



Welcome from the CEO

With the spirit of the season all around us, it is with great joy and celebration I welcome you to the latest edition of the Epworth Education Trust newsletter where I am delighted to share with you all the wonderful news from across the Trust.

If this newsletter had a single theme, I think it would be that of connection. From our whole-Trust conference, collective worships, projects bringing pupils together with community services to competing as teams and right through to connecting on a human level through acts of kindness, our schools have fostered a sense of connection and inclusion in so many different ways this term.

I have been incredibly moved by the way staff and pupils have demonstrated the values of compassion, empathy and care, and so proud of how this will shape the moral character of this generation.

I am also pleased to share with you all that soon our newsletter will be even more full of good news, as we are in the process of welcoming five more schools into our Trust family! We are thrilled that our family is growing at such a rate and as our geographical

footprint expands across Lancashire, Derbyshire and Oldham we are fortunate in being able to draw upon further expertise and give our children opportunities to mix with a much wider group of pupils.

While I hope everyone takes the opportunity to rest and recharge over the festive period, there is much to look forward to. As ever, I thank you all for your continued support and I hope you find this edition of our newsletter inspiring and uplifting, as we celebrate the collective achievements of our schools.

A very Merry Christmas to you all, and the best wishes for 2024!

Warm regards,

Julie-Ann Hewitt
CEO, Epworth Education Trust

Epworth Education Trust Conference

This term we held our Epworth Education Trust Conference, which brought together all our amazing teachers and staff from across our schools.

Using the Methodist Schools International Conference held in April as the inspiration for the day, we were lucky to welcome three keynote speakers who had made a huge impression when they spoke at the international event.

Lat Blaylock, Editor of RE Today and national RE advisor, spoke movingly about children's spirituality, Catherine Smith of The Harmony Project discussed how children can be an integral part of developing sustainable schools and Andy Moffat, co-founder and CEO of the No Outsiders charity and author of 'No Outsiders: Everyone different, Everyone welcome' talked passionately about embracing differences and encouraging equality and inclusivity in schools.

As a result of this inspiring day, our schools have a number of pupil-led projects underway and we look forward to sharing these with you all over the next few newsletters!

Julie-Ann Hewitt said of the day: "It was a fantastic day of insight, learning and discussion. Coming together as a whole Trust, all sharing the same desire to do all we can for our children, schools and communities was truly inspiring and really galvanised everyone into new ways of thinking that will further enhance all the amazing work that already takes place across our Trust."



Summerseat Methodist Primary School celebrates “incredible transformation”

Pupils and staff at Summerseat Methodist Primary School have been celebrating after they received recognition for all of the positive changes that have taken place at the school in recent years.

In November, the school was visited by the schools' inspectorate, Ofsted, for the first time since it received the education watchdog's lowest rating in 2020, before joining the Epworth Education Trust later that year. This was a full two-day inspection where every aspect of life at Summerseat Methodist Primary School was reviewed, discussed and evaluated.

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher, said: “I'm delighted to confirm that during our recent inspection, Ofsted recognised the incredible transformation that has taken place at Summerseat Methodist Primary School over the last few years. As a result, our school has now been rated 'Good' across every category, with the notable exception of Personal Development, which was deemed to be 'Outstanding'.



“When Epworth Education Trust stepped in to help our school in 2020 it would be fair to say that times were challenging and we desperately needed their support, but I am so proud of all the progress we have made as a school family. With a clear shared vision and by working collaboratively with such supportive colleagues across the Trust, we are committed to providing the very best opportunities for our children and our families.”

The inspectors found, for example, that “Pupils enjoy learning at Summerseat Methodist Primary School... “Pupils behave well. They develop curiosity, resilience and confidence [and] make the most of all that the school has to offer.”

They added that “The school and the trust have high expectations of all pupils. The school makes sure that pupils are equipped to learn successfully. This is especially true for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Pupils achieve well as a result.”

