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Celebrating a year of success

As another busy and rewarding academic year draws to a close, this edition of our newsletter provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on just some of the many achievements taking place across Derby Diocesan Academy Trust.

One of the things that always strikes me when reading these stories is the incredible breadth of opportunities our children experience. From exhibiting artwork at the University of Derby to campaigning for their local environment, appearing on national television and learning vital life-saving skills, our pupils continue to show us what can be achieved when children are given the confidence to flourish.

We have celebrated excellent inspection outcomes, exciting investment in new and existing school buildings, recognition for inclusion and sustainability and countless examples of schools working in partnership with their communities to make a lasting difference. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and Local Trust Committee members and the enthusiasm of our children.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the success of our Trust. I hope you enjoy reading these stories and feel as proud as I do of everything our schools have achieved together.



by Dr Sarah Clark, CEO

New primary school gets the green light



Plans for a new £2.7m primary school on the New House Farm estate in Micklegate have been given the green light by the Government.

The proposal to build a 210-place primary school on the 1,100-home New House Farm development in Micklegate were put on hold last year, following the national pause on new school projects.

But now **New House Farm CE Primary School** has been given the go-ahead meaning the families moving into the estate will have access to local school places.

The Trust is also hoping to open a school in Wingerworth, called The Avenue, which is still under consideration.

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust CEO, Sarah Clark, said: "We're really pleased to see progress on this much-needed new school for Micklegate. As communities grow, it's vital that education provision grows with them, ensuring families have access to high-quality, local school places from the outset.

"At Derby Diocesan Academy Trust, we are committed to supporting strong, sustainable communities through high-quality education, and we look forward to playing a key role in delivering a school that sits at the heart of the community it serves.

"Families moving into new communities should feel confident that their children will have access to a great local school, and this development is an important step in making that a reality."

New House Farm CE Primary will be built on land which sits close to the Etwell Road roundabout and Avant Homes Cotchett Village estate.

It will be vital in supporting the expanding community, reducing the need for children to travel further afield and helping to establish a strong local education infrastructure from the outset.

Major upgrade planned for historic school



One of the Trust's smallest schools is set for a major transformation after securing more than £220,000 to upgrade its facilities and extend its age range.

Darley Churchtown Church of England Primary School, on the edge of the Peak District, will benefit from £220,970 secured through a Section 106 developer contribution, aimed at enhancing facilities and supporting the long-term future of the historic village school.

The funding, paid to Derbyshire County Council in 2023, will be used to modernise the school and to open a 12-place nursery, allowing children as young as three years old to attend.

Plans for the project include a wide range of improvements to both indoor and outdoor spaces.

These will see the refurbishment of infant toilets and cloakrooms, upgrades to classrooms and the creation of new dedicated spaces for inclusion support and a school library.

The school hall will also be enlarged to better accommodate collective worship, physical education and lunchtime activities, while early years pupils will benefit from a resurfaced outdoor area and the addition of canopies to provide shade and shelter.

Further works will include improved accessibility and security measures, upgraded flooring and lighting, and energy-efficient LED installations throughout the building. An unused classroom will be converted into a sensory room for high level need children while improvements to the exterior of the school building will improve security.

Eco-warriors show MP their green vision



Eco-warriors at **Bishop Lonsdale Church of England Primary School** have shown Derby North MP Catharine Atkinson how they are making their school more sustainable, thanks to a government-backed green initiative.

The school is among just 250 schools nationwide to secure funding through the Great British Energy Solar Partnership Programme. The scheme supports the installation of solar panels alongside a range of energy-saving improvements designed to make school buildings more efficient.

Children star on national TV after joining wildlife trust

Green-fingered children at a Derby city centre primary school have reached national TV after working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to transform a patch of land once used as a dumping ground.

Eco-councillors at **Arboretum Primary School** in Normanton, were featured on Channel 5's popular Love Nature series which filmed them working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to litter pick and spruce up the land on Society Place.

Previously affected by fly tipping and anti-social behaviour, the area has been transformed into a vibrant green space complete with a bug hotel and attractive planting.

The Love Nature series featured children at the school talking enthusiastically about their efforts in a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derby City Council project to transform the urban space.

