

AGORA
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP

Agora Learning Partnership

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19 July 2022

Dear colleagues,

When writing this, the final newsletter of this academic year, I spent much time reflecting on all that has been achieved across the Agora Learning Partnership during this academic year. What a year it has been!

There have been so many successes, too many to mention, with all schools working tremendously hard to help children overcome the challenges that arose following the lifting of COVID restrictions. Children, Partnership-wide, have been exposed to exciting learning opportunities, both within the curriculum and beyond. They have been nurtured, supported and helped to flourish as human beings, as well as learners. I can honestly say that all the children have benefitted from an amazing education thanks to the hard work and commitment of all staff teams in our schools. Many highlights about the education in our schools have been recorded in the Ofsted inspection reports, following Ofsted visits to every one of our schools.

It has also been an exciting time to be part of the Partnership; there have been a range of new opportunities for staff development and school improvement achieved through collaborative working. The children have also had opportunities to 'learn together' through Partnership-wide events. I am delighted with the way in which children, staff and governors have engaged with the opportunities that have been presented and have brought them together; feedback shows that those who have taken part have valued these opportunities too. I am really excited about the progression of this work in the next academic year when we will build on all the achievements to date.

All things considered; it is clear this year has been an absolute success. This is down to the amazing children and adults who form the Partnership. It is an absolute privilege and a pleasure to be the Trust's Chief Executive Officer and to work with such incredible people. Thank you to everyone concerned – Trustees, Governors, staff, volunteers, parents and (of course) the fabulous children. A special thank-you also goes to the growing central team, who have worked tirelessly (and very often behind the scenes) this year to do everything they can to serve the Agora schools; I am sure you will all agree that they do a marvellous job too!

Our Partnership is about 'working together, learning together and succeeding together' and all these things have happened in abundance this academic year. It has been amazing!

After working so hard all year, everybody now truly deserves a break; as such, I wish you all a fabulous summer break and hope that you get some special time with your loved ones, as well as some time to rest and recuperate.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all again in September.

Kind regards

Rebecca Daulman
Chief Executive Officer

**Agora Learning
Partnership Values
2022-2023**

Ambition
Generosity
Optimism
Respect
Adventurous and brave

Thank you to all the governors who attended the Trust-wide 'school visits' training on 21 June 2022, delivered by Herts for Learning. We hope you found the session useful. Trust leaders will be following this session up with training for governors about specific roles and responsibilities on 28th September 2022.

Staff Well-Being

This half term, the new Well-Being and Workload Working Group was due to meet. Unfortunately, the first meeting had to be postponed due to Ofsted. However, we are committed to doing everything we can to support staff well-being and, as such, the initial meeting of this group will now take place in the new academic year. Updates related to staff well-being will be detailed in the Agora newsletter each half term; watch out for more news coming soon!

We would like to officially welcome Carol Murphy, the Partnership's Chief Operating Officer, who started working with the central team on 6 June. Carol is looking forward to working with all the Partnership schools.

The application round has also just closed for a new Human Resources Manager being appointed centrally – more details about this appointment will be shared in the new academic year!

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

In June, Single Central Record audits were carried out in each of the Partnership schools by Sally Knight, an independent consultant. The outcomes of the audits across the Partnership were very positive. The Single Central Record is an essential part of each school's safeguarding provision. Thank you to everybody with responsibility for the Single Central Record in our schools, for working so hard on these documents and, ultimately, for helping to keep the children safe.

Peer Reviews

Bernard Senier, an independent consultant, working with staff from across the Partnership, carried out the final Peer Reviews of the year in June. The reports include details of the fantastic work that takes place in the Trust schools in order that the children get the very best opportunities to help them learn, grow and develop. Thank you to everybody across the Partnership for all you do. The Peer Reviews have been such a success in 2021-2022 that they will continue in the next academic year too!

Staff Survey

A huge thank you to all staff who completed this year's staff survey. The survey is so important; the results will be used to underpin the Partnership improvement strategy, detailed in the Together Strategy action plan, in 2022-2023. Congratulations to Waterside Academy who will receive a £100 gift voucher this week; the percentage of staff completing the survey was the highest in the Trust at 81%. Well done Waterside!

Ofsted news...

Meryfield Community Primary School (May 2022): **GOOD**

Waterside Academy (June 2022): **TBC**

The Orchard Primary School (June 2022): **GOOD**

Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery (June 2022): **TBC**



Thank you to children across the Partnership for spending time with staff thinking of exciting ideas for our 'values' days planned for the next academic year. Some of the ideas presented will form the basis of our Trust-wide children's days. Look out for details coming soon!