Inspectors also reported that “Pupils, and their parents and carers, were keen to tell inspectors about the support that each pupil receives to enable them to flourish in their personal endeavours.”

Other positive comments about our school community included:

- “Pupils across the school demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. Relationships between staff and pupils are strong.”
- “Pupils work and play together well. They are polite and respectful [and] respond positively to the encouragement that the school provides when they try their best and remember to use their courteous manners.”
- “Pupils explained to inspectors how everyone is welcome at their school. They enjoy supporting and taking care of each other. Pupils demonstrate exceptionally high levels of respect and sensitivity towards others who may be different to themselves.”
- “The school has thought carefully about what pupils should know as they progress from the early years to the end of key stage 2. The curriculum is ambitious and captures pupils’ interests.”
- “The school has ensured that reading is at the heart of the curriculum. It makes sure that pupils develop sufficient fluency and accuracy in their reading. This means that pupils can access the rest of the curriculum with ease.”

- “The school provides impressive support for pupils’ wider development. This means that, by the time each pupil reaches Year 6, they have the self-assurance and skills to make a tangible contribution to the school and the wider community.”
- “Teachers are skilled at identifying the additional needs of pupils with SEND. The school makes sure that these pupils benefit from the same ambitious curriculum as other pupils.”
- “The school engages well with stakeholders, including staff and parents. Parents feel well informed about their child’s education and development. The school makes sure that when improvements are made, that these developments do not increase staff workload.”

Mrs Whittaker added: “This feedback represents a significant milestone for our school and I am incredibly proud of the changes that have taken place here. There is certainly a bright future ahead for Summerseat and so much for us to look forward to.”

Summerseat Methodist Primary School is a proud member of Epworth Education Trust, a family of primary schools working together to do all they can for children and communities. Since joining the Trust in 2020, the school has received the support and investment needed for its journey of transformation and inspectors found that “The school has benefited considerably from the support of the trust. Leaders at all levels are focused on making sure that pupils receive a high-quality education.”

Julie-Ann Hewitt said: “At the heart of our Trust is an absolute commitment to doing all we can, in whatever way we can, for our children and our communities.

“Through this partnership, we can do incredible things together. What has been achieved at Summerseat Methodist Primary School really is testament to this.

“My thanks go to all of the staff, parents and members of the wider community who have supported the school over the last few years, and, of course, the wonderful children who we are incredibly proud of!”





At Epworth, we will build a family of schools with shared Methodist values, but who can support their individual communities in their own unique way. This term, our schools have been working hard to help pupils understand the role they all play in creating and contributing to a safe and happy society as good citizens.

Project Chameleon

This term Rosehill Methodist Primary and Bedford Hall Methodist Primary have been taking part in Project Chameleon, a 10-week program delivered by ex-Police Officer trainers educating Key Stage Two pupils about different aspects of law and crime, helping them to make positive choices.

The project encourages children to make the right choices to become successful citizens, able to flourish within the wider community. The project focuses on change and how we are all different yet can still blend together to be part of society - hence the name Project Chameleon!

The 10-week programme covers:

- Choices and consequences
- Burglary, robbery and theft
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Domestic Abuse
- Vehicle crime and road safety
- Anti-social behaviour
- Self-defence and aggression
- Getting arrested
- Weapons

The final session is focused on what the specific needs of the school are.



Rosehill Methodist Primary School chose online safety as their topic, discussing how the children can protect themselves online, as well as teaching children how to behave appropriately in the online world.

Gemma Yapp, Headteacher at Rosehill, said: "For Rosehill, these sessions have been extremely valuable. The children have learned so much and can confidently explain how making the right choices in the wider community will enable them to flourish. As a school, offering education such as this alongside our core curriculum ensures that we are doing all we can to provide our children with the knowledge, skills and understanding to not only keep themselves safe, but to also succeed and be excellent role models for others."

Bedford Hall pupils were also very impressed with the programme, learning some valuable life lessons.

