

NEWSLETTER

Enabling Great Leaders, To Create Great Schools, Where We Always Put Children First

WWW.INMAT.ORG.UK

TERM 5 2023-24

WHAT'S INSIDE

SCHOOL UPDATES

BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT!

GOVERNOR CORNER

SAFEGUARDING



INMAT began in 2017 with just 4 schools. We are now a group of 11 primary schools that have joined together to harness the richness of diverse learning communities

Dear all,

The writer Edward Bulwer-Lytton (whom is credited with the quote "The pen is mightier than the sword") said of music:

"MUSIC, ONCE ADMITTED TO THE SOUL, BECOMES A SORT OF SPIRIT, AND NEVER DIES."

If you were fortunate to be at the Derngate this week then you may be able to relate to this. There really is something quite special, quite uplifting and quite soulful about children singing and this was true of the children who went to the Big Sing this week.

This is a really brilliant event and made possible by the work of the Northampton Music Trust and the work of the staff in our schools. The arts and music are such a critical part of the curriculum and also an important part of the human experience: it can fill us with joy, make us cry and embody empathy. If you were there then we hope that you had a great time.

The development of children's personal experiences and character development are really crucial as they contribute to whom our children will become as adults. The Big Sing is just one part of this, and it is wonderful to see the many other opportunities that the children get across our schools: from computing clubs, to engineering groups, to sport groups and school councils and to global awareness programmes. These opportunities are crucial in helping children have wider experiences and it is a real pleasure to see these in action across our schools.

Last term, we had an inspection at St James Infant school and we are delighted that another school in our Trust has been graded as 'good'. Please see how well this went further down the newsletter and what was said about the school. The report captures the joy that the children have at being part of the school and all the opportunities that they get - which is such a key part of school life.

The report is now available on the school's website. We are very proud that Ofsted recognised the hard work and dedication of the pupils, staff and wider community at the school.

This is a great accolade for Mrs Gynn and her team, especially as Mrs Gynn is retiring at the end of this school year. The school has gone from strength to strength under her leadership and we wish her well for her future and to having a fantastic last term at the school.

Next term we have sports days, productions and final moving on for some of our children. Hopefully, with a few more sunny days thrown in to brighten the day.

In the meantime have a lovely and restful half term.

Simon Blight and Renuka Popat
(School Improvement Leaders)



INCLUSION
Improving education for everyone



INTEGRITY
We are consistently open, honest, ethical and genuine



INITIATIVE
We have the courage to always seek a better way to a better future



INNOVATION
We use our drive and commitment to energise, engage and inspire



INVOLVEMENT
We encourage our community to take ownership and responsibility

THE ABBEY



PRIMARY SCHOOL - TERM 5

New Nursery!

The Abbey Primary School are very excited to announce that from September 2024 we will be opening a new nursery provision for pupils aged 3 years.

THE ABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
NURSERY
OPENING
SEPTEMBER 2024

More information: www.abbeyprimary.co.uk

REGISTER YOUR CHILD NOW!

From Age 3 +

forms.office.com/e/WJRFM2HHUG

Residential Fun

This term, our Year 4 children had an amazing opportunity to visit The Frontier Centre on residential. The children built up key skills in team building, problems solving and resilience, whilst pushing to challenge themselves to reach new goals. They took part in Archery, wall climbing, canoeing and guided each other blindfolded to walk the plank over the boggy swamp, to name a few activities. This took their independence skills to new levels even making their own beds! The Yearly residential wouldn't be the same without the traditional Abbey talent show and the staff found it really difficult to choose a winner from all the talented acts.

As always the children represented The Abbey Primary impeccably with their outstanding behaviour and ensuring the were always their '5 Bees'.



