

# School projects benefit from welcome cash



"Funding from this scheme has enabled our Year 1 children to have all day access to computer technology. This provision has enhanced learning in every area of the curriculum and in particular early Literacy and Numeracy skills. It also provides increased opportunity for our 5 year old children to be independent learners." Pat Davies, headteacher St Joseph and St Theresa Catholic Primary School

PRIMARY schools in Lichfield and Burntwood have received a welcome boost to their school projects thanks to cash donations from the operators of the M6Toll road.

Midland Expressway Limited (MEL) contacted all primary schools within a five mile radius of the M6Toll corridor and encouraged them to apply for a grant of £2,000.

The qualifying primary schools were asked to provide the MEL Schools Foundation Panel with details of projects it could fund during this academic year and after "careful deliberation" five applications were selected.

MEL visited the staff and



children of Christ Church Primary School and St Chad's Primary School in Lichfield, Boney Hay Community

Primary School and St Joseph & St Theresa Catholic School in Burntwood and Whittington Primary School to see how

"The funding received from M6Toll has given us the opportunity to extend our provision for children with dyslexic tendencies. They are able to access interactive resources and the whiteboard, making learning even more fun. This certainly helped when we were thrilled to be awarded Dyslexia Friendly Status in November 2013. Our thanks go to all at M6Toll for their continuing support." Jen Matthewman, headteacher Boney Hay Community Primary School.

their school projects were progressing after each was awarded a cheque for £2,000 last

"Christ Church Primary School used a £2,000 grant to purchase seven iPads. This has benefited our children enormously. They are being used for a wide variety of learning opportunities, for example reception children love using them to practice their handwriting and older classes have used them to improve their maths and literacy skills. Thank you very much to the M6Toll Foundation." Abl Whyman, class teacher Christ Church Primary School.



"The new 'forest school' site has given our pupils the chance to learn in an exciting outdoor environment. They have been working together, growing in confidence and enjoying finding out about the natural world around them. The school would like to say a very big thank you to Midland Expressway and all in the local community who have helped to make this project possible." Sally Wilmot, headteacher Whittington Primary School.

# boost thanks to M6Toll company donations

September. Whittington Primary School used the funding to set up a "forest school" environmental setting while Christ Church School purchased six iPads which are currently being used through Year 1 to Year 6 classes. St Chad's School's project was based around Computing Programmes of Study from the Department for Education. The school has now purchased IT equipment such as

Raspberry Pi and Pi Face interface boards along with 4GB SD cards which are being used to develop the children's computing skills. St Joseph & St Theresa's Catholic School used the money to purchase IT software which is now supporting their Year 1 pupils' learning in basic literacy and numeracy while Boney Hay Community Primary School has used the funding to buy classroom equipment including a white-



Daisy (11) of St Chad's Primary School said: "In the 'Learning Lab', using a new computer device called 'Makey Makey', I was able to play the piano using bananas. This was really fun and after a couple of goes I was able to play 'Mary had a Little Lamb'. Thank you to all of the M6 Toll people for giving us the money because Year 6 had a lot of fun."



Colln Mabey, IT and Systems director, Midland Expressway Ltd presents a cheque for £2,000 to pupils and staff at Whittington Primary School.

board and projector. MEL says there has been such positive feedback that the company has decided to run the scheme again with increased funding. Tom Fanning, chief executive of MEL said: "The inaugural year of the Midland Expressway Primary School Scheme has been a huge success and the initiatives we received from local schools have been very encouraging. "We are proud to support all five primary schools and see how much our scheme is benefiting local children. "Going forward we will be

increasing our investment into the scheme to ensure extra funding is available to help create further learning opportunities." The application process for this year's Primary School Scheme will open on the March 17. The foundation will contact all qualifying schools at the beginning of March with an information pack. Full details regarding the Midland Expressway Limited's Schools Foundation are available at [www.m6toll.co.uk/community](http://www.m6toll.co.uk/community)



Colln Mabey, IT and Systems director, Midland Expressway Ltd presents a cheque for £2,000 to pupils and staff at Christ Church School.