

As another academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your commitment, dedication and hard work in serving our school communities.

News from the Central Team

On 1 June we were delighted to welcome Uplands Primary School and Nursery to TKAT. They are our twelfth school to join. In an assembly, Hester Wooller presented the children with a TKAT plaque, which has pride of place in their school. The initial on-boarding process has gone very smoothly and Uplands already feels very much a part of the TKAT family.



We will be sad to see Ruth Deacon step away from the school. We would like to thank Ruth for her determination to successfully onboard Uplands into TKAT and greatly assist with the handover process. Please do keep in touch!

We look forward to welcoming Lee Parsons, as their new Headteacher from September. Lee has many years of experience as a Headteacher and also an Executive Headteacher within GLF, so brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to the team.

It has been another busy term for inspections! Polehampton Infants were our second school to receive a very positive report outcome under the new SIAMS inspection framework. We are eagerly awaiting the results of Sonning's very recent SIAMS inspection too. Ofsted have also completed a section 5 inspection at The Coombes. We are very pleased to confirm that they have made progress against all areas for development from their last inspection. The whole team have worked tirelessly over the last 18 months and should be commended for their efforts. The collaboration and support that you have all shown to each of the schools during their inspections has been wonderful. It is at times like that when you can see that we are all one large school family - striving for the best outcomes for all of our pupils.

We would like to wish Martin Gater, Headteacher at St Sebastian's, the best of luck, as he embarks on new a venture. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing him all the very best for the future. We are looking forward to Sarah Cohen joining as Head of School from September. We look forward to seeing their premises redevelopment come to fruition.

St. Cecilia's continues to grow from strength to strength. We wish them every success for September, as they open their Nursery and Reception classes.

As TKAT continues to grow, we have sourced a new venue for our INSET day on 3 September. We will be welcoming all of our teachers to the University of Reading for training in the implementation of Sonar in all of our schools.

Forest Learning Alliance

The Forest Learning Alliance has joined TKAT. We are excited about the opportunities this partnership brings, particularly in enhancing our ability to deliver high-quality CPD. This integration enables us to access additional resources and expertise, ensuring that our staff have the best possible training and support. We are committed to engaging with research and evidence-informed practice to continually improve our teachers and support staff, ultimately benefiting our pupils.

Support Staff Pay Increase

In May 2024 the National Employers shared a full and final one year offer for all NJC support staff of an increase of £1,290 (pro rata for part-time employees) to be paid as a consolidated, permanent addition on all NJC pay points 2 to 43 inclusive. Whilst this has not been agreed with the support staff unions (Unison, GMB and Unite), the Trustees of The Keys Academy Trust have agreed to pay this increase in August 2024 payroll and back date it to 1 April 2024, so that our staff can receive the pay increase without waiting until the final offer being agreed by the Unions. Of course, if the final agreed amount is higher than £1,290 staff will be paid the pro rata difference.

Chief Operations Officer

We are delighted to let you know that Amanda Snow has been appointed as Chief Operations Officer (0.6) at The Keys Academy Trust. Amanda will take up this role in September 2024 and brings with her a wealth of experience and skills.

This does however mean that she will no longer continue in her role as Operations Manager at St Sebastian's and Earley St Peter's. From September another of our experienced Operation Managers, Joanna Hardy based at The Coombes, will step in as the Operations Manager in St Sebastian's to support with the planned premises developments in the school. At Earley St Peter's, they have begun recruitment for an Operations Manager and Amanda will support the process and ensure a good handover to the new member of the ESP team.

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Amanda and Joanna and wish them both well in their new roles.



TKAT Staff Survey Results

Thank you very much to all of you that took time to complete our annual TKAT Staff Survey. We appreciate every one of the comments and suggestions made. A great deal of time and effort has been put into analysing the results, both at a trust and individual school level. Our Finance, Pay and Personnel Committee has also reviewed the results. We have listened to what you have asked for and you will be seeing changes in the Strategic Plan as a direct result of this survey.

1. Work instantly began on ensuring that all staff know who to contact regarding allegations. This was brought up in the TKAT Leaders and DSLs Network meeting on 20 June.
2. We will develop a Communications Strategy to include sharing trust news and changes centrally, so as not to rely upon Heads and Admin teams.
3. We will continue to develop a People Strategy which will clarify career development opportunities, strengthen our staff appraisal mechanisms, promote staff recognition, wellbeing and workload.
4. Consider different survey formats - purely seek data from a trust level, whilst relying upon schools to share their local level data from their staff surveys.

Below are a selection of some of the lovely comments you shared:

"The TKAT Leadership team have always been a strong support to me whilst giving me autonomy to implement what I feel is right for the school. I feel comfortable in trying things and making mistakes as I know there will be no judgement."

"Couldn't ask for a friendlier and more supportive team."

"TKAT Leaders (especially Hester and Alex) have been incredibly supportive and many of us are unsure how we would have managed through recent years without their support."

"The trust has been invaluable to us and their support, especially surrounding times of OFSTED and SIAMs, has been amazing! There is that real family feel and camaraderie when it matters, which makes all the difference."

"I think we are an excellent Trust and team, and I am very proud to work as part of TKAT. The Central Team are excellent and provide great support, and I feel valued in my role."