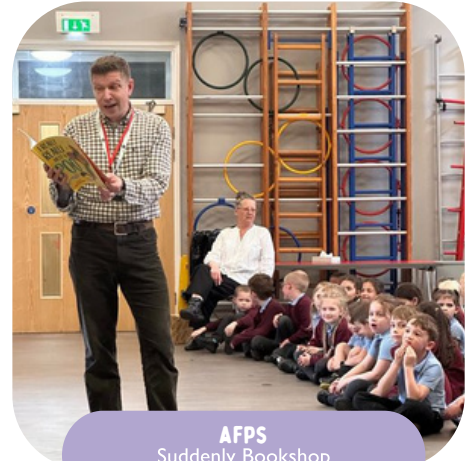
TERM 5 GALLERY



FHIS
Road Safety Day 2024 with the local community Policing team



SJIS
Year 2 had a Great Fire of London workshop



AFPS
Suddenly Bookshop participating in story telling



KPS
a visit from The Children's Air Ambulance Service



SBPS
Celebrating our fabulous BEST of the week children



TAPS
Visit to The Frontier Centre



HMPS
fully qualified spies may be spotted at Hall Meadow



KPIA
Stepping back into the 17th century for WOW day



KPJA
Celebrating our 'Good' rating from Ofsted



LHPS
Muddy Mondays in Reception class



WPS
Year 4 Den building at Rock UK

LITTLE HARROWDEN



PRIMARY SCHOOL - TERM 5

School Council

We have a fantastic school council at Little Harrowden. They consistently demonstrate our school values of kindness, respect, resilience and reflection. They encourage the other children to do this too. At the beginning of the school year, our school councillors were given training by MHST (the Mental Health Support Team) to support the emotional wellbeing of our children through the use of mindfulness techniques such as breathing and finger training. Throughout the year, our school councillors have gathered pupil voice regarding how our children would like to see the school improve. We have then worked as a team and managed to implement the following:

- New lunchtime equipment
- Implemented a lunchtime nurture club
- Other lunchtime clubs
- Mirrors in the toilets for the children
- Outside equipment
- Suggestions envelope on the school council noticeboard
- A new trim trail

Thank you to Mrs Tibbs and all of this year's school councillors for all of their hard work.

School Librarians

We recently asked our children to submit applications to become our School Librarians. We were blown away by the number of children who wanted to contribute positively to our school and also by the quality of the applications. All of the children who applied understood the value and importance of reading and books and wanted to encourage other children to possess the same love of reading as they have. All of our school librarians have now received their badges and are enjoying their new roles.

Personal Development

Our personal development offer is something we are proud of at Little Harrowden. We want to ensure our children have opportunities to achieve in all areas and utilise the national curriculum to do this. Amongst other things, this year has seen:

- Children participate in the Pacesetters games
- A trip to the Sea Life Centre
- Class assemblies
- Our annual whole school trip to the pantomime
- A trip to Cadbury World
- Our Reception class visited Wellingborough library with their Year 6 buddies
- Year 1 going to the Space Centre Museum with their Year 5 buddies
- A litter picking event to support our local community
- A trip to the Northampton Museum
- The Year 5 residential
- A Year 4 Music project
- A STEM event organised by Network Rail

We are always so proud of our children's behaviour and enthusiastic participation during these events. They represent our school so well.



SOMETHING NEWS-WORTHY



Jenna Cox, teacher at Kingsley Primary and Kettering Park Infants, wowed the panel of celebrity judges on the UK's biggest search for a star ITV's Britain's Got Talent, with her amazing choir Northants Sing Out.

They got an entire nation up off their sofas and dancing to their uplifting version of the 90's club classic Show Me Love.

The choir was given a standing ovation by the crowd and four 'yes' votes by Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and Bruno Tonioli, who described them as 'sensational'.

Judge Amanda Holden described the performance as 'through the roof' and that it was 'better than any choir' they had seen on the show previously. We couldn't agree more!

The winner of the 17th series will win a £250,000 cash prize and a spot on the bill of the Royal Variety Performance. Good luck Jenna!



In February there was an Ofsted visit to St James Infant School in Daventry. The team were able to show the inspectors how well the school had embedded and created a coherent and enjoyable curriculum for the children to experience and how this was built upon really positive and thriving relationships:

"St James is a happy school. Pupils enjoy attending. This is because everyone is welcome. Pupils learn to be tolerant and respectful. They behave well towards each other. 'Friendship pals' check on pupils and make sure that they are happy. They know not to leave anyone out. As one pupil typically stated: 'We take care of people here and make sure no one is lonely.'"

"Central to all the school does are the school's values of teamwork, fairness, honesty, caring, creativity and independence."

"The school is ambitious for all pupils to achieve well. They are especially ambitious for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and those who are disadvantaged."

"The curriculum is well planned. It identifies the key knowledge pupils need to know. It builds learning up over time. There are opportunities for pupils to revisit learning from the past. This helps them to remember what they have learned."

The Early Years setting was singled out as exceptional and the Inspectors noted that:

"Provision in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) is exceptional."

"Pupils explain their work with great pride. Well established routines set high expectations for children. Learning behaviours are incredibly positive. Pupils do really well in EYFS."

