



Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

We have come to the end of a short but packed Term 4. As you will see below, our schools have been very busy with many events and activities. In addition to these, Ashcombe, Becket and Crockerne received a MAT Review, Becket also received a very successful Ofsted Monitoring Visit. We also had a very positive Annual Diocese Review, which focused on our Church Schools.

### Attendance

There is a national push to improve attendance as there has been a steep increase in the number of short and longer-term pupil absences since the lockdown. Good attendance at school ensures that our children achieve the best they can academically and it supports stable friendships, mental health and wellbeing. Our schools monitor their attendance internally, we review attendance as a MAT and via our Education Welfare Officer. The Local Authority and Department of Education also monitor attendance and how our schools tackle low attendance or persistent absences. In extreme cases this includes attendance meetings / contracts, fines and court action. Kaleidoscope schools do not authorise any term time holidays.

If you need support in this area then please contact your school.

### Staff Goodbyes

Sadly, this week, we say goodbye to some of our staff.

#### Becket

Mrs Bridgeman - School Bursar, 19 years

Mrs Aylott - Class Teacher, 10 years

#### Christ Church

Miss Duffen - Teaching Assistant, 3 years

Mrs Shippey - Year 1 Class Teacher, 6 Years

Mrs Corbishley - School Cook, 17 years

#### Crockerne

Mrs O'Dea - Class Teacher, KS1 & English Lead, 6 years (working across the MAT)

#### St Martin's

Mrs Mann - Class Teacher & Phase Lead and Staff Governor, 12 years

Mrs Couch – After School Club only, 19 years



On behalf of St Martin's, we would also like to wish Mrs Lintern the very best with her hip operation.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all staff who are leaving this week. Thank you for the contribution you have made to your schools and we all wish you well for the future.

## **MAT Events**

### KMAT Spelling Bee 2025

Huge congratulations to our amazing Spelling Bee participants from across Kaleidoscope. Everyone did a fantastic job representing their schools and year groups. Becket came joint first place overall. All of the staff involved were impressed with the children's enthusiasm, determination and focus.

Thank you also to St Martin's for hosting this annual event.



### NSSPEA Dance Festival 2025

Many of our schools had some fantastic routines which were performed at The Playhouse in Weston. A huge well done to our fantastic performers and very talented choreographers!



## World Book Day 2025

As always, our schools outdid themselves in terms of their effort and sharing their love of reading with some amazing costumes and brilliant activities celebrating reading throughout our schools.



## **KMAT Staff Development**

We held our new annual 'KMAT Festival of Learning' Day on our January INSET which allowed for staff to come together and receive bespoke training and networking opportunities in a number of key areas.

Maths development continues and involves our schools working with the Boolean Maths Hub. This has been greatly led by Mrs Doolan (Worle Village).

We have been working with the Bell Foundation and developing our approach in supporting EAL (English as an Additional Language) pupils - all schools now have an EAL coordinator in place and our targeted approach is being led by Mr James (Christ Church) as our EAL lead.

## Pupil Achievements

Freya in Y3 at Ashcombe has won a 1<sup>st</sup> place Quad Biking Competition! She came first out of 21 boys!! She has been doing the sport for a few years and has shown lots of talent!



## Christ Church Nurture Hub

Works at Christ Church are well underway in developing their new Nurture Hub space. The children have been very excited to watch the works progress and we look forward to an official opening on completion later in the year.



## Trips/Events

Please see some of the highlights across our schools during this term, below.

## Ashcombe

We hosted the children for our traditional Ashcombe's Got Talent competition. We had a range of acts on offer including singing, dancing, gymnastics, drumming, piano playing, comedy and magic. The children were fantastic and had obviously put many hours into practicing their performances. Thanks also to the brilliant judges Mrs Riden, Mr Mann and Miss Robertson. Mrs Burditt deserves thanks as well for her outstanding work getting the glitzy stage ready for the performers. Finally, thanks to Mrs Langston - every year she makes Ashcombe's Got Talent happen and kindly pushes our acts to improve.



