

ANNUAL REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS: 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR



The Societas Trust really values our children, staff, governors and the wider communities we serve.

We are still a relatively young organisation, formed in 2015 and incorporated in February 2016.

Since then, we have grown steadily in size and reputation; all sharing a belief that the needs of children are best met when schools and teachers collaborate and cooperate, sharing expertise, knowledge and resources whilst maintaining close links with the communities they serve.

Our Settings:

ALSAGERS BANK PRIMARY

ASH GREEN PRIMARY

CARMOUNTSIDE PRIMARY

ELLISON PRIMARY

GLADSTONE PRIMARY

GOLDENHILL PRIMARY

OAKLANDS NURSERY

SUMMERBANK PRIMARY



With approx. 2,400 children and 400 staff across North Staffordshire.

Our Priorities

Were to:

- Improve pupils' questioning and reasoning skills, their search for alternative perspectives, connections and critical thinking using a recognised approach—Philosophy for Children.
- Support the mental health and emotional well-being of all.
- Ensure that all staff and governors continue to have the expertise and the ambition necessary to fulfil their roles.
- Ensure that each setting has a rich, inspiring and highly stimulating curriculum with highly memorable and influential learning experiences.



The Societas Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with registration number 09987031



Alsagers Bank Primary



Ash Green Primary



Carmountside Primary



Ellison Primary



Gladstone Primary



Goldenhill Primary



Oaklands Nursery



Summerbank Primary

RUGS

The RUGS is the name for our MAT Student Council. It stands for 'Really Useful Generation Students' Group and they are ambassadors for our Trust.

Its membership consists of two children from each setting

What opportunities have our RUGS had?

Engagement in a Teambuilding exercise at Standon Bowers;



To be 'roving reporters' for all Trust collaborative activities

The ABPA Times 17th Sept 22

Yesterday our dear Queen Elizabeth II died of natural causes as our roving reporters, Miss and Finn.

Assembly in the Hall

We all sat together from this morning to get our reports to Queen Elizabeth II who sadly died yesterday afternoon. The school called the hall and shared to an interesting assembly led by Mrs. Clark, who told us all about the history of this very great lady. Many children came. We decided not to take any photographs out of respect for the Queen's family. We talked to members of Royal classes who all told us they were pleased to be part of the history of the day, heard in our school, and enjoyed learning about the life and times of the Queen.

BBC News Coverage

All during the day our teachers let us watch the TV coverage of the sad news as it was reported live. It was fascinating to be part of this historic day.

We watched on the history being read the events around Buckingham Palace. It was quite surprising to see so many people crying.

We learned to be more respectful and learned a lot about the Queen and her family. It was interesting to see what.

Cards of Condolence

Later that day, the whole school took part in designing and drawing cards of condolence which we learned to send to the Queen. Some are shown above. We made these simply using

Societas Cricket Event - 23rd June

On the day, we visited of the Stoke City dome (it was received) and all the children from Goldenhill entered the dome. When we entered we saw that there were so many schools approximately 7 MAT schools. We then got sorted into counties the RUGS from Goldenhill were in Cheshire.

We went round the activities with Cheshire, Cheshire and Albany were in Cheshire and one from Goldenhill. Joseph and I were helping the Y2's to bowl, aim, throw over and under arm, but one also help them understand the activity properly.

We did all sorts of activities from bowling all the way through to batting. The Y2's always had a smile on their faces and so did the staff. Some of them told us that it was really good and the staff were also very cheerful and helpful. One teacher even said that every single one of them had improved.

At the end everybody got a being onlooker certificate. I would like to say thank you to everyone who organized this event because all the Y2's and RUGS really enjoyed it. Also thank you to Mr Bagley, Mrs Hockley and Miss Pitt for taking the Y2's and along with Joseph and I to the event.

Mollie Y18 Stoke Primary Academy

Ash Green News

Reception on the 14th June

All our reception children went to Stafford University to take part in the activities they provided. They took part in sport, painting, drama and a careers talk. Most people told me that they preferred art but still enjoyed all of the activities provided. I got to learn more about the reception children and it was an overall a really good day. Not just the reception children enjoyed it, I enjoyed it and EVERMORE took part in the activities.

Year 4 on the 13th June

Y4 also went to Stafford University and took part in sports, painting, drama and a careers talk but it was a bit different than the reception children. During the event that took place I asked a number of children what they liked the best. Most people enjoyed sports and painting the best. So, if you ever plan on going there for an event like that, I would recommend painting because both reception and year 4 said that was their favourite activity. Everyone loved to be with their friends on such an amazing day.

Cricket for Year 2 on the 23rd June

IT WAS A BONANZA OF CRICKET.

There were many activities that took place, like: batting, throwing and catching, as well as rolling and bowling a ball. Many children loved batting the ball it was their favourite part of the day. There was so much cricket involved it was such a good day for everyone. I hope to do some more activities like this in the future as these past two years have been the best I have ever had. The Y2 children loved it that much I would recommend doing another event like this for everyone.

