



It has been my utter privilege to become the Trust Leader at the start of 2021 for our wonderful family of schools, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. I have been witness to incredible acts of care, compassion and commitment each and every day and am in awe of what our community have done to ensure that we leave no-one behind in what has been the most challenging set of circumstances within my lifetime. We are evolving to become not just as family of schools, but also a Civic Trust; one that prioritises the needs of our whole community as well as the specific children and families we serve. What we have learned during this is just how difficult it can be for those who are not always seen, but we see you and we are here for you. For me, the below encapsulates who we are, who we should be and who we are becoming more than anything else I have seen and typically it is our NHS colleagues who have led the way in this. Where they go, we follow. Wishing you all peace and hope for the Easter break, Dan.

Dan Morrow CEO, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust (DMAT)

THE BIG 5

1. YOU ARE NOT ALONE

None of us have been here before and we are all a little afraid

2. KINDNESS WILL GET US THROUGH

A smile makes a huge difference

3. EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE

We will all learn something new

4. LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER

and look after yourselves

5. YOU ARE STRONGER THAN YOU THINK

We can TOTALLY do this!

Inspired by a slide from GSY Ward Staff Thank you!

International Women's Day 8th March 2021

Staff across the Trust took selfies with a hand raised high to show that they commit to 'choose to challenge' and call out inequality. Staff demonstrated their support with selfie card statements, to challenge gender stereotypes and bias, call out gendered actions or assumptions and help forge positive visibility of women.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021

Easter artwork by pre-school and year 6 students at Boasley Cross Primary School



Olivia, Pre school



Alfie, Year 6



Esther, Year 6

Trust Welcomes Generous Donations!

The Trust was delighted to receive extremely generous donations during this challenging year including LiveWest, Deloitte, Vodafone, and Virgin.



£9,900 was donated from housing association LiveWest, who are supporting schools across the region to help ensure children can access their education. The money has allowed the Trust to buy nearly 50 brand new Chrome Books, for students who are struggling to engage with their schooling both in the recent lockdowns and will provide an extremely valuable resource in supporting their education in the long term.

Deloitte donated 5,000 of its laptops to UK schools, charities and families. Deloitte is committing that all of the firm's used laptops will be reconditioned and given a second lease of life. Any devices unfit for future use, will be stripped and the parts will be recycled. Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust were fortunate enough to receive 10 of the laptops from this allocation.

Virgin provided us with 30 chromebooks, dongles and data and Vodafone have provided us with 50 sim cards and data for pupils who have no internet connection.

All of this support really helped close the digital skills gap during the Covid 19 pandemic and ensured that children in our Trust could access their learning at home.

Class 1 artwork in the style of Quentin Blake, Lydford Primary School



Happy Easter!





Easter Newsletter



Easter Newsletter



At **Lydford Primary School** we have invested some of our PE and Sports funding into rejuvenating some of our equipment for playtimes - these interlocking scooters are a great addition. Villagers will regularly see our children scooting around the sloping playground, squealing for joy!



Exbourne C of E Primary School will celebrate Easter this year with a virtual Easter Service and activities in the classroom starting with Easter Egg and Holly Cross decorating. The PFA have kindly agreed to donate Easter eggs for all of the students and the Methodist Church are kindly providing a Easter craft bag for each student to take home with them.

Due to covid restrictions, at **Northlew C of E Primary School** we had to put a hold on having our forest school shelter built last year so were delighted when our building works could finally begin. The forest school shelter will provide an amazing opportunity for all the children to participate in weekly outdoor sessions regardless of the weather. The children were very excited to return to school to see the new shelter in place and can't wait to get started on the various other projects we have planned - mud kitchens, willow weaving and den building.



A huge thank to Rob Taylor from RT Landscapes for all the hard work over the past few weeks in constructing our new outdoor classroom.

The school are currently developing the outdoor spiritual area and would warmly welcome any donations of plant boxes, seeds, compost etc for our sensory garden.



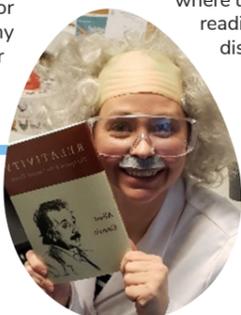
At **North Tawton Community Primary School**, Willow Class investigated friction. We rolled our objects over the lino, carpet, table, tarmac, grass and non-slip surface on the ramp.



Bridestowe Primary School celebrated Science Week this year by children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 carrying out various investigations, they particularly enjoyed filtering water. Key Stage 2 designed posters with the theme 'Innovating the Future' in mind.



We celebrated World Book Day at **Holsworthy Community College**, by dedicating our weekly Book Club sessions in English to reading a fictional extract aloud to all classes, followed by an academic discussion. Other activities included an 'Author Academy Masterclass' delivered remotely for all classes within English, 'HCC - Bringing Books into Every Lesson', where teachers of ALL subjects shared extracts within lessons from their most beloved books inspired by the subject that they teach, and a much-anticipated Masked Reader Competition, where teachers recorded themselves reading the blurb from a book, but disguising their identities.



