



As we approach the end of term, I've really enjoyed watching and hearing about the range of Christmas activities that have been happening in our schools; Christmas Fairs, Nativity performances, Christingle celebrations, Christmas parties and much more. After such a long term, with so many enriching opportunities for our children already having been offered, it is inspiring to see that our the NPAT staff keep on giving to ensure that all our children have such an exciting run up to Christmas. I also know that our family support workers and other amazing staff have been working behind the scenes to support families at what can often be a tricky time of year, supporting families in need with food bank parcels, housing and clothing needs. We really do have the most dedicated, caring and supportive staff ever, and on Friday they will all leave school behind for a while to spend time with their own families and friends and start their own Christmas celebrations. So please join me in saying a huge THANK YOU to all NPAT staff, whether school-based or working in our central office team. You are all fabulous and I wish you all a wonderful, restful and relaxing break, a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. See you all in January.

Julia Redwards

Chief Executive Officer



Some very lucky Blackthorn children went on a very special trip earlier this month. One child from each class was selected to go to Christmas Tree Farm near Beckworth Emporium. The farm normally only opens at weekends but they kindly agreed to open on Friday afternoon just for the school. The children toured the farm, selected their favourite which was then packaged up for them to bring back and decorate. Many thanks to staff at Christmas Tree Farm for generously donating the tree to Blackthorn and getting the children's Christmas celebrations off to such a magical start.



Keep dancing!

Congratulations to Upton Meadows Year 5/6 Strictly Team who went up against a number of fellow NPAT schools and more than 30 Northampton primary schools last month in the Dancing Schools UK Junior Strictly 2019 Competition. The team performed brilliantly and surprised everyone by finishing 2nd overall. As part of the top ten Northampton teams they will go forward to compete again in the national final in July 2020.



East Hunsbury's Special Unit children now have a much needed and lovely new play

facility funded in part by the Co-Op through an initiative led by the Friends of EHPS. Pictured below are staff and children from the SU at the Co-Op Funeralcare Big Community Pay-out Day, held last month to celebrate the £17m members



have raised for local causes across the country through the latest round of the Local Community Fund.



East Hunsbury report that they "have been so lucky to have had the support of Co-Op

Funeralcare, who have contributed over £5400 towards the SU Playground Project. Thank you so much!"

Meanwhile, if your school has a project that could benefit from some additional funding contact membershipcontactus@co-operative.coop for further information on how to apply.

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



Congratulations to Headlands on being awarded bronze and silver awards from the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Programme (TaMHS)

TaMHS is a Northamptonshire Council coordinated multi-agency programme for building capacity within schools, through training, support and introducing new programmes and approaches, to better meet the mental health needs of all children. This award to Headlands is testament to how the school is making a real and positive difference to vulnerable children's mental health. The panel were particularly impressed with the comprehensive PSHE programme and a range of lessons, support and interventions for children's mental health while managing to keep a close eye on staff wellbeing too.

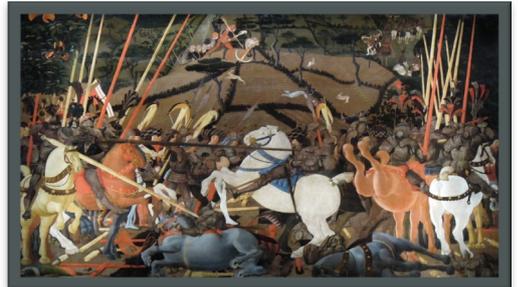
The school has been invited to attend an event celebrating all 2019 TaMHS Award winners at a Northampton Town Football Club match in the new year. Meanwhile, the team at Headlands has their eye on the Gold Award...



Launched in 1995, Take One Picture is a UK-wide scheme for primary schools which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning by promoting the role of visual arts within education.

Mr. Smith, Headteacher at Headlands, leads this project on behalf of our all NPAT schools.

Pictured right is this year's focus painting Paolo Uccello's, 'The Battle of San Romano'.



The approach is cross curricular, so the children not only have the opportunity to be creative in their art but also through their writing and use of technology to investigate the themes further.



Held every summer at the National Gallery, the annual Take One Picture Exhibition showcases children's responses to the focus painting. We are delighted to announce that the work of Rectory Farm Primary School's children

to the 2019 focus painting has just been selected to show at the National Gallery. To be considered for an exhibition, schools submit examples of how a class, year group, or whole school used the painting to inspire creative learning across the curriculum.

Very well done to all at Rectory Farm.



Accredited Professional Development Lead

National Centre
for Excellence in the
Teaching of Mathematics

Congratulations to NPAT Maths Lead—Zoe Hall on attaining Accredited Professional Development Lead status from the National Centre for the Teaching of Mathematics.

Zoe is responsible for improving the quality of Maths teaching across the Trust's schools by developing the Maths curriculum and supporting individual schools throughout the year in their approaches to the teaching of Mathematics. She works with school Maths Leaders to develop their expertise and confidence ensuring that all NPAT children receive the best possible foundation to their Maths education



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



Northampton Primary Academy Trust Curriculum Project - December 2019 Update



Teams of writers from NPAT schools are continuing to produce teaching materials for the Curriculum Project subjects: Geography, History, RE and Science. These materials include: vocabulary that the children will be taught, the key knowledge that they will learn and a sequence of lessons that will allow the children to answer enquiry questions about subject areas. Reading and writing opportunities come throughout the units and attention is also being paid to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Staff in all eleven schools have been delivering these materials during Autumn 2. You may have seen Knowledge Organisers for these subjects. When planning a unit of work the writers consider carefully which knowledge they want the children to have by the end of the unit. This is captured in the organiser and children will be taught the information in school. Parents and carers may like to use these resources to talk to the children about what they have learnt and help secure the knowledge.

Staff have had further training around the curriculum recently, including some practical techniques from the Royal Shakespeare Company, ahead of Spring One which is the term when children will be studying *The Merchant of Venice*. For further information on the Merchant of Venice NPAT performance see below.



is proud to present a spectacular evening directly inspired by William Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice*.

ROYAL
DERNGATE &
NORTHAMPTON



This will be an unforgettable evening featuring performance pieces from each of the Trust's eleven schools. Prepare to be amazed by the talent and confidence of children who have all been studying the play as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate School's Programme.

Tickets are on sale from The Royal & Derngate box office for the performance on Monday March 16th 2020 at 7pm. Tickets can be ordered online or bought in person from the Derngate £11 for tickets. For more information

[Click here](#)

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