THE ELLISON ECHO 7th July 2023

THE SOCIETAS TRUST DAYS - EYFS & YEAR 4

Ellison attends The Societas Trust Days.

The children had lots of different opportunities including a performing arts session, a sports session, a careers session and they even created their own artwork. The RUGS can report that the artwork was most definitely the favourite part of the day.

"It was really good and we had a good time."
A child from Ellison Primary Academy, Class 9B

"My favourite part was the artwork."
A child from Ellison Primary Academy, Class 9B

SOCIETAS RUGS NEWS WRITTEN BY POPPY AND OSCAR

RECEPTION DAY

In June all of the Reception children had the chance to visit Staffordshire University. They did four activities, sport, art, drama and talk about people's jobs. All the children we spoke to said that they enjoyed the day, one said "I liked running in the big hall" and another said they liked trying on the policeman jacket "It was so heavy". We asked the children what they wanted to be when they grew up and they said Teacher, policeman, train driver, scientist and one child said I want to be a footballer.

YEAR 4

The Year four children spent the second day at Staffordshire University which started with an inspirational talk. The children took part in the same activities and all reported that the sports activity was their favourite! The children said they found the day interesting and one child said "The building was so big".

Missie told us she wanted to be a firefighter when she grows up so she got some ideas. Beanie wants to be an archaeologist so she finds it interesting and he wants to go to university to learn about science.

Cladstone Gazette

Fantastic Fun at the Societas!

The children had an amazing time taking part in different sporting activities. This was such a day due to the restrictions of covid over previous years. It was nice for all the children from the Societas Trust to get together.

One teacher was quoted: "It was very nice to see all of the schools enjoying themselves. The children were a credit to their school and the Trust. It was great to see such positive spirit and to see some amazing role models." As the children enjoyed working together from all the different schools.

All of the schools from the Societas Trust worked as a team and supported the different counties of cricket. The children were learning with pride & taking part in the events. "I cannot wait to take part in the next one!" said one of the younger kids.

We are excited to know that the next Societas sporting event will be held this year...

That's all for today headlines see you in the next issue!

Royal Report

Exclusive Reporters: Khalisa Yahya and Liam Bourne

In Loving Memory of Queen Elizabeth II

On the evening of 8th September, at Balmoral Castle, our beloved Queen Elizabeth II sadly left the world.

At Summerbank Primary Academy we were all devastated to hear about the death of our dearest Queen but we decided to commemorate the Queen's life.

We began the week with a whole school assembly delivered by Miss Pearson. She talked to us about the Queen and the key events in her life, such as her coronation and how she served the country. Without a doubt, the best part of the assembly was watching the video of the Queen with Middleton! It will always be memorable.

Across the school, we honoured the Queen in many different ways. In Year 3, they wrote their own poetry

and performed it too. Amara (Year 3) reported, "I will miss the Queen!"

It was reported to us that Year 4 got the opportunity to watch a video on the Queen's life as a monarch. They also drew thematic pencil portraits of the Queen.

Year Five created some pop art

Societas Trust pupils pay tribute to 'remarkable' Queen Elizabeth II



Societas Trust pupils paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II following her passing in September 2022.

Children at schools across the Trust took part in a range of activities to commemorate the Queen's life and service and reflect on her legacy

These included school assemblies and creating artwork and condolence cards with symbols associated with the Queen such as corgis, crowns and the union flag.

Ministerial Visit:

The Trust was honoured to receive a visit from the Government's Schools' Minister, Baroness Barran, in February 2023. The Minister was keen to visit a school that had recently joined a MAT to discuss their improvement journey and Carmountside Primary Academy was selected by her team. The visit was a great success and the Baroness and her team were extremely impressed with the amazing work going on at the academy and across the Trust, the enrichment curriculum in particular: on her tour, she saw the children rehearsing for the Shakespeare Festival and met with our RUGS, Poppy and Oscar. The visit was also covered by the Midlands Today News Film Crew and on Radio Stoke Live.

Before she left, the children presented the Baroness with one of our Commemorative Mugs for the late Queen: on the following day, she tweeted a picture of the mug with the caption - "My morning coffee tastes particularly good out of the commemoration mug given to me by pupils at Carmountside Primary in Stoke on Trent."

My thanks to the headteacher, Lisa Challinor and all the children and staff at the school for making this visit such a success. Also, to Nichola Gibson for representing the Trust.

Collaborative Events



Shakespeare Festival:

Once again, the Societas Shakespeare Festival has been an amazing success - the play "What Country, Friends, is This", based on Twelfth Night was adapted and performed by children from across the Trust at the New Vic Theatre working with a professional drama group.



Collaborative Events



Trust Activity Days



On the 14th & 15th June 2023 children from Reception and Year 4 across the Trust went to Staffordshire University. The Trust activity days focused on aspirations and careers.

The children engaged in a range of activities, including; sports, art, drama, careers talks and talks from aspirational speakers.



