



MAT Newsletter March 2018

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the most recent copy of our newsletter. The Aspire Educational Trust is going from strength to strength as we welcome Wilbraham Primary School (1st April 2018) into our family of schools. We also welcome Nina Zissler to the central team as our new HR Manager.

I am very pleased to report that the Trust, alongside The Fallibroome Trust, was successful in securing a school improvement grant of £596,000. The grant will be used to support 30 schools with writing across our Teaching Alliance including all of the Trust schools. We are all very excited about working together to ensure we get the best outcomes for all our children.

If you would like to find out more information about the Trust please do get in touch - ceo@aet.cheshire.sch.uk or telephone 01625 383075.

Kevin Simpson
CEO

Message from the MAT Business Operations Manager

A big welcome from me too, to Nina who joined us in January and Wilbraham Primary School joining us on 1st April 2018 and at the same time, a fond farewell to Rachel Harle who has done a fantastic job as our Governor Support Officer since September 2016

Kath Stanier
MATBOM



News from our Academies:



2018 World Book Day Celebrations at Sandbach Primary Academy

Sandbach Primary Academy decided that World Book Day 2018 should be a celebration of reading and reading for pleasure. We took the decision to extend our activities across a week rather than just a day.

For the official 'World Book Day' we choose a key text that all classes could engage with and knew the children would enjoy. We decided that the wonderful text, 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt would tick this box. Everyone was excited by the prospect of donning our favourite colours and creating one very large box of crayons, so we were most put out when the 'Beast from the East' dumped a load of snow at our door and delayed our big day. We rescheduled for the following week and had a wonderful day with brilliant oral and written outcomes from each class. We had story maps and crayon adventures in early years, missing chairs in year 1 and 2, very persuasive letters in year 3 and 4 and some fabulously humorous and alternative stories about everyday items quitting in year 5 and 6.



As part of our celebration of reading for pleasure we wanted to engage our parents in reading at home and acknowledge and educate them as to the vital part they play in inspiring and encouraging their children to read. We planned to show them that we value their support and highlight how their children engage with reading at school. Children and parents were invited to attend 'Breakfast with a Book'. We had a huge turn out with 28 different families attending, including grandparents, aunts and uncles. We opened school early, provided tea, coffee, cereal and fruit and put books for different ages and genres on the tables for everyone to share as they ate their breakfast.

Parent feedback was excellent; one parent wrote, *"What a lovely morning I've had spending time with my daughter reading. Lovely fresh fruit and a lovely coffee too! Hope to do it again soon. Thanks."*

Another said, *"Fab morning, lovely healthy breakfast. I even got my child to try blueberries for the first time which she loved!"*



Due to the success of this event we will be holding our next 'Breakfast with a Book' before the Easter break and aim to hold a 'Breakfast and a Book' event every half term moving forwards.

To further engage parents in reading we also supported the 'Share a Story' campaign. The campaign informs parents and carers about the benefits of sharing a story for ten minutes a day can have for children and their development in reading. We held a competition for a week; each child had a chart to fill in for each day and had to record the title of the book they had shared at home. When they returned the chart fully filled in on the Friday they were awarded a prize. We had 57 children (55% of the school) complete the challenge and return their charts.

Our evaluations evidenced the week's activities had engaged and motivated a large proportion of our pupils to enjoy and share stories and reading with their families and friends. It also significantly increased parental engagement, which was great.

One child wrote,

"World Book Day in my school was amazing. Although I thought dressing up as a crayon was unusual, it turned out to be really fun! All day there was never a dull moment. I loved making up my story. Everyone's costumes were fabulous. I want to read more of the author's books."

Another wrote,

"I enjoyed World Book Day because we had fun learning all about the book, 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. Most of all I enjoyed writing my own story, 'The Day the Clock Hands Quit', about the clock hands of Sandbach and the reasons that they quit. At the end I shared my story with the school and everyone enjoyed it!"



The children really enjoyed our World Book Day 2018 celebrations and the engagement in reading by our families has been fantastic. Now to start planning for next year



Snow at Puss Bank School & Nursery

Sandbach Primary Academy wasn't the only one of our academies inconvenienced by the 'Beast from the East' – here are some of the pictures from Puss Bank School & Nursery:





Emily Crumbleholme of Peover Superior Primary School wins Early Career Teacher Egmont Reading for Pleasure Teacher Awards

The winners of the inaugural Egmont Reading for Pleasure Teacher Awards, in association with the Open University and the UK Literacy Association (UKLA), were announced on March 22nd 2018, in London at the UKLA/BERA/OU Research Symposium 2018. We are thrilled to announce that our very own Emily Crumbleholme won the Early Career Reading for Pleasure Teacher of the Year.



The awards were launched following extensive research into reading for pleasure by Egmont and the [OU](#) and [UKLA](#). Together these studies suggest teachers have limited awareness of children's literature beyond the tried and tested classics, and lack a coherent reading for pleasure teaching strategy. Curriculum pressures and an emphasis on testing detracts from their abilities to dedicate time and space for this which in turn has a direct knock-on effect on children's development as readers.

The aim of the Egmont Reading for Pleasure Teacher Awards is to demonstrate the positive impact that reading for pleasure can have on all aspects of a child's life. By recognising and celebrating teachers who are currently putting reading for pleasure at the heart of their classrooms, it is hoped the award will serve to inspire others to use similar practices in the future.

