



NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY
ACADEMY TRUST PARTNERSHIP

npatnews@npatschools.org

NPAT News

Sept 2021



Another academic year is well underway and we are pleased to welcome nearly 600 new Reception Year children into NPAT schools, in addition to new children in our pre-schools and Special Units. We are

pleased that the school year has started so positively and that parents and children alike have enjoyed a good summer after all the disruptions of the previous year.

Covid is still an issue in our schools and, whilst we have been able to start the year without many of the restrictions of last year, where there is an outbreak in any of our classes we may need to impose further restrictions if cases are high or staff absence becomes problematic. To this end, we ask all parents to remain vigilant to Covid, get a PCR test for any family members with Covid symptoms, and to retain social distancing where possible. Please also inform your school if you have any positive cases in your household.

Many of our schools have started the year with a residential visit for their Year 6 children and Heads share their experiences of these with genuine pride and happiness. So many school experiences were missed last year, and it has been a real joy to take children out to visit fabulous places and take part in amazing adventures such as caving and gorge-walking at Longtown. Thanks to all the staff who take time away from their own families to give our children such amazing opportunities to 'achieve extraordinary things'.

Finally, we are really pleased to be working with two additional schools this year, taking the NPAT ethos beyond Northampton to Milton Keynes and Wellingborough. I will hopefully share more information about this in the next newsletter.

Thank you to our whole school and Trust communities—the wider NPAT family—for all your support. We are hoping for a more normal year moving forwards.

Job
Vacancy
Join our Team!

NPAT are actively seeking a part-time (100 hours approximately a year) Governance Professional to join our growing internal team to start as soon as possible. It would ideally suit someone who wants to work predominantly evenings or someone who is looking to boost their salary and take on an additional part-time role. For more details [Click here](#)

A very warm welcome

to all those parents whose children are new to NPAT schools.

The NPAT News is issued on a half termly basis with the aim of

celebrating some of the wonderful things our schools are doing both individually and together as the family of schools that make up our Trust, to fulfil our pledge to "*achieve educational excellence; creating opportunities and enriching lives*".

Previous editions of the NPAT News are available on your child's school website and will give you an insight into some of the marvellous opportunities your child will experience in



Reception 2021 children settling in at
Ecton Brook

their time at school; for example our collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company based on a different play each year and which in normal times culminates in a huge show at the Derrogate and our project with the National Gallery

'Take One Picture' which last year resulted in the art work of some of our children being exhibited on billboards across the country.

If you haven't yet visited your school's website we strongly recommend that you do so, as they are

crammed with useful information including details of the curriculum your child will be following and how you can help support their learning, how our staff identify and support those children who need a bit of extra help to fulfil their potential and how to keep your child safe whilst online.



Northampton Primary Academy Trust

Abington Vale Primary School, Blackthorn Primary School, Ecton Brook Primary School, East Hunsbury Primary School, Headlands Primary School, Lings Primary School, Rectory Farm Primary School, Simon de Senlis Primary School, Thorplands Primary School, Upton Meadows Primary School and in partnership with Weston Favell CE Primary School

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A message from Anna Carter, Trust Lead for Curriculum and Professional Development

Welcome to the new academic year everyone. The term is in full swing and, despite the ongoing issues arising from the pandemic, teachers and children across trust schools are delighted to have returned to much more normal routines and arrangements.

At this early stage in the year it feels like a sensible time to introduce you to members of the Education Team. The NPAT Education Team work as part of the NPAT Central Team. They have responsibility for the NPAT Education Priorities, all of which have the aim of raising attainment for all children, but with a particular focus on disadvantaged children. Schools in the Trust serve their own unique communities and have their own priorities however they all align closely with those of the Trust. The team is co-led by Mark Rapps and Anna Carter. The team meets regularly to drive forward the priorities, however they are often also out and about in our schools, or delivering training to staff.

This year NPAT are proud to be working as a Delivery Partner for the Northamptonshire Teaching School Hub. This is a newly formed organisation who are responsible for delivering teacher training at all levels from Early Career Teachers to Headteachers.

NPAT Education Team



Mark Rapps

School Improvement Lead and Associate Headteacher



Anna Carter

Trust Lead for Curriculum and Professional Development



Zoe Hall

Trust Lead for Mathematics



Suzanne Hughes

Trust Lead for English



Michelle Nock

Education Team Administrator

Watch this space for further information about key activity that is happening across our schools.

Year 4 children at Abington Vale had a fantastic residential last week at Whitemoor Lakes activity centre heart of the Staffordshire countryside.



On the trip, children had opportunities to try activities such as zip wiring, abseiling, climbing, raft building, canoeing and many more. These activities help the children to develop their skills in communication, numeracy, teamwork, independent thinking, time management and resilience.



Staff reported *"It was great to see the children challenging themselves to try new things and they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience"*.

The children returned to school just in time to help in a brilliant fundraising initiative, a Macmillan Coffee afternoon, where Year 6 children brought in cakes baked at home and all children were invited to come into school wearing green.

A whopping £500 was raised for Macmillan.



There can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns."

National Literacy Trust

All NPAT schools have programmes in place to develop and embed children's early reading skills (see your school's website for more details or speak to your child's teacher).