"I have always found SLT to be very approachable and supportive. They do their best to find solutions to challenges."

"Headteacher is extremely supportive who cares for the well-being of all staff."

TKAT celebrations for Christian Aid Week

To mark Christian Aid Week (12 - 18 May 2024), all of the schools in The Keys Academy Trust came together to support the charity and raise funds for a good cause.

Two school council/parliament reps from each school visited St. Cecilia's on Friday 3 May. They met with Peter Barret who is part of Christian Aid Wokingham. Peter spoke about what the organisation does to support people around the world who may be homeless or hungry. Our school council reps then discussed ideas about how TKAT can support Christian Aid Week, before taking their ideas back to their school.

Donation envelopes and an online fundraising platform were created, for families wishing to support this cause.

Below are some of the additional ways we celebrated Christian Aid Week and helped to raise money:

Earley St Peter's school council led an assembly as part of our weekly theme of Kindness, which is also one of our school values. The children spoke about the work Christian Aid do as a charity to provide those less fortunate with the skills and equipment to better their own lives. We then linked that to our own Values of Service and discussed the things that we can do to help others.



Sonning focused their class collective worship on Christian Aid to help children understand the impact we have on this. They held buckets on the gates for donations (pupil-organised) and did activities in class to learn more about the work of Christian Aid.

Crazies Hill children enjoyed wearing their 'crazie' sock combinations to school.

St. Cecilia's held a non-uniform day and had a games room using games that Year 6 children had made. This included soak the Headteacher - Mr Thomas!

St Sebastian's also held a non-uniform day.

Alder Grove organised a coffee morning for parents.



We were delighted to recently discover how much we raised, when Anthony Bates, Christian Aid Week Treasurer wrote to us: *"We are delighted to inform you that your combined efforts have raised an impressive **£1,412.25**. The generosity and compassion shown by your students, staff, and the entire school community are truly inspiring. Your commitment to helping those in need embodies the spirit of Christian Aid and brings hope to countless individuals. Once again, thank you for your outstanding support. Please extend our gratitude to everyone involved in the fundraising efforts."*

This was a great success and we are looking forward to more collaborative fundraising next year.



Uplands Primary School and Nursery

It has been a very busy term for the children and staff at Uplands. Our children have taken part in a number of school trips, assemblies, sporting fixtures, performances and community events and we are proud of all that they have achieved.



Trips and Visitors

Throughout the Summer term, the children at Uplands have enjoyed a range of trips and external visitors. We began the term with the whole school being treated to a visit from Miller's Ark, where we were able to get up close to a range of farm animals to stroke them and learn about them.

Year 1 were very fortunate to have Rabbi Zvi visit and talk about the Jewish religion, synagogues, and Shabbat.

The children were highly engaged and enjoyed learning about the customs and traditions of the Jewish faith. They tasted challah bread and grape juice and dressed in kippot and tallitot.

After much anticipation, Year 6 went on their residential trip to Barton Hall in Torquay, where they experienced a range of activities such as abseiling, climbing, zip wiring, a sensory trail and problem-solving tasks. It was reported that the highlight of the trip was seeing the children step out of their comfort zones to challenge themselves, and the positive feedback we received from all group leaders.

Our Year 5 pupils embarked on a residential trip to Magdalen Farm, where they were able to get closer to nature, and they gained a deeper insight into organic farming and developed their team work skills.



Over the three days, the children learnt about the differences in caged, free-range and organic eggs. They spent time looking after the farm animals; feeding the chickens breakfast, gathering and sorting freshly laid eggs and feeding the pigs and goats. They also had the opportunity to taste fresh produce grown on the farm and helped to water the many allotments there. When not involved with the farming, the children built dens in the beautiful woodland area and learnt how to light a fire using a flint and steel.

Our Reception class enjoyed a visit to Bockett's Farm. Some of the day's highlights were a tractor ride around the farm, feeding the sheep, cows, and goats, seeing the seven baby piglets, petting the small animals and watching the pig race. The final trip of this academic year was had by our Year 1 class, who visited the Living Rainforest. During the day, the children had the opportunity to see over 800 species of tropical rainforest plants and animals, including free-ranging birds, small reptiles, and a two-toed sloth.

Sporting Events

Uplands has taken part in many sporting events this year and all children in KS2 have had the opportunity to represent our school at least one of these events. We have also taken part in many non-competitive events such as cricket skills, bouldering, triathlon, bocchia, multi-skills events and new age kurling!

This term, the children from Uplands have had many successes at the events they have taken part in, achieving 2nd place at the Track and Field Athletics event and at the Tri-golf event. Well done to all who took part.

The whole school took part in our sports day this year and it was wonderful to see the children enjoy themselves and support their peers as they took part in running races, long jump, javelin and goal scoring.





Uplands Primary School and Nursery



Across the curriculum

Despite the busy term we have had, the children have continued to learn both inside the classroom and out. Year 2 have been observing the lifecycle of a butterfly as part of their Science topic and were in awe when they released them into the wild. As part of a writing unit, Year 6 immersed themselves in writing prequels to a short film. Learning about the Vikings has been a highlight for our Year 4 class, in particular designing and building their own longboats out of recycling. After writing very persuasive letters, Year 1 welcomed their class pet snake – Luca.



