

Newsletter

Spring 2024



As an employee of The Keys 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 aspire to provide excellent learning and pastoral care for our pupils and staff and we would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment this term.

News from the Central Team

In January, Uplands Primary and Nursery School and the Forest Learning Alliance were awarded an academy order to join The Keys and during this term, there has been a lot of activity as we progress with the conversion process. Uplands is due to join us on 1st June 2024 and I am sure you will welcome the team at Uplands to our TKAT family.



It has been another busy term with regard to inspections! We received the final report following Polehampton Infants Ofsted inspection last term and then Ofsted arrived at Sonning in January for an ungraded inspection. Crazyes Hill was also our first school to go through a SIAMS inspection within the new framework. Congratulations to all of the schools on their outcomes. 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.

As Alder Grove continues to grow we would like to congratulate both Philip Theobald who has stepped up as Headteacher and Rachel Roedel who has secured the substantive post of Deputy Headteacher.

St.Cecilia's has also continued to go from strength to strength and they celebrated their first anniversary of their opening. We have recently successfully recruited additional staff to support with the opening of the Nursery and Reception classes from September 2024.

Annual Leadership Conference

We held our Annual Leadership Conference on Thursday 1 February 2024 at The Crowne Plaza East Reading Hotel and it was very well attended by many local school leaders. Our inspirational speakers this year were Sam Crome who opened the day exploring the "Power of Teams", in particular how to create and lead thriving teams. He left us reflecting on ways to maximise team effectiveness. It was a thought provoking session underpinned by an impressive amount of research evidence. Emma Turner then stepped up to the mark and helped us to navigate the challenges of assessment in the foundation subjects. Leaders then had time to network following two very different but very inspirational speakers.

The evaluation of the Conference was very positive and we are already in the early stages of planning next year's conference.



Alder Grove CE Primary School



Alder Grove
Church of England Primary School

This term Year 3 have focused on the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The children visited Butser Ancient Farm as part of their History topic. During the day there they took part in jewellery making, spinning, stone carving and an archaeological dig. The children really got a sense of what life would have been like thousands of years ago and had a fantastic time.

In early February, our Nursery and Reception children were treated to a theatre visit of, 'The Hare and the Tortoise'. This was enjoyed by all and really brought their Traditional Tales topic to life!

We hosted our 'Families into School' sessions focusing on our school's Therapeutic Behaviours and our new Zones of Regulation approach, to help our families understand it and how parents/carers might be able to support it. Adults then had the opportunity to spend time in class with their child to take part in activities as part of Children's Mental Health Week.



We kick-started the month of March with World Book Day. The children and staff enjoyed coming to school dressed in their pyjamas. Children also spent the day taking part in lots of different activities including reading a book with a buddy from a different year group.

We were also very privileged to enjoy a visit from a local children's author, Karen Hardwicke, who read her book to the children. We are also delighted to announce that Savannah in Year 3 was picked by Karen as the winner of our World Book Day illustration competition. Savannah will now work with Karen and her publisher for her forthcoming book. We are incredibly excited to see her illustrations being published and look forward to getting copies for our library! Congratulations, Savannah!

The theme carried on with our very own Bedtime Story evening when the children came back to school dressed in their pyjamas to listen to various stories read by staff and members of our PTA. We also held our Book Fair, which will enable us to purchase lots of lovely new books for our library.

In the final week of term, Year 1 children visited Marwell Zoo and Year 2 children took part in a 'Great Fire of London' immersive workshop, full of practical making, role-play and investigation where they were able to find out lots more about the great disaster of 1666.

We ended the term with an Easter Service led by our Year 3 pupils and Reverend Beer from St Mary's Church. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the stories of Holy Week and the poignant message for this important time of year for Christians and our school community.





St Nicholas CE Primary School



St Nicholas continues to be a hive of activity. The children have been engaged in a range of activities, both inside and outside of the classroom. As we continue to lay the foundations of success, our team of dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure that each child reaches their potential, academically, socially and emotionally.

Well done to our School Council, led by Miss Fletcher and Miss Ward, on achieving our Silver Green Tree School Award from the Woodlands Trust. Through the tree planting this year, efforts to recycle, regular litter picking, reducing our Co2 and making our school greener we have achieved this amazing award! We are now planning what we might do next to reach gold, or even platinum!

