



Theme: Beyond Limits – Ambition for All

As we close the autumn term, I want to thank every member of our Children First Learning Partnership community for your dedication and commitment. This term has truly embodied our theme: Beyond Limits – Ambition for All. Our recent whole-trust conference reminded us that ambition is about more than aspiration—it's about action, collaboration, and creating opportunities for every child and every colleague to thrive.

I am proud to share some of the significant achievements we have celebrated together this term:

- Honouring long service: We celebrated the incredible commitment of staff and governance members who have dedicated many years to our schools, reminding us that strong foundations are built on loyalty and passion.
- Strategic vision for the future: After a thorough and inclusive consultation with all stakeholders, we launched our new 2025–2028 CFLP Strategic Plan, setting a clear and ambitious direction for the next three years.
- Welcoming new colleagues: We have inducted a range of talented new staff across our schools, strengthening our capacity and bringing fresh ideas to our classrooms and leadership teams.
- Expanding our partnership: We are delighted to have formed an associate membership with Moor First School in Biddulph Moor further extending our collaborative network and sharing best practice for the benefit of all pupils and also being selected by the Department of Education to support other schools within the West Midlands via the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence Team.

These milestones reflect our shared ambition—not only for the children in our care but for ourselves and our communities. Ambition for all means ensuring that every child has access to the best opportunities and that every member of staff feels supported to grow and succeed.

As we look ahead to the spring term, let's continue to challenge ourselves, celebrate progress, and work together to remove barriers so that every child can achieve their full potential. Thank you for everything you do to make our vision a reality. Wishing you all a restful and joyful holiday season.

A. Rourke  
Chief Executive Officer  
Children First Learning Partnership

Mrs A Rourke CEO



## Contents

<a href="#">Long Service</a>	2
<a href="#">Strategic Plan</a>	2
<a href="#">Knypersley First School</a>	3
<a href="#">Kingsfield First School</a>	3
<a href="#">Oxhey First School</a>	4
<a href="#">Reginald Mitchell School</a>	4
<a href="#">Castlechurch Primary</a>	5
<a href="#">Springhead Primary</a>	5
<a href="#">Marlfields Primary</a>	6
<a href="#">Attendance Officer</a>	6
<a href="#">Cyber Security</a>	6
<a href="#">CFLP conference</a>	7
<a href="#">CFLP Pupil Forum</a>	7
<a href="#">News Gallery</a>	8

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More photos of this special occasion can be found in the news gallery

## Celebrating Long Service in Education

In September, we proudly recognised the remarkable service and commitment of our staff and governance members who have dedicated 10+, 25+, 35+, and 45+ years to education. Their passion, leadership, and unwavering support have shaped countless learning journeys and strengthened our community.

To honour their contributions, award recipients were invited to a special afternoon tea at The Upper House in Barlaston and presented with a commemorative glass tumbler, voucher and card as a small token of our appreciation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all awardees for their enduring dedication and the positive impact they continue to make every day.

## Launching the new 2025 – 2028 Strategic Plan for the Children First Learning Partnership

At the recent CFLP conference, our CEO, Abigail Rourke launched the Trust's new Strategic Plan, designed to keep our schools strong, safe, and focused in an ever-changing world. Shaped by staff, pupils, parents, and governors, the plan provides a clear direction for the next three years.

Our five priorities are:

1. Investment – Improving buildings, energy efficiency, and central support so schools have what they need to thrive.
2. People – Supporting and developing our staff, promoting wellbeing, and strengthening diversity and equality.
3. Growth – Building strong partnerships locally and nationally to better support children and communities.
4. School Development – Ensuring high-quality teaching, inclusive practice, and excellent outcomes for all pupils.
5. Digital Technology – Strengthening cyber security, digital skills, infrastructure, and the safe use of new technologies.

These aims will help us continue delivering the best possible education for every child.

