



November 12th, 2020

Update from Nikki Edwards, Trust CEO

A time in our lives we will never forget



In our busy lives, at home and professionally, it often seems we are constantly chasing the 'next thing'. Mindfulness experts would say we need to spend more time in the 'now', appreciating what we have and reflecting upon where we have come from.

This was brought home to me this week as we remembered the fallen in war, on Remembrance Sunday and on November 11th.

While in my previous job, on my daily drive to work, I used to pass the most beautiful spot - in the summer and early autumn a glorious field of poppies - but never seemed to have the time to stop and really savour it.

One day I made myself stop in a layby and walked up a track to take in the view - it was stunning.

This week I was reflecting on the photo I took and thinking about the words of Kipling, which were not originally about war but which are now synonymous with Remembrance - **Lest We Forget**.

People often add these poignant words to the end of a different poem, *For the Fallen*, by Laurence Binyon.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

It made me reflect on our role as educators and why it is crucial that we create memories for the children in our Trust family. It is particularly important, in such difficult times, that these memories are positive.

The children in our schools will never forget this time in

their lives. For some, it will have brought hardship and for others, there will be relatives dealing with the severity of the virus. As educators, we cannot shield them from everything but we can cultivate a world full of positivity and a sense of optimism that there is a bright future for every one of them.

If we create these memories - a memorable lesson, sharing a musical performance, fun in sport, creativity in art - these children will return home with a sense of excitement and also a sense of curiosity about what the next day will bring.

I cannot overstate how valued your role is. Many in the world of teaching are modest but let there be no doubt that every member of our extended Trust family is having an impact.

In our Trust we are rightly known for our spirit of collaboration so, to extend the idea of creating memories, we want to share the exciting things which have been happening in the classroom.

Memories are stories and I know there must be so many good things happening, both related to these unusual times and otherwise. Tell us all about it. Our website is having an overhaul and we want to share more and more of the great things you are all doing.

Last week I mentioned Health and Wellbeing Fortnight which we are naming **BATH & WELLBEING FORTNIGHT** - thanks to Finance Director Jason Brown in the MAT office for the great title! We are planning lots of things which we know will hopefully support you all. Keep an eye out for more details.

Nikki Edwards