Year 3 and 4 welcomed parents and carers to their topic afternoon, where we were amazed by the excellent standards of the projects that the children completed for this.

We want to thank you for welcoming us so warmly to The Keys Academy Trust this term and we wish you all a wonderful summer break.

Alder Grove CE Primary School



We held our third annual PCSA Quiz Night at the start of this term. The evening was a huge success raising well over £2000! Money raised from the night helped pay towards our new Key Stage 2 Adventure Playground, which the children have all been thoroughly enjoying.



In Nursery our topic was 'Splish Splash Splosh', learning about things that live in the sea and exploring water. One of our favourite texts was 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' where we enjoyed making a rowing boat and dressing up as characters from the story. The boat capsizing was our favourite part of the story! We looked at information books to find out about rockpools and watched short video clips to see the living things that can be found in rockpools. In small groups we created a rockpool in a large tray outside and enjoyed exploring in and seeing what we could catch in our nets.

Reception visited Gray's Farm. The children had a brilliant day exploring and learning all about the different crops that were growing. We saw lots of innovative ways the farmers used to water the crops and even saw four different types of tractors, which the children were very excited by! The children all showed brilliant perseverance to pick broad beans, potatoes, strawberries and rhubarb, which was quite tricky and they had the courage to try new foods including rhubarb, which we cooked in school.



Year 1 have been learning about the differences between coastal cities and towns in Geography. They have also been exploring a non-fiction book "Big Book of Blooms" and creating non-chronological reports linked to their science topics "all about plants". In Maths they have been investigating money and time. They have also enjoyed PE lessons with Miss Tripp!

In Maths Year 2 have been exploring mass and capacity, using balance scales to explore the mass of different items. Year 2 had a wonderful trip to Southampton to visit the Titanic museum where they were immersed in hands on activities, such as looking at artefacts as well as exploring the museum. In

English, we have been looking at formal letters and we will be writing a letter to Sea City to say thank you for the trip.

Year 3 have enjoyed taking part in an Ancient Egyptian Day where they were able to come to school dressed up as Egyptians and experience what life would have been like during this time in history by wearing VR headsets. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to consolidate their learning in an interactive way and was enjoyed by all.

During our annual Sports & Arts Week the children had some wonderful opportunities to try a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports, from Gymnastics, Archery, Fencing, Goalball and Wheelchair Rugby which was a huge hit for our Year 3s and staff after school. The week culminated with Sports Day, where all the children put in an outstanding amount of effort and showed great sportsmanship. Families were also able to enjoy a picnic on the field.

We also hosted our Stay & Play sessions for our new Nursery starters and transition mornings for our new Reception children. The rest of the school had their transition mornings where there was a buzz of excitement in every class as they engaged with their new teachers in their new classrooms.

Our Summer Fayre organised again by our amazing PCSA team was another huge success. Fun was had by all and we can not wait to do it all again next year.

We look forward to welcoming all of our current, and new pupils back in September. Everyone here at Alder Grove wishes you all a lovely summer break.



St Nicholas CE Primary School



At the start of term our School Council did an amazing job organising the fun run at Dinton Pastures Junior Parkrun, raising over £1000 for the First Days Charity! It is fantastic to see our children getting involved in such a fun and active way to support such a worthy cause. We hope that the children continue to participate in Junior Parkrun.



At the end of our "Speak out Stay Safe" event, we welcomed a volunteer team from NSPCC who delivered workshops to the children on keeping safe online and having courage to make sure they speak out if they feel unsafe or are worried about a friend. A really important message to all our children and one we continue to teach throughout our PSHE curriculum. Empowering young people and giving them the confidence to have a voice and be heard is an essential life skill.



At St Nicholas, we have included cycling as part of our PE curriculum for many years. It is an essential life skill, which all the children require. Starting with the foundations of learning to ride safely, before navigating roads as they move on to secondary school.

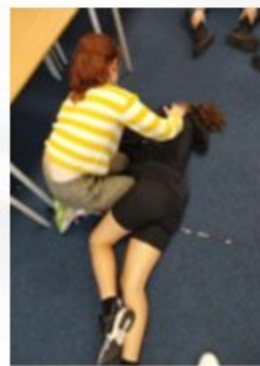
The children in Sandstone and Quartz classes have enjoyed their cycling lessons, learning how to handle their bikes over a variety of different obstacles!

Year 6 have taken on the next stage of learning the necessary skills awareness when cycling on the roads, most of whom have completed level 3 Bikeability.



In Design and Technology, Sandstone and Quartz have been making torches out of recycled materials. They even made switches so that the torches could turn on and off, although no-one wanted to turn them off!

As part of their transition ready for secondary school, the children in Year 6 completed their Junior First Aid training. They learnt skills on how to respond with confidence in an emergency, whether basic first aid or CPR.



We were also delighted to be joined by our past pupils who moved onto The Piggott School, now in Year 7. Marble class were able to ask questions about moving on to secondary school. The children enjoyed visiting their old teachers and classes. Before leaving, they all spent 5 minutes to listen to their old 'buddies' read. We felt very proud to see how the children from St Nicholas had grown, not only in height, but in confidence and continuing to love their learning journey.

