

Primary Curriculum Newsletter 4



Spring Update! March 2022

Happy Easter everyone!

A few curriculum developments to share with you this term.

I'd like to start by letting you know that Katie Crozier was successfully appointed as the **Trust Primary Maths Director**. This means, from September, we will have more of Katie's time in our schools to support us on our maths journeys. She will be working 1 day a week in this role (alongside her maths hub work and teaching commitment). We are excited to see how this new role develops!



I'd like to say a big thank you to Emma Whitehead, our **Computing Lead**. She has been working for the Trust to develop our computing curriculum (no mean feat!) and she will be sharing this with you all as part of our Trust training day in April.

At a recent Head's meeting we agreed the need for a **Trust diversity lead** and I'm pleased to say that Michael Gray has taken this on. We are at the early stages of planning how this will be developed in our curriculum but we all agree how valuable this is. Each school will identify a named diversity lead, who Michael will work with.

Rebecca Gale, head of biology at Cambourne VC, has been working alongside Kirsty Allen, our Primary **science** leader to continue to improve the science provision across our schools. Rebecca put in a bid to The School Improvement Fund, and was successful in being granted money to help pay for some resources we need to improve the teaching of science.

We have just launched our **ETL** (Enhanced teaching and learning) course, with teachers across the Primary schools attending. This is the first cohort of delegates to take part in this newly designed course and I'm sure it will be really useful. The remaining 3 sessions will be held next term.

The **Trust training day** has a CPD focus and to compliment this, we will be having training about using iMovie within subjects. There will be an opportunity to discuss iPad use further in your network meetings via Teams following the training session. I hope you will all find the day really useful. Please make sure you have the links for the correct network meeting.

We are *still* looking for a **DT** and a **Geography Trust Lead**. If you are interested in taking on one of these roles, please do get in touch with me.

Have a lovely break, see you on the training day!

Please get in touch if you have any questions
Em McMurray emcmurray@jeavonswood.org



New Trust Subject Leader

Diversity Lead

Hello! My name is Michael Gray and I am delighted to be back working for the CAM academy trust and I am thrilled to become the trust diversity lead.

I have been working in primary education for over twelve years in schools across Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire and spanning the primary age range. I have worked for two schools within the trust: Jeavons Wood and Gamlingay Village primary - both are amazing schools and have been fantastic places to work. I left the trust at the end of 2019 to become an English adviser for Herts for Learning before re-joining in January 2022 back at GVP - it's been like coming home!

During the last two years, I have been able to really focus on the issue of diversity which seems to have become far more prominent in schools. For me, this was all sparked by reading a book: *The Binding* by Bridget Collins. Unbeknownst to me, the central male characters in this book turned out to be gay and fall in love. Little did I know then, that reading that book during the first lockdown would trigger a whole lot of reflecting and thinking which ultimately led me to this point. As a gay man, this was the first time I had read a book in which I had seen myself reflected. I had never sought to read books with gay characters in before because I am quite confident in who I am and I never thought this to be important, but I was wrong! The experience was quite transformative and it got me thinking: What would my life be like now if had had the experience of reading books with gay characters in when I was a child?

Now, unfortunately, I grew up during the time of section 28 - a piece of legislation which made illegal the 'promotion of homosexuality as a pretended family structure'. Essentially, from 1988 until 2003, talking about gay people in schools was banned and along with it any kind of representation in books. Undoubtedly, this had a massive effect on me: the message was that I was abnormal and that was given to me from a very early age by the omission of representation of gay people from literature or any positive role models during my youth.