School deputy head teacher Lisa Kay said children had been very happy to see themselves on national TV! "We watched it together at school," she said. "They loved it! Some of them got such a kick out of it."

Eco councillors at the school have been going out on regular trips to work with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on the land, choosing herbs they want to plant and getting their hands dirty digging the soil.



Lisa said: "It's great for the children at Arboretum Primary School to engage with a project like this. They are always thinking up new ideas for what they want to do on the land."

Adam Dosunmu Slater, from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, said: "The best thing about this project is that the kids walk through here going to school and they can see what they are achieving."

"I think people really see the value of urban nature and soon as the children have done some work people see that someone is taking care of the space."

School gardening club reaps the rewards of hard work



Pupils at **St Giles CE Nursery and Primary School** have been busy transforming their garden into a thriving outdoor space.

Thanks to the hard work of the school's Gardening Club, they have grown strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and courgettes, alongside colourful sunflowers, geraniums, poppies, nasturtiums, pansies and violas.

Their next project is to create a peaceful outdoor area where children can relax, chat with friends, read a book or simply enjoy the sights and sounds of nature.



Exploring faith at All Saints



Children in Year 2 at **All Saints CE Infants School** enjoyed a special visit from the Derby Open Centre as part of their learning about Islam. They learned some Arabic words and phrases, explored the Islamic lunar calendar and discovered more about Muslim beliefs and traditions.

The children also had great fun trying on a range of traditional clothing and asking lots of thoughtful questions. It was an enjoyable and interactive experience that helped bring their learning to life.



History comes to life for St Giles



Children from **St Giles CE Primary and Nursery** enjoyed a fascinating and educational visit to Eyam, the famous "Plague Village" in Derbyshire. The trip brought history learning to life as pupils discovered how the villagers responded to the outbreak of plague in 1665.

The children were engaged throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating excellent historical knowledge. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they were a credit to the school.

Firs Primary receives anti-racism award



Firs Primary School is celebrating after becoming the first in the city to receive a prestigious anti-racism award, recognising its strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

The school is one of only 27 in the country to receive the Leeds Beckett Anti-Racist School Award. The recognition reflects its work to celebrate all cultures and ensure every child feels valued as an individual.

Launched in 2020 by Leeds Beckett University's Centre for Race, Education and Decoloniality (CRED), the initiative helps schools strengthen anti-racist practice across leadership, teaching and community engagement to create more inclusive learning environments.

Year 5 pupil Sab, who moved to the school three years ago from the Philippines, said: "When I moved to the school, I couldn't speak much English, but I felt really welcome and quickly made lots of friends who helped me in class when I didn't understand.

"Since then, I have really settled in and even help out at home, especially with my little sister's English. I feel much more confident both in and out of school. I feel really proud to be part of a school that works so hard to make everybody feel welcome and safe."

The school has a highly diverse community, with pupils speaking 49 different languages and 75% speaking English as an additional language, including 24% who are new to English.

The cohort also includes 14.5% of pupils from Gypsy Roma backgrounds and 27% who are Black African, while White British pupils make up 17% of the school population.

The award lasts for three years before requiring renewal, with the school achieving Bronze status and now working towards Silver. Bronze recognises achievement within the school community, Silver reflects work and impact at a local level and Gold is awarded for national-level practice.

At the beginning of each academic year, pupils take part in a five-lesson programme to become 'young interpreters', equipping them with the skills to support new pupils joining the school.



Pupils at **All Saints CE Infants School** enjoyed a special visit from the Waste and Recycling Team at Derbyshire Dales District Council as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic.

The team taught children about the importance of recycling, how to use bins correctly and the role of a waste recycling operative. Pupils even had the exciting opportunity to sit in the cab of a recycling truck, wear protective clothing and watch the vehicle empty the bins.

Year fives enjoy close encounter

Year 5 pupils at **Stanley Common C of E Primary School** had a fantastic morning at Kirk Hallam Academy, taking part in a variety of hands-on activities.

They particularly enjoyed a special opportunity to meet the animals.