The Together Strategy details the Partnership's key drivers for Trust-wide improvement over a three-year period. The Strategy is designed to complement the individual work of the Trust schools, supporting staff and children through positive collaboration, Partnership-wide. The Strategy was launched in September 2021. This information details some of the Partnership's 'together' successes from the past few weeks, as well as some information about upcoming events.

Working together, learning together, succeeding together...this half term...

Together for Staff

29.6.22:
'Working with children with challenging behaviour' training for classroom-based support staff

Together for Children

June 2022:
Preparation - Values events

Together for All

6.7.22/18.7.22:
Governance working group

Together for Schools

June 2022:
Peer Reviews carried out in all schools

An Agora Associate is a member of staff, from any one of the staff groups within the Partnership, who has been formally recognised as being talented in one or more aspects of their work (following the submission of a simple application form).

The Agora Associates will assist the Trust in school improvement by giving some of their time to support colleagues in need of help, support or training linked to their specific talents.

We are absolutely delighted to announce the appointment of the colleagues listed below to our first cohort of Agora Associates:

- **Kathryn Williams, Curriculum Leader** (Warren Dell Primary School)
Identified talent: Curriculum design, including in relation to intent and implementation, and the use of evidence-based teaching and learning strategies to support the curriculum
- **Ellie Morley-Birch, Pastoral Lead** (Cherry Tree Provision Lead, Warren Dell Primary School)
Identified talent: Developing personalised provision for children with complex needs to ensure their needs are met effectively
- **Joanne Clarkson, Higher Level Teaching Assistant** (Wilbury Junior School)
Identified talent: Supporting fellow Teaching Assistants to develop within their role; specifically, working with teachers to help maximise children's progress, identifying and addressing children's gaps in knowledge using assessment and observation, the delivery of interventions, the use of ICT to aid children's learning, behaviour management in the classroom and providing cover in the absence of the teacher

A huge congratulations to our new Agora Associates; the central team are really looking forward to working closely with you!

Agora Learning Partnership
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration -
Kings and Queens Day
Monday 23 May 2022



As part of the Partnership-wide Kings and Queens Day, children were given the opportunity to research an event related to a specific king or queen in British history. They were then asked to share their findings with others by being creative; our winners are listed below:

- Alice, Year R, Meryfield Community Primary School and Nursery
- Nova, Year 3, The Grange Academy
- Lily, Year 5, Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery
- Year 5, Warren Dell Primary School
- Jaabir, Year 6, Bromet Primary School
- Melissa, Year 6, Orchard Primary School (video entry)
- Siobhan, Year 6, Wilbury Junior School
- Kross and Kastolansky, Year 5, Oxhey Wood Primary School

Well done to our winners, who have received a certificate and prize. Also, congratulations to everyone who entered; all of the entries were **AMAZING!**

"We learnt about interesting things like the fire in Windsor castle."

Zander (Year 1)

"I liked learning about the Queen. I can remember she has 9 thrones, and she was born in 1926."

Joshua (Year R)

"I had lots of fun making posters, bunting and learning about our Queen."

Anu and Lucas (Year 3)

"We ate cucumber and butter sandwiches. I made my own and it was yummy!"

Theo (Year R)

"She (*the Queen*) promised to serve her country when she was younger, and I think she has done a brilliant job all these years."

Niyah (Year 5)

"I really liked learning about castles and putting them onto a timeline. I learnt that the one of the best places for a castle to be built was by a hill to keep the monarchs protected and enemies away!"

Keshav (Year 2)

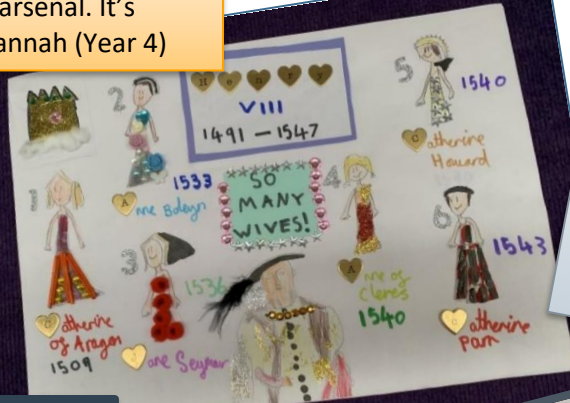
"We learnt about William the Conqueror. He was a Norman and he believed he should be the next king. During the Battle of Hastings he killed his enemy and was declared King."

