembly where he talked about the costumes he designed for his opera. He shared some examples, explained how they were made (many from recycled materials), and let the children feel them. For the rest of the day he ran workshops in each class inspiring the children to be creative and donated an original piece of art for the school to auction or raffle at their Summer Fete. During the week each class worked on their own theme to produce works of art that could be displayed at their Art Exhibition on 4th and 5th April 2019.

LONDON GROUP PORTRAITS...



Schools across London took part in a very special learning project in October 2018: Y3 children across London took part in one of the largest group portraits ever made and will see their class photograph among thousands of others in a vast exhibition at the Tate Britain in central London, from November 2019 until May 2020.

As part of this project, the children at **Beavers, Hounslow** took part in a workshop in April 2019 which focused on exploring and sharing ideas around identity that go beyond what can be seen in a photograph.

It frames the project for the Y3 children as a journey, starting with having their photo taken in school in the Autumn 2018 Term, followed by this workshop and then visiting the Tate exhibition when they are in Y4.

As part of the workshop, the children created artwork and ideas for a "vault" which will capture and share things about them that a photograph cannot. In the final session of the day, parents, teachers and Art Ambassadors were invited to a sharing assembly where they were able to see what the children had created during the day.



ART CORNER CONT'...

Beavers, Hounslow - In November 2018, EAL (English as an Additional Language) children worked on an art project where they wrote acrostic poems and analysed abstract paintings.



Lady Margaret, Parsons Green Y13 A level mock exams - January 2019.



St John's, Bethnal Green - Every year group learnt about the work of a famous artist and created a project that was inspired by them and held an art exhibition in March 2019. EYFS learnt about colour and the work of Jackson Pollock and also looked at the fruit and vegetables hiding in Guiseppe Arcimboldo's work; Y1 learnt about texture and how Eric Carle created such beautiful textured illustrations in his books; Y2 learnt how to manipulate paper using cutting and folding like Henri Matisse as well as a knowledge of forces to make pop-up books; Y3 learnt how David Hockney combined his love of photography and painting to create our own versions of his work in mixed media; Y4 used something old to make something new and were inspired by Veronika Richterová and Robert Bradford; Y5 looked at how water is used and portrayed in art. Hokusai and Monet inspired their work with clay and Y6 looked at images of stained glass by William Morris; discussed how light can create art and made some stained glass of their own.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR...

Greig City Academy, Hornsey Head of Faculty: Technology, Daniel Knappert had a big surprise at the end of Day 2 of the National VEX Robotics championships in March 2019, when it was announced that he had been awarded 'Teacher of the Year'. Bridie Gaynor, VEX Robotics UK, explained why he was chosen above all the other teachers across the country: 'Since Mr Knappert took over robotics at Greig he has put in an enormous amount of time and effort to develop the programme. We at VEX Robotics UK encourage experienced roboters to

mentor the younger ones and Mr Knappert really understands this aspect of the programme – he gets it. We know that your sixth formers work alongside students on the IQ programme, acting as role models and supporting them in lots of different ways, and that's what helps them progress. He has also been a pivotal person for us, hosting visitors from Europe who have been able to find out about the STEM curriculum and the many types of extracurricular activities schools have in place. He has been brilliant.'



Book Corner

Christ Church, Chelsea received a visit from SF Said on Thursday 20th September 2018. He spoke to the children about his books, Varjak Paw, The Outlaw Varjak Paw and Phoenix. They got to ask him questions about how he writes, his inspirations and the characters he creates. The children found his talk fascinating and the question and answer session was particularly interesting. Christ Church are hoping that he has inspired the children (and some visiting children from Holy Trinity) to read his books and maybe to become writers themselves.



St Andrew and St Francis, Willesden welcomed the much-loved, award-winning and best-selling children's author Billy Bob Buttons. Billy Bob is the author of several books for children such as: 'I think I murdered Miss' which received the UK People's Book Prize at 2014. He visited KS2 children and encouraged them to create interesting characters. In addition, he taught them how to improve their writing by developing their planning. The children were really responsive and clearly inspired. It is evident that they are starting to use his tips already and some are aspiring to become famous writers just like him.



St John's, Bethnal Green took part in the Tower Hamlets Book Awards in November 2018, where the book club performed to nine schools and a panel of judges at the East Wintergarden building in Canary Warf. They did an amazing job and were praised for their acting skills and voice projection.



St Michael at Bowes, Enfield Green was one of 10 London schools chosen in early January 2019 to receive a POP UP BOOK HUT filled with hundreds of gently-loved books. The London Children's Book Project supplied the books and hut, which was in place in their Quiet Area for 6 weeks and was open during the school day for children to visit as well as after school.



