



It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another academic year. Personally, it seems to have gone very quickly and yet it has not been uneventful! The world of education can be both challenging and exciting!

During 2016/17 our Trust has doubled the number of schools, with the inclusion of Shalford Primary and John Ray Junior schools. We have been successful in achieving capital bids of over £2 million to enhance three of our school estates. We have also made significant progress towards establishing a centralised business function that will enable us to be increasingly cost-efficient at a time when schools' funding is very tight.

Moving forward, we will continue in our quest for growth over the next academic year and will invest in our schools educationally and through seeking external funding for enhance estate and their wider environments.

Academically, as a whole, we have seen positive attainment results this last year with some notable improvements in attainment (although it is too early at this stage to judge how we compare nationally in all areas and to validate progress scores). We all know it is our collective responsibility to enable all children to make excellent progress and achieve well. We must never lose sight of this, especially for those children who are vulnerable and disadvantaged. It is everyone's job to secure great outcomes!

Following the general election, the political landscape is an interesting one and currently there haven't been any major changes announced – but that does not mean that there won't be any! Ofsted has said that it won't be making any major changes to its inspection framework until 2019 although its new chief, Amanda Spelman has made it clear that schools must offer a curriculum that is broad and enriching, which as a Trust we are fully committed to providing. In fact this will be a major focus during 2017/18 in all of our schools - to ensure that children encounter a full range of learning that engages, excites, enriches and promotes deep thinking and reflection. Our curriculum - everything that a child experiences in our schools - should positively prepare them really well for the next stage of his/her education and for life as responsible, global citizens. And in the light of the terrorist attacks that have blighted our nation this year, it is all the more important that children learn, understand and take to heart our common values that we hold as a Trust and as British citizens. In short, we want our curriculum to be life-changing and life enhancing.

This is the time of year of 'endings' before 'new beginnings'. We say goodbye to a number of staff moving to pastures new and thank them for their work for us, some over many years, as well as to our current year 6 cohorts who we confidently send on their way to secondary education.

May I personally thank you on behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees for your work and commitment to CHANGE Schools Partnership during this academic year. Due to your commitment

and determination, we have continued to see improvements in our school being realised. I hope that you all enjoy a well-deserved summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Ellis
Chief Executive Officer

News from our Schools

Notley Green Primary School

During the week beginning 12th June, staff and children took part in a highly successful 'Healthy Living Week'. Our amazing sports team organised a variety of activities for children to take part in to raise awareness of the types of sport that are out there and the local providers who are championing them. The broad range of activities included: tennis, squash, cricket, hockey, ballroom dancing, yoga, judo and rounders. All children tackled each new sport with enthusiasm and had a lot of fun learning new skills.



Alongside the healthy living activities for children, we also ran a 'Wellness Week' for staff to enable them to spend time reflecting on the importance of looking after themselves in order to be as effective practitioners as possible. Staff took part in sessions to promote team building across the school, mindfulness and positivity. There were also opportunities to take part in yoga sessions and aerobic work outs. These sessions, alongside 'Healthy Living Week' helped to create a real community feeling within the school; this feeling was clearly evident at our annual sports day which was highly enjoyable and full of friendly competition.

Finally, at the end of the week we held a sponsored Danceathon and Penalty Shootout Marathon to help raise funds for the school council's Trim Trail project. Seeing all the children in action was a wonderful sight.

It was a week which celebrated life in a primary school and will have left the children with some valuable lasting memories.

Cann Hall Primary School

Cann Hall has been continuing to develop the Reading into Writing Curriculum and this term saw the whole school immerse themselves within the theme of 'Environment'. All of the carefully selected texts were all picture books or had limited text, so the children were challenged to interpret the story through the illustrations. The texts explored were: The Secret Garden, The Journey, The Window, The Flower, The Promise, Varmints and The Arrival.



Some classes decided to develop an area of the school to grow new flowers, asking their parents to come in and help with the digging. All year groups produced some amazing writing and art outcomes which are proudly displayed within the school.

John Ray Junior School

Like every school, it has been a busy end to the year for John Ray Junior School and we have much to celebrate. Our end of Key Stage two results showed a significant improvement and was due to the determination and hard work of children and staff. Now the year 6 children are busy rehearsing for their end of term production, 'Shakespeare Rocks', and the singing that has been heard around the school at break, lunch and during rehearsals is sounding fantastic. We have held two display evenings this term and, with the introduction of some newly purchased display and storage furniture, the learning environment is beginning to look inspiring and celebrates the children's work really creatively. Our children have thoroughly enjoyed the class texts, Wonder by R J Palacio being a real hit with year 6. The quality of writing has undoubtedly improved through the introduction of the high quality texts and we have been really impressed by the children's positive attitude to reading. At break and lunchtimes, our library is full of children browsing and



sitting in corners with friends reading. Year 4 in particular, have been really engaged with their class texts and also Accelerated Reader and this has translated into great progress in their reading ages.

This term Year 3 have been engrossed in their stone-age topic and have enjoyed

practical investigations with rocks and soils. Year 5 had a visit from the Freshwater Theatre Company to support their work on the environment and had a great day of learning at the Braintree museum where their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm was commented upon by staff.

We are all looking forward to a well-deserved rest but are excited about the opportunities that the new academic year will bring.

Shalford Primary School

This term has seen each of the class' go on some exciting school trips. Elm Class visited the Southend Sealife Centre and played on the beach, Ash Class spent a day hunting for shark teeth in Walton, Beech Class went to Hanningfield Reservoir and Chestnut Class had an amazing week in the Isle of Wight on their residential trip. It was amazing to see all of the Year 5 and 6 children manage so well away from home and give every activity their best shot. Their perseverance and positive attitude was a great asset to the school.

At the end of June we had a very successful sports day and parent BBQ. The children all showed great sportsmanship and growth mindset and we raised a total of £440 from the BBQ, raffle and cake stall. In this final week of term we have the Chestnut Class performances as well as special assemblies with performances by our peripatetic music pupils.

We are sad to say goodbye to two of our teachers this term. Amelia Farrant and Natalie Dews are leaving us to gain further experience in other schools. However we are pleased to welcome some new staff to our teaching team. Nicola Parker is joining us from Notley Green and taking the reception and Year 1 children. She brings with her the experience of already working in a CHANGE Schools Partnership School. Jennifer Penney will be teaching in Ash Class for 2 days a week. She has done supply teaching at John Ray Junior School and has lots of experience of teaching in small village schools. Beech Class will be taught by Sarah Hodge, an experienced teacher with a specialism in P.S.H.E. and P.E. and Gill Jamieson, an ex county maths advisor and Shalford Governor. We are excited about the wealth of experiences that all of our new team members will bring.

Happy summer holidays from all of us at Shalford Primary School