## 2025-2028 Strategic Aims



## KNYPERSLEY FIRST SCHOOL NEWS



### Swimming, Sport, and Forest Fun at Knypersley

At Knypersley First School, we are proud to provide a rich and varied sports offer that nurtures both physical fitness and a love of the outdoors. Every child enjoys weekly PE lessons, ensuring that sport and movement are a regular part of school life. Alongside this, our pupils take part in a package of inter-school competitions, giving them the chance to represent Knypersley, build teamwork skills, and celebrate sporting success across our trust.

We are especially fortunate to have our own onsite swimming pool, where children swim weekly and develop vital life skills in water safety and confidence. Beyond traditional sport, our extensive grounds host Forest School sessions, offering children the chance to explore, play, and learn in nature while building resilience, collaboration, and a sense of adventure.

Together, these opportunities reflect our commitment to ensuring that every child experiences the joy of sport, the challenge of competition, and the wellbeing benefits of outdoor learning.

Working together to promote a love of sports.

This year we're working with ASM Sport to inspire a love of sport across the school. Children will enjoy new activities including hockey, handball and cricket, with sessions every Tuesday morning. Each year group will take part in skills challenges, competing in a trust-wide virtual league, and classes will be awarded Sports Superstar Medals for resilience and determination. We are focused on building a culture where every child can discover new skills, celebrate effort, and feel proud of their progress

Knypersley First School,  
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[knypersley.staffs.sch.uk](http://knypersley.staffs.sch.uk)



## KINGSFIELD FIRST SCHOOL NEWS

### Social, Emotional, Mental Health Support at Kingsfield First School

At Kingsfield First School, we are proud of the strong support we provide for pupils' mental health and emotional wellbeing. This term, we have been proud to see our assemblies exploring our Trust and School Values, helping children understand the importance of respect, responsibility, and kindness. Our staff have worked hard to develop strong emotional connections with pupils by gaining an in-depth understanding of their needs and backgrounds, creating classrooms that feel safe, consistent, and welcoming. Together, adults and children have co-created clear, collaborative rules and routines, which are displayed and regularly referred to, ensuring high expectations for learning and behaviour. Praise is personalised and focused on positive conduct, supported by visual tools such as Behaviour Trackers and Emotion Boards. Children have access to calming spaces, Worry Monsters, and Zones of Regulation to help them manage feelings, while opportunities like Circle Time, PSHRE lessons, and pupil voice surveys encourage reflection and dialogue. Leadership roles, peer mediation, and structured interventions further strengthen our community, ensuring every child feels valued and supported. Through these shared efforts, we continue to foster an environment where respect, resilience, and emotional wellbeing thrive.

Another of the key ways we support our pupils with their mental health is through the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) programme. ELSA gives children the time and space to explore and understand their emotions, while learning strategies to manage them effectively. Through this nurturing approach, pupils develop empathy, resilience and respect for the feelings of others. By prioritising emotional wellbeing alongside academic success, we help every child feel valued, supported and ready to thrive.

We have been proud to collaborate with Kathryn from the Mental Health Support Team, who recently delivered engaging parental workshops on the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. These sessions provided practical strategies and activities designed to empower parents and children to nurture positive mental health and resilience at home and in school.



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## OXHEY FIRST SCHOOL NEWS

### Reading: The Heart of Our Curriculum

At Oxhey First School, our reading offer is at the heart of everything we do. Our intent is clear: to create confident, enthusiastic readers by ensuring every child can read and by immersing them in the joy of books. We achieve this through rich opportunities to talk about texts, exposure to a wide variety of stories, and access to high-quality literature across the curriculum that enriches vocabulary and sparks curiosity. Reading is celebrated daily with our end-of-day story times, guided reading sessions, and purposeful reading woven throughout all subjects. Our vibrant, well-stocked library and fantastic brand-new outdoor reading den provides a magical space designed to spark imagination, foster a love of reading, and offer a calm, cosy corner for our children to enjoy books outdoors. Our brilliant PTFA have worked so hard fundraising to purchase this to support **Oxhey's ongoing commitment to nurturing a love of reading for pleasure. We are proud of** our pupil leadership roles, from Reading Champions who share the magic of stories with our youngest learners to our Librarians who keep our reading spaces thriving. Yet again, Oxhey led the way coming first out of all the Biddulph schools with the highest number of completers in the Staffordshire Libraries Reading Challenge — a testament to our commitment to fostering a lifelong love of reading. Keep turning those pages and exploring new worlds through books!