Our Year 6 children once again did us proud with their positive attitude towards their end of year assessments, taking them in their stride. A credit to the school and their families. Each day, the children gathered together to have breakfast, ready to start their day.



St Nicholas CE Primary School



Our Year 6 children embarked on an unforgettable adventure at PGL Liddington, from conquering the big swing to scaling climbing walls, our young adventurers showed incredible courage and determination.



They also put their teamwork skills to the test with buggy building, made a splash kayaking, and soared through the air on zip wires. We were incredibly proud of the kindness shown and encouragement when taking part in the activities.

Our Year 4 children had an incredible time at Sayers Croft! They embraced exciting activities like stream walking, navigating a blind trail, and building shelters. The zip line and climbing wall were big hits too. Even an unexpected late-night fire alarm could not dampen their spirits! It is wonderful to see our children creating lasting memories.



We had a visit from The Dogs Trust who came into school to speak to the children about being respectful and safe around dogs, as well as understanding doggy language. Dexie, our school dog, definitely gave a paw up to this one!



Four Year 5 children attended the Mathematics Challenge at The Piggott School. The mathematicians participated in different mathematical tasks, gaining points as they went along. Work was done in pairs or as a group and at each station, children were solving a variety of puzzles and quizzes. We were extremely proud of our Year 5 children who came 3rd in the event!

We have held a number of Maths based workshops in school for parents/carers run by Wokingham Borough Council, which have proved popular, covering topics such as learn through lego, times tables and telling the time. We look forward to hosting more in the new school year on supporting sensory.

ABC to read are a local charity who aim to recruit, train and support volunteers to work with children in primary schools across Berkshire and we are one of the lucky schools who has our very own ABC to read volunteer, Steve. We love seeing Steve twice a week who reads with several of our children regularly. ABC to read were nominated as one of our Children's Charities of the year by our School Council.



Year 6 baked cakes as a thank you to the helpers and volunteers who come into school. The PTA, Governors, Gospel Hall and Church Clergy, and our parent/carer helpers were invited to join us. We were able to sit outside in the sunshine whilst the children served tea and cake and listened to some of the children playing the piano.

Hurst Show and Country Fayre - What a fantastic time we had! Our children shone brightly with their performances - from the Year 6 Maypole Dancing to the Country Line Dancing by Years 3, 4, and 5, and the delightful singing from our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children. The PTA stall was a hub of excitement with toy and bottle tombolas, hook a duck, and Olympics raffle. The glorious weather was the cherry on top of a wonderful day.

The children finished the year with a superb performance of The Wizard of Oz, directing most of the performance themselves. The children worked hard to learn lines and perform songs. Thank you to the staff who made costumes and props to support the performances.





St Sebastian's CE Primary School



The Summer term started off with lots of exciting events. We were visited by the recycling team from Wokingham Borough Council and they did a very informative assembly on how we can look after the environment and the importance of recycling. On 23 April, our staff and children fully embraced St. George's Day and the children were treated to a performance by some of our talented staff. In keeping with tradition, we also had children in their brownies and beavers uniforms.

At the end of April, our Year 6 children went on their residential to Ufton Court. They had a great time and really engaged with all the challenges that it had to offer (including the bad weather). There were lots of exciting activities that



required great communication skills, teamwork and determination. It looks like they had a very fun time and created lots of lovely memories.

The children in KS2 really benefit from our excellent relationship with Wellington College. On numerous occasions, our children have been given the opportunity to use their wonderful facilities that Wellington College has to offer. They even gave us a golf teacher for a term to work with one of our classes. Moving forward, I know that lots of exciting events are being planned for 24-25!



In June, children from Years 4 and 6 went to Hampton Court as part of their history topic of the Tudors! The children had a great time and learnt a lot about Henry VIII and his wives.

Our children have had the opportunity to represent the school in many sporting events. They have all been great ambassadors for the school and shown excellent teamwork too.



As part of their end of year celebrations, Year 6 enjoyed going to Oakwood and Horseshoe Lake. Both events were very popular with the children and they all showed lots of resilience, determination and teamwork.



At the end of June, we held our Sports' Day. It was a magnificent event and it was great to see so many parents cheering on the children. We also had lovely weather too, which definitely helps.

As we end the year, it is wonderful to reflect on how our children have flourished over the year. They have risen to every challenge and we are proud of them all.



Finally, we wish everyone in the TKAT family a lovely summer!

St Cecilia's CE Primary School



The Summer term at St Cecilia's has been a busy one. Our Year 3 and Year 4 children visited Ufton Court where they brought their learning about the Egyptians to life. The children had an amazing time with many of them saying how much they enjoyed the mummification part! We were immensely proud to have the staff at Ufton Court mention that the behaviour and efforts of the children during the day were exemplary.



Year 5 have taken part in swimming lessons and we have been impressed with how the children have improved during their course. Our children demonstrated exceptional kindness and support for each other during the lessons but also by helping their friends improve when going swimming together out of school.



Following their SATs, it was time for Year 6s residential trip to PGL in Liddington. This was the first residential our school have done and the children had a fantastic time taking part in the vertical challenge, giant swing, raft building, archery and zip line just to name a few. The children had a wonderful time and showed high levels of independence and responsibility the whole time. Throughout the week, the instructors commented on the children's behaviour and good manners. We are all incredibly proud of them as, for many, they were really pushed to their limits and forced to overcome fears!