Oscar, Year 6:

"My favourite lesson was when we learned about the effects of drinking alcohol. We wore beer goggles and I could see three different people! I was glad when I could take them off!"

Savannah, Year 6:

"We learned that drugs should only come from your doctor because otherwise you don't know what is really in them and they can even be life-threatening."

Speaking with our support services

Year 5 and 6 pupils at Wesley Methodist Primary School were visited by both their local Bury PCSO team and Whitefield Fire Station team this term, to speak with pupils about how to keep safe in their local community and what to do when things go wrong.

The Bury PCSOs had a lively conversation with pupils in response to their questions on both hypothetical and real-life situations. The PCSOs were able to explain how these would be or were being dealt with and what the right response would be from the children. It was very informative, and pupils came away with a good knowledge and understanding of how to be safe on the streets of Radcliffe.



The Whitefield Fire Station team paid a timely visit just before Bonfire Night, talking in detail about the risks, dangers and how to be safe when there are bonfires and fireworks. It was a useful session and pupils displayed an incredible amount of knowledge about keeping safe. After some serious conversation, the children then had the opportunity to try on some of the firefighters' equipment which was a real highlight of the day!

Rhys Jones, Headteacher at Wesley, said: "These visits from our community services were a wonderful way to create meaningful discussion about the role we can all play as individuals on keeping safe on the streets and at home, and allowed the children to ask questions in a safe environment about what to do when things go wrong."



Christmas Appeal

This year, Summerseat Methodist Primary School and Wesley Methodist Primary School have teamed up to lend a much-needed helping hand to local families at Christmas.

Co-ordinated by Mrs Clare Mariani, co-chair of Governors at Summerseat and member of the Wesley Local Advisory Board, the schools have written to parents and carers and local businesses to ask for any donations of any new or 'nearly new' toys to gift to local families, or for any monetary donations to be used for gift vouchers.

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher at Summerseat, said: "This is the second year running for the Christmas Appeal, and donations have already been pouring in. We are so grateful to everyone who has donated as we will be able to help many more families this year. We couldn't be prouder of the way our community has come together to support each other during what can be an incredibly difficult time for some families. A huge thank you to everyone involved!"



You're Awesome, So Be Awesome!

Pupils at Rosehill and Nutgrove Methodist Primary Schools rocked out this term with RockKidz, a touring rock band delivering high energy rockstar workshop that give primary schools across the country the opportunity to learn important life lessons in a fun way.

Children (and staff!) got to dress as rock stars for the day, with school halls transformed into a concert venues, complete with sound and lighting! The Rock Kidz team share important messages with the children focusing on:

- Self, esteem, health and well-being
- Respect and diversity
- Perseverance, resilience, dreams and aspirations
- Anti-Bullying and relationships

Rosehill Methodist Primary School had 'respect and diversity' as their workshop theme.

Gemma Yapp, Rosehill Headteacher, said: "We all joined in with some amazing songs and were taught the

word 'YASBA' – You're Awesome, So Be Awesome! We shouted this a lot throughout the day, reminding us that each and every one of our Rosehill and Epworth family are awesome and although we are different, this is what connects us as a community – something absolutely worth celebrating!"

Along with the important messages that were shared, a number of dance and rock battles also took place and a number of previously undiscovered air guitar champions were discovered among students and staff.

Gemma added: "This was a fun and engaging day that delivered valuable messages that help our children to grow and flourish within the wider community."



Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Week

Children and staff at Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School stood together against bullying and discrimination during Anti-Bullying Week, organised by the Anti-bullying Alliance.

The week focussing on ways to stand up against bullying was launched with 'Odd Socks Day', an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique by wearing odd socks. Even Baxter the dog joined in!

Throughout the rest of the week, children were tasked to show acts of kindness to family, friends and themselves, by looking after their wellbeing.

Lisa Draper, Headteacher at Bedford Hall, said: "Odd Socks Day is a fun and playful way to bring home an important message about how being unique is actually what unites us all, and that when one person stands up to bullying then it supports and encourages an entire community. I was incredibly proud to hear about how our children took this message to heart and have been carrying out individual acts of kindness both during Anti Bullying Week and beyond."