Our Year 1 class went outside to explore what birds they could find and found lots of different types of birds such as robins, pigeons and blackbirds. The children thoroughly enjoyed it. They completed a tally of the number of birds they saw and input the data online afterwards for the RSPB. It was incredible to observe so many different species of bird in our local area.



As part of their history topic on Romans, Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a visit to the Silchester Gallery at Reading Museum. They learned about the relationship between the Celts and Romans and were fascinated to learn that many things we use today are a legacy of the Romans. The children enjoyed dressing up, building bridges the Roman way and exploring the artefacts.

Sandstone class have been investigating how to design and build stable constructions using a variety of materials. Some of their pavilions were designed as play parks and shelters for animals.



The children in Sandstone class have been learning to play the cornet this term in their music lessons and are being taught by a music teacher from the Berkshire Music Trust. Before the break for Easter, they demonstrated what they have learnt in assembly to the whole school and their parents/carers.

Children in Year 6 enjoyed a trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of their work on Ancient Egypt for History and English and became Egyptian Detectives for the day.

Sporting Activities



The children have represented the school in local football tournaments against other schools, for both girls and boys. They have also participated in a Cross-Country running event organised by the team at Sonning Primary School.

The children are enjoying a range of enrichment opportunities, which we have been expanding over the past year, which include judo, fencing, choir, Forest Fun, gymnastics, musical theatre, Spanish adventures and a variety of music and sports.

Our active and supportive PTA have been extremely busy again fundraising on behalf of the school. Fundraising events that have already taken place are a Leap into Spring sponsored challenge, Bags2School, a school disco, film nights and bake sales, incorporating Chinese New Year. We also enjoyed getting involved in local community events, such as the Easter Church Service.



Our children, through the School Council, continue to support local charities including The Link Visiting Scheme, Alana House and more recently, First Days Children's Charity. We are pleased to host a collection box in the school entrance for donations for First Days.





St Sebastian's CE Primary School



It has been another busy term at St. Sebastian's and there has been lots to celebrate. As part of our wider curriculum offer, our children in Chestnut Class were lucky enough to receive golfing lessons from staff and students from Wellington College. There was definitely a lot of talent on show and they all enjoyed the sessions.

At St. Sebastian's, our children have had lots of opportunity to participate in a wide range of sporting activities.

This term, the children have shown a real commitment to learning and also helping others. As a school, we see our school as a family where we strive for everyone having the opportunity to flourish.



The children have really enjoyed using their creative talents. They have also learnt a lot on how to stay safe online and enjoyed taking part in a puppet show about bullying!



World Book Day was a great success! There were lots of very exciting activities happening throughout the school. As a school, reading is so important and unlocks so many doors for our learners. Nothing can beat being engrossed in a book that takes you on a fantastic journey or finding out amazing facts about the world around us. As I walked around the school on that day, it was brilliant to see so many children sharing their favourite stories and explaining why they like them so much. Oak Class even got to read on their way to swimming!





St Cecilia's CE Primary School



The Spring Term at St Cecilia's started off with celebrating the 1-year anniversary of our opening on 9th January 2023. The children got to see a montage of photos highlighting all the school's 'firsts', we also decorated cakes, played games and discussed House and Class names that we want to introduce in the near future.

Also, the children worked with Reverend Lamey, contributing their ideas and thoughts, to produce our School Prayer. The School Council then worked together to refine it and we are pleased to share the finished version with you:

Generous God (by the leader)
Thank you (In the language of your choice)
We thank you that we are a family of people where everybody belongs.
We thank you that our school is a place of safety, friendship and learning.
Like Cecilia, help us to be kind and creative.
Like Cecilia, help us to persevere and to stand up for what we believe in.
Help us to encourage each other and build each other up every single day.
Amen.



The start of February saw a visit from Winchester Science Centre's Mobile Planetarium. The children had a wonderful day learning all about space and the planets and listening to different stories. Here are a few comments from the children:

Francesca said, *"We saw some constellations and images that were linked to Greek Mythology. It was brilliant."*

Sakina said, *"It was fabulous! We learnt about the different planets in our solar system and even discovered all the different zones and galaxies. This has really helped us with our science learning."*

Chinese New Year was another reminder to us about how special our school is. A number of children asked if we could do something to mark Chinese New Year and were given the task of producing some ideas. The children did exactly that and put forward their plans, which consisted of children from Year 5 and 6 expertly leading a 90-minute session, teaching the other children all about Chinese New Year and supporting them in completing a range of tasks.