Well done St James – a super report and thoroughly deserved.

SAFEGUARDING SPACE



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Knowing how to talk to your child about their mental health, or recognising the signs that they might be struggling, can be really hard. Signs of anxiety in children can sometimes look like normal behaviour, particularly in children who can keep their feelings to themselves. It's also natural for children to feel stressed or anxious about the challenges that come with going to school. Whilst these experiences can be very difficult, they're different from longer term anxiety, which affect how a child feels every day.

It can help to think about what's normal for your child and if you've noticed signs that they've been behaving differently recently. Signs of anxiety in children can include:

- Becoming socially withdrawn and avoiding spending time with friends or family
- Feeling nervous or 'on edge' a lot of the time
- Suffering panic attacks
- Feeling tearful, upset or angry
- Trouble sleeping and changes in eating habits.

Ways to help a child who's struggling include:

- Letting them know you're there for them and are on their side
- Being patient and staying calm and approachable, even if their behaviour upsets you
- Recognising that their feelings are valid and letting them know it's okay for them to be honest about what it's like for them to feel this way
- Thinking of healthy ways to cope, which you could do together, like going for a walk, breathing exercises or mindfulness
- Encouraging them to talk to a trusting adult at their school - especially if they're finding it hard to talk at home.
- Take care of yourself and get support if you need to. Try not to blame yourself for what's happening and to stay hopeful about your child's recovery.

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means: protecting children from abuse and maltreatment preventing harm to children's health or development ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care acting to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child Protection Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. Child protection means: focusing on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

USEFUL ACRONYMS & VOCABULARY

- **DSL:** Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Early Help:** Early help services provide help and support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. This can be support from all kinds of services and organisations who work together to support the family through whatever challenges they are facing.
- **TAC:** Team Around a Child TAC (part of Early Help)
- **TAF:** Team Around the TAF: Family (part of Early Help)
- **LADO:** Local Authority LADO Designated Officer who deals with the position of trust safeguarding issues
- **DBS:** Disclosure & Barring DBS Service used to make safe recruitment decisions
- **CP:** Child Protection
- **PREVENT:** Part of the governments counter-terrorism strategy to stop people from being drawn into extremism
- **County Lines:** when illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries usually by children/vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

IF YOU HAVE AN URGENT CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD YOU CAN CONTACT THE POLICE ON 101, OR 999 IN AN EMERGENCY.

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT MASH DIRECTLY ON 0300 126 7000 OR BY USING THE LINK: [REPORT A CONCERN](#)

GOVERNOR CORNER



We are pleased to introduce our three newest trustees: David Adekitan, Nigel Corbett and Elizabeth Jackson. Between them, they bring a wealth of experience in HR, learning and development, finance and well-being. We are very happy to be working with them and you can read more about their skills and experience on our website.

David, Nigel and Elizabeth join us as three of our longest serving trustees prepare to step down. Pete Banks and Sheila Bryan have been involved with INMAT from its inception and Cei Davies Linn has volunteered as a trustee and member over the last five years. They have all made significant contributions to the trust's governance through their combined knowledge and calm, professional approach. We wish them all well with their future plans.

Before Sheila, Pete and Cei left us, we commissioned the Confederation of School Trusts to conduct an external review of governance across the trust and we are pleased to report that governance at INMAT was described as 'strategic with a strong Chair, a strong committee structure, a strong CEO and school improvement strategy and excellent support from the governance professional and clerk'.

The report says that 'local governors are collegiate and work together to provide obvious challenge and robust scrutiny' and 'high level trustee skills are well represented on the board'. We are proud that our good practice has been recognised and we are proud that the valuable work of our volunteer trustees and governors has also been acknowledged.



TRUSTWIDE TALENT



JOIN US, PROGRESS WITH US

JOIN OUR TALENT POOLS



PERMANENT STAFF

Are you a member of staff looking for a new role or a change of setting?
Are you a student looking for a future career with INMAT? Want to work for us, but your dream job isn't advertised right now? Join our talent pool on MyNewTerm to register your interest.

[WWW.MYNEWTERM.COM](http://www.mynewterm.com)



SUPPLY STAFF

Would you like to experience working across a variety of schools? Are you looking for casual or part-time teaching work? Do you want to earn more than you would with a supply agency? Register your interest by joining the INMAT supply pool on Teacher Booker

[WWW.TEACHERBOOKER.COM](http://www.teacherbooker.com)

