

14 December 2023

Dear Colleagues,

As an employee of our Church of England multi-academy trust you are a valued member of our family of schools. Our family of high performing and distinctive schools are rooted at the heart of the communities we serve. We are all committed to providing the very best pastoral care for our pupils and we aspire to the provision of excellent learning through the rich curriculum delivered in our schools. So, as we come to the end of the Autumn Term, we want to sincerely thank you for your hard work, dedication and commitment to the deep collaboration we have between our schools, which undoubtedly contributes to the success of our pupils.

News from the Central Team

We are delighted to confirm that St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst, converted to academy status within The Keys Academy Trust. St Michael's is our eleventh school, and I would like to thank the Central Team for ensuring a smooth onboarding process. Uplands Primary and Nursery School has also submitted an application for an academy order this term to join The Keys Academy Trust and we continue to work in partnership to support this process. This is another significant step forward in expanding our reach and providing even more children with the high-quality education they deserve.

We would like to congratulate Philip Theobald who has stepped up from Head of School to the post of Headteacher at Alder Grove following a very positive Ofsted Inspection in the summer term. We wish Philip and his team every success as the school continues to grow from strength to strength.

It has been a busy term with regard to Ofsted Inspections, three of our schools, St Nicholas, Crazies Hill and Polehampton Infants have all had two-day graded inspections. Final Reports have been issued for St Nicholas and Crazies Hill and we congratulate both schools on the outcomes. We are looking forward to sharing the outcome from the Inspection at Polehampton Infants in due course. These achievements are a testament to the incredible teamwork and effort put in by each and every member of the staff teams in these schools and we have witnessed the benefits of belonging to a Trust in each of these Inspections.

In addition to the Ofsted Inspections, the DfE appointed an External Expert to carry out a review of St Cecilia's as a new free school. Unlike an Ofsted Inspection, there is not a report issued for this process, however we have had very positive feedback on the growth of St Cecilia's as a new school and pass on heartfelt congratulations to Rich Thomas and his growing team.

We hope you enjoy reading about this term's highlights from all our schools.



News from our Schools

Crazies Hill Church of England Primary School

Harvest Festival



We welcomed families and friends to our Harvest Festival in the Village Hall. The class presentations and songs helped everyone to know a little more about foods harvested in this country. Woodley Food Bank were thrilled to receive the harvest gifts and Linda from the food bank inspired us with her talk. Rev John Cook gave us a special harvest blessing.

Some of our Year 2 boys, along with their Beaver colony, visited Wokingham food bank in Winnersh following our Harvest Festival. They donated food, and helped to sort and date the food.



TKAT Annual Service of Celebration



Sophia, Roberta and Taylor represented our school as they presented their letters of thanks to those in our wider community as part of the church service. Letters were composed to the PTA, governors and Reverend Cook. The children read beautifully!

Sports Leaders

Taylor and Finnley, our sports leaders, encourage the children at lunchtime to develop their ball skills by setting up exercises and activities and sharing their expertise! It is great to see them demonstrating their



Relationships, Respect and Resilience Values Gem Powers as they coach and lead!

Y4 Football Tournaments

Every Y4 pupil took part in Boys' and Girls' Football Tournaments at Cressex Astro, High Wycombe. The children put energy and enthusiasm into their games and were real ambassadors for the school.





Remembrance Assembly

Local resident, Diane Bush, came into school to talk to the children about the importance of remembrance. Di brought friend, local resident and retired soldier, Michael Simpson, with her. He talked to the children about how local residents who fought in the two world wars would be remembered in the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church.



We thought about all who have been, and are affected by war, and prayed for a peaceful future.

Our young artists created some beautiful poppies as part of Remembrance season in art club. Staff and parents were very impressed with the care that the children took to construct their poppies, and the children were very proud of their work.



Crazies Hill Art Gallery

We created an art gallery to raise money for Children in Need. Parents were invited into school at the end of the day to view and purchase the masterpieces. We raised £328 for a very worthy cause.



End of Term Excitement

As the end of the term draws near, our infant children are in their final stages of rehearsing ready for this year's Nativity production, 'Lights, Camel, Action'. We are also looking forward to coming together as a whole school community for our Carol Service in St Mary's Church Wargrave. An exciting end of term treat will be for the whole school visit to the South Hill Park pantomime to watch Sleeping Beauty.

