

ELEMENTS NEWS

SPRING TERM 2025

Issue 3



MESSAGE FROM SARAH RILEY, ELEMENTS CEO



Dear Elements Trust Family,

As the days grow longer and the joy of Easter approaches, it feels like the perfect time to reflect on the many blessings and achievements across our trust. Guided by our vision, "*Flourishing in the love of God*," we are truly seeing our community thrive in remarkable ways.

Celebrating Success – Church of the Ascension's Outstanding SIAMS Inspection

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news that Church of the Ascension Primary School has recently achieved great success in their SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. The inspector praised the school's deeply embedded Christian vision which fosters a nurturing environment where every member of the community feels valued and supported. They also highlighted the school's exceptional pastoral care, ensuring the wellbeing of pupils and staff alike.

The inspector celebrated the strong partnership between the school and our trust, recognising how it enriches the provision for pupils and supports the entire community to learn, grow, and flourish. Congratulations to everyone at Church of the Ascension for this well-deserved recognition!

Welcoming New Talent to Our Trust Team

This term, we warmly welcomed two talented members of staff to our central team:

- **Lisa Maskell**, a highly experienced headteacher with a proven track record in school improvement, joined us full-time in January. Lisa has been actively working in our schools, collaborating with leaders and staff to drive excellence in all areas. Her focus on continuous school improvement, collaborative practices, and capacity building is already making a positive impact across our trust.
- **Amy Wakeman** has also joined us as an experienced finance assistant. Her contribution strengthens our financial operations and allows us to continue prioritising the needs of our children.

Reflecting on Our Trust Vision

We have recently revisited our trust vision statement to ensure it remains relevant and serves our purpose well. Our updated vision statement reaffirms our commitment to providing the very best for the children of Dudley, helping them achieve well and flourish. The renewed vision also highlights our dedication to supporting each school within the trust to preserve its unique identity while serving its community with purpose and excellence. Please take a look below.

Building Connections and Sharing Expertise

One of the many advantages of being part of a trust is the opportunity to share knowledge and expertise. Our teachers have come together for various activities to collaborate, inspire one another, and grow collectively. We're also delighted to extend our support beyond our trust, sharing our expertise with other schools in Dudley to strengthen education for all.

Easter Blessings

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, let us be reminded of the hope and renewal that this season brings. In the words of 1 Peter 1:3: "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*" May this message of hope guide us as we continue to support one another to *flourish in the love of God*.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and hard work. We are so proud of our schools, staff, and pupils. Wishing you all a restful and joyful Easter break.

With warm wishes,
Sarah Riley

Elements Diocesan Learning Trust CEO

Vision

Elements Diocesan Learning Trust values the individual nature of each school within the Trust family. We believe that every person is a unique and precious gift, created with purpose and value. We nurture each person as a child of God and recognise their inherent potential. Through our collective efforts, we inspire hope, nurture faith, and promote the flourishing of each school.

We ensure that every person is seen, valued, and empowered to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances. Through justice and equity, we foster an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated, and every person's unique gifts are honoured.

By embracing these principles, we create a culture where every person values themselves, their community, and the world around them to become compassionate, confident, and responsible individuals.



SCHOOL NEWS

CHRIST CHURCH CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Aspiring together through love'

Wider curriculum activities continue to be at the centre of school life here at Christ Church. Our Girls' Football Team have had a brilliant term, winning the *Dudley Girl's Football Finals!* They played extremely well and worked hard in every match they played.

We have also been recognised for our commitment to sport for girls, football in particular, and have been awarded the *Equal Access School Award*. We are very proud of our P.E. and sports offer here. We know that for all children getting up and moving is so important, not just for physical development but to also help academic progress and to promote good mental health and wellbeing. It's great to see so many children across school participate in our sporting activities, doing well, improving skills and having fun!

Lots of our Year 4 children visited Astley Burf in Stourport for their residential visit. Our children amazed us and did remarkably well during the 4-day visit. They tackled every challenge with courage and determination and their behaviour was impeccable.