Our Sports Day took place on one of the few sunny days where the children competed in a range of activities to try and win the cup for their team. The children all participated in the right spirit and even though there was a competitive edge, everyone had fun, which is the main aim of sports day.

Our Summer Fayre took place in June and we were, once again, lucky with the weather being kind. It was lovely to see all our families coming together for an afternoon of fun and laughter. A number of our new families commented on what a fabulous event it was and what a welcoming community that we have.



We had a visitor from the Department for Education (DfE) Catherine Turton, Team Leader for Buckinghamshire, Wokingham and Milton Keynes. Whilst here, Catherine had an opportunity to tour the school and see the children in action and she was also treated to a singing session led by Mrs Clarke. The visit was extremely positive and Catherine spoke very highly of the culture and ethos that we have all created, particularly the children!



Since making the announcement of our Nursery and Reception classes opening in September, we have held parent information meetings and the children's transition sessions. It has been lovely to welcome the younger children into school and seeing them make use of all the new resources and equipment.

We are really looking forward to them all joining us in September.

Polehampton CE Schools



We are so proud of how our children and staff have "let their light shine" this year. This term, SIAMS inspected the Infant School and saw this in abundance:



"The school's Christian vision determines and shapes the rich learning experiences that leaders provide. This supports pupils to 'let their light shine', thus embracing life in all its fullness."

Outdoor and offsite learning plays a key role in our schools, particularly so in the (sometimes sunny) summer term! Our Foundation Stage children visited Woolley Firs. Year 1 visited Beale Park and Year 2 visited The Living Rainforest. Our infants are super keen about animals and wildlife, which feeds directly into the popular work of our busy planet protectors.



Our junior school children visited The RHS Hampton Palace Garden Festival. The children were so proud to display their circus-themed bug barrel. It was a great day out: learning about bees, participating in forest school activities and meeting Brian May!



Year 6 enjoyed their residential to Liddington; fortunately, Wiltshire missed some of the torrential rain Berkshire experienced and the children thrived in the outdoor activities. This is the first time Polehampton have visited this residential centre and they had a wonderful time. St Cecelia's were also there - #TeamTKAT!

Polehampton Day, in June, remains one of the most special days in the Polehampton calendar. A day to come together, as a whole school community, to remember the life of Captain Edward Polehampton. Both schools enjoyed their procession around King George's field, imagining what it must have been like for Edward to make the journey from Twyford to London. Year 1 and Year 4 children treated us to some fantastic dancing before our huge family picnic.



Year 5 then performed the historic Polehampton play. The stage presence and seamless stage management from our Year 5 children was exceptional!



We are delighted to share that Polehampton won Wokingham's District Sports intercepting St Paul's winning streak of many, many years. A huge well done to all who participated; more silverware to keep clean!

Polehampton's Got Talent, had nine acts make it through the heats and into the final. Our School Council organised this event with the purpose of providing the children with an opportunity to 'showcase their lights in different ways'. We saw magic acts, dance, gymnastics, drums and stand up!



As is the way at this time of year, we finish with a mix of both joy and sadness. Sad that some of our children are leaving us for secondary school but happy to welcome new children into our community. Our hope remains that all Polehampton children "let their light shine" wherever they are.

We hope everyone has a truly lovely summer, and a restful break, before the new academic year commences. We wish those moving on to pastures new, all the very best.



Crazies Hill CE Primary School



Wargrave Festival

The theme for Wargrave Festival this year was Gold Fever, celebrating 50 years of festivals. The children enjoyed attending schools' events that included listening to authors talk about their inspirations for writing. Several families joined staff in the walking parade to represent the school. It was great to be able to take part and promote our wonderful school in the local community. The sun shone and a piper band serenaded us.

RE Inspired

Julia and Carrie from RE Inspired, and our governors, worked with each class in turn to explore the story of The Creation. The children were very reflective as they pondered, discussed and deepened their understanding



of stewardship. They thought about the important part they play in sustaining our planet and its resources for future generations. This work linked to our Respect value and Sapphire gem power which encourages our children to care for others, our environment and God's creatures.



Amazing Community

Our EYFS children said a huge thank you to all the parents that brought in bits and bobs for their bug hotel. They were overwhelmed with the response and support they got. Once again, it highlighted the amazing community we have at our school. Our youngest children got so much valuable learning from the building experience and are really enjoying monitoring the bugs who have moved into their new home!

Football Tournaments

Throughout the year all children from Year 1-6 have had the opportunity to play in football tournaments. This term, Year 1, 4, 5 and Year 6 have represented the school in various football tournaments. The children have felt quite professional as they have talked strategy and been guided by one of our parents who is a rather expert football coach!

Sports Day

What a great afternoon we had! The children were brilliant and their values gem powers certainly shone as they competed, supported each other and had great fun together! Parents, families and friends came along to cheer and support. Well done to the Yellow Team who were awarded the House Cup for excellent team work and congratulations to Red Team who were our overall winners of Sports Day.



Remenham Class (EYFS)

The children in EYFS have developed fabulous writing about the Earth. They wrote about a dream from the perspective of an endangered animal. They also created posters about the correct way to recycle, and what a fish would say about plastic in the ocean.