The final submissions were judged by a panel of experts including Michael Rosen (Professor of Children's Literature / Educational Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London), Teresa Cremin (Professor of Education Literacy), David Reedy (General Secretary, UKLA), Joy Court (Chair: CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Medals,), Cally Poplak (Managing Director, Egmont) and Alison David (Consumer Insight Director, Egmont).



Alison David said: *"We were so impressed with the creative, innovative and entertaining ideas that were demonstrated in the submissions. The interesting thing about reading for pleasure is that you can't teach it! It is not a set of skills to acquire. Teaching reading is teaching literacy, it's incredibly important, but not to be confused with helping children establish a lifelong love of reading, simply for the pure joy of it. However, reading for pleasure can be shared, modelled, and encouraged. These amazing teachers and schools, with their inspirational research-informed ideas, understand that."*



"Emily Crumbleholme from Peover Superior Primary School, Knutsford won the Early Career Teacher category, which recognises the work of teachers who are still in the early stages of their career. By creating a relaxed environment within the classroom and ensuring dedicated reading time, Emily encourages her pupils to discuss books, and focus on their current interests as well as reaching out to engage parents. Emily received an individual award presented by Michael Rosen, Egmont books to the value of £250 for school and 20 copies of Help Your Child Love Reading by Alison David."

"We know that teachers are under immense pressure to deliver results, and can find it challenging to make time within the curriculum for fostering reading for pleasure, but the social, emotional and cognitive benefits of reading for pleasure are unquestionable," said Teresa Cremin, Professor of Education at the Open University. *"Our winners are clearly building reciprocal reading communities and documenting the impact of these within and beyond the classroom. We are delighted to be able to recognise this publicly through the award."*

The winning entries are available to [view on the Research Rich Pedagogies website](https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org).

<https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org/events/details/the-egmont-reading-for-pleasure-teacher-awards-winners-announced>



Ash Grove Academy Community Week

Ash Grove Academy held a Community Week from 5th to the 9th March. During the course of the week, children and our parent community had the opportunity to take part in a range of experiences and activities that developed a sense of community within the school, the estate and the town. It was planned to kick off the week with the Great British Spring Clean community litter pick. Each class was given a time slot, and the children planned to tidy up either the school grounds or the roads and pavements that are closest to school. This was scheduled for Friday 2nd March, however the 'Beast from the East' intervened and covered the grounds and roads with snow so this activity was postponed and took place on Friday 16th March. In addition to the trips and activities out of school, a range of school-based activities were arranged by staff.



Monday 5th March

In the morning, we held a Cake & Calculation event – Parents joined us in school for a slice of cake and played a range of maths games with their children

and Year 5 took a trip to Danes Moss Nature Reserve



After school we hosted an 'Introduction to Slimming World' Parents drop-in session.



Tuesday 6th March Reading Rivers – In the morning, Families were invited to celebrate their reading habits! They started by recording whatever the family read over one whole day (magazines, social media, labels on food, recipes, television listings, books from home or school, signs, letters, junk mail, sport reports), and then worked alongside their children at school to make their own River of Reading collage!

Meanwhile, Year 3 and Year 4 had a fantastic day at Clonter Opera.



Wednesday 7th March



We held a Book and Butty workshop where parents came along to share books with their children whilst enjoying a bacon/sausage butty and

Year 1 went on a shopping Trip to TESCO.



Thursday 8th March was all about outside trips:-
The Reception Class went to Pets at Home,

Year 2 had a wonderful time
at the Silk Museum,



and in the afternoon, Year 6 visited Aftermath 100 - WW1 Trench Artwork Exhibition.

Friday 9th March In the morning, Family Fitness Sessions took place with Ben our sports coach including Dance, Aerobics and HIIT Training. They were aimed at all the family and were a great success.

The afternoon saw parents invited to watch an Inter-house Dodgeball competition. Each house played the others to win points for their team. The scores were combined from across the year groups and the winning house was announced.



To cap off the week, we held a Reflection and Celebration Assembly for pupils and parents which provided an opportunity for each class to share their thoughts and favourite activities from the week.



The Wilmslow Academy Tales from the Cheshire Seas

Classes 3 and 4 took part in a very exciting Pirate workshop as part of this term's topic work starring the infamous... *PIRATE RON!!!*

In the morning, the children were given an informative and interactive talk. Pirate Ron talked about the types of jobs that pirates did and the different artefacts that they would use. The children found out about what life would be like as a pirate as well as the ships and flags.



After a break all of the infants were treated to an entertaining pirate show where pirate Ron told an amazing story about treasure using pirate puppets.

George said the best thing about the show was that "he was, like, using puppets" whereas Neve thought Pirate Ron was "hilarious because he said 'oh'". Despite the impressive costumes and scenery Rhian knew "Pirate Ron wasn't rich because he wasn't a real pirate..he was a real person.. the ship wasn't real it was cardboard."

In the afternoon, Pirate Ron modelled how to make a pirate puppet and each child used their creative skills and imagination to make one of their own to take home and to tell their own pirate tales. Max thought this was "brilliant" and Ivars made a cat called Theo.



R Swann



Contact details for the Research School:

Follow the link below to read the March edition of the Aspirer Research School Newsletter. <http://createsend.com/t/d-95F265F2FDE6C9E32540EF23F30FEDED>

Or, you can find out about everything that is going on and more by signing up to the regular monthly newsletter at <https://aspirer.researchschool.org.uk/sign-up/>

M Dixon