



DISCOVERY MAT STEM PRESS LAUNCH

Children from across our academies had a great time at the STEM press launch recently. Sophie and Finley from Weston Mill, Denver and Lauren from Beechwood and Nelly and Dexter from Oakwood travelled to the STEM Centre at our partner, City College, with our other STEM partner, Babcock. They had a great couple of hours being introduced to the centre by Andy Robinson, City College's STEM co-ordinator. Watch this space for an article in the Plymouth Herald! A big thank you to City College for having us.



(from left to right) Phil Davies (Principal of City College Plymouth), Alison Nettleship (Discovery MAT CEO), Sophie, Hannah Randall (Discovery MAT Director), Rachel Cain and Tina Brinkworth (Babcock), Julie Jackson (Oakwood), Andy Robinson (City College STEM Co-ordinator), Rachel Dibben (Head of School, Weston Mill), Finley, Denver and Lauren, Nelly and Dexter, Lisa Evans (Head of School, Beechwood), Tracy O'Carroll (Oakwood).



A MESSAGE FROM MRS. NETTLESHIP...



Another term has completely flown by! There have been so many fantastic activities and learning opportunities over the last term in our academies. The children have continued to focus on their learning and it has been a pleasure to read their school reports, which have been sent home today. I would encourage you to complete the reply slips as I am keen to hear your views and share your comments. Your children have put in a huge amount of effort during the recent assessments and have been keen to show their teachers their learning so far. I hope you will share our pride in their achievements and join me in thanking the staff for their continued hard work. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

PARENT & CARER PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

You might have spotted the dates for Parent & Carer Parliament Meetings last week's newsletters.

Come along for an opportunity to share your views, suggestions and ideas with Alison, Chief Executive Officer. Please register your interest at the school office.

BEECHWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

PARENT & CARER PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

Thursday 27th April at 2pm in the Hall at Beechwood

OAKWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

PARENT & CARER PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

Tuesday 2nd May at 2pm in the Staffroom at Oakwood

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FACILITIES MANAGER



Children at Oakwood and Beechwood will have to look out for a new face around school after Easter. Mr Rust (or Mr. Rusty as he has been known) is due to join Discovery MAT's central team next term in the new position of Facilities Manager for Discovery MAT. Mr Rust has previously been Site Manager for Weston Mill, following a career in the Royal Navy. From 18th April onwards, he will be looking after all three of our academies, with the help of Mr Day and Mr Wheatman. Mr Rust says he is looking forward to getting to know lots of new faces, as well as starting work across our MAT, particularly on the exciting STEM projects we have in the pipeline.

NEW TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce that following a rigorous three-day interview process at the beginning of March, eight new teachers will be joining Discovery MAT in September 2017:

Miss Nicola Hemelik, Mr Josh Harris, Mr Sam Ticehurst, Miss Sophie Clausen, Mrs Karen Rust, Miss Holly Brocklesby, Miss Jenny McDonald and Mrs Sophie Wieprecht.

Our new teachers are yet to be allocated their schools and year groups but we will be sure to let children, parents and carers know next term. In the mean time, we would like to thank all children, staff, Local Advisory and Board Members for their involvement in the interview process. We look forward to welcoming our new teachers to Discovery MAT in September.

STAFF GOODBYES AND A WEDDING

During this term, we have said goodbye to Mrs Isaac from Weston Mill. This term, we are saying our goodbyes to Mrs Lucas and Miss Harmsworth from Beechwood, and Mrs Cresswell from Oakwood. On behalf of all the children, staff, parents, carers and the Board, we would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication, and wish them the very best of luck in their new ventures. We would also like to send our congratulations to Miss Williams at Beechwood on her upcoming wedding. She will be returning to school in the new term as Mrs Francis.

JUNIOR FIELD GUN RUNNING CLUB AT BEECHWOOD AND WESTON MILL



Weston Mill and Beechwood Primary Academies have launched their Junior Field Gun Running clubs this term. The clubs are hoping to support Armed Forces day in June, after receiving their wooden field guns from the Devonport Field Gun Association. Mrs Dibben, Head of School at Weston Mill, told the Herald:

“As a newly formed academy with Beechwood and Oakwood, this was something that was introduced to us by Mrs Evans, Head of School at Beechwood, and something we are keen to roll out across

Discovery MAT. Support from our staff will enable this to happen and we look forward to developing this with the children over the forthcoming year.”

The Devonport Field Gun Association is passing that tradition on to new generations by manufacturing wooden gun replicas for school pupils to compete with.

Dave Worrall, chairman of the Association commented: “We'd like to bring field-gunning back in schools. There are lots of field guns in schools all over the country, but they're often made of car tyres, and parts of lampposts – it's not been standardised and children have never had a set field gun run.

“We are going to standardise it. We have a drill to go with it, health and safety risk assessments, we've got everything.”

Plymouth has been a spiritual home for the field gun since 1907 when the first tournament began in London between Portsmouth, Devonport and Chatham.



STEM ACROSS THE MAT

We've had a great start to Discovery MAT's STEM agenda this term, with Science Week, STEM centre visits, STEM club, a visit from the RSPB, a Youth Parliament trip to the Guildhall and countless other activities. Our academies have captured some great photos of these events recently. Please follow us on Twitter [@discoverymat](#) for the latest updates.



NEWS FROM OAKWOOD, WESTON MILL AND BEECHWOOD

OAKWOOD Y5 SLAPTON RESIDENTIAL



Last week, 27 Year 5 children from Oakwood travelled to Slapton for a 3 day residential visit. By all accounts, the children had a brilliant time, and undertook all sorts of activities including beach activities organised by Plymouth University, midnight feasts, wildlife walks and a campfire with marshmallows and a sing-a-long. The children arrived back last Friday, all worn out but having had an amazing time. Thank you to all staff and well done to the children for being so well-behaved!

WESTON MILL Y4 NETHERCOTT FARM TRIP

Earlier in the term, Year 4 children from Weston Mill visited Nethercott Farm for a week-long residential. The children helped look after the farm's cows and sheep, as well as the donkeys and a wide range of poultry. The children also helped in the kitchen garden to grow the vegetables they ate with their meals, as well as trying their hand at some cooking. We are looking forward to extending this worthwhile experience to children at Oakwood and Beechwood next year.



BEECHWOOD EASTER FESTIVITIES

Beechwood's Easter egg and bonnet competition produced some amazing creations this year from our very creative children (and parents!). Thank you for all your efforts. In other news, Beechwood's resident rabbits have been settling in well, with 'stroke the rabbit' sessions proving very popular. And finally, with excellent Easter timing, Nursery have hatched five chicks and Year 2 have two chicks. There was some excitement as the eggs rocked, then cheeped, then a hole with a beak appeared and finally out came the fluffy chicks!





WORLD BOOK DAY
2017 ACROSS
DISCOVERY MAT

WORLD BOOK DAY
2 MARCH 2017
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