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## THE REGINALD MITCHELL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Empowering Young Leaders -From Assemblies to Active Play!

This term, we have been proud to see our pupil leaders shine across the school. Our Super Spitfires, who champion anti-bullying, raised their profile with an inspiring whole-school assembly and played a key role in supporting the Bag it Up campaign, helping to raise thousands of pounds for Douglas Macmillan Hospice. Meanwhile, our Playleaders, who were trained in September, have transformed lunchtimes by setting up activity stations every day, ensuring that pupils from Nursery to Year 6 enjoy active, engaging play. With a wide range of playground equipment now in use, these leaders are building confidence and skills as they guide others safely. They also delivered an assembly to share their work and encourage participation. Across the school, kindness and respect have been evident, supported by a 'Playground Games' workshop for years 1-6, which taught teamwork and fun games. The impact is clear, our lunchtimes are now enriching, exciting, active, and well-organised thanks to the dedication of our Pupil Leaders.



The Reginald Mitchell  
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## CASTLECHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



### Supporting Wellbeing at Castlechurch Primary School

This term, we've been building strong links with the Mental Health Support Team to make sure every child, parent, and member of staff feels supported. Here's what we've been doing together:

- Listening to our school community – surveys have helped us understand what support matters most.
- Helping our pupils thrive – fun and practical workshops are giving children tools to boost their wellbeing.
- Supporting families and staff – guidance and referrals are available for anyone who needs extra help.
- Sharing advice and resources – parents can find helpful tips on our school website and in the school newsletter.

We're committed to making mental health and wellbeing a priority for everyone at Castlechurch.

### Poppy appeal launch!

Proud of years 5 and 6

On Monday 13th October some of our children took part in a Staffordshire event at The Stafford Gatehouse. They sang and remembered the fallen and supported the launch of Staffordshire's Poppy Appeal arranged by Mr Paul Milgate.

We are so proud of them all and thank the school staff and parents that attended this spectacular event.



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## SPRINGHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



### Parental Engagement at Springhead Primary School

This term has been incredibly busy at Springhead, but further developing the engagement of parents in their child's education and school experience has been a huge part of this. Since the start of the year, parents have enjoyed many opportunities to spend time in school with us, and many year groups have held their own 'Watch Me Learn' sessions. These were fantastically well attended by parents, and the themes of these have ranged from phonics and early reading for Reception and Year 1 pupils, to multiplication tables for Year 4 pupils, and reading, maths and grammar for our Year 6 pupils. A huge thank you to all parents that attended these. In addition to these sessions, parents also joined us in school for a special Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November, which was held outside on our school playground. We were joined by over 150 parents, carers and members of the community for a special service that included some fantastic readings and poems from our Key Stage 2 pupils.

### Winterfest Success!

Our Winterfest 2025 on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November was truly magical. Despite the chilly weather, the warmth from our school community shone brightly. It was fantastic to see so many families come together to celebrate, enjoy the festivities, and make lasting memories. A huge thank you to our incredible PTFA for their dedication and hard work in making the event such a resounding success, and to all our staff who supported throughout the day and evening. We raised over £1000 for school funds and you can see a video of this event on our school Facebook page.

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At Marlfields, we are working hard to develop a love for reading across the school. We do this through our amazing new library space, our book club, Marvellous Readers team and visiting Congleton Library. Children take part in discreet reading lessons, phonics lessons in KS1 and additional reading interventions across the whole school.

Our new library - We are lucky to have such a huge space to enjoy reading. Our library is separated into genre sections. From graphic novels, non-fiction to inspirational people; we have it all! Classes visit fortnightly to take books home and enjoy them with their family.

Book Club – Our weekly after-school Book Club allows children to spend time in the library reading for pleasure but also to be the first person to open new book deliveries! They help to select the fiction and non-fiction 'books of the month' along with a book about an inspirational person. The members are also kept busy keeping the library tidy and organising the returned books.

