



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the second term's newsletter of your child's school's membership of Equals Trust. Our work as a group of schools (Tollerton, Crossdale Drive, Keyworth, Heymann, Burton Joyce and Cropwell Bishop Primary Schools and Robert Miles Junior School) has again been extremely positive and productive. To provide the best for the children in our care we need to ensure our staff have the best professional development and are provided with everything they need to achieve this.

Our Speech and Language Therapist continues to be a great success, benefitting many children across the Trust. You may have heard your year 6 child talk about storytelling in school because this has been a very important initiative we have led across our schools. Heads and teachers have found that it has stimulated children's imaginations and provided a creative vehicle for all year 6 children involved. It is a good compliment to the spelling and grammar we work so hard on and so we are looking to continue the project in some form with other year groups.

An e- safety briefing was held for all parents in the Trust. It was led by a specialist e- safety provider. The event was well attended and there was parent representation from all of the schools in the Trust. The feedback from parents was positive. Since the event a school has established an e-safety parent group and appointed an e-safety children's group. The children are producing a newsletter about keeping yourself safe on the internet for their peers. Each school will be sending representatives to join this group in the summer term and the newsletter they produce will be distributed to children across the Trust.

As healthy lifestyles become more important to promote with our children, we are initiating a sports programme across our schools to promote health and fitness for all children, to extend the already good work our schools invest in. We have also booked a day for an inter-trust football tournament for boys and girls in the summer term. As we are constantly looking at ways to improve our schools we have decided, as a Trust, to work on a mathematics project with Southwell Minster Teaching School. This will involve working with groups of schools and allow us to gain access to new methods and resources. Working with other schools is important, across our trust and with the Rushcliffe Learning Alliance. The moderation of children's writing across the Trust schools has also enabled us to ensure our standards are accurate and expectations high.

There are many reports of financial difficulties ahead for schools, so we have worked very hard with our Finance Officer Oliver Phillips to ensure we have best value for money for all our services. The political debates continue and we will ensure that we take the necessary steps to ensure we have the best possible opportunities for our schools.

There are many technical areas that we are working on to ensure we achieve the best outcomes for all the children in our schools. These have been led by the leadership group of head teachers and members of the board of directors. One area is the working relationship with local governing bodies. To ensure we have consistently high expectations across the trust we have created guidelines and checklists to ensure we are compliant with the government's requirements. This includes ensuring that the governments changes in assessment

are interpreted correctly. We are developing a strategy for the recording and reporting of non-levels assessment across the Trust.

Our new Equals Trust website is nearly ready for launch and this will be linked to all or school websites. We hope this will give you easy access to any information you may need and a flavour of life in the Trust. An important part of our Trust is that our schools retain that essence that makes them your school, but that the collaborative actions of the trust will improve all our schools further. You may have noticed that a new Equals Trust sign has been added to your school sign as we are very proud to be a member of Equals Trust.

The common ethos of all the headteachers and their staff has helped us to begin with a determination to put the needs of your children first, to maintain the essence of all things good in our schools and to support improvement across all schools in the Trust. We hope you have a great Easter break and look forward to seeing you back in the summer term.

Yours faithfully

Peter Foals Chair, Equals Trust

Phil Palmer Chief Executive Officer, Equals Trust

