



ELEMENTS NEWS

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Issue 2



MESSAGE FROM SARAH RILEY, ELEMENTS CEO



Dear Elements Trust Family,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new pupils, families, and staff who joined our Elements trust family this autumn term. The start of this academic year has been filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a great sense of community spirit. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our dedicated staff members for their tireless efforts and commitment throughout this term. It is through their hard work and passion that we continue to create an environment where we enable every child and adult to *'flourish in the love of God'*.

We are thrilled to welcome two new headteachers at St Mary's and Church of the Ascension, both of whom have a strong commitment to the school's Christian foundation and a clear vision for future progress. In addition, Jessons CofE primary school has joined us as the fifth member of our trust. They join us in our shared mission to ensure the life chances and educational achievements of all children in our schools are great because they *'flourish in the love of God'* through being a part of our strong trust. There are many achievements to build upon we look forward to many successful years of growing and strengthening together.

Our trust now serves nearly 2,000 children. As the Chief Executive of the trust my role is to be accountable for ensuring that our schools provide an exceptional education experience for every child. I do this by ensuring that we seize all the benefits and opportunities that being part of a trust brings. By working together as a family of schools, we can achieve and offer so much more for every child than if we worked alone. From curriculum and leadership development to collaborative initiatives, the autumn term has showcased the strength and effectiveness of our trust. This work will be further embedded across all trust schools starting in the Spring term as we welcome Lisa Maskell, our school improvement advisor, to our trust team.

A highlight of the term is Pedmore's fantastic SIAMS inspection report. The inspector was full of praise for the school and the report highlighted many strengths including:

- *The Christian vision is a living reality at Pedmore, where pupils and adults thrive in an infectious atmosphere of love and joy.*
- *Deeply committed leaders and staff build creatively on the school's Church of England foundations. This is strengthened through effective partnerships with the Elements Diocesan Learning Trust (EDLT) and the Diocese of Worcester.*

Together, we are shaping the future for the benefit of our children, and I am confident that the coming months will bring even more achievements and successes.

Equally important is the partnership we share with parents and carers, a collaboration that plays a pivotal role in making Elements trust a truly exceptional place for our children. Your support is invaluable, and together, we will continue to create an environment where every child can thrive.

And finally, this Christmas season brings us joy and optimism - something to hold onto in changing and challenging times, and to share with the children and staff in our care here at Elements. So, this Christmas, amid all the hustle and bustle, it's important for all of us take a moment to breathe and take a break, to enjoy fellowship of others and to count our blessings.

Wishing you and your families a joyful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Warmest wishes,

Sarah Riley
Elements CEO

Vision

Our vision has been developed to enable the coming together of like-minded Primary Schools in Dudley – schools that are separate, discrete **elements** that choose to coalesce as a cohesive whole to speak with one shared voice in education within the Borough of Dudley. Each person in these school communities, children, and adults alike, are also **elements** in bringing to fruition an education that enables their own flourishing and that of others. They are unique individuals, each with their own agency and characteristics, but who have an exponential effect when working together with a shared vision and purpose. Our vision is to ensure the life chances and educational achievements of all children in our schools are great because they *'flourish in the love of God'* through being a part of our strong trust.

Our vision is deeply rooted in, and is an outworking of, the Church of England's Vision for Education. Elements Diocesan Learning Trust is committed in being **'Deeply Christian: Serving the Common Good'**, inspired by the particular scripture in John 10:10 where Jesus declares *'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'*.

These words, combined with the vision's four main guiding elements – educating for **Wisdom, Knowledge & Skills; Hope & Aspiration; Community & Living Well Together; and Dignity & Respect** form the core vision for Elements Diocesan Learning Trust and are our key drivers for success.



SCHOOL NEWS

CHRIST CHURCH CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Aspiring together through love'

Time to learn together, grow together and flourish together are important to us at Christ Church. At the start of the Autumn term, Year 6 children had the opportunity to participate in a 3-day residential at Conover Hall in Shropshire. They amazed us with their courage and perseverance.

We have enjoyed times of Family Worship this term, celebrating Harvest led by our Worship Crew and coming together in peace and love on Remembrance Day. Both times of worship were an opportunity to gather as a community here in Coseley.