The children have planted some carrots, salad leaves, and tomatoes. They enjoyed showing their cress heads.

They have been playing lots of 'adding on a 10 frame' games in the sunshine. The children were adding their points on a ten frame and then seeing 'how many', 'how many 5s', 'how many not full 5s' (without counting). They loved the bean bag toss and skittles games.

Crazies Hill CE Primary School



Our EYFS had a brilliant day at a farm! They went through gates, crossed a stile and waded through muddy areas to get to the farm near school. We went on a big long walk, which was super enjoyable. We had to navigate the kissing stile, and muddy areas to get to the farm near school.

They were able to feed the chickens and even saw one of the hens lay an egg. The children were really lucky to be able to collect the eggs.



Linden Class (Year 1/2)

Linden class have become skilled with gathering and preparing all the information they need to write their independent non-chronological report on BIG CATS.

They thoroughly enjoyed junk modelling inspired by their castles project and were very proud of their collaborations.



Our Year 1 and 2 children took part in a WWI Workshop with Historic Workshops. The children heard stories about life during WWI as a soldier and how men and women were treated during the war. The children made their own recruitment poster to enlist people to the Army. They were taught how to wrap up wounds or sling a broken arm. They also made biscuits that were very popular back in the 1900s. They saw a stretcher that was used during WWI and they even had the chance to look at some memorabilia!

Linden children also visited the Alpaca farm behind the school and met the chickens as well. The children thoroughly enjoyed the great outdoors for the morning.

Ashley Class (Year 3/4)

Ashley Class enjoyed a trip to Upton Court. The day was spent learning about Roman life; carding to make yarn from sheep wool, making sparks with flint and steel as well as wattle to make a wall. The children also had fun learning about battles and different defence strategies.

Work on the Romans has continued as the children have learnt about The Battle of Actium, Mark Antony and Octavian.

Our Year 3 and 4 children carried out a mini-project about D-Day. The children shared their thoughts: *"I think D-Day was a very special day! If you think about it, lots of people lost their lives for us. If they had not, the world would not be as it is today. I think it is important to think about it."* - Sienna



Bowsey Class (Year 5/6)

The children enjoyed their art project - Still Life Fruit Tiles. They painted their tiles in acrylic in order to enhance the detail that they had created with the clay. They worked hard on our colour matching and carefully considered how the different colours worked together to create a cohesive tile.

Bowsey had a visit from the Maidenhead Fire and Rescue Service to learn about Fire Safety and the role that they play. It was a fantastic session and everyone learnt a lot as well as had fun.

Year 5 and 6 took part in a WWII themed day. When the children arrived at school they were given their placards (and WWII names!) and registered their national identity cards. Just like in the war, the children had to keep these with them at all times because you never knew when you might be checked by an official. They were then able to explore some different memorabilia and replicas of WWII items, including some gas masks, army cap/helmet, newspapers, a real WWII compass and a clicker. The children really enjoyed being able to interact with the items and try to work out what some of the more mysterious items were.

Sonning CE Primary School



What a summer term at Sonning! We enjoyed sharing what makes our school special with our SIAMS inspector, as well as enjoying lots of school events and strategic planning for the next academic year.



Spirituality Day

We held an exciting spirituality day. A planetarium visited us to run mindfulness sessions for staff and children, as well as allowing classes to ask big questions about the world. We also participated in a number of different activities linked with spirituality, including producing artwork to depict how we felt about ourselves and gardening in our courtyard, which we use for reflection. The day helped us shape our views on spirituality as well as hearing from others on what spirituality meant to them, including local faith leaders.

Science Day – Eureka!

Our friends at Reading Blue Coat School came and supported our annual Science Day by running an introduction assembly and workshops throughout the day. Our Year 5 and 6 children even got to visit RBCS to use their labs for workshop experiments. This whole-school event was so engaging for the children and really sparked our school value of curiosity.



Sonning Scarecrow Trail, Sonning Regatta and D-Day event



Our community in Sonning is something very special, and the last few months have seen a number of community events. First, the Sonning Scarecrow Trail saw people across Sonning design and display innovative scarecrows. At Sonning Primary, we developed a tableau with our partners at Signature At Caversham care home, and designed a scene depicting a resident and carer working with children from Sonning Primary to design mini scarecrows! Our growing partnership with Signature At Caversham is a huge success, with some of our children attending a weekly club at the care home (set up by us and Signature At Caversham) where the pupils engage in arts and crafts activities with the residents.

Sonning Regatta was held in June, seeing many of our children enter the races. This was a huge success, and it was lovely to see our children developing their team work on the water.



Finally, a special D-Day event was held in Sonning, in which two of our children read a D-Day poem for all those who attended. As always, we continue to promote our community action and engagement from children, and this was an excellent way to show our support for the village of Sonning.



Our thanks to all the TKAT senior leaders and central team for another fantastic year – we have achieved so much.

Wishing everyone a restful break.