One of the roots underpinning our Trust is that each school will deliver a dynamic and creative curriculum that holds no limits on the achievements and learning of all pupils. This term, promoting a love of reading has been on the agenda for all our schools, along with core maths skills and celebrating languages!

The importance of reading at home

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School has been promoting the importance of reading at home this term through an innovative new prize scheme.

When children read four times a week at home, they have the opportunity to attempt to 'crack the code'. If the child correctly guesses a 3 digit



padlock code, they can open the box and take home the mystery prize! The class with the most attempts each week also win £3 for their class purse, which is up in the hall. This money in the purses is exchanged for real cash at the end of the year for a special class treat!

Lisa Draper, Headteacher at Bedford Hall, said: "When an adult gives a child their full attention when listening to them read, it tells them they matter. This builds confidence,

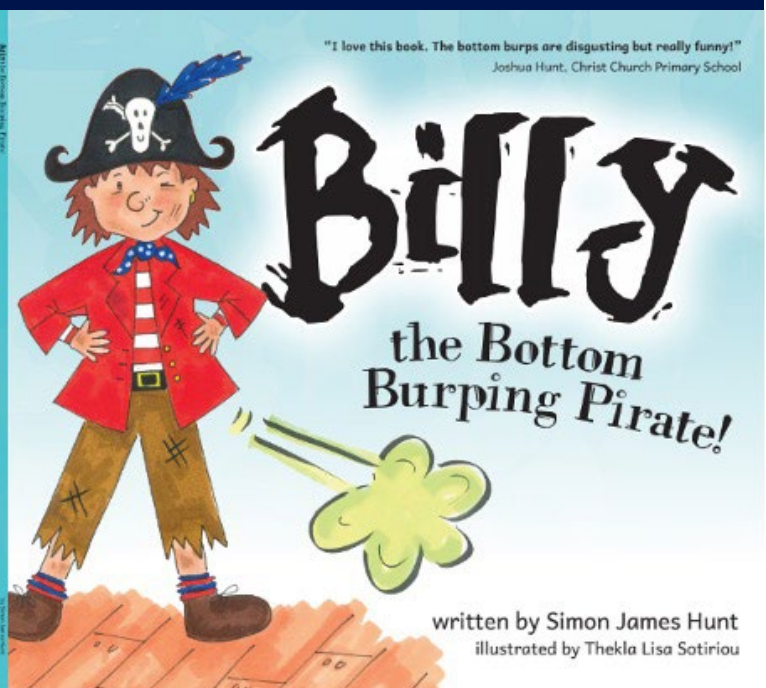
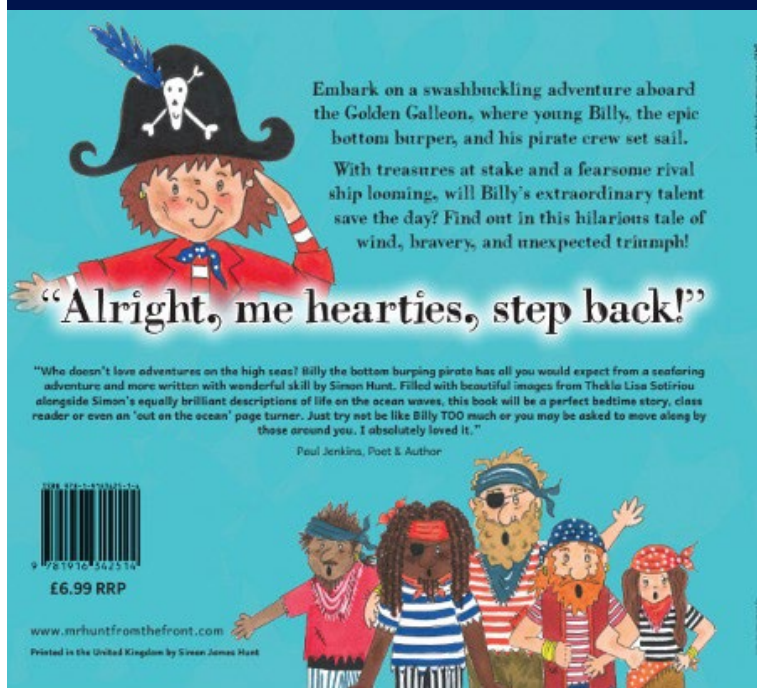
self-esteem, and self-worth. Naturally, reading also improves vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves sleeping patterns. Children who can read fluently typically make excellent progress in all aspects of their school lives."

