

# updATE



Gill Weston, Chair of Learn-AT's Board Trustees



Having popped into a couple of schools in the past few weeks, it's been a joy to pass a few shepherds and angels in the corridor, hear children practising their school productions and singing familiar Christmas songs. Listening to 'Little Donkey' last week brought back many happy nativity memories – some from too many years ago to mention. I know that teachers and

support staff in Learn-AT will have been busy with school fairs, trips to the cathedral or local church, and various festive celebrations. The Advent windows at Great Bowden look stunning. All these activities will remain in many children's memories, for years to come, as mine have done.

On behalf of trustees, I would like to thank all staff, parents and governors

for your commitment and energy this year. For working so hard to ensure that children in our schools are experiencing the rich and balanced curriculum that we would hope equips them to succeed, as well as having fun when the season of goodwill is upon us. We wish you a peaceful Christmas and look forward to working in fellowship in 2018.



# Stef Edwards, Learn-AT CEO

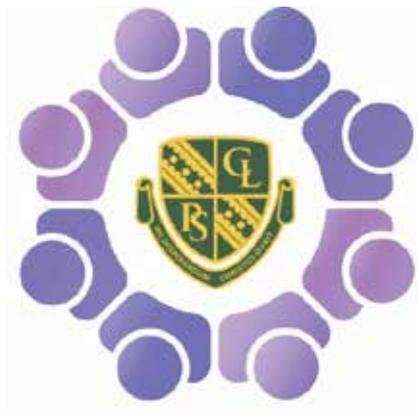
It's always almost impossible to believe that Christmas is almost here again, but here we all are, surrounded by tea-towels, tinsel, sticky tape and the sound of singing. It has been an action-packed term in Learn-AT. In the last few weeks, fifteen members of the Curriculum and Pedagogy Group visited Fulbridge Academy in Peterborough for an inspirational day investigating the best in curriculum design. Five Learn-AT senior leaders attended an event hosted by the Institute of Education in two London schools, to listen to Professor Akihiro Takahashi, a global Japanese maths

and teacher training expert. He presented his research about teachers' professional learning and ways in which we can develop children's maths problem solving and reasoning skills.

This term, too, we have established an exciting partnership with De Montfort University which will include providing Trust placements for BA Hons and Masters in Education Studies students, as preparation for those who may want to pursue further study for the teaching profession. The university is also keen to develop funded research projects linked to Educational Psychology,

Speech and Language and Forest School. We have heard in the last few days that our application to take part in a 3-year research project, funded by the Education Endowment Foundation, to develop systems for whole school peer review has been accepted. This School Partnership Project will provide our school leaders with three years of high quality training and support.

Thank you all for everything you do to support children's learning in Learn-AT. I wish you all the very best of times in this festive season. Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



## Church Langton CofE Primary School

a chance for the children to learn about each of the elements of the Christingle, readings from pupils, staff and parents and concluded with the lighting of the Christingles the children had brought in from home.

A highlight of the term at Church Langton is always the decorations morning. We were joined by parents, grandparents and governors to assist the children in creating a wide range of decorations, cards and calendars. The classrooms were transformed and each class then decorated their tree in the link corridor.

### Christingle Service

Thanks to Rev Jonathan and Emma Dowman, one of our governors, for leading our Christingle service. It was a wonderful occasion and lovely to see so many parents and carers joining us for worship. The service included



The Nativity was performed in Church by years R-3 at Great Bowden Academy. Pictured below are the traditional characters at the dress rehearsal. A technical hitch with the music led to the children singing unaccompanied which was beautiful and many parents commented on how much they enjoyed it ,being able to hear the children's voices so clearly.



**Great Bowden Academy**



**Husbands Bosworth CofE Primary School**

Class 1 and 2 performed 'Hey Ewe!' as their nativity story with a twist. A curious sheep witnesses the traditional story unfold before their eyes. The children did a brilliant job at singing their hearts out and making the audience smile and tap their feet. Our church service centered around the theme of thankfulness and was underpinned by Mary's Song of Praise (Luke 1: 46-55).

