

# West Dorset Schools Collaboration Newsletter - Summer 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

July 2019



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## November Inset

The training was run by Louise Young, Advisory Teacher, Behaviour Support Service.

The training session was on 'Understanding and supporting children with attachment difficulties' with following aims:

- to gain a basic understanding of attachment difficulties
- to be aware of the needs of children & young people who exhibit such difficulties
- to be able to respond confidently to those needs with appropriate supportive strategies

# Maths Network

Aims of the meeting were made clear

- to provide maths leads with networking opportunities
- to ensure key national maths updates / good practice shared
- Sessions to be led by key facilitator from the maths hub (this was discussed at various points during the meeting. The question was - given the huge amount of expertise / experience of the maths leaders within the collaboration, what could someone from the maths hub add? It was generally felt that the subject leaders would prefer to work together, share their expertise and support each other on shared target areas.

Each school was asked to give an overview of their school. What did they feel was currently going well? What support do they need or get? Could they offer support to others?

They were also asked what were the key priorities for their school? How they used data to support planning and development of their subject? How did they ensure impact?

## Ideas suggested by Maths Subject Leaders as next steps for working together

Swapping maths lessons (teaching in other schools)

Sharing action plans - they requested a session in the second week of September to discuss and share action plans. This would result in schools working together with the same development points

Studying other counties with similar features - what are they doing? What is making a difference?

Parent workshops - sharing ideas + re calculation policy

Invite Beaminster to moderations, subject leader sessions - need to work together.

Opportunities to develop CPD across Collaboration

Lesson studies - teaching in different ways and exploring different groupings

## What are the key challenges for Maths Subject Leaders?

Having time to support other teachers

Sharing resources and offering CPD opportunities to staff

Cohorts

Developing a consistent approach which works in the context of their school e.g. mixed aged teaching in a number of the schools.

Lots of ideas but time restraints for all SL

## What (in an ideal world) would the role of the maths coordinator look like?

Looking at the collaboration and the national picture

Whole school picture - curriculum, progress, trends, groups

Massive budget

Enthusiastically promoting maths as a subject

Sound knowledge of teaching and learning strategies

Making links

Knowledge of cohorts

Capacity to support (time / access)

Ability to empower staff- deliver/ signpost effective CPD

Resilience

Learning difficulties

Trying out innovations yourself - share key points with staff - checking impact - monitoring - is it effective? - what do we see in books? - what do we see in lessons?

Using mistakes

Understanding misconceptions

Subject knowledge

Support planning and resourcing

Looking at the whole curriculum - language

Confidence to take risks

## Finance Officers' network meetings

Finance Officers and Administrative Assistants generally work in solitude and have very little chance to work with other colleagues doing the same job. It was felt that it would be really useful to have a termly Finance Officers meeting to build relationships between the different school offices. We discuss current issues, provide support for each other and share best practice with the aim of saving our schools money.

At the last meeting we discussed many items including Ofsted and the Single Central Record, Internet Phone Contracts, Apprenticeships and Staff Absence Insurance. People shared their knowledge of these and we all learnt something new which is never a bad thing!

As a result of these meetings I believe we all appreciate the opportunity to meet and as a result we do not feel so isolated. We now do not hesitate to contact each other to ask for advice on items such as procedures, recommended suppliers or contractors which is saving time and money.

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## Swimming Gala

The annual West Dorset Collaboration Swimming Gala took place on Friday 24th May. 200 children took part from eight Primary schools ( Sticklands, Broadwindsor, Greenford, Parrett & Axe, Salway Ash, Thorners, Beaminster St.Mary's and Charmouth)

This is more children than any previous year so we are delighted the event continues to go from strength to strength.

It was a very exciting event where team spirit shone through and a great many families turned out to support the swimmers. All the children represented their schools beautifully displaying fantastic behaviour, swimming ability and sportsmanship throughout.

Salway Ash were victorious this time and look forward to defending their title next year.

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## Lesson Study final presentation

The teachers involved in the lesson study groups gave a short presentation of their findings. To support the collaboration documenting impact of this project they have been asked to complete a short feedback on the feedback form. One needs to be completed per a lesson study group. Each group nominates a person to complete it.

The Heads at the presentation were very impressed with their findings from Lesson Study this year and the groups also came up with ideas for next year they would like to pursue too. So the groups have been asked to put forward their ideas for next year as a short written proposal on the same form including the time they would require and resources to consider at the next heads meeting.

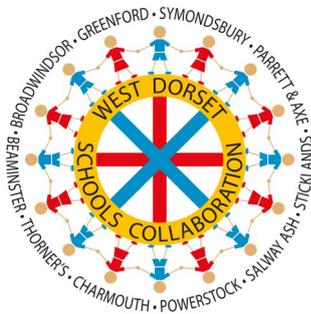
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## West Dorset Schools Collaboration:

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

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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?

Inset	2nd September
Maths Leaders' meeting	17th September
Beach Clean	20th September
Finance Officers' meetings	20th November