Luna, Year 4:

"I love the anticipation of the crack the code and to see what the mystery prize could be. It's so exciting as we know we are getting close now!"

Harper, Year 2:

"I loved it when I cracked the code! I couldn't believe it when the padlock opened and I won a new game!"



Special visitor to Summerseat

Pupils at Summerseat Methodist Primary School were thrilled to welcome local author, Simon Hunt, to school this term.

Simon's latest book, the hilarious 'Billy the Bottom Burping Pirate' had our children enthralled, when not laughing out loud!

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher at Summerseat, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity to hear an author read their own book and also hear about their experience of the process of writing and publishing. I am sure this visit encouraged pupils to further develop a love of reading but also perhaps inspired some new authors of the future."

Reading across year groups

Pupils at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School are also encouraged to read for pleasure, and as part of this all our children have the opportunity to visit the local library in Thatto Heath. The library has a wonderful reading environment with many specific activities as well as dedicated staff showing the children how they can access free, high-quality books for the rest of their lives.

Recently, some classes were able to go to the library to celebrate Roald Dahl Day, reading extracts, completing scavenger hunts and learning about this popular author.

Encouraging reading that makes links between home and school from an early age is really important, and Reception children are given a special reading buddy who they read to at home to every night.

Promoting a love of reading is valuable across the entire curriculum too, as shown recently when Year 2 children brought to school a book that is particularly special to them. Pupils chose their books carefully and gave reasons why they were so special. This helped the children explore the meaning of special books in Religious Education.

Year 6 pupils are extending their love of reading even further – by learning how to become authors in their own right! Pupils recently wrote a letter which won a competition to bring Kevin Dyer into the school to lead a creative writing workshop.

Kevin Dyer is a multi-form writer (drama, different-length prose, page and performance poetry) but makes his living from being a playwright. He is the winner of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Play for Children and Young People, Inspirational Playwright Award by ASSITEJ International, UK Theatre Award for Best Play and twice winner of the Olwen Wymark Award.

The workshop was incredible, and all the children left feeling inspired to read more and put pen to paper to create their own stories.

Rachel Bottell, Headteacher at Nutgrove, said: "At Nutgrove, we encourage all our children to learn to love books and to read with enjoyment. We believe that reading opens children up to ideas, experiences, and creating portals to places and times they might never otherwise experience in real life.

"From library visits to reading buddies to author visits, we do all we can to instill a love for reading in our children, as a gateway to personal happiness and academic success."





Times Tables Rock Stars

Time Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) is an online platform used Trust-wide to support our children with learning their times tables.

We all know that this is a vital skill that underpins much of their mathematics learning and TTRS deepens the children's knowledge, skills and understanding in a fun and engaging way. The app can be accessed in school and at home, giving children an abundance of opportunities to enhance their skills.

To raise the profile of TTRS, schools across the Trust held Times Table Rock Star days. Children came to school dressed as rock stars and the day was filled with lots of times table learning, both via the TTRS app and through using manipulatives to deepen concrete understanding as a precursor to abstract concepts.

Rosehill Methodist Primary School has recently completed a whole school TTRS Battle! Each class competed against each other to achieve the highest number of correct questions, as well as the fastest speed.