To kick-start our lead up to World Book Day on 7th March, we held our first book fair making a remarkable amount of sales over four days. The day itself was a fantastic occasion and it was lovely to see the children dress in a way that represented themselves in some way. Throughout the day the children completed a range of activities with Year 3 and 4 making dream jars and snozzcumbers, Year 5 making pop up books and Year 6 making guardian angel wings that symbolised the power of transformation and strength within.



Polehampton CE Schools

Another busy term here at the Polehampton schools. Our vision to “let your light shine”, and our values that enable this, continue to be at the heart of everything we do. This term we have been focussing on our values of perseverance and forgiveness. The value leaders at our schools have shared their prayers during our collective workshop and were incredibly honoured and excited to talk about our vision and values at the North Hub Collective Worship. We also shared the books that we use to explore these.



To all at Crazies Hill, Sonning and St Nicholas, thank you for listening and for your kind comments following this.

World Book Day

Like all of us, World Book Day was a huge hit! Our youngest children enjoyed masked reader sessions and listening to their teachers’ favourite books. At the juniors, the librarians shared their favourite books in assembly to inspire other children to read something new. We also looked at well-known book characters and discussed which of our school values they demonstrate. It was a unanimous decision that Harry Potter would fit in at Polehampton seamlessly! Mrs Castell also read ‘A Child of Books’ to every class and everyone created their own version of the page: “This is our world made of stories.”



Our junior librarians shared their new section for our library; feeling strongly that we need a section that gives windows and mirrors into the lives of different families, our new ‘rainbow’ section is underway. Our incredible PTA Cake Sales have raised lots of money this term, which will be spent on new books across both schools. Reading and cakes - a winning combination!



Sporting Events

Lots of sporting events have taken place this term; our children enjoyed “letting their light shine” at Sonning’s Cross Country event – and we were delighted to win! It was a great, albeit muddy, day. We also had success in reaching the semi-finals of the football ‘Spring Cup’ and further success in other cross-country and relay events. After some deliberation, we are looking to expand our sporting prowess into the realms of netball with thanks to our very sporty teaching assistant, Miss Beard.

From sports to DIY, the plans have arrived for the development of our Early Years’ outdoor space and we are all set to go for a much-needed refurbishment! We are so excited to have this vision come to life over the coming months.

The Spring term has also seen Polehampton out and about! Reception have continued to enjoy their Wednesday Forest School - the weather hasn’t always been on their side but this hasn’t dampened their enthusiasm to explore the outdoors. The hot chocolate afterwards always goes down well, both for the children and staff. Year 1 visited the Berkshire Aviation Museum as part of their learning of the history of flight! One of the many joys of Polehampton is the proximity to the train station; so, Year 2 took the train to Reading and visited Reading Museum to enhance their learning about Huntley and Palmer. The infants also had a visit from ‘Feathers and Fur’, to fuel their love of birds. Year 3 have taken part in an Egyptian Craft Day with their parents and Years 4 and 5 had visits from ‘Humph’s Histories’, for their work on the Romans and the Vikings. Humph brought history to life in the school hall and we are always delighted to have him visit. The children get so much from his activities; helping their work as historians. Year 5 also visited Woodrow High House in Amersham for their first residential trip with two nights away from home. They had a fabulous time orienteering, doing wet and muddy team-building activities and, perhaps the biggest challenge, making their own beds!

It’s been another speedy time, which has disappeared in the blink of an eye. This wet and wonderful term has been rounded off with a special Easter service, with both schools, at St Mary’s Church.



We wish everyone in our TKAT family a wonderful Easter.



Crazies Hill CE Primary School



RE Inspired Workshops

This term's RE Inspired workshops focused on The Easter Story and helped the children to deepen their understanding of the events of Holy Week. The children listened to stories, performed drama, engaged in discussions and enjoyed craft activities. The day was ably supported by our governors who had carried out training to prepare them for helping the children to get the most out of their workshop sessions. Some wonderful conversations and insightful thoughts were shared by the children throughout the day.