There is even a whole staff team performance video which is available online for viewing!

Mr Penny was blown away on Monday but the incredible entries into our Easter scene competition! So many clever and ornate designs which had obviously taken a great deal of hard work from children and their parents and carers! Special thanks to the AFA for organizing the competition and prizes for the winners.

Y5 have been busy preparing for and performing their production of 'Buckets of Luck for Charlie' with parents and carers coming into school to assist with props ahead of the event which was really enjoyed by all.



A group of Y5 girls took part in a girl's football tournament at Hans Price Academy on their 3G pitch. This event was to coincide with the 'Biggest Ever Football Session' which aims to inspire and empower the next generation through girls' football. Year 9s and Year 10s from Hans Price helped coach and referee the matches. The children did Ashcombe proud and came 4th place overall – the school were really proud of the effort the children put in!

Y5 pupils also wowed the audience with their NSSPEA Dance Festival performance at The Playhouse supported by Mrs Coombs and Mrs Burditt.

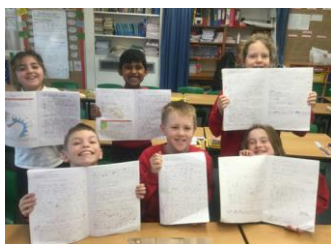
Children at Ashcombe have been taking part in the National campaign for more active journeys to school which takes place each year. So far, approximately 65% of our pupils have been making active journeys each day. It's been really lovely to see!

## Becket

Ms Barwell started our first 'Celebrating Differences' assembly. Children from India spoke to the school about their favourite things about India, they covered the traditions, religious celebrations and special clothing. They told us about their language Malayalam. Showed us their favourite snacks and also showed us a traditional dance. We really loved learning about India. Well done to the children who took part.



Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed their school trips to Mendip Outdoor Pursuits this term. It was great to see them face their fears and accomplish difficult challenges.



Year 4 have been working so incredibly hard writing their rebirth stories based on Beauty and the Beast. Mrs Walters and Mrs Cheeseborough have been blown away by the standard of work. Their handwriting is improving hugely as well.

Year 1 have started to look at lots of different events from History, to create a timeline. They put the events into chronological order, starting with events that happened the earliest in history and finishing with things that happened most recently. They had a lot of fun, working together and helping to sort them in order.

Year 3 have been doing Forest school this term with Mrs Corke. They have been building a campfire and enjoying some smores.

Year 5 had a great time making savoury pizza tarts from weighing out ingredients, making shortcrust pastry, blind baking, adding toppings and enjoying the final product! Lots of wonderful feedback from the taste test.

Year 2 have been working hard in DT to make photo frames. The children were very sensible using saws to cut their pieces of wood and hot glue guns to stick them together. They measured the length of the wood, backing and inner frame first.

The children in Nursery have been spending time creating this fabulous artwork inspired by the fireworks they have been seeing at night. They really enjoyed dipping and painting the cardboard and sprinkling the glitter.



## Christ Church

Pupils visited Waterstones together to exchange their book tokens for books.

The school very proudly reached the Gold award in OPAL Play.

British Science Week involved the whole school celebrating with a very exciting Science Activity Day!



Stewart Foster (Author) visited us during World Book Week and even signed books for some very excited pupils.

Year 5 pupils travelled to the Birmingham NEC to participate in the annual Young Voices festival.

Pupils attended an Easter service at the Church, supported by Year 5 pupils.

One of our Year 3 pupils very proudly had her work published in the Diocese Educational newsletter for her poem called PEACE.



Years 3 & 4 attended The Big Sing event at the Winter Gardens hosted by West of England Music and Arts (WEMA).



## Crockerne

Pupils have enjoyed creating and re-telling stories through some fantastic puppet shows!



