



April 2025, issue 9

Trust newsletter

An update for parents and carers, from the First Federation Trust



A note from our CEO & Trust Lead

Easter is a time for new beginnings. Some of you may be counting down the days until the end of Lent, and others will be thinking about hot cross buns and Easter eggs, but I hope you're all looking forward to the fast approaching Bank Holiday weekend and end of Spring term.

As we approach the Easter holidays, we'd like to update you with some news from some of our schools, with some fun photos of World Book Day and Science Week, and some great Ofsted and SIAMS reports from seven primaries across Plymouth, Devon and Dorset.

As part of our commitment to improve learning, to investing in staff development, and providing the best education for all, teachers from our schools have benefitted from training and additional resources, including Magma Maths, Read Write Inc phonics, writing moderation and how to use assessment to close gaps in children's knowledge. We hope your children are benefitting from these initiatives.

Wishing you all a restful break.

Paul Walker



CONTENTS

CEO update - 1
New schools - 2
Gift ideas - 3
Positive reports - 5
Christmas images - 10
Governance - 12

Loders CE Primary maintains Good Ofsted



Loders CE Primary Academy near Bridport, Dorset has successfully maintained its Good status in the latest Ofsted report, where staff are seen to 'meet the needs of individual pupils in every decision they make' and pupils are 'happy and safe', 'keen to learn and achieve well'.

Claire Pooley, Head of School, said, 'Our school values are love, hope, equality, respect, wisdom, thankfulness and perseverance and we are proud of our pupils who recognise and fulfil these values on a daily basis. We're really pleased that Ofsted has recognised our 'strong sense of community' and our high expectations for behaviour and attendance.'

Ofsted praised pupils' behaviour which is deemed as being 'impressive in lessons and during social times'. Children are seen to have 'high levels of respect and kindness towards one another'.

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Chickerell Primary Academy in Weymouth, Dorset has successfully maintained its Good status in the latest Ofsted report, where pupils are seen to 'flourish because of the nurturing relationships and support that they receive from staff' and 'parents and carers are thrilled with the work of the school'.

The school is praised for the 'high-quality pastoral support' it offers to pupils and families which 'teaches pupils how to be safe, keep mentally well and stay active', and there is an ambitious approach to the curriculum and learning as staff want children to do well.

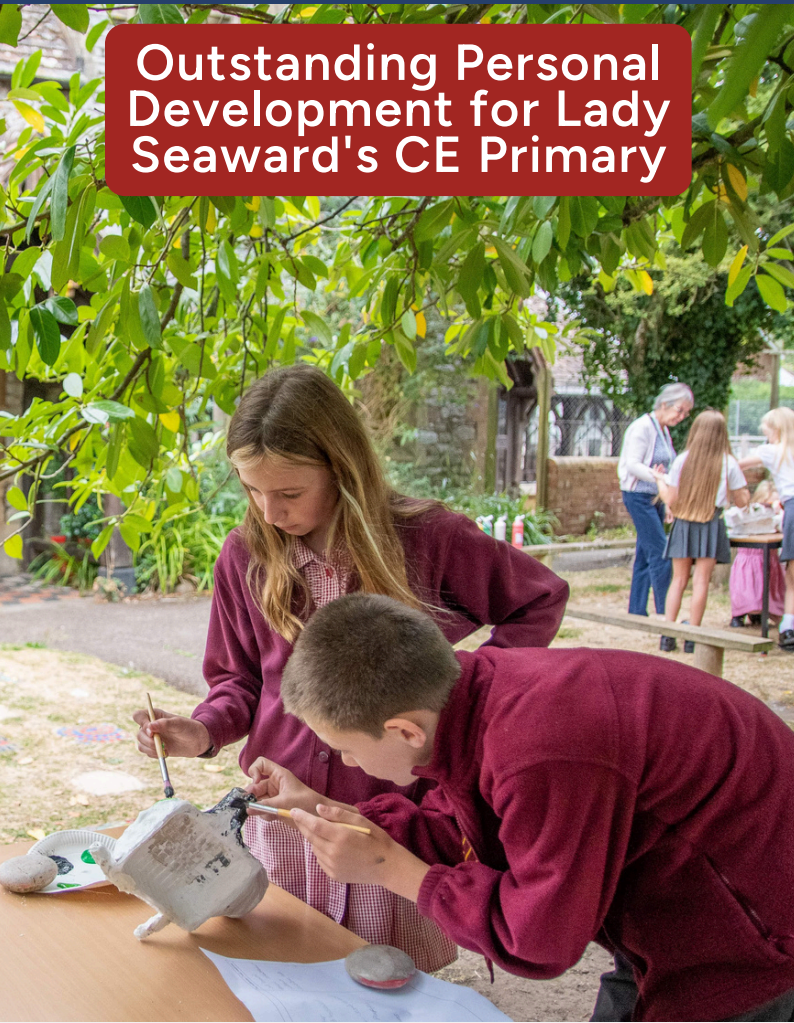
There are high expectations of behaviour with an approach which is followed well, with pupils who 'behave sensibly in lessons and social situations', and 'effective and supportive action' for those who struggle with their emotions enabling a strong focus on learning.

