



## Welcome from the CEO

This summer's newsletter is a powerful reminder of what makes our Trust so special. Across our schools, we see children flourishing - through rich learning experiences, acts of kindness, moments of creativity, and opportunities to lead.

From Ofsted successes to our inspiring Big Sing and the wonderful impact of Infinite Eight, our shared values of aspiration, generosity, and collaboration are evident in every story.

It's clear that our vision continues to be lived out daily. I'm incredibly proud of the commitment and care shown by our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the support from our families and communities.

Together, we are building something remarkable that we can all be proud of.

As we head into the summer, I want to thank you for walking alongside us and believing in what we do. I wish you all a joyful, restful break - filled with sunshine, fun, and well-deserved rest.

**Julie-Ann Hewitt**  
CEO, Epworth Education Trust

# “Inclusive and happy” Leyland Methodist Infant School praised by Ofsted

Leyland Methodist Infant School has been widely praised by Ofsted following its first inspection in over a decade – and has been graded as Good in every judgement area.

Inspectors commended the school’s inclusive ethos, high expectations and the strong start to education it provides for its youngest learners, all under the more rigorous set of guidelines that have been introduced since the school’s last inspection in 2013.

Ofsted inspectors also praised the school’s warm and nurturing environment, highlighting the positive relationships between staff, pupils and families. The report noted: “Leaders and staff have created strong, supportive relationships with pupils and their families. Pupils feel they are well cared for and are keen to do their best.”

Karen Chadwick, Executive Headteacher, said: “We are really pleased that the report celebrates what makes our school the school that it is – our happy, caring and inclusive ethos.



“While Ofsted judgements are important, knowing that our supportive environment helps children feel ready to learn and able to thrive is hugely rewarding. Our children shone throughout the inspection, and we take huge satisfaction in the fact that all parents who completed the survey said that their child felt safe at our school – and nearly 100% said they would recommend it to others.

“That is a real testament to the commitment and expertise of our staff – we are a real team here at Leyland Infants.”



# Westleigh Methodist Primary has “high aspirations for all pupils”

Westleigh Methodist Primary School was also celebrating a successful Ofsted inspection this term, with inspectors concluding that the school remains ‘Good’ after a two-day visit.

Inspectors praised the school’s high aspirations for all pupils, noting that the ‘curriculum is ambitious for all, including for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND’.

They highlighted how pupils take on extra responsibilities ‘such as playground leaders and school councillors’ and are proud to contribute to their school.

Inspectors also praised the school’s ‘welcoming and friendly’ atmosphere, observing that ‘pupils are well-mannered and are supportive and encouraging to their friends’ and that they ‘enjoy learning’. The report also commended the strong values of respect, love, generosity, and equality that underpin the school’s ethos.

Louise Boardman, Headteacher, said: “We are particularly proud of the work that has been put in by our staff and the wider community. However, this doesn’t compare to the changes our pupils have made – without them trying their best every single day, we couldn’t have achieved this.

“We have worked hard to change the culture at this school and to ensure our children treat not only each other but everyone with kindness. This is the foundation upon which every successful learning environment thrives.”



# The Big Sing 2025!

We're delighted to share the wonderful success of the Epworth Education Trust inaugural 'Big Sing!', which took place at Victoria Hall, Bolton, on Thursday 26th June 2025. This uplifting event brought together children from all our schools to celebrate music, teamwork, and the unique sense of community that helps our pupils flourish and succeed.

The day included a heartfelt joint performance of 'For Good' by **Bakewell** and **Wheatley Lane**, demonstrating amazing harmonies. Bedford Hall, Leyland Juniors, and Nutgrove each performed 'Every Step', coming together for a powerful and moving collaboration.

**Hey with Zion** and **Rosehill** energised the hall with their lively rendition of 'Happy'. **Summerseat**, **Wesley**, and **Westleigh** inspired everyone with their uplifting performance of 'God is Good'.

The highlight of the day was when all schools joined together to learn and perform 'When I Grow Up' from the musical Matilda. The sound of so many children singing as one was truly memorable and embodied the Trust's Infinite Eight Strategy, which aims to create enriching experiences and lasting memories for every child.

The impact of the day was clear from the feedback received. A teaching assistant from **Westleigh** commented,



"Events like this not only showcase the talents of our young people within the trust but also help build a sense of community and unity that stays with them for a lifetime."

A **Nutgrove** pupil shared, "I liked how we sang together with Leyland... our song was 'Every Step' and it is all about God being with us every step, and I felt it during that song as it was so powerful to sing with another school."