A colourful day to remember at Bishop Pursglove



Children at **Bishop Pursglove Primary School** took part in a fantastic sponsored Colour Run.

Pupils tackled an obstacle-filled course while being showered with brightly coloured powder paint along the way. It was a fun-filled event that everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

After crossing the finish line, pupils cooled down with an exciting water fight, which was a huge hit with everyone involved.

The celebrations continued throughout the day as pupils also showcased their baking skills in a Great British Bake Off challenge, making it a memorable day of fun, teamwork and creativity.

School uniform gets a second life

The Together Team at **The Newbold Church of England Primary School and Nursery** organised a successful uniform exchange this term, helping families reuse good-quality school uniform and give pre-loved items a second life.

The initiative forms part of the school's commitment to becoming more sustainable by reducing waste, supporting families and encouraging the reuse of resources.

Well done to everyone involved in making the exchange such a success.



Cycling project gets pupils get back on their bikes

A highly valued recycled bikes project has been helping **Derby Cathedral School** students get their wheels back in motion.

A group of students were invited to pay a visit to Ayup Bikes on Newland Street to find out more about how to maintain their trusty two-wheelers.

Now leaders from Ayup Bikes are refurbishing and donating four bicycles to the school so students can use them to get to class and enjoy riding for pleasure too.

The students are regulars at its thriving Cycle Repair Shop, an after-school club which meets each week.

The popular club regularly attracts students from all year groups who meet to learn valuable skills in bike maintenance and repair.

Large numbers of students at the school get to their classes by bicycle as a practical and healthy mode of transport.



Students who attend the Cycle Repair Shop visited Ayup Bikes to receive some practical advice and demonstrations on how to keep their bicycles in good working order.

One student said the bike donation was particularly welcome as his own had recently been stolen from outside his home.

He said: "I came home one day and my bike had been stolen. My mum said she'd buy me a

new one. I'm happy and my mum is also happy that I'm going to get a new bike instead of having to buy one."

Year 7 student Michael Odynayo, 11, said he had learned a lot about bikes from the session at Ayup.

He said: "I love cycling and I always want to explore and ride faster, try new things and learn new skills on the bike and hopefully know how to fix the bike."

"I've learned now that the bike has got to be checked all the time."

School RE teacher Josh Turner launched the school's Cycle Recycle Club a few years ago after a pupil in his tutor group had their bike stolen and could not afford to replace it.

The club sees students bringing their own bikes to keep them maintained and also benefits from donations from the school community.

Sixth Formers make a genuine difference across Derby

Generous sixth form students at **Derby Cathedral School** have been supporting the city's most vulnerable people by collecting a wide range of goods including food tins, clothes and books for more than a dozen city charities.

A range of charities have been personally selected by students to benefit from their support, including Derby Food 4 Thought, The Hope Centre and Safe + Sound. The 16 and 17-year-olds at the school contacted their chosen charities to find out what was most needed, then presented their findings to each form group to appeal for donations.

They spent weeks collecting hundreds of food tins, children's books, craft items, clothes and feminine hygiene products which they then personally delivered to their charities, supporting the most vulnerable people in Derby.



Primary has room to grow with new outdoor classroom



Bishop Pursglove CofE Primary School in Tideswell has added a new outdoor classroom within its school grounds, following fundraising efforts from both the school and the wider community.

The new space – a wooden building designed to blend into its surroundings, with views overlooking the Peak District – can be used all year round in all weather conditions, allowing pupils to maintain a strong connection with nature whatever the weather.

It will be used for group discussions, creative activities and outdoor-inspired learning, offering a balance between structured teaching and free exploration.



Pupils get hands-On with Emergency Services

Children at **Arboretum Primary School** learned how to stay safe and even save lives during the school's first Emergency Services Day. Representatives from East Midlands Ambulance Service, Derbyshire Police, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and St John Ambulance spent the day with pupils, sharing vital safety advice and hands-on demonstrations.



School praised for helping pupils 'Shine a light for others'

Bakewell Church of England Infant School has been praised for its nurturing environment, where pupils are encouraged to 'shine a light for others' in all aspects of school life.

