

19 January, 2017

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD TRUST

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the new calendar year begins I wish you everything you would wish yourselves for 2017. For the children educated in The Good Shepherd Trust I wish them an exciting and successful year in which they develop their skills, creativity and confidence.

Over the Christmas period I reflected on the last four years of the Trust. The Good Shepherd Trust was founded in 2012 and received its first school September 2013. In that first year four schools joined the Trust and each school was in some difficulty. Two required special measures and two were identified as having serious weaknesses. Three of these schools have been re-inspected and no longer give cause for concern. The fourth is due for re-inspection and we predict that this school will be evaluated by Ofsted as good. What a difference three years makes!

Our next two schools which joined us in 2014 were 'outstanding' and 'good' and these schools continue to thrive. In 2015 we welcomed our first secondary school, Christ's College (judged 'good' by Ofsted) and then another primary school in Special Measures before Waverley Abbey CofE Junior School (judged 'good') joined us in December 2016 (see below).

So the Good Shepherd Trust now has nine schools and serves over 3,000 children and young people and employs 469 staff to support the learners with an annual turnover of £14.8m (the vast majority of this going straight to the schools). Since 2014 schools within the Trust have had significant fabric improvements from new heating systems to new roofs, to new kitchens to an expansion to a three-form entry.

The next step for the Trust is to develop 'hubs' in each geographical area so that schools in a particular area can work together to bring about real change for the children they serve. The first hubs are being planned now and will be in operation by September. Our vision is that the hubs will give each school and its local governing body greater input into the work of the Trust and enable us to keep a firm focus on the needs of the children we serve. We will report back to you on the impact they are having.

The Trust will always strive to keep the unique culture of each school. We join you in an appreciation of that 'special something' which makes your child(ren)'s school the place they want to go to every morning.

There follows some brief snippets of information from some of our schools:

Welcome Waverley Abbey!



The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson was given a guided tour of the GST's newest member school, **Waverley Abbey** CofE Junior School, Tilford, on January 12th to officially welcome it into the family. Year Six pupils gave him a guided tour of the premises including the computer suite and music block and Bishop Andrew then took part in a special assembly lead by the school worship team on the appropriate theme of 'the good shepherd'.

It's all 'Good' at St John's



Just weeks after Dorking's **St John's** CofE Primary School was placed in the country's top five per cent for progress in writing, Ofsted confirmed the academy's remarkable transformation by declaring it 'Good' in all areas. Inspectors praised achievement throughout the school saying that 'almost all pupils are making more progress than expected' and commenting that 'behaviour is almost always good and sometimes better' and that 'pupils show respect to and support for, each other'. Headteacher Mark Richards said: "St John's is wonderful place to work and learn and has the potential to be 'Outstanding'. I very much look forward to the next chapter in St John's exciting history."

Wild School!



Ashley School won a Gold Award in Surrey Wildlife Trust's School Wildlife Garden Awards, impressing judges with its commitment to wildlife, providing refuges allowing nature to thrive across its grounds.

The school, which won a £50 garden centre voucher, was singled out as a 'fantastic example for others' with its native wildflowers, a woodland area, an orchard of heritage fruit trees and even its own beehives from which the children help collect honey.

Handbell success



Congratulations to **St Paul's** handbell ringers who have not only become one of only two primary schools to have been awarded the new London College of Music Handbell Ringers Ensemble Level 1 certificate – but passed with distinction!

The group started in September 2015 following a school workshop led by Tim Willetts, the national Chairman for the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain and has since taken part in performances within school, at Horsell May Fair and at St Lawrence's Church, Chobham, when the children played alongside adult bell ringers.

Around the schools

GST schools were involved in a range of work helping communities both local and global last term. Pupils at **St Mary's** school collected and helped sort clothes and blankets in response to a **Samara's Aid** appeal for winter clothing for people affected by conflict in Iraq and Syria. **Christ's College** installed water coolers from AquAid which will fund a water pump for villagers in Africa and nearer to home pupils from **St John's** planted poppy seeds at the Queens Regiment Memorial Gardens in Holbury St Mary.

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Trust and its member schools do visit the GST webpages on the diocesan website which are regularly updated www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/the-good-shepherd-trust

With best wishes,



Dr Peter Simpson, Chief Executive

Schools in The Good Shepherd Trust:

Ashley, Walton on Thames

Christ's College, Guildford

Queen Eleanor's, Guildford

St John's, Dorking

St Mary's, Chiddingfold

St Paul's, Addlestone

The Holme, Headley

The Weald, Beare Green

Waverley Abbey, Tilford