



West Dorset Schools Collaboration Newsletter - Spring Term



West Dorset Schools Collaboration is a group of schools working closely together to share their experiences and expertise, support each other and improve children's learning opportunities. Our purpose is to enable every young person to access outstanding opportunities to learn, which we believe can be achieved by working together.

Collaboration Newsletter

February 2019



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September Inset

The Inset was hosted by Beaminster School. The Programme included 'The Art of Being Brilliant' by Andy Cope.

Andy Cope took us on a whirlwind tour through the science of positive psychology. He managed to make us laugh while he poked fun at the modern world (mood hoovers and IBS) before revealing the secrets of the happy few, the 2%ers, those with stand out positivity and energy. Andy's session reminded us all of the power of attitudinal choices as well as 7 second hugs and if we've only got 4000 weeks, we may as well quit waiting for the next half term and decide to be happy now. Every day is a special pants day.

Able Writers' Day

Children from eight schools in the WDSC had another wonderful day in October with Martin Maudsley, traditional story teller. Martin was welcomed back to Powerstock school on a very Autumnal morning in the hope that we could be inspired by the beautiful surrounding countryside and begin our story writing by "imagineering". Rain did stop play but that didn't stop the children warming up with their gruesome recounts of a remembered injuries and finishing Martin's riddles! I did hear one child asking how writing could be so hilarious! The children worked in mixed school pairs and honed their writing skills continuing "what happened next...?"

After making new friends over lunch together, the children worked together visual story mapping and allowing their imaginations to work. They continued their chosen stories in pairs using a woodland setting. The children also used the wonderful book "The Lost Words" by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris which highlights the demise of well-loved words like "acorn". They were truly inspired by the book and finished off the day by writing some fantastic and thought provoking Acrostic poems.

The day is such a lovely example of children meeting each other across the collaboration and producing some high quality work as a result!

As I slither through the cold water
I see darting pond skaters zooming overhead
I feel the rocks beneath my feet
I can taste the clear water passing through my gills
My black skin hides me in dark spaces

Wilf

Swooping it's wings lightly in the air
Sharp claws picking up every creature they see
Hibernating in barns most days long
Sitting on branches to spy on their prey
Their tummies skimming the bluebells
Waking up and letting out the first sound of the day

Letrice

Lesson Study

The West Dorset Schools Collaboration is currently undertaking a series of Lesson Studies. This allows us to work together to improve outcomes for children across all the schools.

Teachers are planning and delivering lessons together and meeting to evaluate the impact of the lessons they have taught. The Lesson Study is allowing us to share good practice and learn from each other.

The areas of focus were decided by looking at outcomes for children across the collaboration. After analysing the outcomes, it was decided to focus on three key areas.

- Girls and higher ability maths
- Early writing for boys
- Children working at greater depth in Reading, Writing and Maths

We will be evaluating the impact at the end of the lesson study project in July. This is an exciting opportunity for teachers across the collaboration to work together to improve outcomes for children and drive improvement in all our schools.



Speech & Language report

Summary of Consultations within the West Dorset Schools Collaboration.

Each school was allocated 2 hours input (funded by the collaboration) with the option to fund additional hours if required. Additional hours were funded by one school.

A Service Level Agreement was provided for schools to read and sign and consent forms were completed by parents/guardians of any pupils to be seen or discussed prior to the visit.

In consultation with the therapist, schools selected pupils to be seen by the therapist or discussed. This included:

- Pupils with a history of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) known to the NHS speech and language therapy (SLT) service.
- Pupils with SLCN who did not meet the criteria for the NHS SLT service.
- Pupils for whom teachers had raised concern regarding their SLCN.
- Reception class groups for general speech and language screening



Pupils were frequently seen alongside the TAs who worked generally within the class or who were responsible for individual or group intervention. This allowed for face to face discussion with the TA, after meeting the child. In other cases, the therapist was able to provide feedback to the classteacher or SENCO after meeting the pupils.

Visits varied in nature depending on the needs of the schools but included:

- Advising on current NHS SLT therapy plans - explaining information; offering alternative activities/strategies and discussing simplifications to targets.
- Advising on resources and activities.
- Information on suitable strategies for class or specific intervention.
- Information on strategies and ideas to share with parents/guardians.
- Providing ideas for group interventions.
- Screening pupils and providing advice on their SLCN (levels and abilities) along with recommendations for support where appropriate.
- Recommendations for referral to other professionals or to the NHS SLT service.

Beach Clean

The event took place on September 14th at West Beach, West Bay as part of the Great British Beach Clean organized by the Marine Conservation Society and our results will contribute to a national survey. The eco children from Broadwindsor, Salway Ash and Thorner's school worked together to clean the beach and this gave the children a great chance to share ideas with their peers.

The beach clean was a really positive event and the children worked with care, purpose and enthusiasm to clean the 100 metre survey site using equipment on loan from the Dorset Waste Partnership. Whilst on first sight, the beach looked clear of rubbish, over two hours the children collected 508 items of litter in total, which weighed nearly 4 kgs. Most of the litter was fragments of plastic items which had accumulated in the tide line. The children found a whole range of recognisable objects including, toothbrushes, Christmas decorations, lego, golf tees and shoes. They found a total of 51 cigarette ends and a lot of fishing line and netting. All of us were surprised by the range and number of the litter items found and together we now plan to write to the Dorset Waste Partnership to campaign for more recycling bins in the West Bay area. Hopefully the beach clean can become an annual event and the children will have the chance to monitor litter levels on our local coast for years to come.



West Dorset Schools Collaboration:

Salway Ash CE VA Primary School
Powerstock CE VA Primary School
Greenford C of E Primary School
Broadwindsor C of E VC Primary School
Symondsburry C of E VA Primary School
Parrett & Axe CE VA Primary School
Stickland's CE VA Primary School
Thorner's C of E VA Primary School
Charmouth Primary School

Beaminster School

Collaboration Coordinator:
Agata Klimas
blackaghath@gmail.com



Our purpose is to enable every young person to access outstanding opportunities to learn.

We believe in the power of learning.

We believe that every young person has a talent that can be nurtured.

We believe that good relationships are built upon respect for themselves and each other.

We believe in equal opportunities for all regardless of ability, race, background, gender or religion.

What's next?

Lesson Study project - teachers working together across different schools to really improve key areas of learning with Writing and Maths. Teachers get the chance to look at different teaching strategies and the range of learning approaches children may have, always sharing and improving practice.

Maths Leaders' meetings - sharing best practice within the Collaboration and developing the wider partnership with the National Maths Hub and Jurassic Hub. Leaders get the chance to look at resources, develop their understanding of "Greater Depth" and what it looks like in daily practice.

SENCOs' network meetings - shared SEN focus and the Collaboration Action Plan including interventions for children and any area of learning to which different schools can bring experience and expertise.

Finance Officers' meetings - sharing best practice and information about school services, finance protocols and budgetary matters.