I have written about this in a number of blogs published by HFL: <https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/section-28-impact-and-legacy> also <https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/importance-lgbtq-literature-primary-schools>

Having done a lot of research about this over the last couple of years and having spoken at conferences and having published articles on the subject, I have come to the conclusion that diversity needs to be integral in schools. No child should be made to feel how I did growing up and my mission is to ensure that as a trust, we provide opportunities to all children to see themselves reflected back through the books they read to ensure that they feel like they are a valued part of society no matter who they are or where they come from. I am not just passionate about LGBTQ+ inclusion (although that is what I most relate to) but ensuring the inclusion of all. For me, diversity should be the foundations of the curriculum. We need to ensure that through what we are teaching, all kinds of people are being represented and presented positively to the children we teach so that all children can see themselves and their families represented at some point during their time at primary school and to build a culture of tolerance, understanding and acceptance for others who may not have had the experience of other lived realities before.

Having put a lot of thought into all this in recent years, I am now very eager to actually make a difference on the ground. I can't wait to work with all the primaries in the trust on this and I hope that together, we can make a huge difference to the children and families we teach.

migray@gamlingayvp.org

A few subject updates...

MFL

Hi everyone! I hope the term is going well!

In a recent MFL CB23 meeting, Rachel Hawkes kindly directed us to some very useful documents and policies which can be found on the Rachel Hawkes website: rachelhawkes.com - [Yr 3/4 Spanish](#) and [rachelhawkes.com](#) - [Yr 3/4 French](#)

There is an example policy template available for schools as well as the new progression documents for primary languages. We discussed adding to the template a reference to the fact that a key aim of learning Spanish is making friends, so the sentence structures for conversation in some schools is being referred to as "friendship sentences"

Rachel also wanted to spread the word that fortnightly CPD is still available to join for the rest of this year and is free for schools in the CAM Academy Trust.

When we meet at the training day in April, we will be discussing opportunities for using iPads in MFL - watch this space!

Alice Evans alevans@jeavonswood.org

RE

Over the next term, RE leaders across the Trust are going to be considering creative ways of teaching RE. We will be beginning on our inset day in April and will be looking at ways that we can engage children in creative learning activities.

We will be linking this to the research from the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) all about Value Added Teaching and how we can upskill non-specialist teachers of RE across our schools.

Sophie Mellors
smellors@jeavonswood.org

A few subject updates...

IT

Hello!

Thank you to all of those that attended the iPad training with Apple Specialist David Kirtlan last month. If you missed it or want to look back, follow the link here: <https://youtu.be/C3lyMhZQIH0>. We're excited to invite David back for our Trust Training Day on April the 19th to deliver iMovie training. Make sure to have iMovie downloaded on your iPad before joining the session.



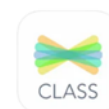
An app that has the power to transform reality and an app you just have to download from the 'Self Service' is **JigSpace**. All you do is 'select a jig', click 'view in AR' and then point your camera to a flat surface. Check it out!



It has been a busy term integrating Seesaw, ClickerWriter, iMovie and Apple Classroom at Jeavons Wood Primary School. It's been wonderful to see teachers discover best practice with iPads in the classroom and it will be discuss and share with each other on the trust training day too.



It's been great to be able to get out and about (finally!) to share the use of Seesaw with other primaries in the trust too. Seesaw is a powerful digital learning tool that children can use independently to share, collaborate, reflect and enhance their learning experiences. If you want to know anymore about Seesaw or any of the apps mentioned above, please email me at rwilson@jeavonswood.org.



I hope you have a lovely Easter break!

Robyn

RWilson@jeavonswood.org

Music

The music leads for the Trust are meeting online on Thursday 5th May at 4pm. We are planning to develop a series of short 5 minute Top Ten Tips videos to support classroom music teaching. If you have a particular area of music teaching that you would like us to produce a video for, please send me an email and we'll do our best to support you. kcrozier@jeavonswood.org

Geoff Page, the music lead at Cambourne VC has also been in touch to promote the music school and instrumental tuition at the school. For more information on this, please email gpage@cambournevc.org. He has also written a song for the Queen's Jubilee which is free to download from his website. [Jubilee - Mayhem Musicals](#)

Katie Crozier

KCrozier@jeavonswood.org

Art

A quick update on Art and Design.