The school was visited by an inspector as part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) process, which evaluates the effectiveness of a school's Christian vision, values and leadership.

The report highlighted how the school's deeply embedded Christian vision inspires both pupils and adults, shaping attitudes, relationships and aspirations. Pupils were noted for confidently articulating their desire to be a "light for others", demonstrating a strong understanding of kindness, service and encouragement.

Parents and carers spoke positively about the school's ethos, highlighting how it shapes children's behaviour both in school and beyond. They also praised the tailored support available for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as those experiencing anxiety, bereavement or family separation.



Stop the Drop campaign puts pupils in the spotlight



Did you spot the amazing pupils from **St Chad's CofE Nursery and Infant School** on the radio or TV this term?

Staff and children at the school have been making headlines for all the right reasons after launching a campaign against fly-tipping outside the school

gates – an ongoing issue affecting four much-loved trees affectionately named by the children: Derek, Sylvia, Jackson and Violet. They have organised petitions, staged a series of peaceful protests and even met with local Members of Parliament as they fight to protect the environment around their school.

The Stop the Drop campaign has been entirely pupil-led, driven by children determined to make a difference in their local community. Children have been spending their lunch breaks cleaning up the site, decorating the trees and planting flowers around them to send a clear message that fly-tipping will not be tolerated.

Their inspiring efforts caught the attention of BBC Radio Derby presenter Becky Measures and BBC News East Midlands, giving the children a platform to share their concerns and ideas for positive change within their community.

Most importantly, the coverage showcased the confidence, compassion and determination of these young pupils – qualities we are incredibly proud to nurture across DDAT schools.



Church report sings praises of Derby Cathedral School

A key Church report has sung the praises of **Derby Cathedral School**, saying its students and staff “live life in all its fullness”.

The report from SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) has found that the secondary school and sixth form is an “aspirational community” which is “driven by its values”.

The report said: “Derby Cathedral School is driven by its values. It is an aspirational community where students and staff are enabled to flourish. Supported by the trust, leaders model integrity and care, enhancing outcomes.

“The Christian vision, aligned with that of the trust, is well understood and embedded in policy and practice.

“Through monitoring and evaluation, reflective leaders and governors ensure that the school’s Christian foundation compassionately and robustly serves the community.”

Particularly highlighted by the inspection was the inclusivity of Derby Cathedral School’s community, saying that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) were being given “the bespoke support they need to thrive”, with “thoughtful adaptations” specific to their needs.

The school is offering “significant pastoral support and provision for emotional wellbeing” with one-to-one support, the inspector found.

SIAMS also said careful provision was being made for more vulnerable people – both within the school community and outside it.

Inspectors highlight compassionate culture



Staff and pupils at **St Giles Church of England Primary & Nursery School** in Matlock have been described as a 'loving school family' by inspectors who also praised the strong support for vulnerable children.

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report described the school as a place where "individuals are known and valued as the unique person they are within a loving school family" and highlighted the profound impact the school's Christian ethos has on pupils, staff and the wider community.

The report recognised several notable strengths, including the school's "deep-rooted, compassionate and aspirational culture", its strong support for vulnerable pupils and families, and the way children are inspired to strive for justice and make a positive difference in the world around them.

Inspectors also praised the school's culture of wellbeing, noting that positive relationships and mutual care "powerfully and tangibly enhance lives and relationships".

The report highlighted the way pupils are nurtured to overcome challenges, grow in confidence and develop resilience, both through the curriculum and wider opportunities including forest school activities and enrichment experiences.

The school's provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), along with those considered vulnerable, was also singled out for particular praise.

The report noted that staff provide "targeted care" with "great compassion", ensuring pupils are supported to thrive despite personal challenges.



School gets a clean sweep of strong Ofsted judgements

All Saints CofE Junior School, in Matlock, has been recognised for its outstanding provision after securing a 'Strong' judgement in every area inspected under Ofsted's new framework.

The school achieved a "Strong standard" across all six inspection categories – Achievement, Attendance and Behaviour, Curriculum and Teaching, Inclusion, Leadership and Governance, and Personal Development and Wellbeing – while safeguarding standards were also confirmed as fully met.