Eleniyah (Year 4)

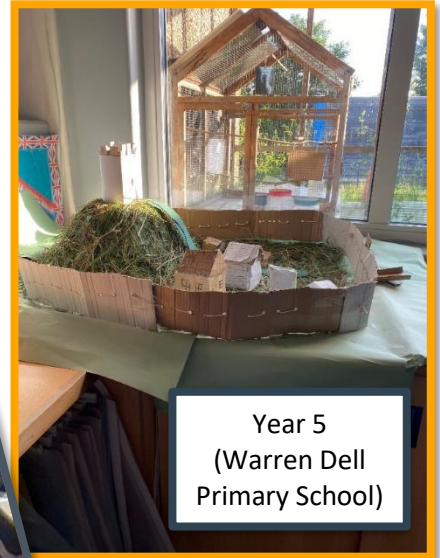
"The queen's corgis are so cute! I love dogs and it's cool because so does our Queen."

Archie (Year 2)

"Me and the Queen both support arsenal. It's cool." Hannah (Year 4)



"We spent the entire day being creative with the knowledge of our Queen. Then we got to share it with other schools." Zara (Year 6)



Year 5 (Warren Dell Primary School)

Nova, Year 3 (The Grange Academy)



Lily D., Year 5 (Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery)

"I loved being in the virtual assembly." Anu and Lucas (Year 3)

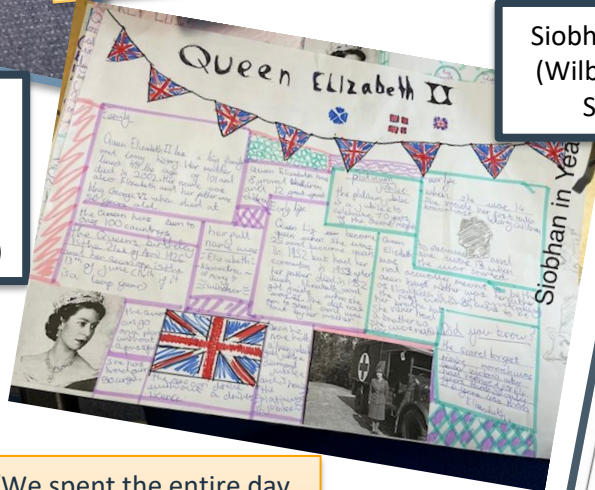


Jaabir, Year 6 (Bromet Primary School)

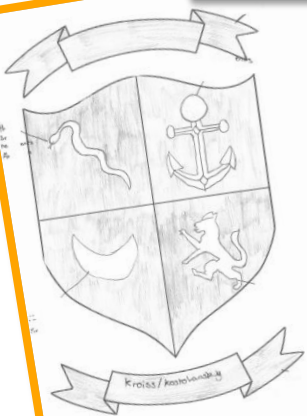
"It is amazing that she has been the Queen for so long. I know lots about her now and can sing the anthem by heart." Kayden (Year 2)

"My favourite part of the day was sharing my castle model in the big assembly because it was really hard to make and I was so proud of it. I also liked singing the National Anthem!" Hrishvi (Year 2)

Kross and Kastolansky, Year 5 (Oxhey Wood Primary School)



Siobhan, Year 6, (Wilbury Junior School)



"We spent the entire day being creative with the knowledge of our Queen. Then we got to share it with other schools." Zara (Year 6)

"Wow what an amazing queen, reigning for 70 years." Anya (Year 2)

Alice, Year R (Meryfield Community Primary School)



Magic Moments 2022-2023

Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery

Alban Wood's proudest moments relate to their sporting achievements this year.

In February, the staff took the school's netball team to Futures Academy for The School Sports Partnership's netball tournament. The team had to play three matches, so it was by no means easy but they concluded the evening as the overall winners!

The staff were incredibly proud of their players for the way they played and also for being amazing sports people. The children were such gracious winners and celebrated the achievements of all the other schools.

In March, Year 5 had an incredible time competing in a Tag Rugby Festival at Futures Academy. There were so many amazing sports and general skills on display. The communication and teamwork, as well as the passing and moving, were fantastic! The children managed to win two of the three games; a big win for Alban Wood!

Alban Wood had the privilege of participating in the girls and mixed PLPS tournaments. The Year 3 and 4 children were able to showcase their ability and talent, making it all the way to the final! Unfortunately, the team lost on penalties; however, everybody had lots of fun and enjoyed participating.