TKAT North Hub Collective Worship

Our series of North Hub Collective Worship sessions have focused on what our Christian vision and values mean to us as a school family.



At Crazyes Hill CE Primary School, our vision is that 'A tree is known by its fruit, people by their actions.' Matthew 7:20. The 'fruit' are children and adults who have the resilience to weather life's ups and downs, respect for themselves, others and their environment and the ability to build and maintain good working relationships with all so that they can 'be the best that they can be'.



The children that led our collective worship talked about the Bible and values stories that help them to deepen their understanding of our values of Relationships, Resilience and Respect. The prayer leaders from EYFS through to Y6 wrote and shared their prayers. The children were very excited to be able to 'broadcast' from the Head's office to other schools in the Trust and to the rest of our school who had gathered in the school hall.

Reflection Space

Our library area provides the children with a reflection space. This is a soothing and tranquil retreat where children can 'be still' and calmly focus their mind in thought, prayer or meditation. It is a place that can provide opportunities for children to explore their spirituality, to ponder 'big' questions and express feelings, such as gratitude and forgiveness.



This term the theme for the reflective space is holding firm. This links to our resilience value and emerald gem power. Our collective worship theme has explored the importance of perseverance and the positive impact try and try again can have on our lives.

Shakespeare Workshops

Our Key Stage 2 classes enjoyed workshops based on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. They were introduced to the main characters and explored an overview of the story. In small groups, they then had to create a freeze frame for different lines from the play. This showed great imagination and, in some cases, great humour! Finally, small sections of the play were acted out and delivery of the lines was the focus. Great fun was had by all!

TKAT North Hub Cross Country

Thirty of our KS2 pupils joined in a Cross-Country running event hosted by Sonning CE Primary School. Our children enjoyed meeting up with friends who attend other Trust schools through this collaborative event.



World Book Day

We want all children to develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and enjoy the improved life chances this brings them. On World Book Day we came to school dressed as our favourite book character. We invited parents to come and share their favourite stories with our classes.



Crazyes Hill CE Primary School



Comic Relief – Red Nose Day

Our school turned red in support of Red Nose Day 2024. The children learnt that their donations will go towards helping people in the UK and around the world people who are facing the impact of poverty and injustice.

Remenham Class (EYFS)

Our Early Years children have explored the theme of 'Space'. They watched a 'news report' from a nearby school about a friendly alien who landed in their playground. This got the children very excited, so they hunted for a space ship by observing the tracks in the sky; deciding if it is a plane or space ship. From this excitement, the writing that emerged was amazing!

They thought they had spotted the ship in a nearby field, as they observed smoke travelling up in the sky (bonfire), but then found a crashed ship in their garden. The children became police looking for clues and signs of a friendly alien.



As the term has progressed, EYFS have been exploring signs of Spring and why Spring signifies new life. The children went on a hunt for daffodils, blossom, buds, and so much more. They planted some bulbs ready to bloom for Spring. They looked after eggs and were mesmerised as they observed chicks hatching.

Linden Class (Year 1/2)

Linden class have been thinking, acting and writing six stages of the story of Little Red Riding Hood. They focused on exploring a host of rich adjectives along with verbs and adverbs. They also experimented with similes, alliteration and onomatopoeia in preparation for writing their own stories.

In RE the children deepened their understanding of friendship. The web they made demonstrated their connections with one another. They made some fantastic friendship bracelets and were really engaged in being good friends and helping each other succeed in making them.



Ashley Class (Year 3/4)

Yr 3 and 4 children thought about how our school values and the experiences they have when working and playing together nourish them spiritually. They created a tree of dreams to collect and share their thoughts.

The children have been developing their collaborative skills and have concentrated on working well as part of a group. They had time to reflect on each other's roles, as well as their own strengths and weaknesses. This gave way to considering that we can all contribute, using our strengths, when working together.



Bowsey Class (Year 5/6)

Pupils in Yr 5 and 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their DT food tech unit exploring bread. They discussed different types of bread and had a tasting session, during which they had to consider the taste, texture and weight of each type of bread. They learnt how to make a flatbread, practising kneading skills in preparation for future lessons.

The DT unit concluded with a final bake of their own design. It was interesting to see the flavour combinations and the choices made between sweet and savoury. Everyone worked carefully and were all very helpful with the clean up afterwards as well!