The result places All Saints among a small number of schools nationally to achieve a clean sweep of Strong judgements under Ofsted's new inspection system.

Inspectors praised the school for creating an environment where pupils "thrive", achieve highly and feel a strong sense of belonging. The report found that pupils' attainment is consistently above national averages, with disadvantaged pupils performing better than similar pupils nationally and all children were well prepared for secondary school.

The report also highlighted the school's ambitious curriculum, exceptional commitment to inclusion and culture of high expectations. Inspectors said: "Inclusion is at the heart of the school's work", noting that leaders and staff ensure all pupils feel a sense of belonging and have every opportunity to succeed.

Executive Headteacher Ben O'Connell said: "We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised the strength of our school across every area of its inspection framework.

"This outcome reflects the dedication and professionalism of our staff, the enthusiasm and achievements of our pupils, and the support of our parents, governors and wider community."

School helps every child feel they belong



Bishop Lonsdale Church of England Primary School and Nursery has been recognised by Ofsted for creating a nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued and ready to learn.

Inspectors found it meets the expected standard in every area under Ofsted's new inspection framework, highlighting the school's strong culture of wellbeing, inclusion and high expectations.

The inspection praised the school's "positive and supportive" atmosphere, where pupils develop a strong sense of belonging and staff know children and their families extremely well.

Inspectors described pupils as polite, confident and respectful.

They recognised the school's commitment to supporting children's emotional wellbeing through initiatives including its popular 'Zen Den', worry boxes and personalised support for pupils who need additional help.

The report also highlighted the school's improving academic performance, noting that pupils' attainment in reading, writing and mathematics is close to national averages, while disadvantaged pupils perform above the national average in reading.

Inspectors found that leaders have carefully designed a curriculum that builds knowledge progressively from the early years through to Year 6, with effective phonics teaching helping children become fluent and accurate readers.

The early years provision was also praised, with inspectors noting that children make a positive start to school life.

Head of School Sarah Brownhall said: "We are delighted that the inspection recognises what makes Bishop Lonsdale such a special place to learn and grow."

"Our staff work incredibly hard to ensure every child feels safe, valued and supported to achieve their very best, and it is wonderful to see that commitment reflected throughout the report."

Mini Masterpieces



Hundreds of DDAT children have become exhibiting artists after work from every school went on public display in a unique exhibition celebrating creativity.

The exhibition, hosted by the University of Derby, brought together 33 original pieces of artwork – one from each of the Trust's schools – all inspired by the theme Mini Masterpieces.

The collection showcased a wide variety of artistic styles, techniques and interpretations, with pupils taking inspiration from famous artists and iconic works before adding their own creative flair.

Six-year-old Lottie, from Bakewell Church of England Infant School, said: "I love art, especially painting and drawing. It was such a surprise to see our artwork in the exhibition and it made me feel really proud."

Sarah Clark, Chief Executive Officer of Derby Diocesan Academy Trust, said: "Creativity is an essential part of a broad and balanced education, helping children develop confidence, curiosity and the courage to express themselves."

"For many of our pupils, visiting the University of Derby is inspirational in itself. It allows them to imagine what their own future could look like and reinforces the message that university is somewhere they can aspire to. Combining that experience with seeing their own artwork exhibited in such a professional setting makes this a truly memorable opportunity."

Dancers are stars of the show

Talented dancers from **St James' CofE Junior School** took to the stage at the Arboretum Community Fair, continuing the success of their fantastic performance at this year's Derby Celebration of Dance.

This year's routine was based on a fun and energetic Shrek theme, showcasing the children's enthusiasm, creativity and confidence.

The team's commitment and dedication really shone through in every performance and staff said they were very proud to see them performing so confidently for members of the local community.



Headteacher Dan Walls said: "We are immensely proud of every member of the Dance Team and would like to thank Miss Ross and Mrs Fern for their dedication and hard work in preparing the children for these memorable performances."

Young ice hockey star shines on and off the ice



A Derbyshire schoolboy is fast becoming one to watch on the ice after being selected to represent an elite British team at one of Europe's largest junior ice hockey tournaments.