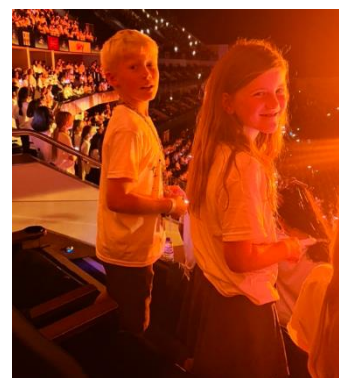
Bromet Primary School



Victorian Day



Ofsted Outcome – Good
(January 2022)



Performing at Young Voices

The Grange Academy



The Grange is so proud of the Year 6 children and the end of term show, Cinderella Rockefeller. Finally, the school is back doing the things that make leaving primary school so special. The personalities of the Year 6 group really shone through in the acting. The audience were laughing, hissing, booing and arrghing! The singing was spectacular. The staff were thankful that they could give the children the opportunity to perform.

Meryfield Community Primary School

Everybody at Meryfield is delighted that Ofsted has recognised it as a 'good' school. The inspector captured many of the school's strengths, including the aim of school staff to give children the knowledge, skills and confidence that will open doors to opportunities throughout their lives.

The report states, 'Pupils enjoy their learning, they talk excitedly about the different activities they do in lessons and the trips they go on. Pupils love reading, they really appreciate the high-quality books on offer for them to read. They take recommendations from fellow pupils on what to read next. Pupils are polite and well behaved.'

All the staff and children are very proud of their school and will continue to make it the best they can.



The Orchard Primary School

At Orchard, the staff and children have been proud of so many things but some of the standout moments are:

- Coming second out of 260 schools in the Year 5 Mathematics Challenge
- Coming first overall in a Year 6 boys' athletics event
- The fabulous Christmas productions performed this year



Oxhey Wood Primary School

Magic moment 1: The Year 5 children winning third place in the Herts for Learning Mathematics challenge



Magic moment 2: A fantastic STEM week involving all classes in school - so many exciting investigations, including a whole school one about biscuit dunking - the week ended with a science fair where each class presented their investigations and shared their learning



Magic moment 3: A fantastic Ofsted report that recognised the standard of teaching, relationships, enrichment opportunities, excellent learning behaviours of the children and the school's partnership working with parents and the community

Warren Dell Primary School

Magic moment 1: Speech Cup Final – in this fantastic competition, following class heats, the winners represented their classes in the finals. In the finals, the children shared what they had learned about the Royal family and what they would do if they were King or Queen for the day; the children in Key Stge 2 also created a poem about the Queen's Jubilee.



Magic moment 2: The Year 6 residential trip – the children enjoyed working as a team to build survival shelters...although some did not survive the water test!



Magic moment 3: A fantastic Ofsted report that recognised the standard of teaching, relationships, enrichment opportunities, excellent learning behaviours of the children and the school's partnership working with parents and the community

Waterside Academy

It has been a really busy and action-packed year at Waterside Academy.

The wonderful pupils have worked so hard, all year long, to increase their knowledge and improve their skills across the whole curriculum. This effort has proven to be fruitful, with some stunning attainment results across national assessments (SATS etc.) in many different year groups. Everybody is really proud of the pupils!

With such a successful year, it has been a real challenge to pick just one 'proudest moment'. Mr Mills-Bishop (Headteacher) decided to pick a photograph that represents many different moments. The picture is of the Year 4 pupils visiting Kew Gardens in London as part of their learning about the Rainforest. Many fun-filled school trips have happened this year and all pupils, across the school, have been given the opportunity to increase their cultural capital with great trips to fun and interesting places.

Everyone at Waterside is excited for more great learning (and more great trips) come September...



Wilbury Junior School

At Wilbury Junior School this term, governors and staff have been so proud and delighted to see many school events run again...after not seeing them for several years.

Parents have been able to visit the school and enjoy events in the beautiful school grounds; events such as sports day, a picnic and a 'Dancing through the Decades' jubilee celebration.

Furthermore, the Year 6 children headed off to Condover Hall and Year 4 to Wymondly Woods for their residential trips and both year groups had a fun (although exhausting) time!

Wilbury also had a second successful family sports evening with over sixty families attending and children have been able to attend a wide range of external sporting fixtures.

To finish off the term, the whole school will be enjoying a trip to Frinton on Sea!