A teacher from **Wesley** said, "Such a fantastic day, really inspiring to sing in chorus with all other schools and create a sense of community."

Two children from **Rosehill** summed it up: "It was the best day of my life – ever!" and "If singing is your thing, it's fantastic – I would go again if I had the chance."

Thank you to the very talented Jane Smith, who led the day amazingly and for teaching all the songs to the children. Thank you also to all the pupils and staff whose hard work made the 'Big Sing!' such an inspiring event. We are proud of the way our children represented their schools and the Trust, and we look forward to many more opportunities for them to flourish and succeed together.





In our last newsletter, we launched our new Trust-wide initiative: **Infinite Eight**. This approach is all about enriching our children's learning through a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom.

Throughout the year, our schools have been putting Infinite Eight into action, encouraging pupils to get involved in all sorts of exciting, hands-on activities.

Here are just some of the highlights!

### **Marvel at the masters**



Across our Epworth Trust family, pupils have been inspired to marvel at the brilliance of artistic and historical masters.

At **Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School**, Year 4 children explored LS Lowry's iconic work at The Lowry Museum and created their own interpretations in a hands-on art workshop.

**Leyland Methodist Schools** celebrated artistic expression through music and storytelling, with pupils

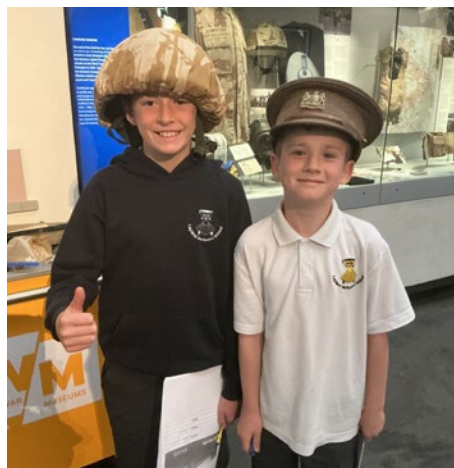


enjoying a live Philharmonic Orchestra performance, working with a resident artist, and meeting a local author.

Meanwhile, **Bakewell Methodist Academy** pupils sang alongside the Halle Orchestra in Derby, delighting in a thrilling repertoire of space-themed music - from Jupiter to Star Wars!

At **Westleigh Methodist Primary School**, a spectacular science show amazed and engaged young learners, proving that science can be just as creative and awe-inspiring as the arts.

### **Walk a while in someone's shoes**



At **Leyland Methodist Schools**, pupils have been encouraged to develop empathy and understanding by walking a while in others' shoes. Year 6 pupils visited the Imperial War Museum and had the privilege of meeting war veterans, giving them an insight into the sacrifices made by others.



### **Be a heritage host**

Pupils at **Leyland Methodist Schools** became heritage hosts during their engaging visits to Tatton Park. By exploring life in Tudor and Saxon times, children in Year 4 and Year 6 deepened their understanding of Britain's past in memorable ways.



Over at **Wesley Methodist Primary School**, Year 5 and 6 pupils stepped into Anglo-Saxon life through a remarkable living history experience, complete with costumes and crafts.

### **Be a culture collector**

Children across our schools have been collecting cultural experiences that broaden their worldviews. At **Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School**, Year 2 pupils visited the World Museum and Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, gaining insight into art and history.



At **Leyland Methodist Schools**, pupils explored Jewish culture and traditions through a musical and educational visit from Eric, whose songs and stories brought new perspectives to life.

**Westleigh Methodist Primary School** welcomed visitors and embarked on museum trips to learn about local and global history, embracing their role as curious and respectful culture collectors.



**Be at one with nature**

Our pupils have been connecting with the natural world and learning to care for our environment.



At **Nutgrove Methodist Primary School**, Year 5 visited Crown Farm Quarry with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, discovering a diverse range of flora and fauna through meadow walks, bug hunts, and even den building.



**Leyland Methodist Schools** added their own greenery to the local community through a planting initiative with 'Leyland in Bloom', showing that teamwork and care can help nature thrive.



**Be part of a top team**

Teamwork and collaboration have taken centre stage across our Trust.



At **Leyland Methodist Schools**, Year 3 pupils showcased fantastic resilience and teamwork as they won a football competition - an inspiring display of collaboration and dedication.

Meanwhile, **Bakewell Methodist Academy's** Year 3 and 4 pupils dazzled their families with a violin concert that capped off a year of musical teamwork. This group of pupils picked up this skill really quickly and worked so well together to be ready for the concert.



