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Alumnis
Multi-Academy Trust



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the regular glimpse into the lives of our two, local primary schools. I do have to start by admitting some incredulity that you are reading this at the end of the spring term – Easter is almost upon us and summer is well on its way. Welcome news indeed, but it makes me wonder where the academic year since September has gone? Well, they do say that time flies when you're having fun!



I would like to start this month's edition with some exciting news: new Interactive Display Screens have been installed in each classroom recently at Webber's. This equipment is a vital upgrade to the display technology used in school and represents our commitment to the Digital & Innovation Cornerstone of our curriculum. Whilst there was some disruption during the day, the long-term benefits for children and staff are well worth it.

Both schools have celebrated Science Week this term. This is where each class undertakes a different, practical scientific investigation. The normal delivery of maths and English in the morning is suspended (lots of cross-curricular applications for those subjects are available throughout the week as part of the investigating and writing-up of children's experiments) to allow children to really engage with, and focus upon, their age-specific investigation. Over the course of the week, children researched, planned, performed and reviewed their experiments, with "finale day" on the final day of the week, where children showed off their creations. Upper Key Stage 2 children made water rockets, Lower Key Stage 2 children made volcanoes and children in KS1 investigated and created micro habitats for mini beasts.

Red Nose Day was celebrated across both schools on 17th March – children paid £1 (donated towards the education of our sponsored children in Uganda as part of our partnership with Edukid) to wear something red and had a fun-filled day of Comic Relief-based activities in school. Both schools also had children attending and contributing to the Mothering Sunday services at St. Mary's church in Burlescombe and All Saints Church in Holcombe Rogus. It is lovely to see both schools taking such an active part in the local communities they serve.

It has certainly been a packed second half of term as Webber's and Burlescombe children both celebrated World Book Day on 2nd March too. Celebrations took place at both schools with a wonderful variety of characters, creatures and even a cardboard Titanic arriving at school for a day of reading-based fun. Children received their book token for one of this year's £1 books, which can also be used to put towards the cost of a more expensive book. I do highly recommend both Devon and Somerset libraries as an excellent source of free books, so if you do not currently have a free membership, sign up and dive into the wonderful world of reading for free!

Children from both schools also recently visited Killerton Gardens for the return of the much-loved Cross-Country event. This is open to children in KS2; a large number of children volunteer to take part and represent their school, which can be a daunting experience if you only have little legs. It is wonderful to see the **courage** and **determination** etched on children's faces as they challenge

themselves to do the best they can – another embodiment of “climbing to your highest”! We should all be very proud of the attitude displayed by the younger members of our community – they are all shining stars and deserve to be celebrated.

Parent Consultation Meetings have also taken place this month at both schools. This is a chance for parents to come in and see their child’s teacher to celebrate the successes from their recent learning and to give advice for areas of support both in school and at home. The home-school partnership has never been more important to help children succeed, and so it is very welcome seeing parents regularly taking this opportunity to be involved in their child’s learning experiences.

Finally, in the last week of term, both schools are going on a trip to Paignton Zoo. Depending on the date you are reading this, they could even be there today! The zoo turns 100 this year. Its founder, Herbert Whitley, opened Paignton Zoo in 1923 with education at its heart, and they would like to celebrate their centenary with education too. So for 2023, Paignton Zoo are offering free school visits – and our wonderful administration team jumped on this opportunity to enrich the education of our children. This is a fantastic, fun-filled educational experience where children take part in different themed workshops and explore all the zoo has to offer – I’ll let you know how we all got on in next month’s edition. Until then...

Take care and Climb to your Highest.

R. Roffey