



Learning and Caring Together,
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

End of spring term 2022 letter to parents

8th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we close for the Easter break, I am writing to share updates from the second half term of spring.

Highlights definitely include coming together for whole school worship, lunches in the hall and opening our doors to visitors again. It has been a pleasure to see many of you in school for parents' evening, celebration assembly and some of you with your little ones at our EYFS open evening events this week. Your comments about our classrooms, communal displays and atmosphere in school are, as always, very much appreciated.

Our **Year 1 Easter church service** has been another highlight. The children shared stories through drama, read their own prayers and sang and played instruments as we reflected together at this important time in our calendar. Special thanks to Rev. Eleanor for her contributions to the service, to my staff team for supporting the children in their practise and preparations and to those of you who attended the service; it was wonderful to see the church so full! Our **EYFS Easter bonnet parade** has been enjoyed by all today too; what a lovely and fitting end to the term.

Earlier in the term, as part of their science week launch, the **Butterflies and Bees** arrived to find a special delivery in their classroom. They observed eggs hatching and chicks growing and changing and I was wowed by their mature discussions and vocabulary as they did so. I have also been very impressed with the children's confident ability to retell stories; their love of reading is clear to see and hear!

Robins, Bats and Frogs have been improving their knowledge and understanding of materials and properties in science. Now that we are using the hall again, their improving gymnastic knowledge can be seen as they travel in different ways and demonstrate core shapes. Demonstrating that they can hear and move to a pulse in music has made me smile this term too.

Our **Spiders, Squirrels and Foxes** have been practising using their computing knowledge to code and program this half term. They tell me that computing is one of their favourite subjects and have also shared their enjoyment of learning about what plants need to grow and their DT knowledge of how to sew!

At St Edward's we are committed to ensuring that children secure knowledge in all areas of the curriculum. We believe that **'every minute counts'** and that **'practise makes permanent'**. The Mother's Day cards the children made this year, showcased their artistic knowledge at its best – well done to all!

On the subject of **Mother's Day**, I thank our **PTA** members for organising and running their secret shopper experience in school again this year. It really is a joy to see and hear the children buy and hide surprises for their special ladies.

One of our Personal Development strategies is that everyone at St Edward's is a leader. Our **Year 4 ambassadors** received high praise for their maturity and confidence as they led parents to classes and showcased their school environment. Our **Pupil Council** have sought staff and pupil opinion on class monitor roles and responsibilities and will implement these in their classes in the summer term. Our **Eco Council** have been working on improving our environment and community links. They are very proud of the community orchard they planted during **Science Week** and enjoyed meeting and working with councillor Joe Porter (see Leek Post and Times for an article about this).

As you know, we are passionate about nurturing **healthy minds and bodies**, as we know the impact on learning and life is pivotal. I am incredibly proud that we have achieved the **Association for PE Quality Mark** with distinction and thank Mr Carter for leading and showcasing our excellent provision in this area.

Our **Christian Council** have led on organising donations for Ukraine and are monitoring their class reflection areas and prayer routines. All three councils share their leadership work on display boards outside the school office, so please take a look next time you are in school.

Nominations and elections for our **Wellbeing Ambassadors** have also taken place this term. Our representatives are working with Mrs Leese and are wearing their badges with pride.

Each week, I set a **Mrs Machin's Mission**. Children are chosen to be my 'Secret Agents'. Each agent monitors to see if my mission is being accomplished in their class and report back to me in Celebration Assembly each week. The children (and teachers) are working hard on making sure that **writing** teaching and learning is excellent in every class. Agents are also monitoring inappropriate low-level behaviour, as they want **behaviour and attitudes to learning** to be recognised as excellent in their class. The children respond well to our values based Dojo rewards and Golden Time and we are making sure that any losses for low-level behaviour and reflected upon by the children during missed Golden Time. Please do not be concerned if your child does occasionally lose some of their Golden Time; making mistakes is part of growing up and taking responsibility is an essential part of learning. Be assured that we would ask to meet with you if we had concerns regarding your child's behaviour.