**Be a helping hand**

Our school communities continue to demonstrate kindness and compassion in action.



At **Leyland Methodist Schools**, pupils contributed generously to local food banks, nurturing a culture of social responsibility.

At **Wesley Methodist Primary School**, pupils and staff took part in a 14-day kindness challenge. From creating bracelets for charity to volunteering their time, everyone embraced the chance to be a helping hand.



**Be inspired to aspire**

Inspiration has been lighting up our classrooms through real-life stories of perseverance and success.

At **Leyland Methodist Schools**, children have encountered artists, musicians, and writers who shared their talents and journeys.



At **Wesley Methodist Primary School**, pupils met a professional poet, a rabbi, and Olympian Emily Ford - each offering a unique message of aspiration and resilience.

At **Westleigh Methodist Primary School**, an exciting line-up of visitors - from scientist to author Kate Pankhurst - ignited passions for writing, science, sport, and storytelling, helping pupils see that their dreams are within reach.

We are so incredibly proud of how our schools have been putting this new initiative into practice, and we can't wait to see what comes next!

# Chancellor of the Exchequer visits Westleigh

Westleigh Methodst Primary School had a very exciting visit this term from Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, and other local MPs including Lisa Nandy, MP for Wigan and Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

The very special guests were at the school to find out more about the work that goes on at Westleigh and launch the Better Futures Fund, a new package of funding worth £500m to help charities and civil society organisations to invest in youth services and do more to tackle child poverty.

The funding will support organisations like AllChild, a charity the school works closely with and that provides invaluable support to some pupils.

Louise Boardman, Headteacher, said: “While it is not our job to be political, it was a fantastic opportunity to show off all the things that make our school so special. We told them how proud our community is, but times are tough and we support anything that helps communities like ours.

“Our children shone throughout the visit! They took it all in their stride – they even read books and made Lego with the Chancellor.

“It was a very memorable day and we even made the evening news!”



# Generosity in action

At Epworth Education Trust, generosity is at the heart of all we do. Pupils and staff across our schools have been busy fundraising to support great causes. Here's a small snapshot of some of the amazing fundraising activities...

At **Summerseat Methodist Primary School**, the weekly 'Agent of Change' focus inspires pupils to contribute to their communities. Many pupils have worked hard through charity events and sponsored walks, but Rory's efforts stand out. He raised **£250** by completing personal gym challenges to support a family friend who urgently needed a wheelchair.

Over at **Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School** the brilliant Rotakids group have been hard at work this year, raising money for a range of good causes. Their infant and junior disco was a huge hit, bringing in an impressive **£850** – enough to help train three guide dogs: Norman, Henry and Clover. The fundraising didn't stop there – by selling mince pies, tea and coffee at the school's 'singathon', they raised **£520** for Edukids, with a further **£300** collected during their annual choir concert. A fantastic effort from everyone involved!



At **Wesley Methodist Primary School**, fundraising has been a real team effort this year. Their incredible PTA has raised **£5,090** over the academic year - and that's before the summer fair! This success is thanks to the dedication of every PTA member and the regular events they run throughout the year.

The school also raised over **£1,500** through their 'Wesley Warriors' event – a brilliant combination of obstacle course and colour run. Held on a Saturday morning, the event saw fantastic support from children and families across the school community.

Of the total raised, **£720** will go to Edukid to support two children in Uganda with their education, while the remaining funds will be used to benefit pupils at Wesley, with plans to invest in new outdoor provision areas.



**Westleigh Methodist Primary School**, used fundraising as a powerful way to teach pupils about community and making a difference. This year, the school raised funds for a wide range of causes, including **£179** for #HelloYellow Day, **£110.33** for Children in Need, **£85.88** for Comic Relief, **£684** for new PE equipment through a sponsored athlete event, **£80** for the Royal British Legion, and **£450** for Edukid. The school also earned **£308.97** in book rewards through their book fair.



In addition to fundraising, pupils and families at Westleigh supported 'The Brick', a local Wigan charity, with generous donations of food, toiletries and essentials. These acts of kindness helped families facing crisis and brought the school community together.