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Chickerell Primary maintains Good Ofsted



Outstanding Personal Development for Lady Seaward's CE Primary



Lady Seaward's CE Primary in Clyst St George near Exeter, Devon, is Outstanding in Personal Development and Good in all other areas according to the latest Ofsted report which labels the school as 'committed to providing the highest quality of care and education' while offering a 'supportive, family atmosphere'.

The school is praised for having a clear, well-thought-out approach to the curriculum which is constantly improved and made engaging. As a result, pupils enjoy learning and coming to school as 'they say that teachers make their learning fun.' 'Staff have a good understanding of how pupils learn to read and write' creating 'confident readers and writers'.

Alongside academic success, Lady Seaward's is also praised for 'excellently fostering personal growth' from Nursery onwards.

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Sidmouth CE Primary, a large school in South Devon, has been deemed Good in all areas and considered to be safe, friendly and inclusive according to the recent Ofsted report.

Alex Spraggon, Head of School, said, 'We're really pleased with this positive report from Ofsted. Our pupils are keen to learn, they're happy, and have strong relationships with staff, all of which helps us maintain our low absence rates, and our high expectations for achievement and behaviour. Children value our rewards scheme where they are praised for good conduct, strong performance, and for being conscientious. We're very proud of our team and our pupils' achievements which are testament to the hard work of our staff.'

There is an effective safeguarding process at Sidmouth, with wellness and care at the centre of all they do.

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Good Ofsted for Sidmouth CE Primary



Glowing SIAMS report for Rockbeare CE Primary

Be *Strong* and *Courageous*.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the *Lord* your *God*
will be with you wherever you go.

-Joshua 1:9

Fly High!



Rockbeare CE Primary near Exeter, which is 'living up to its foundation as a Church school', is 'a beacon of aspiration and hope' and 'a profoundly loving haven where pupils and their families are warmly welcomed' according to the latest SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report by the Church of England.

Sally Davies, Head of School, said, 'We're so pleased with the lovely words from our recent SIAMS report. We work so hard to drive positivity and ambition for our pupils, encouraging them to 'dream big and fly high' as part of our Christian vision. Our values of creativity, hope, respect and courage encourage pupils to persevere when things are difficult. We want to prepare children to reach their full potential and understand that determination can help during tougher times.'

