

We Are Create

Issue 11 - February 2026

Dear Create Staff, Trustees, Governors and Members,

A huge welcome to our newly refreshed monthly newsletter. This is our opportunity to celebrate and share the many brilliant stories taking place every day across our wonderful Trust.

Earlier this term, I wrote about how January and February can be particularly tough months—dark mornings, dark evenings, grey skies, the worry of snow and ice, and of course, the cold. Despite all of that, I shared that my heart was full of sunshine.

Since that newsletter, I can now confidently say that this half term has been the most rewarding of my three years at Create. I have had the absolute pleasure of watching, observing and joining in with over 20 lessons delivered by you.

I have seen exceptional practice from ECTs, MPS teachers, UPS teachers and members of SLT. The behaviour of the children, the quality of learning, and the level of challenge and achievement have been a joy to witness. A huge shout-out to all of our volunteers and to the exceptional use of LSAs across our schools, you are making a huge difference to children's lives.

It is easy for me to talk about teaching and learning expectations from an office, a train, or a meeting—but seeing it live, in classrooms, brings to life why teaching truly is the greatest job in the world. I have been challenged in Maths, wowed by writing from Year 1 through to Year 6, enjoyed live music lessons filled with instruments and singing (and discovered that I am not destined for the glockenspiel!). I have seen the full maths journey from Year 1 to Year 6 and learned new things in Science and Geography along the way.

Being on the ground with you has been a real privilege. The strong connection between myself, the Executive Headteachers, Headteachers, Heads of School, SLTs, the Central Team and the Trustees reassures me that we are firmly on the right path to success.

Since becoming Interim CEO in June, it has been my clear aim for the Trust to be more visible within our schools. I am delighted that I am now able to be in most schools weekly rather than half-termly, and that the Central Team is also on site weekly. This has helped turn emails into faces and strengthened our relationships even further.

While my role involves attending many meetings across a wide range of areas, spending time in classrooms, talking to children, and seeing learning in action remains the true highlight of my day, week and month.

Thank you for the incredible work you do each and every day. And finally, enjoy this Friday the 13th—always lucky for me! I was born on a Friday the 13th, won Teacher of the Year on a Friday the 13th, got married 22 years ago on a Friday the 13th, and today I get to spend it with you as we come together as one big family for our second Trust Day of the year.

Chris Dyson
Interim CEO

Hodge Hill

Polar Express Day was launched in December and the children had a month of Polar Express projects. The children were fully immersed in their writing, art and music lessons, showing real enthusiasm, creativity and—true to Hodge Hill values—plenty of grit and growth.

For Polar Express Day, pupils were invited to come to school in their pyjamas and Mr Mills, DHT, was on the guitar for a sing-along. What wonderful memories they will have of this day for many Christmases to come.



Year 3 took an exciting trip back in time to the Stone Age! The classroom was transformed into a prehistoric world filled with fascinating facts and hands-on activities.

From the moment they arrived, the children were swept into the sights, sounds, and stories of life thousands of years ago. There were plenty of wide eyes and curious questions! One of the highlights of the day was learning about Stone Age tool making—and then putting those skills into practice by creating their very own lamps! It was a day full of discovery, creativity, and prehistoric adventure.

Conway



In autumn term, some of the KS2 children visited London. They visited the Houses of Parliament and took a cruise along the River Thames. Their impeccable behaviour and insatiable desire for knowledge truly was inspirational. Their courtesy, enthusiasm and respect made them fantastic ambassadors for Conway Primary School. What a great experience—one that will live long in the memory.

As a prize for best attendance, 5J were treated to a visit to the cinema and had the most relaxing time.

Future attendance prizes include a Lego Day and a young drivers experience. This is just one way Conway are making incredible improvements in attendance; they are also embracing Inclusive Attendance.

Attendance is now in line with national figures for the first time in a long time. Well done everyone!



The Change Reading Programme has been implemented at Conway recently. It has already had a positive impact on reading by changing the whole reading structure in school. Mrs Povall, DHT, notes that the children are more motivated and engaged about reading. What a start to the new term! The Board is invited to Conway to see this programme in action.

Brookfields



Rock Steady was launched in November at Brookfields. Weekly in-school band lessons will begin this term for children who have opted in. With celebrities, such as the singer Jamelia, being ex-Brookfields pupils, who knows how far these budding stars will go. We wish them good luck with their future music careers!



Santa dropped in to hand out presents and spread good cheer during Christmas Dinner.

Year 6 went on a residential trip to the Frank Chapman Centre in Bewdley in October. They honed their archery skills and also braved the high ropes, got to grips with geo-caching and woodland orienteering before enjoying an evening beside the campfire. The children represented the school amazingly. Like most of us, they will have fond memories of this trip that they will carry with them throughout their lives.



Greet

In the Autumn term, Greet earned the Inclusive Attendance Bronze Award, and the Music Mark Award!

The school showed a strong commitment to helping every child thrive by attending school regularly.



Music Mark celebrated the achievements of Greet in providing inclusive, accessible and high quality music education. The Music Mark award recognises that Greet is committed to high quality music recognition.



Greet children competed in an athletics tournament at Billesley Tennis Centre on Thursday 15th January. They came 3rd out of 11 other schools taking part.

The children showed hard work and

determination throughout the competition and were very respectful towards opposition. They made the school extremely proud!

In November, Greet celebrated Amna Shah in 5TH who went above and beyond with her support of a friend in her class who was having a seizure. Well done Amna—we are so proud of you!

