

12th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone continues to be well.

With the Autumn term well underway, I have had the pleasure of visiting many schools this half term across the trust. It is always a privilege to see the children sharing their learning experiences with such enthusiasm and interest. The schools are doing well!

Premises

It was a busy summer for the premises team and contractors to work through maintenance schedules in the school buildings. We spent £130k upgrading facilities across school sites. These improvements will certainly make a difference within school for both children and staff.

New Minibuses

We have also had six new minibuses delivered out to schools this half term; they are a good additional resource open to all schools to use. It's great to see them being utilised already to transport children to and from schools for various sporting events and class activities across the trust.

Brunel Primary and Nursery Academy has received a glowing Ofsted report, following a visit in June, with judgements of 'Good' in all areas, and judgements of 'Outstanding' in Early Years Provision and Personal Development. It has been a long journey for Brunel with reinspection delayed due to COVID.



Thank you to so many staff, parents, carers and governors for their support and showing faith in the quality of Brunel's provision. Everyone in Bridge Schools is delighted that the hard work of staff at Brunel has been recognised in this inspection. The care and attention that all staff put into the children at Brunel goes above and beyond. We also had another great year of results, with children making extraordinarily good progress, particularly our highfliers! Great news for the staff and the wider trust in Bridge Schools.

If you would like to view the full report, please view [here](#).

Governance

As a trust we have been exploring a range of options regarding our governance structure to ensure we have an effective and sustainable model. We spent the Summer Term reviewing 'best practice' within our own organisation and across similar organisations. From this it was felt it would be beneficial to bring schools of similar size together, with locality identified as a second criterion.

This will mean Heads and governors across those schools will be able to make direct comparisons maximising the opportunity to share ideas and solutions.

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The Trust Board have therefore agreed the following structure for local governance overseen by trustees, chaired by Maria Ashurst:

Wadebridge, Looe, Brunel and St Cleer Academies – chaired by Tim Carson

Darite, Lanlivery and Blisland Academies – chaired by Adrian Hines

Pelynt, Polperro, Duloe, Trenode and Polruan Academies – chaired by Lucy Finnimore

Delaware and Gunnislake Academies – chaired by David Wright

Each individual school will retain local governors (made up of those on the existing body). We continue to thank all those who serve on our local governing bodies who take time out of their busy lives to support our schools.

WW2 Project

Four of our schools are currently building a collaborative 'virtual learning bank' this term. Each school is looking at aviation or World War 2 in their curriculums and staff are using the latest technology to help them share their learning (in school and on trips) with other pupils across the trust.

The Year 1/2 pupils at St Cleer Primary Academy have filmed questions for Polly Vacher OBE, a pilot who will be visiting Bodmin Airfield next week - her answers will soon be available for other children in the trust to access. Darite Primary have been to 'The Box' museum in Plymouth and have subsequently created a team of Year 5/6 'archive experts' who will be virtually delivering a Question-and-Answer session, whilst Wadebridge Primary Academy are creating a Horrible Histories style version of incredible facts about planes and transport used in the war, linking it to the new knowledge gained from the experts at Bodmin Airfield. The learning from all four schools will feed into exciting writing outcomes linked to the aptly named wider project - 'Wings to Words'. Bodmin Airfield have been supporting Bridge Schools by planning tours and talks for the pupils. Blisland's trip to the airfield this week was live-streamed via a digital 'Owl' to our other schools. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Pete White and his team of aviation experts, who have volunteered their time to help create these exciting and meaningful experiences for our children.

In Service Training (INSET)

Our next staff training day is on Friday 21st October, all schools will be closed for the day. Staff will join together and take part in sessions put on by subject leads from across our trust schools sharing ideas and resources with colleagues to increase the learning opportunities for your children.

Half Term

We will close for the half term holidays after the INSET Day next Friday and all schools will reopen on Monday 31st October as normal. Before festivities start to take shape in schools, heads will be writing to you about our Whole Trust Arts Event to be performed at Carnglaze Caverns on Thursday 24th November. An exciting opportunity for children to share some of their learning from the half term with invited guests.

Financial Squeeze

We are heading into uncertain times financially as a country with all public services, like everyone feeling the pinch. We will continue to provide the very best learning we can for your children. If you find that you need support of any kind with your children, or your circumstances have changed, please speak to class teachers or heads and we will do everything we can to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

With all good wishes,
Adrian Massey and everyone in Bridge Schools