Certificates were awarded to the winning classes and awards were also presented to players who made the most valuable contribution to their team by improving upon their individual targets.

Thanks to Rosehill's success, this has been extended to a Trust Wide Battle, which launched on Friday 17th November. Everyone has loved taking part and regular Battles will continue to run throughout the academic year, encouraging collaboration friendly competition across the Trust, all whilst improving our times tables!



European Languages Day



This term, Wesley Methodist Primary School held its European Languages Day, organised by the school's MFL lead, Mrs Clowes. This day supported the school's curriculum drivers of diversity, culture, and knowledge of the world – of which all pupils gained over the day.

Every class in school was assigned a different country from Europe and children came to school dressed in their nations' colours. The celebrations lasted all day, with pupils learning all about 'their' country, its culture and even tasting some delicious food!

The day was enhanced by the presence of Year 9 pupils from Derby High School who opened the day by leading the collective worship. The pupils were magnificent in their delivery and created awe and wonder with the children. They then visited the various classrooms and held presentations about the different countries being celebrated.

Rhys Jones, Headteacher at Wesley, said: "This was a fantastic day for our children who loved every part of it!"





Across the Trust, we pride ourselves on delivering best practice through school-based models of excellence. Inclusivity and participation for all, regardless of skills and competency, is absolutely paramount to being able to do this well and our schools have worked hard to make sure this happens across the curriculum, especially with PE and sports.

Sport for all at Bedford Hall

Year 3 and 4 pupils at Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School competed in various events at the Wigan Just Join In Festival this term. The aim of the festival was for children to experience sports they did not have much experience in, so they could participate, learn and compete at their level.

Lisa Draper, Headteacher at Bedford Hall, said: "Competition helps children to thrive by identifying their strengths and weaknesses, which then leads to creative problem solving. Children at all levels need to experience the thrill of competing and we are committed to providing these opportunities."

Teaching Assistant, Mrs Taylor, added: "It was my pleasure to go to the 'Just Join In' Festival. For me, it was heartwarming to see the children away from school and challenging themselves to try new things."

The pupils loved the festival too!

Jaydon, Year 3: "I've never been on a minibus and that was the best bit sitting with your friends and getting excited. When we got there, we did bowling which I've never done before but I still tried to get a strike. Someone in a different school got a strike and we all cheered and jumped up and down. It was fun!"

Harry-Lee, Year 4: "I've never played a dodgeball match before but I was really fast at dodging like a ninja. It's good to get up in assembly and tell everyone in school that we did a good job at representing us."

More sporting fun was had at an inclusive children's triathlon, where



children from Years 1-6 got to try out dryland swimming, using resistance bands to replicate swimming strokes.

Then they used specially-adapted bikes on static trainers to compete in the cycling element – this was all about the power and inclusive to all as you didn't need to be able to ride a bike.

Finally, they competed in shuttle runs across the playground before their scores were added together to get a whole school score.

Bedford Hall scored a fantastic 8½ /10, and are currently at the top of the leaderboard!

Nutgrove competes

Pupils across all year groups at Nutgrove Methodist Primary School have been busy competing in a number of different inter-school football and dodgeball competitions this term.

Rachel Bottell, Headteacher at Nutgrove, said: "These inter-school competitions have all been really positive experiences for everyone. It is wonderful to see how every child can take part and develop their skills and confidence as an individual or as part of a team. It's a great opportunity to support their personal development and impacts upon both mental and physical health - as well as being lots of fun! Well done to all involved."

Sporting Success for Summerseat

Pupils at Summerseat Methodist Primary School were delighted to secure first place in the Bury School Games ten-pin bowling inclusion event this term, leading to representing Bury in the Greater Manchester final!

The team did an amazing job at the final with two children making the coveted 'Hundred Club' and medals all round.

Julie Whittaker, Headteacher at Summerseat, said: "We are so proud of all our bowlers and their great sportsmanship supporting one another along the way. Bowling is a fantastically inclusive sport and everyone made such an effort to cheer each competitor, really embodying the spirit of the Bury School Games. Great work all!"