Toby Mangnall, a Year 5 pupil at **Long Lane Church of England Primary School** is following the elite pathway with the Sheffield Ice Hockey Academy after impressing coaches with his natural ability, determination and rapid progress in only his second season.

Despite being just nine years old, Toby already plays as a goalkeeper for the under-12s team and has been selected to represent the Elite British Selects – a squad made up of some of the country's most promising young players.

He recently travelled to Riga in Latvia, with the Elite British Selects to compete in a major international junior ice hockey tournament, where he faced teams from across Europe in what is widely regarded as one of the continent's biggest youth hockey competitions.

Toby, who has an autism diagnosis, joined Long Lane Primary School to access a smaller and highly supportive learning environment.

Since joining the school, which has just 20 pupils, he has made significant strides both academically and socially, moving from requiring substantial one-to-one support to working independently and thriving in the classroom and beyond.

Toby said: "I felt so proud to be selected to play for the under-12s team at nine years old and then to be selected to play internationally for the Elite British Selects was amazing.

"I loved going to Riga in Latvia. Ice hockey is really popular there and some really great teams were playing. I made loads of new friends and really enjoyed the atmosphere with the coaches and players on the way to and from the games.

"Playing ice hockey and moving to this new school has made me feel really happy.

"I really love all my new friends and my new teacher is great."

Staff at Long Lane quickly recognised his passion for ice hockey and in his first week, created a bespoke hockey-themed reward setup including a mini rink with a goalie character that progresses along the rink to earn rewards, designed to support his engagement and progress.

St Chad's wins regional award for transforming children's lives

St Chad's CofE Nursery and Infant School has been named the East Midlands Primary Winner in the ARC Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma Awards.

The award celebrates schools and settings that help transform children's lives by understanding how trauma and relationships affect learning.

St Chad's was nominated by Graeme Ferguson, Headteacher of Derby's Virtual School – part of Derby City Council – which coordinates the educational needs of children in care and those previously in care.

Graeme praised the school as "a shining example of attachment-aware and trauma-informed practice in action," highlighting the way relationships sit at the heart of everything it does.

As the regional winner, St Chad's has now secured a place in the national finals in November and has also been invited to become an ARC Learning Hub, supporting other schools to develop their own relational practice.

The award was presented at the Inclusion Conference at Pride Park by Graeme and Tamsin Bellaby, Partnerships Director at ARC.

Graeme said: "At St Chad's every child is known, valued and understood as an individual, with relationships forming the foundation for all learning.

"Serving a richly diverse inner-city community, they recognise that many



children face social, emotional and economic challenges. The school responds not with deficit thinking, but with compassion, high expectations and carefully structured support.

"Staff are highly attuned to children's emotional needs, using consistent routines, relational approaches and restorative conversations to help pupils feel safe and regulated."

The national ARC Alex Timpson Attachment and Trauma Awards will be held in Birmingham in November, where St Chad's will represent the East Midlands as one of the country's leading attachment-aware and trauma-informed primary schools.



Award-winning school “sets benchmark” on encouraging families to ditch the car

William Gilbert Endowed C of E Primary School and Nursery is setting a benchmark for how rural schools can encourage families to ditch the car on their way to class, according to a transport boss.

The school welcomed a visit from Mid Derbyshire MP Jonathan Davies along with Nick Butler, CEO of national active travel organisation Modeshift.

Jonathan and Nick came to the school to see for themselves how years of active travel campaigning by children and head teacher Helen Britten have cut car journeys to the school gate by more than 90 per cent.

They chatted to the school's enthusiastic Junior Travel Ambassadors to find out more about how they have achieved such remarkable results.

Nick said: “We often hear that it’s more difficult to promote active travel in rural schools but William Gilbert has shown that it’s possible. “

Last year the 247-pupil school launched Derbyshire’s only car-free School Street – a traffic order prohibiting vehicles at drop off and pick up times.

William Gilbert has conducted numerous campaigns which have seen the number of pupils being driven to school reduce from 37 per cent to three per cent, with around a fifth of pupils now cycling or scooting to class – up from zero in 2022.

The hard work at William Gilbert has recently seen them one of only 75 schools in the country to be given an ‘Outstanding’ rating by Modeshift for their active travel.