Earley St Peter's CE Primary School

Enchanted Garden Exploration

The children at Earley St Peter's CE Primary School have been enthusiastically engaging with the newly completed Enchanted Garden. A green haven that has become a focal point for various educational activities across different year groups. Over the past few weeks, Key Stage 1 have been utilising the garden to enhance their English curriculum

and as a calming space to complete Space Makers which is a guided practice that enables pupils to develop their spiritual awareness. Year 3 and Year 4 children have also embraced outdoor learning in the garden, exploring the school values displayed in each plant bed and appreciating the diverse plant life. Year 5 have enjoyed the garden's tranquillity, discovering various insects, including building

homes for stag beetles. This immersive experience not only brought academic subjects to life but also fostered a deeper connection with nature.



Engaging Learning Opportunities

Nursery children embarked on a thrilling adventure with their dinosaur-themed activities, which included exploring slimy swamps, excavating dinosaurs from frozen eggs, and creating dinosaur skeleton collages. These imaginative activities were complemented by outdoor play and practical skills development to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Key Stage 1 delved into the world of science by learning about Sir Isaac Newton and gravity, conducting experiments to observe how different objects fall. Year 3 explored mathematical concepts through the study of lines, identifying parallel, horizontal, and perpendicular lines. Year 5 prepared for the St Peter's Day Service,

learning their parts and songs, while Year 6 engaged in creative projects like designing Mayan masks and planning theme parks, culminating in a reflective visit to the Enchanted Garden. These diverse and dynamic learning experiences highlight the school's commitment to fostering both academic excellence and personal growth in a vibrant and supportive environment.

Enriching Excursions and Extracurricular Achievements

Key Stage 1 children enjoyed an enriching trip to Marwell Zoo, where they observed a wide range of animals, enhancing their understanding of wildlife and biodiversity. The trip provided a unique opportunity for children to see animals such as penguins, reptiles, zebras, and rhinos up close, sparking their curiosity and fostering a deeper appreciation for wildlife conservation. Interactive sessions with zoo educators allowed the children to learn about animal habitats, diets, and behaviours, making connections between their classroom studies and real-world wildlife. This hands-on experience was instrumental in helping children understand the importance of biodiversity and the role of zoos in conservation efforts. Meanwhile, back at school, Year 5 delved into detailed studies of the causes and effects of earthquakes. They demonstrated critical thinking by creating emergency earthquake kits and discussing essential supplies for disaster recovery.





Earley St Peter's CE Primary School

Year 6 Residential to Rhos y Gwaliau

The Year 6 trip to Rhos y Gwaliau was a remarkable experience for the children of Earley St Peter's CE Primary School, offering a blend of adventure, responsibility, and learning. Throughout the week, children engaged in a variety of activities designed to promote independence and teamwork. Each morning, they completed assigned duties to maintain the cleanliness of the centre, showcasing their maturity and enthusiasm.

The diverse range of activities kept the children engaged and excited. Groups enjoyed kayaking across Lake Bala and gorge walking, which involved climbing up river beds and jumping into the water.

They also tackled rock climbing and the Via Ferrata, a challenging high-wire course secured to rocks along a riverbed. These adventures provided not only physical challenges but also opportunities for personal growth and peer support.

Activities also included rock climbing and mining to explore an abandoned slate mine, climbing up a waterfall, and rowing across an underground lagoon. The week was filled with memorable experiences that have fostered both personal and academic growth, highlighting the school's commitment to providing diverse and dynamic learning opportunities.

We wish everyone a relaxing summer break.



The Coombes CE Primary School

The Summer term has been another fantastic term at The Coombes! The children have enjoyed a range of learning opportunities, school trips and sports events. We have had a range of visitors linked to our PSHE curriculum to develop useful and valuable life lessons for all the children.



School Trips

Our EYFS classes, Apple and Cherry, went to Beale Park. The children saw gigantic tortoises, tapirs, zebras, crocodiles, monkeys and meerkats to name but a few. During the talk on African animals, the children had hands on experience of animal furs, snakeskin, tusks and tortoise eggshells. They even held mealworms (baby beetles) and touched a live snake! They went on a train ride, had a picnic and played in the park. It was a very busy, but fun day.



Sports News and Achievements

We have had some exciting news for a few children at The Coombes with huge sporting achievements.

Poppy and Nana from Year 4 both played in their trophy final football match for the Supernovas U10s and the girls won! We are so very proud of their determination, perseverance and team work!

The Coombes Head Boy Vinny (Year 6) attended the U11 National Cup final in May for Wokingham District Football team. It was Wokingham vs Liverpool at Stoke City Football Club, bet365 stadium.

The match was broadcast live, with commentary, replays and graphics on ESFA TV. After Wokingham took the lead twice, Liverpool took the win on penalties. Unfortunately, not the win Wokingham District wanted but a great experience, playing in the final of the biggest game for U11s football.

We supported Vinny with pre-match videos of good luck and well wishes. Well done Vinny!



PSHE Assemblies

We were delighted to welcome the team from Nationwide Building Society's Central Reading branch. Nationwide have kindly agreed to support our new Financial Education initiative by enabling their

staff to spend time in every class (Years 1-6) in The Coombes this term and over the next academic year. Our three Year 6 classes enjoyed workshops where they learnt about saving for the future, how to spot banking scams and general good financial management.

We have also had the following agencies in for assemblies on:

- Police - Knife crime, County Lines and Internet Safety - Year 6
- First Aid - Year 5
- Waterways Agency - Water Safety
- Fire Brigade - Fire Safety





The Coombes CE Primary School

In the Classroom

Orchard Nursery

For Earth Day, the children explored what it means to recycle and the different types of recyclable materials such as cardboard, glass and plastic. We decided to show care and respect for our own environment by participating in a litterpick around our garden space.