Kindness, connection, community and faith are golden threads woven through all we do as a Trust. We are always so moved by the thoughtful ways in which our schools and children work hard to demonstrate these values, and support each other and those around them.

Epworth Remembers

Across the Trust, our schools too the time to mark Remembrance Day in so many creative and thoughtful ways.

Westleigh Methodist Primary School held a Remembrance Service for all the children and their families to remember and reflect the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

The chair of governors, Mr Pilkington, led Year 3 and Year 6 in a militarily style march with one child carried a Union Flag at the front of the precession. Mr Pilkington led everyone into the silence by reading The Exhortation and played the Last Post to signify the start of the 2-minute silence. At the end of the silence, Mr Pilkington the read Kohima and played the Reveille.

Every child in school had created a poppy, which were used to form class wreathes and each class came and laid a wreath in front of our wooden soldier and school cross. A Year 6 child read a prayer to remind us to



remember those who gave their lives for our freedom, to never forget and to bring peace across our lands in these turbulent times. The service ended with everyone singing God Save the King

Sarah Taylor, Deputy Headteacher at Westleigh, said: "The service gave all our children the chance to understand history and value what has gone before. It gave us all the opportunity to be thankful for the sacrifices made by others and to be reflective on the role the children can play in building a more peaceful future."

At Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, Reception class learned about the significance of the poppy and why we have Remembrance Day. The children created lots of different poppies with paint, tissue paper and pompoms, and enjoyed baking poppy biscuits.

They also learned a song about remembering the brave soldiers who fought in the wars to which the children kept the beat on drums, as well as learning a song about peace on earth.



Reception performed their songs and showed their art work in a special worship for the whole school, their families and school governors.

Wesley Methodist Primary School held a beautiful remembrance service at Wesley Methodist Church, led by pupils from Year 5/6 Turing and attended by families.

Pupils then returned to school and were joined by the entire school family at 11am for a 2-minute silence, remembering all of those who lost their lives in WWI and for those who continue to lose their lives in conflict to this day.

Every child in school designed and coloured their own poppy which was then placed on the small hill at the front of our school grounds creating our very own 'Flanders Field'.

Rhys Jones, Headteacher at Wesley, said: "Our children were magnificent throughout this moment in time and were able to reflect on the importance of remembering and love. We were all so proud of them for giving this occasion the thought and empathy it demands."



Epworth Worship Together:

A new Trust-wide initiative, Epworth Worship Together, began this term as a means of further strengthening bonds across the Trust schools.

One school a week produces a short video, organised by the Children's Ethos Committee.

The videos are then shared across all schools and watched at the same time in a collective worship before each class in each school reflects on the chosen topic.

Pupils have been so excited to take part in this new endeavour!

Some pupils from Bedford Hall shared their experiences:

Maya, Year 6:

"I loved telling a story for Epworth Worship Together. It was great watching myself on screen and it is good that my parents can watch it as well. I can't wait for the next one! I am enjoying watching the other schools because I'm getting ideas too about how we can make it even more exciting. Watch this space!"

Imogen, Year 4:

"I like the reflection lesson after the worship because I like doing my best work so it is chosen for the big book. Visitors love looking at it when they come and see our school too so I like showing them which one is mine."

Julie-Ann Hewitt, Trust CEO, said: "We couldn't have imagined how much togetherness and connection our 'Worship Together' initiative would bring. The children are thrilled to have their turn to produce a video and it's sparked so much conversation around how they can use this occasion to talk about the things that really matter to them. We can't wait to see what's in store!"

Collective Family Worship at Westleigh

Family collective worships have begun this autumn at Westleigh Methodist Primary School. These are worships led by each class to share their learning and understanding of their class Christian Value in the presence of their families.

As a Church school community, Westleigh's Christian Values are: love, teamwork, thankfulness, generosity, peace, forgiveness, equality and justice.

Each class has been given a value to explore, with an opportunity to share their new learning with the wider school community through class-led worship.

