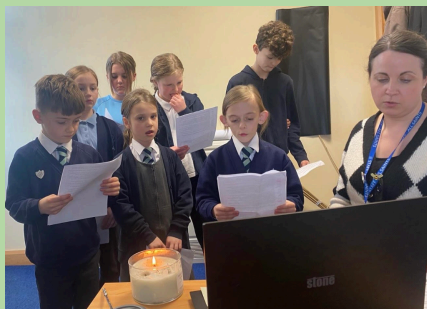


CEO Update Spring 2 2025



It has been a long and excellent half term. We have seen a whole wealth of amazing learning and activities over this time culminating in Mothering Sunday and Easter celebrations. There is a note about audits and school budgets at the end.

At the beginning of the half term, All Saints Worship Crew led a Trust wide worship on forgiveness, they did a fantastic job and we all enjoyed it and engaged well. .



Leaders (Headteachers and English curriculum champions and Governors) led school reviews in the area of Oracy this half term. Findings were superb with some simple areas for development across the Trust. Children spoke brilliantly in pupil voice sessions with Ralph and I and other leaders, they were so articulate about their learning and understanding of oracy - ask them!



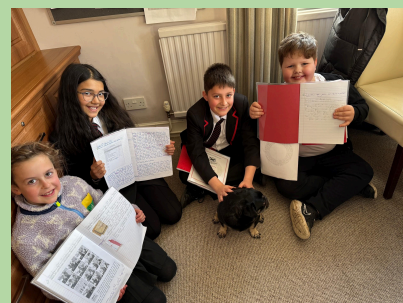
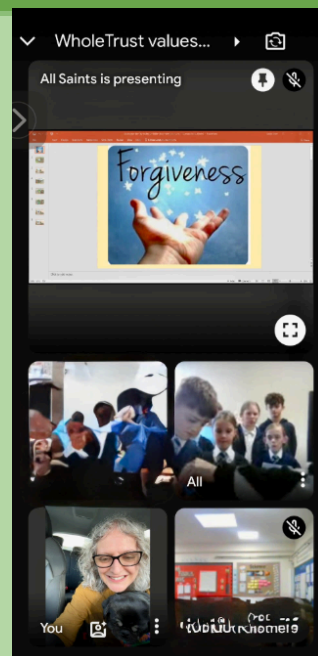
The first heats of our Netball tournaments were undertaken this half term. All Saints were the winners on goal difference and will go on to play our other winners, Richard Crosse in the final after half term.



World Book Day and other charity work has been enjoyed in all of our schools, staff have thrown themselves into it too!

There have been so many musical opportunities this half term, Gotta Sing at the Garrick,

Gotta Dance and Music Share with Cathy Lamb.



Lots of schools have visitors and visits such as the Derby faith trail. Mothering Sunday services were beautiful, families thoroughly enjoyed them - so did Ralph and I and they were swiftly followed by all of our Easter services and events.

Mothering Sunday (services and even an afternoon tea at Anson and the open book at Richard Crosse).



Easter Services - I'll share the Howards next time as it is Friday afternoon!



I was blessed to see Class 3 plays at St Marys and at Richard Crosse - they were fabulous. Ralph and I enjoyed the Key Master and 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Camelot', well done to all the children and staff.



We were so lucky at St Andrews to be part of Bishop Mishaël's Pilgrimage. Rev. John led a fabulous worship and we learnt a great deal about Pilgrimage and Bishop Michael. The prayers were beautiful.

School finances

Shanie Cole, our finance manager is currently working with myself, Directors, Headteachers and Governors to balance a budget for 2025/2026 and ensure long term security in our 3 year modeller - this is proving challenging. Six out of our seven schools have received a mere 0.76% uplift in funding on last year's budget and St Marys received a 0% uplift. They are only able to balance their budget through increased pupil numbers that they worked so hard for, resulting in larger class sizes, and by admitting more nursery children too. This significantly reduced allocation across the Trust falls far short of what is required to meet the rising costs of education, namely an unfunded teachers pay rise of 2.8% and an unknown support staff pay rise as well as inflation on our contracts, service level agreements, increased energy costs, and the growing complexity of children's needs.

As parents are aware, in an effort to achieve financial stability, the Trust undertook a substantial restructure and reorganisation in the previous academic year. This involved the reallocation of external music, physical education and some French provision back to our teachers, aiming to reduce external expenditure. Additionally, we implemented a reduction in the school day to achieve budgetary equilibrium for the 2024/2025 financial year, with the intention of securing stability for 2025/2026. Despite these proactive and rigorous cost-saving measures, the current funding allocation, we are now faced with the prospect of implementing additional measures such as not replacing leaving staff and enacting further austerity measures in areas where operational capacity is already critically strained. Please feel free to lobby your MP.

I hope you have enjoyed seeing all the wonderful pictures across our Trust, what a wonderful end to the term. Don't forget you can see so much more in our school blogs on their websites

<https://tssmat.staffs.sch.uk/our-schools> and on our instagram accounts. @thehowardprimary, @

richardcrosseprimary,

@stmaryscoloin,

@allsaintsranton.

From Charlene Gethin

CS Gethin

and *Ralph.*