The children really enjoyed a chance to play in the snow after returning after the 'snow day' - the staff enjoyed it too!





## Lubenham All Saints CofE Primary School

It has been a really busy term and we finished it off nicely with our production of 'THE SLEEPY SHEPHERD'. The children all did a brilliant job and loved performing it to their friends and families. Last Friday the school sang carols to invited guests - governors, parent helpers and elderly people from the village and on the last afternoon of term we will hold a whole school carol service at church.



Some children and their families have been celebrating the tradition of the Posada - wooden figures of Mary and Joseph have been passed between different households in the village to represent the journey to Bethlehem. The figures will finish their journey at the crib service at Lubenham Church on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm.

This year KS1 decided to do something a little different for our Christmas production. We used specialist dance teachers from Premier Sports to help us choreograph dances to the music from the Nutcracker. Children told the story through narration, dancing, singing and acting and they thoroughly enjoyed doing something new. Feedback from parents was very positive and we hope to explore similar ideas for future productions.

On Thursday 14th December the choir from Market Harborough Church of England Academy were asked to sing at the HDC Chairman's Carol Service at St Dionysius Church. This was a prestigious event to honour civic heads and volunteer groups in the Harborough community. The choir did a fantastic job representing the school, we received many compliments about their singing and we even got a round of applause!

This year our Foundation Stage children took part in a Christmas 'Wriggly Nativity'. They all looked amazing in their costumes and all the smiles on their faces told us how much they were enjoying themselves. The children sang, wriggled and danced beautifully and parents even joined us for a wriggly song at the end.



## Market Harborough CofE Academy

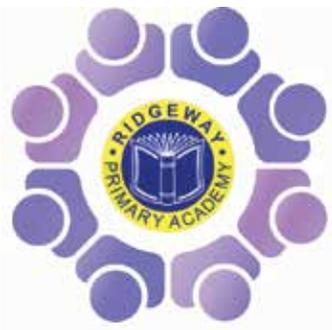


Meadowdale's KS1 children put on a fantastic production of 'Children of the World', all about how children around the world celebrate Christmas. Our Foundation Stage children sang Christmas songs for parents and carers at their own Christmas assembly and have also been busy making Christmas decorations during special craft afternoons. Our KS2 children walked to the Congregational Church in Market Harborough for their Carol Service. We will also be having a special Christmas lunch, and our Christmas choir has been carol singing at the Market Harborough Christmas Fair, for local



## Meadowdale Primary School

companies and at a residential home near to our school.



## Ridgeway Primary Academy

Key Stage 2 at Ridgeway performed "It's Christmas." It told the Christmas story through a series of songs based on the traditional Christmas number one song countdown. There were some recognizable tunes with alternative lyrics and the audience enjoyed the humour and confidence with which the children performed.

The Reception Classes at Ridgeway performed a traditional Nativity. There were some very proud parents and it reminded us all of what Christmas was really about. There was some excellent singing and dancing throughout. Well done everyone!





## St Andrew's Primary School

The worship group were invited to attend this year's Advent Service at the Leicester Cathedral. The theme was home and the children had to think about things that reminded them of home and draw it on a luggage label, which will be hung on the Christmas tree at the altar in the Cathedral.

The children in Acorn and Willow performed their nativity play, "Rodney the Stable Rat" to parents and carers.



## Internet Safety reminder

Just a reminder to consider internet safety when your child is using computers and other devices at home. The leaflet <https://swgfl.org.uk/Uploads/85/85e59bf7-02c5-4773-bc48-9d7f21025ecd.pdf> provides some helpful tips and advice.

One issue that has been highlighted recently is that some popular educational websites have pop-up adverts that may be unsuitable for children. All web browsers have a setting that allows you to turn pop-ups off, and we recommend that you do this if your child is using the internet. A Google search for 'Disable Pop Ups' will provide simple instructions on how to do this.