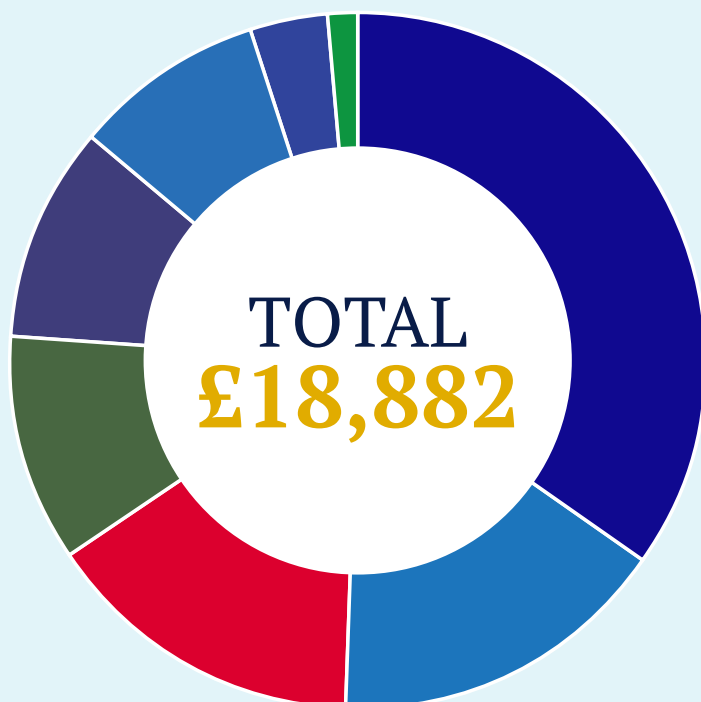
Over at **Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy**, the school community has raised an impressive amount through a variety of events. Highlights include **£650** from last year's summer fair, **£600.32** from the Christmas fair, and **£578.16** from a fun-filled school disco. Additional funds came from a Mother's Afternoon Tea (**£206.64**), Father's Day Picnic (**£216**), and a generous **£454.26** from the Asda cash pot. A **£100** donation from Hollingworth Methodist Church also added to the total. A fantastic team effort from staff, pupils and families alike!



In addition to the other sterling efforts from every school in the Trust, all this amazing fundraising means that in total we have raised an incredible **£18,882.06!**

We're excited to build on this spirit of giving with the launch of 'The Big Serve' – coming next year. This trust-wide competition will celebrate random acts of kindness, with schools coming together to see just how many times we can serve others and how many acts of kindness we can achieve collectively.

We couldn't be prouder of the difference our pupils are making – **one act of generosity at a time.**



# Spotlight on Outdoor Learning

Across our schools, pupils are regularly stepping outside to explore, discover and grow through outdoor learning and Forest School activities. Whether it's building dens, spotting wildlife or simply enjoying time in nature, these experiences play a vital role in our children's education.

Here's a look at how some of our schools are embracing the great outdoors...



At **Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School**, Year 1 pupils enjoyed a trip to Gorse Covert Mounds in Warrington for a magical 'fairy forest' experience. They spent the day exploring, building dens, cooking on a campfire and making special memories. Meanwhile, Nursery pupils have been getting stuck into weekly Forest School sessions, building confidence and curiosity through outdoor play.



Over at **Nutgrove Methodist Primary School**, pupils took part in a five-week Forest School after-school club, led by Teaching Assistant Karen Murphy. They explored the forest area, went on bug hunts, planted flowers, made bird feeders and decorated stones with thoughtful messages. The children loved being outside and connecting with nature.

Recently, the Year 4 pupils at **Leyland Methodist Schools** enjoyed a day of adventure and challenge at the Anderton Centre, while the youngest learners in EYFS had an exciting trip to the zoo, bringing their learning about animals to life in a hands-on, memorable way.



At **Bakewell Methodist Academy**, pupils enjoy half-termly Forest School sessions where they build skills like shelter building, knot tying and fire lighting. Each day includes reflection time to foster respect for nature and self-confidence. Next year, Bakewell

will expand outdoor learning through a partnership with the Harmony Project.

Finally, **Westleigh Methodist Primary School**, Year 1 pupils visited 'The Hive' in Bolton - a fantastic outdoor space filled with gardens and natural play equipment. The children took part in a minibeast hunt, shelter building, and created environmental art using natural materials. The visit was especially valuable for Westleigh, where outdoor space is limited, and gave pupils an inspiring opportunity to connect with nature.

The school also gave Year 5 pupils an unforgettable outdoor adventure with a residential at 'Brathay' in the Lake District. Surrounded by the beauty of Lake Windermere, children took part in canoeing, raft-building, orienteering and woodland walks - all designed to make memories in nature!

Thank you to all our staff and pupils for embracing outdoor learning with such enthusiasm. Across the Trust, we believe time spent in nature is helping our children grow in confidence and curiosity for the world around them - and we can't wait to see where their adventures take them next.