As part of their 'Light' science project, the children discussed how reflective surfaces are used in day to day life and how important such surfaces are. They also learnt about how light being reflected enables us to see, as it is the process of light bouncing off a surface. Their investigation work explored recognising which objects were more reflective than others.

Sonning CE Primary School

Our Spring Term has been eventful, with an Ofsted visit at the end of January! We are delighted with the report for our ungraded inspection, a copy of which can be read on the Ofsted website.

Epiphany - January 2024

Our strong links with St. Andrew's Church Sonning continued with Mr Peters visiting the school once more to share his collection of nativity scenes he has collected from around the world. Mr Peters came to explain and celebrate the Christian Feast of Epiphany with our pupils in collective worship. Mr Peters has around 170 Nativity scenes and brought some of them to share with us (including a very special scene from Bethlehem!).



Pupils leading collective worship

Our Collective Worship Leads have grown their involvement in our collective worship, and sit each week to make notes for our whole school capture book. The group also take photos to add to the capture book, as well as recording pupil voice comments.

We also had the Imam from a local Islamic centre visit us to talk about Islam and Ramadan, as well as a dance performance as part of a recent Hindu festival.



Sports events

Sonning CE Primary School organised and hosted a cross country event for the schools within the North Hub in January. It was a real success, with us utilising local contacts, including Berkshire County Sports Club and a local 5k and 10k run organiser, to help us put on the event. This is something we aim to open up to all TKAT schools in the near future.

Giving back

In February, it was our turn to give back to others, by supporting the NSPCC Number Day. Staff and pupils dressed up in number-themed outfits and the pupils engaged in a range of Maths-focused activities.



New members of our school family!

We also recently welcomed two new guinea pigs to our school! Our new school pets have been taken in from a charity who looks after them, and we are delighted to give them a new home!

World Book Day 2024

Our continuing focus on a love of reading was clear throughout our World Book Day events. As well as the traditional World Book Day dressing up and sharing of stories, we also held The Great Sonning Book Swap, where pupils from across the school brought in pre-used books for others to take home. Our Oak class (Year 6) pupils sorted the books and facilitated the book swap, helping recommend texts to pupils and sharing their favourites. It was a great way to generate a buzz around reading, and pupils reported enjoying being able to find recommendations from their peers. We also held our annual Book at Bedtime event for pupils in Key Stage 1, where pupils came back in the evening to snuggle up with hot chocolate and biscuits and be read to by staff and parent volunteers. It was a magical event to end our World Book Day events.



At the time of writing this, we still have our Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church and our annual Easter Hat Parade on the last day of term, so it will be a busy lead up to the end of term. Wishing you all a restful Easter break.



Earley St Peter's CE Primary School

Woodland Garden

This term at Earley St Peter's, pupils, staff and families have been getting very excited following the announcement of our new Woodland Garden, which is due to be installed in the summer term. The new outdoor learning and wellbeing space is a great example of the school's ongoing commitment to Building Strong Foundations for all of our pupils.



The garden will promote wellbeing, increase pupils' access to the natural world, increase biodiversity across our site and provide greater opportunity for outdoor learning. Pupils will be busy after the Easter holidays adding their own spin to the garden design, preparing the space and planting over 40 different varieties of plants and trees.



*Artist's impression of the Woodland Garden

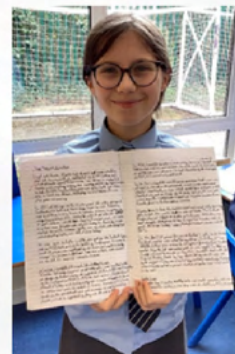
Lots of children are also using their time to consider how we can attract a range of insects and animals to the garden and have built bird boxes and spent their lunchtimes collecting litter.



Meanwhile, across the curriculum, pupils have benefited from a range of other exciting opportunities.

Reception and Nursery pupils thoroughly enjoyed their unit on 'People Who Help Us' and were very fortunate to have had a visit from the police, local firefighters and a pilot! The children really enjoyed the opportunity to go inside the emergency vehicles and to ask the 'people that help us' questions about their roles. At Earley St Peter's we strive to give pupils engaging, first hand experiences as a way of immersing them in the subject specific vocabulary and developing their cultural capital.