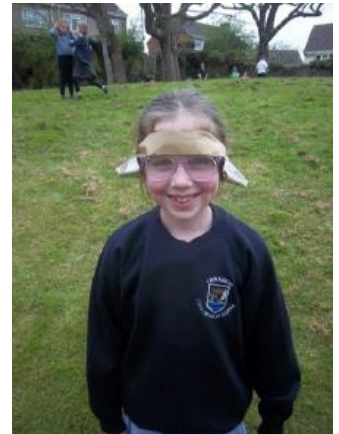
The whole school participated in a whole week in celebrating Science Week under the theme of 'Adaptation and Change'. The school's Science Ambassadors led a range of engaging activities and experiments!



A group of Y6 girls attended the Stingers Netball Tournament and came joint 3rd demonstrating amazing teamwork and working extremely hard, beating some impressive teams.

A commissioning ceremony took place for the school's Y5 pupil chaplains who consistently demonstrate our school values. Parents were also able to attend this lovely event.

Years 3 & 4 enjoyed a 'Day of Sound' learning event using homemade headphones to 'hear water' in the school's Sensory Garden. They had a great time becoming acoustic engineers for the day.



The Friends of Crockerne PTA also purchased basketball hoops for After School Club which have been a big success.



## Hutton

Hutton hosted their Rock Steady concert which was greatly enjoyed by all.



Hutton pupils travelled to St Martin's to compete in the annual KMAT Spelling Bee event and were all superstars!



Year 1 created their very own forest book corner to explore Where the Wild Things Are!

World Book Day was a huge success and involved the decorate a Wooden Spoon Competition as a book character – some amazing entries were brought in.

Year 4 pupils represented the school at the NSSPEA Dance Festival performing 2 fantastic routines. A big thank you to Mr Thomas, Mrs Smith, Mrs McCollum and Miss Middle for all their help with this event.



## St Martin's

Mrs Muff and the dance team were asked to go back to The Playhouse after their original performance and redo their dance and it was even better than the first time!



A Girls Day of Football saw teams from Years 2 & 3 and 4 & 5 pupils come back with Gold medals from Hans Price.

Pupils attended the Highbridge Poetry Festival - Year 5 pupils achieved a Gold and Silver award.

Messy Church took place with many Easter activities and crafts and was greatly enjoyed by all.

The School Council had a very exciting visit to the Houses of Parliament.

Pupils and families were invited to come and watch the school's Rock Steady Music performance.



Sharks, Orcas, Puffins and Sea Otters all hosted great class assemblies and were enjoyed throughout the school.



EYFS were treated to some very special visitors including a guide dog, police and the coastguard!

Puxton Park visited the school with a mix of special visitors including a chinchilla, rats, snake and a millipede.

Year 3 & 4 pupils attended a Gymnastics Event hosted by the NSSPEA. The children did jumps, rolls, used the bars and got to try out a range of techniques.

World Book Day was a roaring success with the PTA running a Wonka Bar competition which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The school community celebrated Comic Relief by wearing red to fundraise for this national event.



## Worle Village

The school celebrated their award for the Modeshift Stars Outstanding Travel Plan 2025 and platinum commitment to sustainable travel. A special assembly was held to commemorate this wonderful achievement.



The school are continuing their efforts during the current Sustran's Big Walk and Wheel Week – counting journeys travelled to school and competing nationally.

Pupils celebrated World Book Day by dressing as their favourite book characters. Children were invited to bring in a book they would be happy to swap to take part in the Great Big Book Swap and allowing them to bring home a new story to read!

The school have been selected as an Early Adopter for the DfE Breakfast Club scheme starting in the Summer Term and are excited to offer this provision for families.

Pupils celebrated their awards from the Highbridge Festival where they competed in poetry, choir and dance categories. They proudly showed off their medals and certificates in school after the event.



Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back for the Summer Term after Easter Monday on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.G. Marriott', with a horizontal line underneath.

Simon Marriott

(CEO Kaleidoscope Multi-Academy Trust)