The children were most excited to witness our chrysalides hatching and observing the beautiful Painted Lady butterflies that had metamorphosed in our care. We wished them well and said goodbye as we released them into the world to continue the life cycle process all over again.



Year 2

We have been designing puppets that could be used in EYFS for story-telling. We experimented with using card as a material to create different teddy bear puppets, but found that it wasn't a very strong or durable material. Then, we practised using different stitches to sew fabric as we thought that this would be a more appropriate material for making puppets. We used running stitch, over stitch and blanket stitch. We then created a final design and put all of our practised skills together to make our own puppets. It was great fun!



Year 3

During our Eco Day, Year 3 foraged for nettles and then cooked them up into a delicious nettle risotto.



Year 6 Performance

Our Year 6 team have worked very hard to produce an outstanding performance of Wonka. Children and teachers alike put their all into the show with amazing sets and costumes and fantastic performances.



We congratulate all schools in our trust for a wonderful year and wish everyone a restful summer break.



St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst



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



One of the most memorable events was undoubtedly our whole school 'Wow Trip' to Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. This extraordinary outing brought together over 190 children, 30 staff members, and 60 parents and carers for a truly magical experience. Our children had the unique opportunity to learn about the Jurassic Coast and its significance as a World Heritage site which included foraging for fossils and

exploring the dramatic coastal line. The enthusiasm and engagement displayed by everyone involved was truly heart-warming, and we are certain that the memories created will last a lifetime.

Music has always been an integral part of life at St Michael's. This term was no exception. Our talented singers took part in the Berkshire Maestros Junior Concert at the Reading Hexagon, performing to an impressive audience of nearly 1,000 people. The dedication shown by our children in learning 12 songs and attending numerous rehearsals with other schools prior to the live performance was commendable. I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Milanovic, Mr Doward and Mrs Lyne for their tireless efforts in providing our children with this wonderful opportunity.



Sports have also been a highlight, with our Boccia, tennis, and tri-golf teams representing Bracknell Forest in the Berkshire School Games Finals at Braywick Leisure Centre in Maidenhead. The day was filled with excitement, and our children competed with remarkable spirit and sportsmanship. We are particularly proud to announce that our Boccia team secured a bronze medal overall – a tremendous achievement that reflects their hardwork and dedication. In addition to this success, our Year 5-6 Football Team also won the Bracknell Forest Football League for a second consecutive year; thanks to Mr Parsons and Mr Doward for guiding the team to glory!

As we come to the end of the school year, we prepare to bid farewell to our Year 6 children. Their journey at St Michael's culminated in a fantastic residential trip to



the Lake District in June, where they stayed at the YMCA Lakeside site adjacent to Windermere. This experience provided them with the perfect opportunity to create lasting memories and strengthen the bonds they've formed over the years. Our Year 6s will soon be moving onto their respective secondary schools, carrying with them not only the lifelong memories they have made at St Michael's but also the values instilled. We hope they continue to shine their light brightly, embodying the principles and spirit of St Michael's in all their future endeavours.

It has been a privilege to witness the growth, achievements and enthusiasm of all our children. From exploring the wonders of our natural heritage to showcasing their talents on stage and in sports arenas, they have consistently demonstrated their eagerness to learn, their resilience in the face of challenges and their ability to work together as a community.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the opportunities and experiences that await us. The successes of this term serve as a testament to the dedication of our staff, the support of our parents and carers and, most importantly, the incredible potential of our children.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer holiday!

Thank You from David Horrocks, Chair of Trustees

I am sure that you too are counting down the days as we approach the end of term and looking forward to a break over the holidays. It's been quite a year, with many challenges (including six inspections so far; as I write, we've just been notified of the seventh), but also lots of highs (including welcoming St Michael's Sandhurst and Uplands into our family of schools). Who knows what difference the election result will make? It would be lovely to think it might ease some of the significant funding challenges we and others are facing in education, but only time will tell.

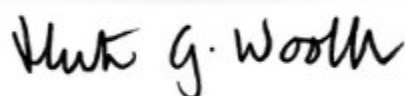
As trustees, we are very grateful to our central team who provide support to each of our schools and immensely grateful to all the staff and local governors who navigate this challenging landscape while continuing to provide an education which develops a love of learning, values the whole person, and so enables our pupils to flourish as they face the challenges and opportunities of life in the modern world. Our termly newsletters continue to be a thrill to read as we share what is happening in each school. Every time we go into schools we are humbled by the dedication that is shown by so many who regularly go the extra mile in supporting their colleagues and serving the children in our care. Thank you to all of you for all that you do.

We hope that you have a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing many of you in the new school year.

Yours sincerely,



David Horrocks
Chair of Trustees



Hester Wooller
CEO



Sonning Spirituality Day

TKAT Annual Leadership Conference

Thursday 6 February 2025

9am - 4pm

at The Crowne Plaza Reading East Hotel

We will be joined by guest speaker

Lekha Sharma

who will be talking about 'building culture'

registration: events@keysacademytrust.org



**Save
the
date**

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