# This is Epworth - Worship together

Epworth Worship Together is a way for our Methodist family of schools to come together in shared worship - celebrating faith, exploring values, and growing in community, all through child-led, vibrant and meaningful collective worship.

This is achieved through a shared weekly programme of themed worship, with schools taking turns to lead using videos, songs and reflections. Each school also creates a resource pack to help others follow along with the worship, including prompts, prayers, activities and a QR code linking directly to the worship video created by the children. It helps children see themselves as part of a wider trust family, united by faith and values.

## Worship Together in action...

Scan the QR code to watch the video



**Leyland Methodist Schools** led a Worship Together during Refugee Week. The children demonstrated maturity and confidence while thoughtfully exploring this sensitive topic, highlighting the importance of welcoming all children into our school community.



*“We have EWT every week and all the schools in the Trust watch the same worship. It is a chance for all schools to think about the same thing and think about values.”*

- Jack, Nutgrove Methodist Primary School



**Summerseat Methodist Primary School** also led a Worship Together session this year, exploring the concept of Freedom. The children explored what true freedom means and how you can use your freedom to show love, kindness, or patience to someone else.



*“I quite enjoy EWT as I like how we get to see what other schools in our family have been learning”*

- Crystal, Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy



Finally, **Nutgrove Methodist Primary School** led a ‘Life in all its fullness’ themed Worship Together. They explored the stories from the bible that teach us about forgiveness and also celebrate when those who are lost or are feeling lost return to feel loved and welcomed. The children read some lovely stories to the whole Trust family on the subject.



*“We have really enjoyed being part of making the worship videos. We like doing the floor book- it reminds us what we said. We can look back and see what the assembly was about.”*

- Worship Committee, Bakewell Methodist Academy



Each act of worship brings our Trust family closer together, helping our children grow in faith and compassion. We are so proud of all our schools for the creativity they bring to Epworth Worship Together.

# The Noticeboard

**Summerseat Methodist Primary School** has secured funding to eliminate dry rot in the building. This vital work will secure the structure and support the school's future.



**Bedford Hall Methodist** marked diversity week by wearing their own clothes to show individuality. They also raised funds for The Proud Trust, an LGBTQ+ youth charity.



**Summerseat Methodist** held a beach-themed Sports Day with sandy races and games, a fun way to celebrate summer!

**Westleigh Year 2** pupils signed Sia's "Unstoppable" as a surprise for a classmate who uses sign language. A moving moment with inclusion at its heart.

At **Westleigh**, children wore pyjamas and brought books and teddies for World Book Day. A cosy, affordable way to celebrate reading!

**Westleigh** enjoyed visits from 'Open the Book', who used simple costumes and props to bring Bible stories alive during worship.



EYFS pupils at **Hey with Zion** watched their chicks hatch and grow. The birds now thrive at a local petting farm, where children still visit and say hello.



**Bakewell Methodist Academy** designed a well dressing for VE Day's 80th anniversary. Children created lone soldier images, later combined into the final design with petals, moss and more.

During carnival week, the vicar blessed the wells. Children wrote letters to soldiers, one of which was read aloud during the service.



Thank you to Manchester City FC for leading a brilliant disability awareness workshop at **Hey with Zion**. Pupils celebrated inclusion and learned together.

# The Noticeboard



**Westleigh** marked VE Day's 70th anniversary with music, choir, readings, and a handmade "flypast". Children dressed in red, white and blue, ending with a beacon lighting.

**Rosehill** Year 5 pupils visited Hurst Methodist Church for 'Experience Pentecost'. They explored themes and enjoyed moments of quiet reflection.



**Leyland** pupils helped paint a window for the Junior entrance, inspired by the Methodist Church Art Competition. Their creativity and teamwork shone through.



**Wesley Methodist** is aiming for Modeshift accreditation to encourage active travel. Led by Mrs Thomasson, nearly 50 bikes were checked in an NCA 'MOT' event – the most in Bury.

**Hey with Zion** welcomed Britain's Got Talent runner-up Steve Royle. He wowed pupils with tricks, humour, and advice on following your dreams!



*Cherish Every Moment*

**Leyland** Year 6 pupils impressed parents with a three-course lunch they planned and cooked themselves. The food was fantastic and the event a huge success.



Year 3 and 4 pupils at **Rosehill** joined City in the Community to learn about water saving. They made pledges and enjoyed fun activities to help protect the planet.



**Wesley Methodist** won a Special Recognition Award for joining the Biggest Ever Football Session Day. All girls trained with Bury Ladies coaches and had a fantastic experience.