So far, Reception pupils have led worship on their value of teamwork. Year 3 children shared their understanding of Peace and pupils in Year 5 have shared their learning around equality, all for the whole school and their families.

All collective worships have been very well received by the parents and carers. One Year 3 parent said, "I now feel very peaceful after learning all about how you find peace in your lives" and a Year 5 parent wrote in our school reflection book: "What a beautiful, deep message about equality and how the bible relates to how we should live our lives now". One Reception parent said, "Lovely to see how you are already teaching my child how to work as a great team member."

Sarah Taylor, Deputy Head at Westleigh, said:

"Our children are developing a really deep understanding of these Christian Values and how they closely link with our Epworth Trust values of collaboration (teamwork) and inclusivity (equality). It's a beautiful thing to be able to share these reflections with families and we are so proud of all the children."



14 days of kindness

During Anti-Bullying Week this year, staff and pupils at Wesley Methodist Primary School decided to focus on the positive by demonstrating how kindness to all can make a difference in everyone's lives. This prompted the school's first ever '14 Days of Kindness' event, where every member of the school, both child and adult, were encouraged to complete an act of kindness every day for 14 days.

Headteacher, Rhys Jones, explains:

"At Wesley Methodist Primary School we take bullying very seriously and do our utmost to support all of our children to shine like stars as children of God regardless of their race, religion, age, disability or gender.

"Through all children and adults at Wesley becoming involved in this means we will have completed over 4500 acts of kindness in just 14 days!

"One child in Year 5 said, "it feels good to help others and to do something that puts a smile on somebody else's face is always worth it". A Year 3 child who had been told how amazing he was at art by his friends said, "it made my heart feel warm".

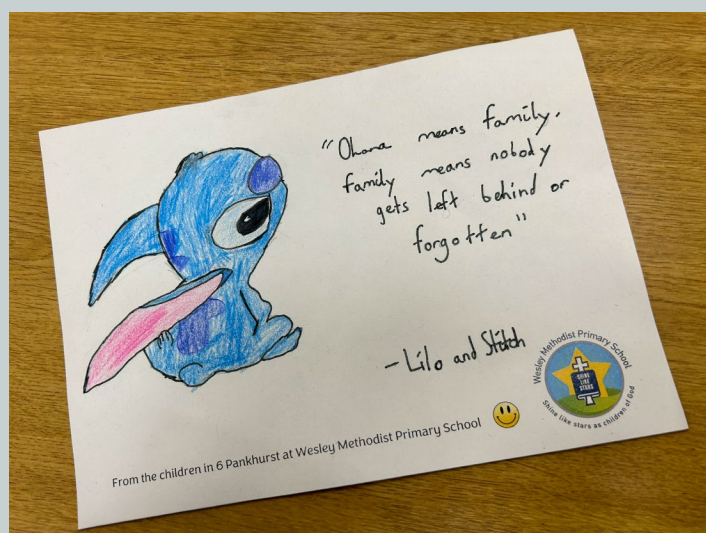
"These acts of kindness throughout school have really shown the importance of being kind to others, and the impact this can have on all people within school.

"Children have been able to reflect on the impact they have had on others and on themselves through sharing these acts of kindness with one another in school. What has stood out the most is how easy it has been to do an act of kindness and that it is important to try and do at least one act of kindness every day.

"One teacher explained how it had made his day when he received a 'thank you' card from one of his children for all he does to help. It really has been a wonderful fortnight of activities taking place both in school and at home and has been beautiful to see how much our children and team at school have been able to accomplish.

"Alongside the individual acts of kindness that have been taking place, every class has also completed a class 'act of kindness' to ensure others feel good. These have ranged from: creating kindness postcards and posted to our local neighbours, artwork for the local residents home, a litter pick around school grounds, asserting positive affirmations to one another and many more.

"All of these acts of kindness have demonstrated to our children the positivity in the world and why it is important at all times to be kind."





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