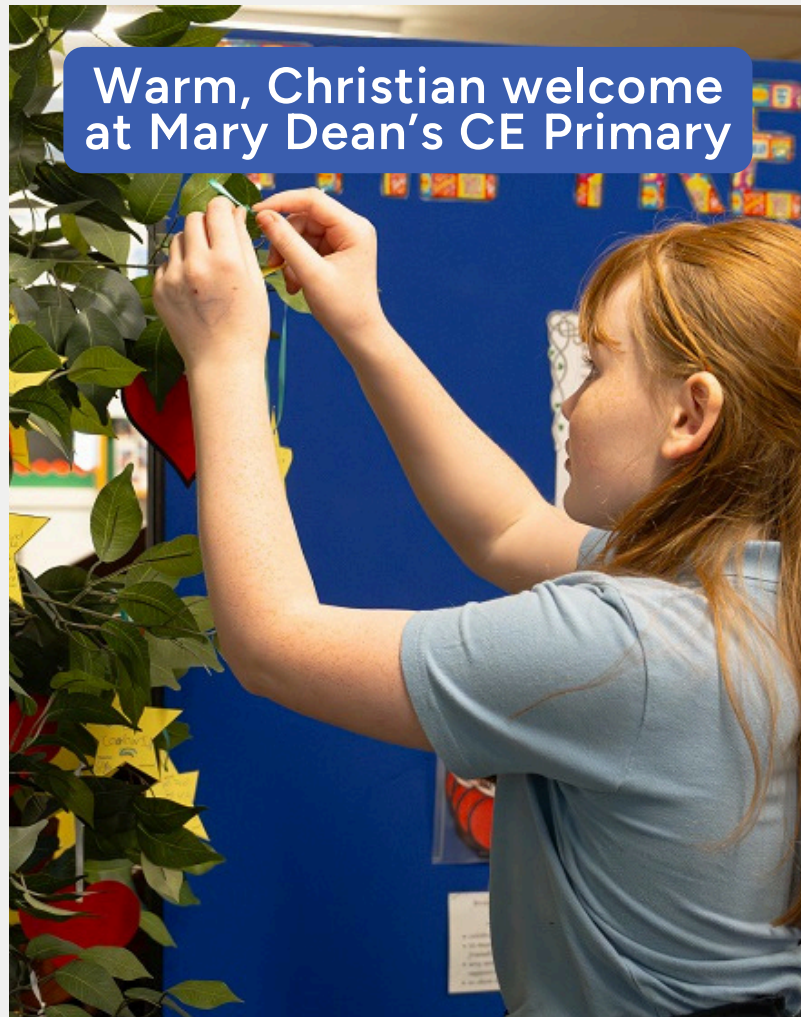
[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Mary Dean's CE Primary on the outskirts of Plymouth, which is 'living up to its foundation as a Church school', offers a 'warm, Christian welcome' with flourishing as a family at the heart of everything they do according to the latest SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report by the Church of England.

Donna Wilson, Head of School, said 'We encourage pupils to work together as a nurturing family, and grow together for a flourishing future with thankfulness, responsibility, courage, friendship, truthfulness and forgiveness. We have worked hard to cement our vision and values into the core of everything we do, encouraging children to use them as a daily guide which has helped to increase their understanding. We are pleased to see recognition of all this and more in our SIAMS report.'

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Warm, Christian welcome at Mary Dean's CE Primary



Hawkchurch CE Primary Good Ofsted



Hawkchurch CE Primary on the border of Devon and Dorset, 'welcomes and nurtures the individuality of its pupils' and is Good in all areas according to Ofsted.

Chris Threlfall, Head of School said, 'Our school may be small, but we have a very big heart, with happy and harmonious children, and enthusiastic staff who encourage our pupils to Learn Together and Grow Together with respect, resilience, compassion, community and enjoyment. We're pleased to see all our hard work recognised by Ofsted who have witnessed first-hand how amicable and earnest our pupils are.'

Pupils are seen to 'support and encourage each other in class and on the playground because they see this modelled by staff' and they are emotionally aware of their peers, displaying 'a strong awareness of why their friends might struggle'.

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Brixington Primary Academy in Exmouth, Devon has opened its Nursery doors to children aged two-years-old to join the three to four-year-olds.

After recognising a need for more childcare provision for this age range in the area, Stuart Dyer, Head of School and senior leaders from the Trust started the official registration process through the Department for Education, working hard to make sure the new provision would meet their statutory requirements and official standards.