Rolls-Royce STEM day is a force to be reckoned with

Year 5 pupils at **Hardwick Primary School** were fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome 10 Rolls-Royce apprentices who delivered a hands-on learning experience, linked to the science theme of ‘Forces’.

Throughout the day, children moved around a carousel of three activities to support their learning.

Qasim said: “My favourite part of the day was the parachute challenge. I worked with two of my friends. The air resistance slowed down the parachute so it stayed in the air. Holes in the parachute did not help the air resistance. We tried to improve our design.”





Celebrating 50 years of Walter Evans Primary School

Walter Evans CE Primary School has been celebrating a remarkable milestone as it marks 200 years of educational heritage alongside the 50th anniversary of the school's current building.

Although Walter Evans School officially opened in 1976, its story stretches back to the founding of St Matthew's School in Darley Abbey and St Edmund's School in Allestree, both established by the Evans family.

When the two schools came together following their closures, they created Walter Evans School, continuing two centuries of learning, community and opportunity.

Despite the recent heatwave forcing the postponement of some planned activities, pupils, staff and families still enjoyed a special celebration day, with children and staff dressing as figures from different eras spanning the past 200 years, from Georgian times through to the 1970s. The day featured traditional games, refreshments and ice creams, creating a memorable celebration of the school's rich history.

The celebrations have also provided an opportunity to reconnect with former pupils from the school's opening in 1976 and beyond. The anniversary celebrations concluded with a special Year 6 Afternoon Tea, where pupils hosted parents and grandparents with musical performances and refreshments as they celebrate both the school's milestone and the children's transition to secondary school.



Bolsover pupils embrace adventure

Pupils at **Bolsover Junior School** have enjoyed an action-packed end to the summer term, taking on exciting adventures and sporting challenges both in and out of the classroom.

Year 4 enjoyed a residential visit to Whitehall, where they tackled a range of outdoor activities. And, after a summer term of dedication in the after-school Running Club, a group of pupils will be putting their training into practice by taking part in the Long Eaton Junior Parkrun.

Staff are incredibly proud of the children's commitment and enthusiasm.





St George's pupils preparing for their sponsored 'Mile a Day' challenge in support of Mary's Meals.

Young leaders make a big difference

Pupils in the Year 3/4 class at **St George's CE Primary School** have been making a positive impact both locally and globally after successfully completing the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award.

Throughout the year, the class has organised a series of fundraising activities, including running a popular Friday afternoon toast sale, to support a range of worthy causes. Their efforts helped New Mills Junior Football Club raise money towards a new pavilion before they turned their attention to the national charity Read for Good, raising £112 to provide books for children in hospital.

For their final challenge, pupils completed a sponsored 'Mile a Day' in aid of Mary's Meals, the international charity that provides school meals and education for some of the world's poorest children. Although the event had to be postponed due to the heatwave, the determined youngsters still completed the challenge and raised an impressive £266. The Year 3/4 class is incredibly proud of the difference they have made, demonstrating compassion, teamwork and a commitment to helping others through their fundraising efforts.

Sam and Alex go back to school to inspire



Griffe Field Primary School was delighted to welcome back former pupils Sam and Alex Bolton, who returned to share their experiences and inspire the next generation of learners.

The brothers led a special assembly, reflecting on their time at Griffe Field and explaining how the school's values of kindness, inclusion and belonging helped shape them into the young men they are today.

Staff were delighted to welcome them back and were incredibly proud to see everything they have achieved since leaving Griffe Field.

PTA brings some colour to school



Griffe Field Primary School was awash with colour as pupils, staff and families came together for the school's very first Colour Run, organised by the dedicated Friends of Griffe (FOG) PTA.

The fun-filled event saw older pupils supporting their younger Reading Buddies as everyone took to the field to complete the course, cheered on by parents and supporters. Staff also embraced the colourful challenge, helping to make the day one to remember.

The event was an instant hit, with children asking as soon as it had finished when they could do it all again.

Griffe Field is incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm, commitment and hard work of its PTA, whose support continues to make a real difference to the school community.