In Science, during their unit on forces, Year 5 children investigated 'How does the size of a parachute affect the speed at which it falls?'. They were then asked to consider a hypothesis and design an investigation to support their answer. The children discovered that the larger the parachute, the slower it fell. This was due to a greater surface area and therefore greater air resistance.



In History, Year 6 have been learning about World War II. They have demonstrated their knowledge through rich classroom debates and well-structured pieces of extended writing. Currently, they are adding the final touches to their Winston Churchill biographies.

The learning doesn't end there! Outside of their classroom, pupils have also been very busy.

We strive to develop pupils' awareness of the wider world and how collectively, we can all play a part in making a real difference to the lives of others. This links to our Christian values of Kindness, Service and Respect. One way that we achieve this is through our annual Sponsored Walk where pupils complete laps of the field to raise money for a local charity chosen by our school council and for Comic Relief. It was lovely to see the whole school participating and particularly great to see how our older pupils rallied around the younger children to provide encouragement and support.



We have also thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our new Vicar, Reverend Kate Wakeman-Toogood who started her post at Earley St Peter's Church this term. Kate has been very busy getting stuck into school life, working with our Worship Council and leading collective worship.

A selection of Earley St Peter's pupils also participated in Kate's installation service. Alongside Mr Smith, the children presented Kate with gifts that signified the relationships between the church, the school and the wider community.

We wish you all a wonderful Easter break.



The Coombes CE Primary School

It has been another busy term here at The Coombes. We have had a number of school trips, annual celebrations, parent/carer information events, Eco Day, STEM Week, sporting fixtures and a very successful Careers Day.



Trips

Our Year 2's went to the Living Rainforest. They had great fun learning the basic needs of animals, food chains and different sources of food. They saw lots of animals, such as Cinnamon the Sloth, poison dart frogs, scorpions, monkeys, snakes and lots of birds.



Year 2 also enjoyed learning about how coffee, chocolate and banana plants are grown and farmed.

Year 5 had an amazing time at the Winchester Science Centre learning about the science behind everything on our planet and universe!



The highlight was the planetarium where they explored deep into space looking at the planets and the stars. They took a rocket ship to the edge of the Universe (a good thing they managed to get home on time).

Our Year 3's are very much looking forward to going to Butser Ancient Farm at the end of March.

Annual Celebrations - World Book Day

Our theme this year was dressing as someone inspirational from the world of Science, Geography, History, Art and Technology. Teachers also dressed as someone inspirational linked to a topic that the children are learning about in class. Across the day, they learnt all about the inspirational people by interviewing them and carrying out research through a range of activities. By the end of the day, the children had written a biography of their inspirational person.



We celebrated Red Nose Day by staff and children wearing anything Red/Head to Toe in Red for a donation. We raised a brilliant £262.80!

STEM Week

During our Science Week the children had an exciting visit from some very special guests. Through a range of experiences, the children explored the earliest time periods, how things change and develop over time and how our world will continue to change! We wanted to inspire a love of Science and empower our children to become the innovators, thinkers and problem-solvers of tomorrow!



The photo to the left shows the beginning of our Science Week, a workshop by TeachRex. Over the course of the day, the children were introduced to the dinosaur Jam and his baby, Baby Jam. The children learnt about Jam's fantastic sense of smell and his exceptional skills of being a top predator.

In the afternoon KS2 took part in a green screen workshop which enabled them to immerse themselves in the world of dinosaurs.



The Coombes CE Primary School



Eco Day

Another successful Eco Day, to help prepare the area outside our new Eco Room. With the valued help from our parent volunteers they did an amazing job clearing out the pond, digging and preparing the planting area.

Careers Day

In February, we held our first Careers Day event. It was a huge success and the children took a great interest in hearing about the different careers and occupations our volunteers talked about.

These included:

- Biomedical Scientist
- BA Pilot/Cabin Crew
- Police Officer
- Osteopath
- Sky Sports Live Television Director.



Sports Fixtures

As always it has been a busy term of sporting fixtures. Our football and Cross Country events are the most popular with netball and badminton not far behind. Some of our younger classes have also taken part in a gymnastic skills event at Pinewood Club. We are also proud to say we came 1st, out of 13 other schools, in the KS2 Bowling event provided by Wokingham School Games. Well done Team!

We are looking forward to starting our swimming lessons again after the Easter Holidays with the exciting venture of offering private lessons outside of school hours.