At **Highampton Community Primary School** the children have enjoyed a virtual visit from Exmoor Zoo, and the creation of stick men characters to enrich literacy learning using a Forest Schools approach. We are also extremely excited to offer a fantastic opportunity for the Year 5/6 children: two whole days of outdoor adventure and a night camping away from home. But that's not all; we are currently planning a series of sporting events that will culminate in each in the group hosting a Sports day. The children will be able to take part in a range of activities and compete against other children in Primary schools across the Trust. Better get your sports clothes on and start training!



At **St James C of E Primary** we participated in a whole school science experiment. We were very excited to be building and launching our rocket cars. Year 2 enjoyed watching a live video link from Wonderstruck Science and learnt all about the science behind the experiment. Our Year 1 class focused on co-operation and sharing their ideas within a group. The Nursery and Reception classes had a competition with their class rocket cars and used chalks to measure the distance the cars travelled.



As well as our rocket car experiment, the Reception class tuned in to an online interactive lesson from the National Farmers Union. We were lucky to be able to watch some chicks hatching live!

At **Boasley Cross Primary School**, in our unused swimming pool area, we are working hard to build a Sensory Garden - a space where staff and pupils can enjoy relaxation, practice mindfulness and breathe. Pupils have been resourceful and resilient through their approach to the project - clearing and cleaning the area, helping to gather the compost and are looking forward to planting soon in time for early Summer. We are lucky to have donations from our Friends committee and generous additional resources from Waitrose and local garden centres.

Members of **Okehampton College** Learning Support Team, students and members of the Okehampton Rotary Club (who have kindly donated over £800.00 in support of the building of a Sensory Garden) have built a Learning Support Sensory Garden. They, in poor weather conditions, even erected a sail, to allow some of our learning support students to access the outdoor space regardless of the weather! Our students have big plans for the space: a fernery, climbing roses, Herb garden, grasses, an outdoor art gallery, seedlings, a sensory path, vegetable patch, bug hotel and a pond.

At **South Tawton Primary School**, we've been improving our outdoor learning area with the addition of improved drainage, wood chip pathways and willow trees. It's looking wonderful! We're hopeful that, as we move into Spring and Summer, we'll be able to spend more time learning outside across all curriculum areas.



At **Bridgerule Primary**, children have really enjoyed their Wild Tribe Explorers sessions. Not only have they been thinking about how to be a good friend and building their confidence to try new things, they have made clay people, toasted marshmallows and drunk hot chocolate!



Okehampton Primary School have placed the wellbeing of our children as top priority throughout the term. Collaborative rainbows to represent unity and brighten everyone's world, along with celebrating the superhero within each and every child, are just two of the concepts covered recently. We are so proud of all of our children for their boundless resilience and amazing learning behaviours at all times.



At **Black Torrington Primary School**, as part of our awe and wonder project the children have been enjoying our new mud kitchen. The children have been experimenting by making mud cakes, soups and learning about different types of chef and all the people you need to run and restaurant.



Congratulations to Harry Gallie in Year 8 at **Tavistock College**, who has won the local heat in the Rotary Club Young Writer competition. Harry's short story, 'The Happiest Day', described a day in the life of a war veteran, struggling with dementia. Harry wins book vouchers for himself and the school, and now goes forward to the district round of the competition.

Harry Gallie: I love writing because for me, it's a kind of artistic expression. I've never felt very talented with traditional creative subjects like drawing or music, but I've found writing has been a great way to creatively represent myself. I wanted to produce something bittersweet, and felt this topic would be a good way to do this. Creating characters that people empathise with is really satisfying and is one of the major reasons that I write."



At **Bradford Primary School**, Class 2 took part in 'Footgolf' with Mr Pugh. In the first activity we had to kick the ball as far as we could, then in the second activity we had to kick the ball onto a square to win a point.

The last activity was to kick the ball from the red or white cone into a box, you could get 3 points from the red cone and 2 points from the white.



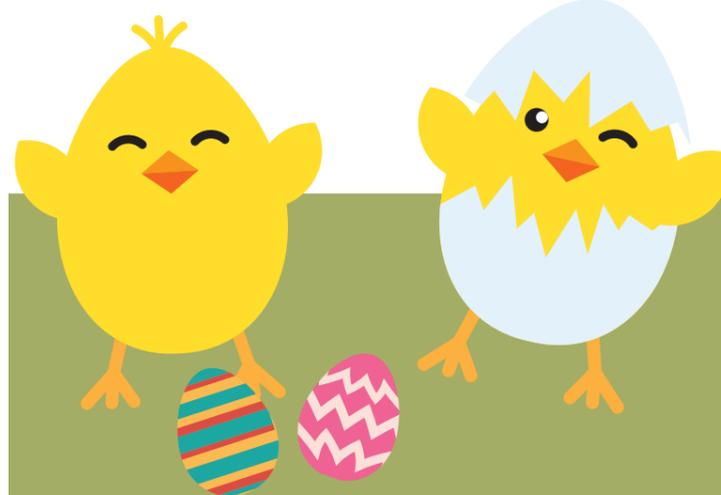
At **Chagford C of E Primary** we've been busy making and creating Clay Ickabog monsters, beeswax candles, and very imaginative World Book Day Boxes. The children have also been amazing at supporting one another on our daily mile - this half-term and next, the children are working towards running 26.2 miles (marathon distance) by running a mile a day. At the end they will earn a real-life running medal that have kindly been donated to the school.