Stuart Dyer said, 'We are really pleased to be able to offer parents and carers a safe space for their two-year-olds in our existing Nursery facility. We believe every child is a unique learner with boundless curiosity and our aim is to foster a nurturing and stimulating environment where children feel encouraged to explore, create, and grow at their own pace.'

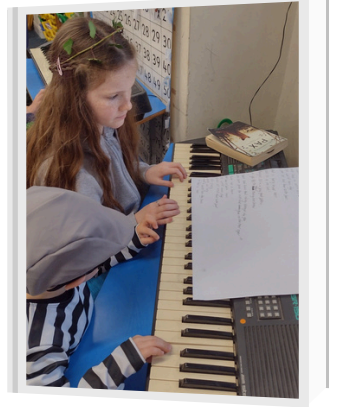
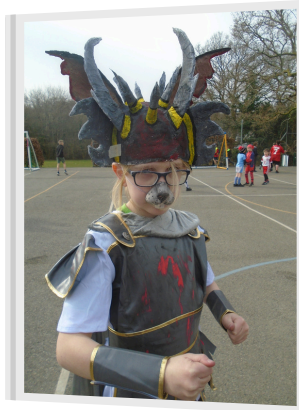
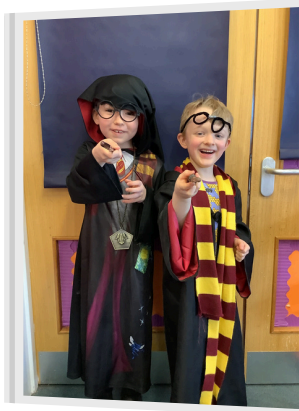
[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Brixington Academy welcomes two-year-olds



World Book Day

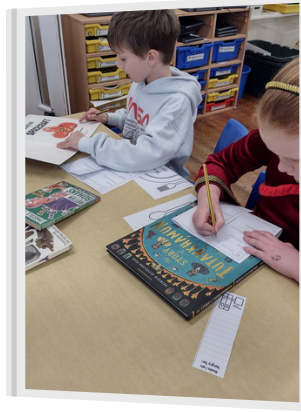
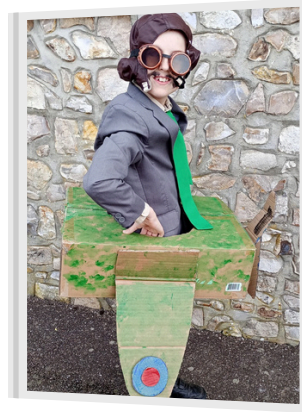
Here are some fun photos of World Book Day which took place on 6th March from some of our 29 primary schools across Devon and Dorset.





World Book Day

6 March 2025



Science Week

Some of our schools took part in Science Week which took place from 7 - 16 March.



Musbury



St Andrew's



Lady Seaward's



Thorncombe



Aveton Gifford



Willowbank



Lady Seaward's



Bere Alston



Axminster



Aveton Gifford



Thorncombe



Musbury

Governance

We'd like to say a **big thank you** to all our **governance volunteers** who give their time for free to support our schools.

The purpose of governance is to provide **strategic leadership**, **accountability**, and **assurance** and strategic engagement, to ensure we deliver excellent education to our pupils while maintaining effective financial management.

Parent Council Members

Parent council members represent the voice of **a parent** not the voice of the parents. Their primary expertise is as a parent and they play a vital part in our governance structure.

At least one parent council member is elected for each school, and at least one from each is a member of the governance Hub Board.

Their role is to undertake monitoring visits to their school and report the outcome to their Hub Board. The focus of the visits is set by the hub board, directors and parent council member.

New Parent Council Members

We'd like to introduce the following **new parent council** members who have joined us this term. Welcome to:



Leanne Hall
Axminster Primary



John Millner-Matthews
Musbury CE Primary

We always welcome approach from people interested in taking on a governance role. Please email admin@firstfederation.org.uk to register your interest.

Discover more: www.firstfederation.org/governance/



Thank you to all our governance volunteers who give their time for free to support our schools.

Keep in touch

Follow us on social media and via our website to keep up-to-date with our latest news



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@FirstFederation



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