A Very Happy Easter to Everyone at The Keys Academy Trust!



St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst



One highlight from the term was the Year 5 residential trip to Hooke Court in Dorset. From Wednesday 13th March, our Year 5 students embarked on a three-day adventure that was both educational and fun-filled. The trip was designed to extend their current knowledge of the Vikings, and the children had the opportunity to immerse themselves in various Viking-themed activities.

During their time at Hooke Court, Year 5 took part in a traditional Viking wedding, where they witnessed the customs and traditions of this ancient culture. They also had the chance to try their hand at Viking cookery, learning how to prepare and cook meals using traditional methods. Additionally, the children were involved in Viking Longboat making, where they applied their knowledge of Viking shipbuilding techniques. Apart from these Viking-focused activities, Year 5 also engaged in a range of team building exercises. From low ropes challenges to a thrilling night time search and rescue mission, the students worked together to overcome obstacles and develop their teamwork skills. They also had the opportunity to bond over a campfire, sharing stories and enjoying the warmth of friendship. To top it all off, they even had the chance to build and launch their own rockets!



Our Year 5 students truly relished the independence that comes with being away from home, and they were fortunate enough to stay in the historic and prestigious Hooke Court. I would like to extend my gratitude to the staff members who made this trip possible: Miss Smith, Mr Handy, and Mrs Lyne. Their dedication and commitment to providing our students with enriching experiences are truly commendable. Year 5 returned from their trip with a wealth of knowledge, unforgettable memories, and a stronger sense of camaraderie. It is through such experiences that our students grow and develop into well-rounded individuals.



World Book Day was truly a sight to behold, as our children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed was truly remarkable. One of the highlights of the day was seeing a number of our parent community volunteering to read with each of the classes (which we kept a surprise from the children). We hope World Book Day has helped to promote reading further within our school community.

Our sports teams have participated in the Bracknell School Games and achieved success in Sports Hall Athletics, New Age Kurling, Tag Rugby, Hockey and Badminton. Additionally, our Y5/6 football team remain at the top end of the league table with a few fixtures remaining. Another exciting event was that our Y3/4 Girls Football Team took part in the FA's 'Girls can play' campaign with a fixture against Hammond school. They even won a signed book from England star, Leah Williamson. Our Year 6 students also showcased their mathematical talents in the Sandhurst Maths Olympics competition; finishing the event in 1st place! A very impressive achievement – competing against over 20 other schools.



Zimbabwe Day was an enriching and enlightening experience for our children, marking the commencement of a meaningful partnership with our partner school in Zimbabwe. This cultural exchange will provide invaluable learning opportunities, fostering global awareness and understanding among our students. We eagerly anticipate the continuation of this partnership throughout the year and beyond, as it promises to broaden horizons.

Once again, we would like to express my 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 all an enjoyable Easter holiday!

Newsletter

Spring 2024



Thank You from David Horrocks, Chair of the Trustee

On behalf of all the Trustees, thank you once again to everyone in our schools and in the Central Team for all the ways you have served over the last term. It may have been a short term, but it's certainly been a busy one!

A couple of days ago (as I write), I joined the feedback session at the end of a SIAMS inspection in Crazies Hill. Listening to the inspector talking about some of the things she'd seen that day made me realise again what a privilege it is to serve the children in our care, their families, and our wider communities too.

Schools can't solve all of society's problems, no matter how much some may think they can. But we should never underestimate the impact of an excellent education and pastoral care, especially when it is delivered in the context of strong values. We get to see so many lives (young and old) being changed for the better, in so many different ways.

And, of course, it's such a privilege to do this together. Being part of a Multi-Academy trust gives us many opportunities for collaboration. Education is a challenging sector at the moment, for lots of reasons and in all sorts of ways. But, while it may be a cliché, more and more we're seeing that we really are stronger together. I'm struck by how often that theme is highlighted in inspections too. It's very encouraging to hear of staff saying how much they value the support of colleagues in other schools across the trust as well as their own. And it's good to hear staff and governors saying they appreciate how they're being valued by others too.

So thank you for being part of this. We hope you have a very Happy Easter and a refreshing break before we go again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Horrocks".

David Horrocks
Chair of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hester G. Wooller".

Hester Wooller
CEO