Hope

Those we love who've passed away don't really leave us,
They walk and run beside us every day,
Unseen, Unheard but always near watching as we grow,
Still loved, Still missed, Still very dear,
We love them truly forever and ever.

Primary Poet Laureate
Rose Doran, Northlew Primary School





Easter Newsletter



Exeter Chiefs Holiday Camps!

Exeter Chiefs are holding some 'Train Like A Chief' community camps during the Easter Holidays within Devon and Cornwall. Hurry, as there are only a few places left! Visit camps.exeterchiefs.co.uk.



Developed and designed by Exeter Chiefs' team of professional coaches using the most up to date techniques, the rugby camps aim to offer young people the best possible experience and insight into the modern-day game.

Campers will not only learn the basic elements of the game, but at the same time improve their skill set in a range of activities and match-like scenarios. The key focus for the Chiefs' Community Team is to encourage and inspire young people to become the best they can be and to reach their full potential.

The camps are supported by professional coaching staff, who will use their experiences to pass on top tips and training techniques. So, who better to learn from than the current European Champions? Regardless of age or ability, there is a course to suit everyone.

However, don't worry if you miss out on the Chiefs' Easter Holiday camps. There will be information to follow on the May Half Term Holiday provision, including new locations, some of which will be run in direct partnership with us. Watch this space!

Holiday, Activity and Food Program

The Government recently announced the significant expansion of its tried and tested Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which provides healthy food and enriching activities during the summer holidays to children, which is free to access for those who receive benefits-related free school meals. Devon County Council then assessed which areas were in most need. They identified 10 areas of which Holsworthy was one of them. At Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust we know the importance of community and how schools serve their areas. We wanted to be part of this project and give some of our young people the opportunity to take part in enrichment activities through the first week of the Easter Holiday.

We are again partnering with OCRA to provide a range of activities for students including activities such as archery, football, computer coding and arts-based pursuits. They will be supported by staff from Holsworthy Community College, Bridgerule Church of England Primary School, Black Torrington Church of England Primary School, and Bradford Primary School.

The scheme is aimed at students from year 3 to year 11 in the Holsworthy area and will be hosted by Holsworthy Community College. Participants will also receive a school cooked meal at the end of their activities. All students eligible for the scheme have been contacted by their schools. It promises to be a truly fantastic event which will hopefully run each school holiday.

Artwork from Okehampton Primary School



Okehampton Primary School Bespoke Science Laboratory - Phizzlab

Okehampton Primary School has been approved to host and develop a bespoke science laboratory - a PhizzLab. OPS is the lead school of the Okehampton Ogden Partnership, a group of nine local primary schools working together to promote and develop science, particularly physics. The PhizzLab will be a joint venture, used by all nine Ogden Trust schools.



Despite the current Covid situation, the Okehampton Ogden Partnership have a number of exciting events planned including a "Virtual Physics Olympics," a Phizz-share, Rocket-car workshops, Space themed workshops and numerous opportunities for additional staff training and school support.



OPS already holds a Primary Science Quality Mark in recognition of its brilliant science provision; the new PhizzLab will further strengthen the quality of science education the children receive and will provide a wonderful location for family workshops and extra clubs.

Hannah Radbourne
Year 6 teacher, Science Leader, Ogden Trust Partnership Coordinator

Virtual Work Experience

The current year 11 students sadly missed out on having a true work experience when they were in year 10 due to the pandemic. During the last 12 months several companies have started to run 'virtual work experience' opportunities for students. Companies such as KPMG, NHS and Barclays have all provided chances for students to take part in work experience. At Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust we are putting together a 2 day programme for students in years 10 and 11 to have some work experience. We hope to give students the opportunity to hear from expert speakers, receive career advice, take part in some work experience and work in groups on an enterprise project. We are looking to work with local employers to support these days, so if you are able to offer any support please contact Hazel Fox hfox@dartmoormat.org.uk

We are looking for Governors!

- Do you feel you know the rhythm of life within your community?
- Are you inspired by the creativity and wonder of Children?
- Do you have a passion to see your local schools continue to serve in excellent and resourceful ways?
- If you've said yes any of the questions above, have you ever considered being a Governor?

We need people like you to step forward and to volunteer to be a governor – you could be a parent, or represent a community organisation or just want to participate in a Board which has the children of our schools at its heart and works with staff, pupils, parents and the local community. We value that local knowledge and experience is our most precious treasure in the local governance of schools. You may also bring other skills and knowledge which is a bonus too!

Please contact Melissa Trudgill mtrudgill@dartmoormat.org.uk to find out more. She will be pleased to hear from you!

The benefits are mutual!

- I can make links in the community
- I can have a voice into the hub of decision making
- I can gain skills transferable to the workplace
- I can offer support and encouragement to staff



- We hear from our stakeholders
- We benefit from the skills and professional knowledge of others
- We learn from the creativity of a diverse parent base
- We value the sounding board