St Michael's Sandhurst, CE Primary School

As we approach the end of term, we wanted to take a moment to give you a round-up of all the wonderful events and achievements that have taken place at our school.

Firstly, our students have excelled in various sports events. They participated in the Bracknell School Games and achieved great success in cross country, winning medals in both the girls relay races. Our Year 4 students also showcased their skills in Tag Rugby, while our KS2 Boccia team finished in 1st place and qualified for the regional finals, representing Bracknell Forest. Additionally, our Y5/6 football team remained unbeaten in the league, making us incredibly proud.





We have enjoyed several educational trips and events throughout the term. Year 1 visited Windsor Castle as part of their History unit, while Year 5 had the opportunity to explore the wonders of the Winchester Science Museum and were able to enhance their learning about Space. Year 3 had an immersive practical Stone Age Day, which was both educational and exciting. Drama workshops were conducted for KS1 and Year 3 by Drama 4 All, allowing our students to showcase their creativity. Year 4 participated in the Lambrook School Maths Challenge, and both Year 1 and Year 6 took part in Therma Fisher Scientific's STEM Experiments. Swimming lessons were provided to Year 6 and Year 5 students at Camberley Leisure Centre and Year 6 completed their level 2 Bikeability training, ensuring they are equipped with essential skills for the future.

In terms of outdoor learning, our students participated in Wood Walks at Ambarrow Woods. Ducklings, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5 students had the wonderful opportunity to explore nature, while Year 4 engaged in a river walk as part of their Geography field study work.



Our school community have had the pleasure of attending various events held at St Michael & All Angels Church. We celebrated Harvest and had a beautiful KS2 Carol Service. We were honoured to be invited to the Sandhurst Memorial Service for Remembrance Day. Many of these events featured performances by our talented school choir. Our Class assemblies this term were led by Year 6 on the theme of Generosity and Year 5 on theme of Compassion and were well attended by our proud parents. Furthermore, our two Ducklings and KS1 Nativity Performances.

As the term comes to a close, we have some exciting events lined up. The whole school will be participating in our annual Santa Run on the school field, spreading the festive cheer. Additionally, our Ducklings and KS1 students will have an enjoyable trip to see Cinderella at the Panto in Camberley.



We were also pleased to introduce a new learning space, 'The Lighthouse Room', for children and staff to use to provide more flexible learning opportunities as well as an engaging learning space.

In addition, on 1st November, we were delighted to officially be part of The Keys Academy Trust. We are already experiencing the benefits of working collaboratively with the other Trust schools, which will undoubtedly enhance the education and opportunities we provide to our students.

Once again, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the continued support of our school community. It is through your involvement and dedication that we are able to create such a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children.

Wishing you a joyful and relaxing holiday season!

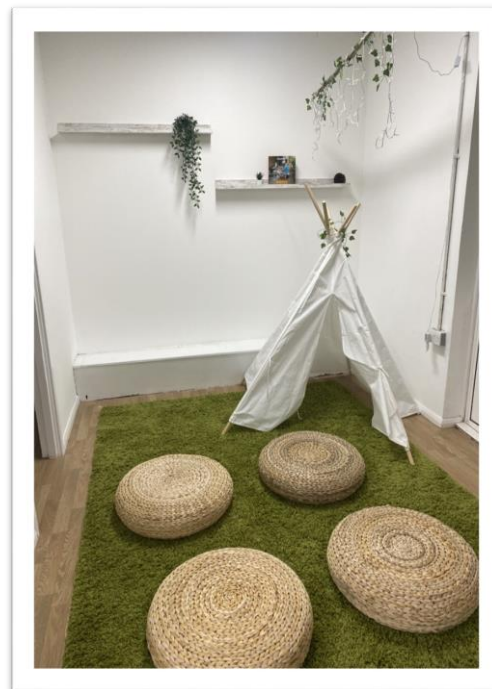
The Coombes C of E Primary School

With the start of the new academic year well and truly underway, we have hit the ground running. With continued premises improvements, the reintroduction of Forest School and the celebration of the school being 150 years old, we have had a busy few months.

Key Stage One has undergone renovations with new nursery, EYFS and Year 1 & 2 classrooms. This included all new furniture, carpets and lockers, some structural changes as well as cosmetic touch ups to improve the learning environment.