### Marvellous Readers Team

There are two representatives from each class on the Marvellous Readers Team. They have showcased a love for reading and have been selected to promote reading across the school. They help to make selections for new books, read stories and poems to other classes and help with assemblies and competitions.

### Reading Interventions

Children in all classes have 1-2-1 reading each week to practice their fluency and deepen their understanding. Everyone reads one level above their book band to expose them to new vocabulary and texts.

Pupils also take part in the Little Wandle Rapid Catch-up programme to accelerate their progress.

Marlfields Primary School  
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### Introducing the new CFLP Attendance Officer

Hello everyone, my name is Rebecca Farrington and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Attendance Officer at the Children's First Learning Partnership. I'm really looking forward to working with our pupils, families, and staff to help every child achieve excellent attendance and reach their full potential. Good attendance is more than just being in school – it's about building routines, staying connected, and making the most of every opportunity to learn and grow. I'll be here to offer support, answer any questions, and work with families to overcome any barriers to regular attendance. Together, we can ensure that every school day counts! If you ever need advice or support regarding attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch via your school office.



### Cyber Security

We're proud to share that the Children First Learning Partnership has officially achieved the Cyber Essentials qualification as a trust – a nationally recognised standard for cyber security. This certification demonstrates our commitment to protecting sensitive data and ensuring a safe digital environment for students, staff and families. This collective effort reflects our dedication to staying ahead of digital threats and fostering culture of online safety across all our schools.



## Children First Learning Partnership – Whole Trust Conference 2025

### Beyond Limits: Ambition for All



The Children First Learning Partnership brought together staff, governors and directors from across the trust for an inspiring Whole Trust Conference held at the Bet365 Stadium. This year's theme, **"Beyond Limits – Ambition for All,"** celebrated the collective resilience, inclusion and sense of belonging that define our school communities.

The day highlighted the power of working together to ensure every child thrives. Attendees heard from three exceptional keynote speakers, each offering thought-provoking insights into ambition, wellbeing and inclusive practice. Their messages challenged us to reflect, innovate and continue raising aspirations for every learner.

Throughout the event, delegates shared best practice, celebrated achievements across the trust and strengthened the collaborative spirit that drives our success.

The conference was a powerful reminder that, when we work together with a shared belief in every child's potential, there truly are no limits.



Amit Ghose



Charlene Beswick



Jason Todd

### Estates Work Continues Across the Trust

Significant estates improvements continue across the Children First Learning Partnership. At Springhead, major works were completed over the summer and October half-term, enhancing safety and learning spaces for pupils and staff. We thank the estates team for their hard work in keeping our schools well-maintained and ready for all.



Well done to Knypersley and Oxhey who have successfully achieved the Eco Schools Green Flag award. The award recognises schools for their commitment to environmental education and sustainable practices encouraging children to take action on climate change.



### CFLP Pupil Forum: New Leaders Come Together at the Central Hub

Newly appointed pupil leaders from across the CFLP family of schools came together this week for an inspiring Pupil Forum held at the CFLP Central Hub. The event marked the start of their leadership journey and highlighted the importance of their role in shaping the future of the partnership.

The day began with a warm welcome from members of the central team, including the CEO, CFO, Operations Manager and Attendance Officer. Pupils had the opportunity to introduce themselves, learn more about each other's schools, and understand how their collective voice contributes to the wider CFLP community.

A key part of the session was led by Mrs Farrington, the CFLP Attendance Officer, who guided pupils through a discussion on creative and meaningful ways to reward good attendance. Their thoughtful ideas will help inform future attendance initiatives across CFLP schools.

Leaders also explored the CFLP Climate Action Plan, gaining insight into the part they will play in supporting sustainability and environmental responsibility within their schools.

To finish the day, pupils enjoyed a guided tour of Knypersley First School, offering them a first-hand look at another setting within the partnership.

The forum was a fantastic start for our new pupil leaders—full of enthusiasm, collaboration and positive ideas for the year ahead.



## News Gallery – Long Service awards, Pupil Forum & CFLP Conference!



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