Greig City Academy, Hornsey students are enjoying paired reading in the library every Monday lunchtime.



MOVING ON / THANKS...

to the following Governors for their valuable years of service:

- Peter Vannozzi (1 year) ~ St Michael's Highgate
Mel Loades (2½ years) ~ All Saints, Friern Barnet
Paul Saunders (2½ years) ~ Bishop Perrin, Whitton
Katy Theobald (2½ years) ~ Hampstead Parochial, Hampstead
Lucy Clarke (3 years) ~ St Michael's, Highgate
Helen Stevens (3 years) ~ St George's, Mayfair
Bob Gilbert (3 years) ~ St Paul's with St Luke, Bow Common
Anna Colgan (3 years) ~ St Mary Magdalene Academy Trust, Islington
Daniel Large (3 years) ~ St Mary Magdalene Academy Trust, Islington
Lotis Bautista (3½ years) ~ Christ Church, Brondesbury
Jonathan Rust (3½ years) ~ St Mary Magdalene Academy Trust, Islington
John Jones (3½ years) ~ St Andrew's, Uxbridge
Linda Alexander (4 years) ~ All Souls, Foley Street
Karina Brookes (4 years) ~ Holy Trinity, East Finchley
Malcolm Elliot (4 years) ~ Soho Parish, Soho
Charlotte Lewis-Williams (4 years) ~ St Clement & St James, Kensington
Deborah Jackson (5 years) ~ St Mary Magdalene, Paddington
Yvonne Lincoln (5 years) ~ St Mary's, Hampton
Ben Morgan (7 years) ~ St Peter's Eaton Square
Carol Turner (8 years) ~ St Andrew's, Uxbridge
Roger Ferris (8 years) ~ The Blue, Isleworth
Nathan Tavares (16½ years) ~ St Mary Abbots, Kensington

MOVING ON / RETIREMENT...

18 YEARS OF SERVICE...

In October 2018, pupils at **St John's, Walham Green** said 'au revoir' to Fr Mark Osborne after 18 years as their vicar. Fr Mark is the new Chaplain of St George's Anglican Church in Paris.



24 YEARS OF SERVICE...



In November 2018, after an extended period of ill-health, Sylvie McCall decided to step down from **St Paul's, Whitechapel**. Sylvie was one of the school's longest serving members of staff, having been at St Paul's since 1995, after being appointed by the previous Headteacher, Mrs Chalk. Sylvie's role changed a great deal over those years was always the first member of staff many people would deal with at the school.

29 YEARS OF SERVICE...

The governors, staff, children and families of **Christ Church, Barnet** put together a retirement book to thank Lynne Thomas for her 29 years of loyal service to the school and wished her a long and happy retirement in 2018.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE...

In recognition of 25 years of service with Enfield, Shen Ahmet, one of **St Michael at Bowes** valued Teaching Assistants was invited to the Annual Long Service Awards Event. She received a framed, Long Service certificate and a voucher to the value of £200.

Shen previously worked at Tottenham Infant School for 15 years, then went to St Michael at Bowes and has been with them for the last 10 years.

She can be described as an honest, sincere and an amazing individual who is a wonderful member of staff.



SCIENCE BAKE OFF...

During Science week in early April 2019, **St Jude & St Paul's, Mildmay Park** held a science bake off.



DEAR GOD...

Actual prayers of children!

- ✝ I heard the moon was made of cheese. Tonight half of it is missing. Did you get hungry?
- ✝ Who do I pray to when you go on vacation?
- ✝ Thank you for my baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy.
- ✝ How are we made? [pause] Did you know that we start out as a yellow circle with a blue dot in it, and then it turns into two circles with dots and then three and four? And then a LOT LOT LOT of yellow circles. That's true. I didn't believe it at first, but it's in a book. Isn't that GROSS?
- ✝ The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."
"How come He doesn't do it?" she asked.

BIRTH CONGRATULATIONS



Rebecca Hughes, Headteacher at St Alban's, Holborn ~
Henrietta Jane Hughes on Saturday, 9th March 2019 weighing 7lbs 15 oz.



NEXT ISSUE...

If any schools would like to send any pieces of work, news items - including charity fundraisers, births, marriages and retirements of staff, or pictures/photos (these will be sent back to you), artwork or poems which illustrate a particular event or on-going project for the next **LDBS Schools Newsletter ~ SUMMER events, including summer fetes/sporting events,** please send to:

Mitch Gallacher, LDBS, Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London, SW1P 4AU Fax : 020 7932 1111
E-mail: mitch.gallacher@london.anglican.org
by Friday 26th July 2019