Orchard Nursery



EYFS classrooms Cherry and Apple

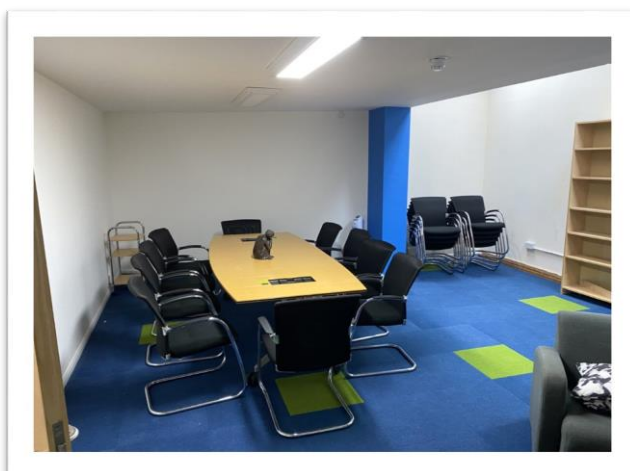


Our Key Stage One improvements



Year 1- Bay Class

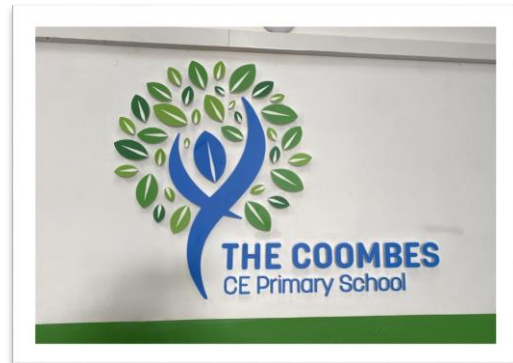
Year 2- Aspen Class, cloakroom area



The Coombes Conference Room

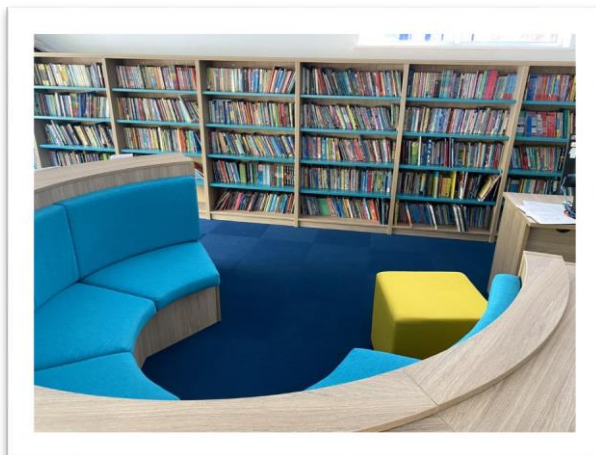
New Coombes Carpet

New Signage around the school

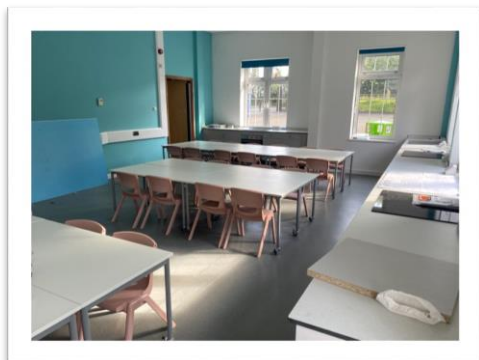


Key Stage Two New Library

The hard work paid off with the help of staff and parents to get our new library up and running



Key Stage Two STEM Room



News from the Classroom

Year 4 trip to Ufton Court



Sports News



Yr 3 & 4 Football



The Coombes Play Leaders



Yr 5 & 6 Indoor Athletics



Yr 5 & 6 Football



Yr 5 & 6 Netball

Celebrations

We are very proud to say The Coombes celebrated its 150th birthday this year. Our celebrations took place on Friday 17th November with the whole school joining in the fun.

We all embraced what school would have been like during that time by dressing up as Victorians (including the teachers!) We had a range of activities to complete over the course of the day including: handwriting on blackboards, timetables, creating Victorian games and completing a treasure hunt around the school grounds. It was really interesting to see how the school had developed over the 150 years in our mini-museum too! To finish the day, we met an ex-pupil of the school who was able to share what the school was like around fifty years ago! It was a fantastic celebration.