Children enjoy their learning and the many fun events held in school. Thanks again to the PTA for organising the **crazy hair/hat fundraising event** today and for providing the **Easter hunt** for the children. Once again, our '**every minute counts**' and '**practise makes permanent**' strategies were used as children had to use and apply their sticky mental maths knowledge as they hunted for their treats.

At the end of my letter, I have included our most recent entry for our **church magazine**, where we share some of our learning activities with the wider community. I hope you enjoy reading even more about this half term within the latest edition.

Thinking ahead, there are lots more exciting events to be held in the summer term including after school clubs, our platinum jubilee street party celebration, our Community Orchard launch, Sport's Week, community scarecrows, active travel reward event, our online safety watch me learn and parent workshop and, dare I say it, transition to new schools/classes!

As I sign off for the spring term, I thank you for your contributions to our Easter cross. I hope you are able to see it on our gates over the break and that you are able to visit Laura's (Mrs Robinson's) Trail of stones as a symbol of our support and compassion for all affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

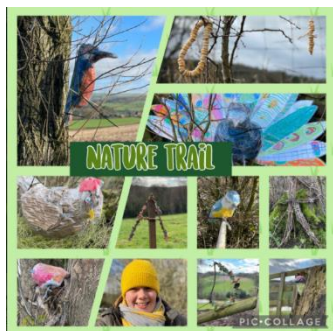
With very best wishes for a happy and safe Easter break,



Mrs S. Machin
Principal



St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton Community Newsletter April 22



At the end of the first half of the spring term in February, we helped to prepare resources for a nature trail as part of '**Laura's Trails**'. Our Brambles Before and After School Club made a variety of birds which were perched in various places around the village and each class made a letter using natural resources which were hidden along the trail. At the end of the trail, you had to work out the word that these letters made when put together. Our thanks go to Mrs Robinson, who works in our Early Years, who organises these wonderful trails. They provide a great opportunity to explore and appreciate the beauty of the local area whilst benefitting our health and wellbeing from doing so.

Enabling our children to flourish spiritually, as well as academically, is an important part of school life. We are enabling this through a set of '**Spiritual Pathways**', one of which involves being outdoors surrounded by what God has made. We are very fortunate to have a large outdoor green space, including our own forest area which is frequently used for forestry sessions across the school. Recent forestry activities have included our EYFS children making forest friends from sticks and other natural materials, and our KS1 children making whisks from the branches of a pine tree for making their pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Our KS2 children have been creating 'God's Eyes' using sticks and wool, as well as applying skills learnt during the making of clay pots in Design & Technology to help them form pots using natural resources.

We'll be bringing more news of our 'Spiritual Pathways' in a future magazine issue, so please keep watching this space!

On Thursday 4th March, we celebrated **World Book Day**. The children and staff were all invited to dress up as a favourite book character and were encouraged to reflect on which of our school Christian values our character demonstrated and how they did so. Our KS2 children represented these ideas in poster form which have been displayed within their classroom reading areas. We also had a visit from a local author, Kathy Tallentire, who shared some of the books she has written. KS2 were privileged to hear the sequel to one of these stories which hasn't yet been published!

During the week of 7th March, we focused on the devastating situation in **Ukraine**. Our whole school worship enabled us to reflect and respond sensitively, using child friendly resources shared by the Diocese. Within this worship, we were reminded of how, a long time ago, the Israelites were being treated cruelly by the Egyptians and they cried out to God for help. We shared the words from Exodus 2:24, "*God heard their cries. God saw the troubles of the people of Israel, and he was concerned about them.*" We focused on the words '*God heard and God saw*', reflecting on the Christian belief that God still hears and sees all that is going on in our world today. We brought prayers before God, trusting that he will see, hear and answer.

During the worship, we also looked at landmarks across the world that have been lit up with the blue and yellow colours of the Ukrainian flag as a sign of support. To show our support, we dressed in blue and yellow clothes on Friday 11th March and we joined with a community group who were running an appeal to collect donations for Ukrainian refugees, along with sharing the link to the Disasters Emergency Committee website (www.dec.org.uk) for anyone who preferred to make a monetary donation.

We were so overwhelmed and deeply touched by the generosity and kindness of our school community. The donations we received within a 48hr period was truly amazing and our school Christian value of COMPASSION was most definitely seen in action.