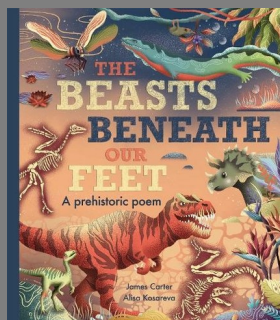
East Hunsbury Primary School has renewed their focus on instilling a love of reading in all children. As such, over the Summer holiday they have invested heavily in the school library which now contains hundreds of new books which are being enjoyed across the school. They also run a team of Reading Ambassadors; children who

meet regularly to discuss all of the ways the school can promote, enhance and help children not only learn to read but read to learn, and most importantly, enjoy it!



This October, the school are launching **RED** October – **Read Every Day** October.

During the month of October, the school will be setting various challenges to encourage their children to read every day. Part of the initiative will include the launch of the East Hunsbury Primary - 100 Reads and visits from children's authors such as James Carter, a poet and non-fiction writer who writes about everything from dung beetles to space and beyond. James has just released a brand new picture book called *The Beasts Beneath Our Feet*, all about extinct creatures like woolly mammoths and T. Rexes.



What is the school focusing on next? Alongside continuing fundraising for the library, staff are working towards two big reading projects in school:

1 – 'Book Swap Stop'. The idea is to set up a library which lives outside of the school grounds where everyone can come and borrow a book for free and simply return it when they are ready. Unwanted books from home could be donated here too.

2 – 'Playtime Reading Shed'. A cosy place for the booklovers to go at break and lunchtime with their books where they can snuggle up and read until their heart's content.

If you are able to help with the build of the Playtime Reading Shed, a story chair or provide a 'Reading Swap Stop' - please get in contact with Mrs Pennington at East Hunsbury.



Erasmus Teaching Science Outside the Classroom

East Hunsbury Primary School and Weston Favell Primary School have now reached the end of a prestigious three year *Science Outside the Classroom Research Project* with partner schools from Croatia, Spain and Sweden working with the University of Northampton. The project focused on developing materials to promote scientific enquiry

skills outdoors as part of an inclusive curriculum that increases the capacity of children aged 3-11 years to problem solve, reason, communicate and develop non-cognitive skills, including resilience and confidence.

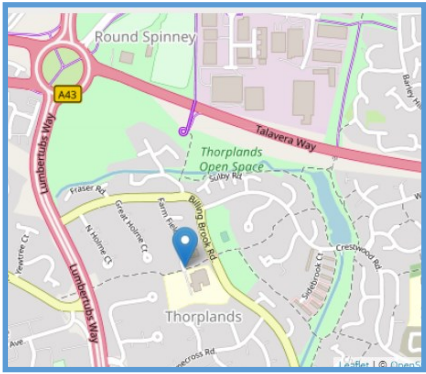
Weston Favell children enjoying science outdoors



As part of the project, the partners have produced a free online manual of Outdoor Science lessons and a Science Pictionary all linked to the UK National Curriculum for science. The lessons focused on scientific knowledge, vocabulary and specific skills for quality science teaching. Jane Murray, Senior Lecturer in Education (Early Years) at the University of Northampton, has already shared the project and its findings at a European Multiplier Event hosted by the UK, an international Eecera Early Years Conference hosted by Zagreb and a Mental Health Congress hosted by Moscow.



Thorplands
Primary School
and Nursery



Thorplands is a one form entry safe, happy and caring primary school where everyone is accepted and treated with respect. The staff are passionate that every learner at Thorplands will be the best they can be and all adults have nothing but the highest of expectations. An enriched curriculum is on offer, to help the children to develop a thirst for learning that will last forever.



Year 1 children enjoying a Maths lesson outdoors

Yr 2 children in their first computing class



Cooking classes - enjoyed by all years at Thorplands



Part of the winning team at a recent rugby tournament

Open days at Thorplands for Reception 2022

Friday 8th October 2021 and
Friday 15th October 2021
Sessions will run in half-hourly slots from
9:30 – 11AM (max 6 adults per group)
To book please email:
admin@thorplandsprimary.net

Thorplands Nursery aims to be a nursery of excellence in learning and development for all children. The skilled and knowledgeable staff team welcome all children, and work in partnership with parents and professionals to ensure all children reach their potential. The nursery is open from 8.30am - 3pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks a year.

Please call in at any time to have a look at the nursery, or telephone 01604 493384 for more information.



Thorplands Nursery Playground



NPAT TERM DATES 2022-23

TERM DATES	STARTING	ENDING
TERM 1	Monday 5 September 2022	Friday 21 October 2022
TERM 2	Tuesday 1 November 2022	Friday 16 December 2022
TERM 3	Wednesday 4 January 2023	Friday 10 February 2023
TERM 4	Tuesday 21 February 2023	Friday 31 March 2023
TERM 5	Monday 17 April 2023	Friday 26 May 2023
TERM 6	Monday 5 June 2023	Friday 21 July 2023

TRAINING DAYS

Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September 2022

Monday 31 October 2022 (NPAT Conference)

Tuesday 3 January 2023

Monday 20 February 2023

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (NOT INCLUDING TRAINING DAYS)	FROM	TO
OCTOBER	Monday 24 October 2022	Friday 28 October 2022
CHRISTMAS	Monday 19 December 2022	Monday 2 January 2023
FEBRUARY	Monday 13 February 2023	Friday 17 February 2023
EASTER	Monday 3 April 2023	Friday 14 April 2023
MAY	Monday 29 May 2023	Friday 2 June 2023

BANK HOLIDAYS

Christmas Holidays
Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 December 2022

Bank Holiday
Monday 2 January 2023

Easter Weekend
Friday 7 & Monday 10 April 2023

May Bank Holidays
Monday 1 May & Monday 29 May 2023

Summer Bank Holiday
Monday 28 August 2023