For schools that are using Kapow as part of their art curriculum (even if it's just to supplement), please be aware that Kapow is having a 'refresh'. You can currently access some of the new units and see the planned focus for those that are due for the end of July. These units will be the same focus for each year group:

- Drawing
- Painting and mixed media
- Sculpture and 3D
- Craft and design

Although it will be exciting to see some new lesson content, it is important to remember that skill and knowledge progression is still at the forefront of Ofsted deep dives and is an integral part of our primary academy vision. Children should have time to learn new, and develop existing skills and knowledge in all the formal elements each year, and then use and practise these throughout the year, using a range of mediums and exploring a wide range of artists.

I have contacted Kapow to find out if these new units will be replacing or supplementing the current unit, but am still awaiting an answer. I would recommend downloading all content you use, as well as supporting documentation.

If you need support with this, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Beccy Boyden

History

It has been an exciting term for the development of history across our Trust. At Jeavons Wood, we have implemented the use of a Big Question cover page, in which children have a go at answering the big question for that unit both at the beginning of the topic and then again at the end of teaching. This has provided teachers, and myself as subject lead, with a clear overview of the progress which has been made by each child within that unit of work. It has also enabled us to plan responsively to directly meet the subject needs of our cohorts, and is just another step on our journey of assessment in our foundation subjects.

We have rolled out the use of iPads across Jeavons Wood over the last term and it has been so exciting to see how these have been used to support and enhance learning within history. These have been used as an adaptive teaching tool in order to allow all children to achieve an objective. We are using the Dictation tool, Clickr, notes and iMovie to allow children to prove and demonstrate their learning in a range of accessible ways. It has been wonderful to see the historical abilities of children who otherwise would find a written task a barrier to their learning. We are excited to share some of these new ideas with the other Trust schools during our Summer term trust training day.

In recent weeks I have also had the pleasure to visit other schools in the trust, where we have worked together to continue the development of our history curriculums. Schools are working so hard to develop a knowledge and skills rich curriculum which provides coverage, progression and opportunities for all children. I very much look forward to continuing our collaborative approach to developing our curriculums both in person and via our Teams chat throughout the rest of the year.

If you'd like any more details or support, please let me know!

Angela

ABottiglieri@jeavonswood.org

A few subject updates...

Maths

Early Childhood Maths Group (ECMG) [Home - ECMG \(earlymaths.org\)](http://earlymaths.org)

The Early Childhood Maths Group (ECMG) is a recently formed, UK based group of early years mathematics enthusiasts and experts, who work together to promote early childhood mathematics. There are some excellent resources on the site, including a spatial reasoning toolkit.

There is also an excellent section on children's books which look at different aspects of Space, Shape and Measure.

[Spatial Books - ECMG \(earlymaths.org\)](http://earlymaths.org)

Cambridge Maths Hub Opportunities 2022-2023

The Teaching for Mastery Programme will continue into 2022-2023. In the summer term, we will launch a new, partially funded, pathway for schools who are on the Sustaining part of the programme. There is also an opportunity to be involved in the Mastering Number programme (R, Y1, Y2) which has received extremely positive feedback from schools involved this year. Our Y5 to Y8 Continuity Work Group will also be running and gives teachers from Y5 and Y6 an opportunity to work collaboratively with our Trust secondary schools. Please email Katie if you would like to discuss how your school could get involved with the Cambridge Maths Hub next year. katie@cambridgemathshub.org

Mathler

This surprisingly addictive maths version of wordle is also worth a look. A new puzzle is set every day and there are three different levels to choose from. Great for class engagement in a problem solving task.

Katie Crozier

KCrozier@jeavonswood.org



HOME ABOUT ECMG OUR GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED LINKS OUR EXPERT OPINION

The Early Childhood Mathematics Group: for expertise in teaching and learning early maths.



+ What is the ECMG?

+ Key Principles for Practice

+ NEW - Spatial reasoning toolkit



Early childhood mathematics pedagogy: exploration, apprenticeship & making sense

easyMATHLER

Find the hidden calculation that equals 4