Welcoming visitors into our school community is important to us. Years 5 and 6 had a special visit from the author Daniel Dockery. Daniel wrote an adventure story with the entire phase, then carried out some writing workshops with Year 5. Our children were inspired!

PC Stephanie Harrison was warmly welcomed into school. She spoke to Years 1 - 4 about the importance of Stranger Danger and spent time with Years 5 and 6 exploring how to stay safe during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

From all at Christ Church, we wish you joy, hope and love this Christmas.



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Learn with love, flourish in faith."



It has been a privilege to join the school, as head teacher. I have received great support from both the Trust and the School Community and am incredibly grateful for having been made to feel so welcome.

Autumn term has been busy and productive. Our Year 6 pupils have been lucky enough to take part in a 4-night residential visit to PGL and London. They very much enjoyed a very active and informative week. While in London, the children visited the London Eye, took a boat trip along the River Thames and enjoyed a visit to the theatre to see Lion King.

During November, we had a school focus week on the theme of Remembrance. At an age-appropriate level, all pupils contributed to our school exhibition. I was honored to be invited to join the Wall Heath Remembrance parade and the wreath. Our wreath contained a poem written by one of our year 6 pupils. 2 of our Year 6 pupils read their poetry at the Cenotaph, during their visit to London.

Father Chris Smith led our first Eucharist Service of the school year. The service was filled with awe and wonder and our children's responses were very thoughtful and reflective.



PEDMORE CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'



A wonderful, busy, somewhat exhausting (!) term at Pedmore. As with other schools, there has been an incredible amount of things going on and now everyone is looking forward to Christmas. We have been raising lots of money for Acorns Children's Hospice and this is something we will continue into the New Year. We also asked families who celebrated Diwali to send in any pictures that they had - we had a wonderful response and it was lovely to see what celebrations happened at home. We also had a lot of children who made Diwali lamps and brought them into school to share with us all.



Every year we have an Art week at Pedmore, where the work of lots of different artists is explored. This year we looked at, amongst others, Banksy, Monet, Escher, Van Gogh and Giorgio Morandi.

Here's some of the work Year 1 did based on Mondrian. We have displays of art all around school.

ST MARY'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Instilling a life-long love for learning in an inclusive, supportive Christian community. Giving everyone the strength to enable them to flourish.



This term at St Mary's we have been reflecting on what it means to 'live well together.' We have raised the profile of our house teams and have introduced house festivals at the end of each half term. This has been a wonderful way to encourage teamwork throughout our school and our house captains have been amazing at fulfilling their responsibilities.

At the end of October, we hosted our first house football tournament, and the children were incredible. They worked hard not only to score goals but to earn points for teamwork, humility and respect.



Forest school has been a huge hit at St Mary's this half term and our Year 3 and 5 children have had the opportunity to take part in some amazing activities.

Another highlight for us this year has been attending the Remembrance service at St Mary's church and laying a wreath. It felt so special for our school to be part of the wider community- appreciating the immeasurable sacrifice of others.



May this Christmas season fill everybody's home with peace, light and joy. Warmest wishes from St Mary's CofE Primary School.



Elements Diocesan Learning Trust

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JESSONS CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Be the best you can be.'



It has been an exciting and extremely busy Autumn term, our first being part of Elements Trust!

Our school life has been full of traditional and new events, of joyous times, of thinking of others and our place in the wider community.

We have said our final goodbyes to St. James' church, after it closed for worship in November. Our worship included our Harvest Festival service, where we collected donations for Dudley Food Bank. Children were also invited to represent our school at the last ever service at St. James, a dedication service for a fallen soldier from WW1.

Year 6 went on a residential trip to Kingswood activity centre - a fantastic time was had by all children (and staff) involved.

Our commitment to our wider community has been demonstrated by our regular and new fund-raising activities - we wore purple and raised money for Epilepsy Awareness Day, as well as Children In Need, Dudley Food Bank and Christmas Jumper Day. Our choir performed for at a concert for the Mayor of Dudley, and for elderly residents in our local area.

Amongst all this excitement, we had Phonics workshops for parents of Reception and Year 1 children, and a year 6 SATS meeting.

As we finish this term, with days full of parties, discos, Santa, carol services, Nativity concerts and Christmas dinners, we are looking forward to the new year and the development of our school within Elements Trust.