



Birmingham Special Schools'
Co-Operative Trust
bhamcooptrust.org.uk

SUMMER TERM 2024

NEWSLETTER

Welcome

A warm welcome back to the final term of this academic year. The last term was packed full of Trust shared activities including: A fabulous Forest Schools event, held at Wilson Stuart, World Book Day celebrations, the first of our new subject reviews as well as Day 2 of the leadership programme. All of these events have more information given in the newsletter. Of course, our biggest event, the Common Grounds Art Project really got started in each of the schools and there is plenty for you to read about below. This term alongside the Common Grounds Art Project celebration, we also have days 3 and 4 of the leadership programme, as well as some other shared events and we continue to provide cross school support between the schools. The Headteachers continue to meet half termly and are already planning joint activities for the next academic year.

Have a good term everyone and enjoy the sunshine when it arrives!

BSSCT "Improving Trust internal partnership working and communication so that more individual staff know and value the work of the trust"

SHARED LEARNER ACTIVITIES



Common Ground Arts
An Inclusive Arts Programme for Students with SEN

The Artists are now working in their school and you will know about the person supporting your school, however there are 6 more you may also be interested in. The Common Arts web site, is your "go to" place to find out a lot more detail. Videos are also being made to support staff with their Art knowledge [2024 — commongroundarts](#)

Roots: Baskerville School

Roots is a Birmingham based illustrator and street artist specialising in heavily character based artwork influenced by 90s pop culture and nature.



Hipkiss and Graney: Dame Ellen Pinsent School

Hipkiss and Graney are a visual arts duo based in Stirchley, South Birmingham

Break Mission: Fox Hollies

Break Mission is a Birmingham based educational Hip-Hop cic that has been running 10+ years that teaches Breakdance, Graffiti, Djaying and more.

Bhulla Beghal: Longwill School

Bhulla is an independent film maker and writer and Director for Bluebell Films. Other creative practiooners supporting this work are Mary Jane Russell de Clifford is running a drama workshops and also, we are really excited that Rachel Shenton, the Oscar winning actress from The Silent Child and All Creatures Great and Small, is also working with pupils.

Samantha Krankpod: The Pines School

Samantha Krankpod is a ceramic artist and Staffordshire University graduate, specialising in handmade ceramics. She has 15 years' experience as a creative facilitator working with children, adults and families.

Sharonjit Kaur Sutton: Wilson Stuart School

Sharonjit is a freelance multi-disciplinary artist and graphic designer based in Birmingham. She predominantly works within community, education, arts and heritage settings.

Jack Goodall and Bethany Kay : Hamilton School

Jack Goodall is a performer, songwriter and music educator. He's released four albums and toured Britain, Ireland and Canada.

Bethany Kay is a songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist from Birmingham.

Other Staff and Learner shared activities: Spring Term

World Book Day

Activities took place across a number of our school. Here is just a small selection of photographs of the event.

The Pines:

As a school we set up an amazing Art Gallery as part of a joint activity with our co-operative trust schools. Pupils at The Pines were invited to dress up as their favourite book character or dress in non-uniform and bring a favourite book.

Each class created a beautiful piece of art work linked to their chosen text. We then had an art gallery in the school hall where all of our amazing work was displayed. We invited parents to come in and have a look at the fabulous work we had done.

Our art work is showcased on the next page!

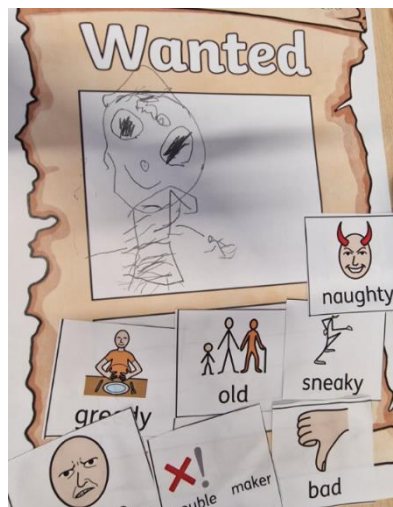


Wilson Stuart

During the build up to World Book Day, one of our secondary challenge classes took on the task of creating our video retelling of *The Proudest Blue*. This was out on the school website for other schools within the cooperative to view and enjoy.

On the day itself, we focused around the staff performance. Every year we retell a shortened version of a well-loved book. This year was *Gangsta Granny*. The staff loved performing it and the children loved watching it. This is truly a highlight of the day for all involved.

Every class had to design a piece of art work based on a book of their choice. Some did whole class pieces of art, while others did individual pieces. These were then displayed in the hall for all to enjoy.



Dame Ellen Pinsent

This year for World Book Day each class at Dame Ellen Pinsent School chose their favourite story and their favourite book characters. Each class decided on this by asking the children, class votes, symbol options and staff knowing the children and their preferences.

Leading up to World Book Day each class was challenged to create a Scarecrow to represent their chosen character. Each Scarecrow was then positioned on our school field and on the day, the children took part in a 'Scarecrow Festival'. Our current Whole School Topic is Birmingham and UK with an emphasis on Geography. Children used maps, symbols and directions when attending the Scarecrow Festival.

Staff and children took part in the day by dressing up as their favourite book characters! We had some fantastic costumes and the day was a huge success.

We also organised an after-school World Book Day event, which was well attended. The children took part in a range of story themed activities suited to their cognition needs and SEN. They shared stories, took part in sensory activities, used story sacks and small world play, all finished off with cookies and milkshake.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT and CPD :

Spring Term 2024

THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Following fantastic evaluations of the first two days, the final two will be delivered this term. If you would like to see the evaluations for Day 2 please click on the link below.

[Leadership for Performance led by Alison Carter, Simon Harris and Tracy Ruddle \(Preview\) \(office.com\)](#)

PEER TO PEER REVIEWS

Wilson Stuart School had a whole school review in February and the school and the reviewers got a great deal from the day. Following a peer to peer review a report is written by the reviewers and shared with the school.

SUBJECT REVIEWS LED by Subject Network Leaders

Dame Ellen hosted a pilot of our new subject reviews during the Spring Term and have already had a second one at the start of this term. The Maths one in Spring was a highly valuable experience for all involved and we are now further developing subject network support to include supporting a school with either Maths or English with Hamilton school receiving a Maths support day in May.

COMING UP: SUMMER TERM 2024

Teaching Assistant School Swaps

Longwill and Dame Ellen have Teaching Assistants who will swap roles for a day to provide them with valuable CPD and Hamilton and Pines are also teaming up to benefit from this new initiative.

Rights Respecting Conference: 30th April: Longwill School. All schools are sending a representative for the afternoon session.

Money Week: WB June 10th: Fox Hollies hosting an event during the week to which schools can send a member of staff and the Maths network will be planning some shared other activities.

Fox Hollies, Dame Ellen Pinsent and Hamilton hosting staff from Wilson Stuart: May 3rd to give all staff the chance to see other schools in practice as part of their CPD

Maths subject support for Hamilton School: May 9th. The Maths network will send along three Maths leaders to support the Hamilton Maths leader in the development of Maths and provide ongoing support if required.

BSSCT "Developing Trust, Leadership and Staff Professional Development"

For Further Information please contact Tracy Ruddle Trust Development Leader

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