Collaborative Events

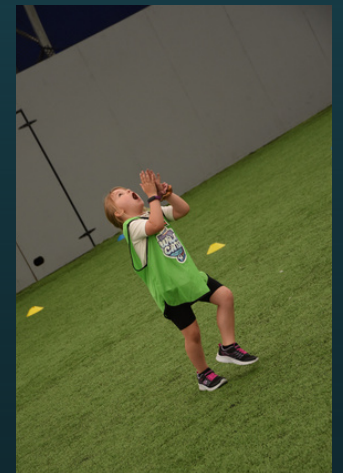


Societashes Cricket Event - 23rd June

On the 23rd June 2023, the RUGS travelled to the Stoke City FC Academy Dome with the children from Year 2 to participate in the first 'Societashes'.

Some of the activities were practising a free hand throw and playing dodgeball. The RUGS also assisted the Year 2's in their games.

After the hard work put in by the teachers and the students the children had lots of fun and they really enjoyed themselves.



The Valiant School:



As part of our collaboration with The New Guild Trust, we have been working hard to establish an Independent Alternative Provision School ("The Valliant School") based at Moorpark Junior School in what used to be the Youth Centre there.

We have also been very fortunate to secure a sponsor for the school, Ducal International, who have very kindly donated funds to help set-up the school and will also make an annual donation to support the enrichment curriculum involving lots of experiential learning for the pupils.

Logo Design Competition for The Valiant School:

All the children across both Trusts were invited to take part in a competition to design a logo for the new school. They were provided with a design brief which focused on the school's 5 Bs - Be Brave, Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Healthy, Be Me. The judging took place last Friday, 17 March, and all the judges were amazed by the standard of the designs. One of the judges, Helen Frost from the Arts Council, asked for the following to be read out to all the children across the Trust:

A graphic designer worked with both of the winning children and their classes to produce a digital logo for the school which will include both winning designs. All the year group finalists (19 in total) also received a certificate and book voucher.



Philosophy for Children (P4C)



All of our setting deliver P4C. P4C is where a group of people (or Community of Enquiry) are wondering and thinking together about questions and ideas that seem important to them, so that they can develop their understanding of the world, of each other and of themselves.

Recognising our achievements: School Awards

Silver Awards



Ash Green Primary Academy
Ellison Primary Academy
Goldenhill Primary Academy
Oaklands Nursery
Summerbank Primary Academy



Bronze Awards

Gladstone Primary Academy
Alsager's Bank Primary Academy

Recognising our achievements: Ofsted in 2023

Oaklands Nursery

"Children are thoughtful thinkers. They have the words and confidence to share their own ideas, feelings and questions. Children show great focus and enjoyment in these sessions. They come up with many interesting and individual thoughts on a range of subjects. They transfer these to their learning across the days and weeks. Children know how to express and follow their own beliefs. They learn to understand and respect that not everyone will share the same opinion. For example, they vote for whether they prefer a sunny day or a rainy day. They know that some will choose sunny and some will choose rainy. They understand that it is fine to be different to, or think differently to, a friend". (Ofsted, June 2023)

Ellison Primary Academy

"Pupils at Ellison Primary Academy are caring, collaborative, critical and creative thinkers. They love to discuss their ideas and understand the opinions of others". (Ofsted, May 2023)



King Charles III Coronation

May 2023



The children across carried out a range of activities to celebrate the historic coronation of King Charles III.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the settings that were inspected by Ofsted this year. The Ofsted Inspectors' reports highlight the growing strength and success of our settings.

Well done to:

Oaklands Nursery (May 2023)

Ellison Primary Academy (June 2023)

We are appreciative of our dedicated staff and governors.



We award those who have achieved 25 years' continuous public service each year.

This year we have twelve staff who have achieved this amazing milestone. Each will receive a voucher for £150 and a day off work

This year we have also:

Provided all our settings with staff training, enrichment opportunities for children and other collaborative projects;

Secured additional funds (circa £800k) from the Government to support significant improvements to school buildings and perimeter security at three of our settings;

Benefited from further significant savings through joint procurement projects;

Provided a wide range of training and coaching to our leaders and governors, including access to the National College Training Hub and School Bus;

Completed safeguarding and financial audits with flying colours - well done to our Central Team, Headteachers, Business Managers and staff!

Provided a Wellbeing Day for all staff across the Trust;

Provided network and mentor support for Early Career Teachers, Subject Leaders, Academy Business Managers and Headteachers new to the Trust;

Moderated and quality assured standards across the Trust using internal and external support;

Engaged in Multi-Academy Trust networks as part of our self-review and evaluation practices, and staff professional development;

Introduced a Cycle to Work Scheme for all staff.

We hope this report is useful in helping you to get to know more about the exciting things we are doing for our children, staff and wider communities.

If you would like to find out more please visit www.societatrust.org.uk.

Mr. Jon Lovatt (CEO, The Societas Trust)



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