



## Spring Term Newsletter

It has been another busy and exciting term across our School Games programme, with a strong focus on engaging young persons who may not always represent their school, who lack confidence in competitive environments, or have additional needs. Our aim this term has been to introduce children to new sports, new experiences and new opportunities to enjoy being active.

One of the highlights of the term was our Racket Pack Badminton Festival, delivered in partnership with the Hertfordshire Badminton Association. The festival welcomed 70 Year 3 and 4 pupils from 7 local primary schools to John Warner School, where children rotated around eight activity stations led by the fantastic sports leaders. The morning was full of energy and smiles, giving pupils a fun introduction to badminton while building confidence in a supportive environment. Every child received a certificate and information about local badminton clubs, helping to create a pathway for those who may wish to continue the sport outside of school.



At the end of February, we hosted our Girls Football Festival at Flamstead End Primary School. The event was designed to be inclusive and encouraging, allowing teams to progress into either the Cup, Shield or Plate competitions based on their group stage results. This format ensured that every team had meaningful matches to play throughout the event. Once again, the uptake from

schools was fantastic and it was particularly rewarding to see many pupils representing their school who may not usually take part in competitive sport.



We also introduced a Year 5 and 6 Basketball Event, which brought a fun and unique twist to traditional competition. Each match featured five minutes of girls' play followed by five minutes of boys' play, promoting equal participation and teamwork across squads. To add an extra element of excitement, music would suddenly start during matches to signal a "Power Play" period, where any baskets scored counted double points. This format created a brilliant atmosphere and encouraged teams to work together strategically while enjoying the high-energy environment.

March then saw us prepare for one of the biggest and most anticipated events of the year – the WDPSSA Sports Hall Athletics competition at Wodson Park on 6th March. This event featured a morning session for Years 3 and 4, followed by an afternoon session for Years 5 and 6. The event was very busy, with such strong demand that we even had a waiting list of schools hoping to attend. The enthusiasm around this event has already encouraged us to look at adding an additional date next year to accommodate even more schools and pupils.





Alongside our competitions and festivals, we have also been working closely with schools to support lunchtime activity provision. Through these sessions, we have been helping to introduce new games and structured activities that midday supervisors can easily set up and oversee. The aim is to make lunchtimes more active, inclusive and engaging for all pupils, while also supporting staff with practical ideas and resources. Overall, it has been a fantastic term filled with opportunity, participation and positive experiences for pupils across the partnership.

**We look forward to building on this momentum as we head into the Summer term with even more events, competitions and opportunities for young people to get active and represent their schools.**