Our PTA Laserworks and

Winter Festival



Polehampton C of E Infant School and Polehampton C of E Junior School

Autumn Term 2023

The start of the Autumn term marked the beginning of a new era in senior leadership at the Polehampton Schools; Mr Sherwood became the Executive Headteacher across the two schools with Mrs Castell and Mrs Medcalf now as Co-Heads of School across both schools. The new leadership structure is already embedding the “two schools one journey” message. From January 2024, Miss Ackerman will be joining the senior leadership team as Assistant Headteacher across both schools.



The school’s vision and values remain at the heart of Polehampton Schools. It has been wonderful to see the children “let their light shine” both inside and outside of the classroom. The Autumn term values of Gratitude and Friendship have been explored both in assemblies and in the classrooms. The Year 2 Value Leaders have written and shared some thoughtful prayers with the school about friendship.



Gratitude

Friendship

Perseverance

Forgiveness

Honesty

Compassion

Ensuring developments and consistency in teaching and learning remain the top priority at the schools. This term, each year group team has facilitated curriculum meetings for parents. These meetings provide parents with information about the key learning for the year ahead and sharing what we do to enable all children to let their light shine.

Trips and visits are crucial to enhancing the curriculum offer. This term, both Years 3 and 4 have visited Ufton Court as part of their history learning; Year 5 welcomed a visitor who ran a workshop about World War 2 and Year 6 visited the River Chess in Chesham to support their Geography learning.

The infant school did their whole school trip to Norden Farm for the panto (oh yes, they did!).



Both schools have welcomed St Mary’s Church Family Worker Philippa Middleton to assemblies on Thursdays. Philippa has shared Bible stories, such as David and Jonathon (1 Samuel 18:1-5), that have linked closely with the Autumn term values.

Both schools also invited parents in to see our Harvest Assemblies (or as they *could* be known, 'extravaganzas') at the beginning of October. We saw reflective monologues, artwork, poetry, interpretative dance and rapping!

The annual TKAT Church service held at St Nicholas Church was truly lovely. We would like to thank St. Nicholas Primary for hosting the service. This was not only special for the children at the Church but also everyone watching the service back at school.

Our annual Tea and Songs performed by Year 3 children, for their parents, was extra special this Year with the inclusion of some beautifully presented poetry. This event is the official welcome to the Junior School for the Year 3 parents.

The end of the Autumn term is always special at both the schools, with the magic of Christmas arriving.

- The Foundation team shared the Nativity story with their parents and children from the junior school, through 'The Sleepy Shepherd'.
- Year One and Two shared the Nativity story with their parents and children from the junior school, through a mix of both traditional and modern dances and songs.
- Year Four children performed "Straw and Order" to Year Two and an evening performance to many, many family members.
- Finally, Years 5 and 6 led a Carol Service at St Mary's Church.

The last special event in the Polehampton annual calendar is our Christmas Church service. A chance to reflect on the term, share our gratitude for what we've experienced and look forward to the new year.

Wishing all the schools in TKAT a joyous, restful and magical Christmas. See you all in the New Year!



A Message from David Horrocks, Chair of the Trustee Board

As Christmas finally comes into sight, we just want to say another huge thank you to everyone in our schools and in the Central Team for all the ways that you have served over this last term.

People often talk about good schools feeling like families and about good Trusts being strong families of schools. We have seen so much evidence of both of these things over the last few months. Thank you for your commitment to giving each of the children in your schools the best possible education that they can have. And thank you for all the ways that you have collaborated with and helped colleagues in other schools across the Trust as well.

Christmas terms are always busy, and this has been no exception, with the extra challenge of OFSTED inspections in three of our schools along the way. Our TKAT annual church service is always a highlight and was another great opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our supportive family of distinctive schools. The children who took part in the service all did their schools proud.

I would also just like to express our thanks to Jane Peters, who served as Chair of Trustees until the beginning of this term. Jane played a key role in getting TKAT up and running, and in leading the board of trustees through the early years. We were very sorry that she had to step back, but are delighted that she is willing to stay on as one of our Members.

Finally, on behalf of all the trustees, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with lots of time to rest and relax and to catch up with family and friends.

Yours sincerely,

D Horrocks

David Horrocks

Chair of Trustees

H Wooller

Hester Wooller

CEO