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Learn with love, flourish in faith."



We have had a very busy and productive Spring Term. In the first half of the term, we had a whole school focus on Good Health. Lots of visitors came to speak to us about keeping ourselves physically and emotionally well. Every year group hosted presentations and were informed about everything from sporting activities such as baseball, 5 Ways to Wellbeing and travel safety. Year 6 had an inspirational presentation from an Olympic hockey player.



For World Book Day, this year, we carried out a day of reading activities. Each class had a visit from a *Secret Reader*. Children enjoyed the Book Swap stations, where books from home were swapped so that every child went home with a book, that was new to them. Following World Book Day, we were treated to a performance of *Treasure Island*. Children really enjoyed the opportunity to see a live performance, here in school. "I really enjoyed the performance – it was very exciting! I enjoyed the story very much. I would like to be an actor in the future," Year 4 pupil.



PEDMORE CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

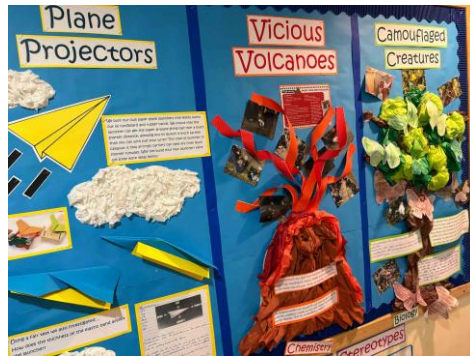
'Love one another, as I have loved you.'



As always, another busy Spring term so far at Pedmore. As well as all the usual activities going on, Reception and KS1 had a visit from the animal lady. They met many animals, including a honey bear and a cockroach!

Science Day

We held a science day in school where each class spent the whole day doing fun science stuff! Lots of expanding things, exploding things, colour-changing things...lots of fun involved!



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day this year in a few different ways: children could come dressed as an adjective or a book character; we had lots of different activities happening in classes; and each class designed and created a book cover for their classroom door.

ST MARYS CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Instilling a life-long love for learning in an inclusive, supportive Christian community. Giving everyone the strength to enable them to flourish.'



At St Mary's we are passionate about our community and the way in which we can support each other to succeed. We have been developing our understanding of the important role we all play in making our school such a happy and exciting place to learn. Our House Festivals are an important part of this and last month the children really enjoyed taking part in our food focused challenge to see which house could design and make the healthiest lunch box.



Forest school continues to be a highlight of school life at St Mary's and our children have produced many amazing creations using their developing DT skills. They have also enjoyed using all of their senses to explore the outdoor area.



Our Year 6 children continue to impress us with the way they live out their Christian values by always volunteering to take on roles and responsibilities. We have recently set up a 'playground pals' team who help to support our youngest children in their lunchtime play. All children are enjoying having lots to do outside such as small world play, puzzles and crafts. We are looking forward to continuing to develop our outdoor environment during our PTA parent gardening day in March.



Elements Diocesan Learning Trust

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JESSONS CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Be the best you can be.'

2025 has been full of many new and exciting events and occasions already, and we're only 3 months in! We began the year with an appropriate 'Big Question', linked to our school's Vision: "What is love?" As ever, the depth of thought from our children -from Nursery to year 6 - was astounding.

Our small hall was beautifully decorated for our celebration of Mental Health Week. Each class had the opportunity to spend some time in the hall, enjoying reflective time and a range of activities designed to promote mental wellbeing.

We particularly enjoyed our first service held at St. Thomas' (Top) Church, as year 4 led our Lent service. We were so pleased with the number of parents who came to join the service, and they were full of praise afterwards. This will be the first of many services held here.

Fun and fund-raising were the order of the day as we celebrated NSPCC Number Day and World Book Day in style – we are always amazed at the imagination and generosity of our families on these occasions!

We have been invited by a local councillor to be involved in an art project to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2. So many events so far – and more to come!



Our Reception children have learned about animals past and present, with Dinosaur Workshops and live duck eggs (2 hatched! So cute!).