

18 July 2023

Dear Colleagues,

As the academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your unwavering commitment, dedication, and hard work in serving our school communities in The Keys Academy Trust. Our family of high performing and distinctive schools are rooted at the heart of the communities we serve. We are all committed to providing the very best pastoral care for our pupils and we aspire to excellent learning through the rich curriculum delivered in our schools.

I am also thankful for the strong sense of collaboration and teamwork that permeates throughout our Trust. Your willingness to support each another, share best practices, and collaborate on projects has created a positive work environment for us all.

### **News from the Central Team**

We are delighted to let you know that the DfE have awarded an academy order for St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst, to convert to academy status within The Keys Academy Trust. St Michael's will be our eleventh school and I am sure you will welcome Stuart Bevan, Headteacher, and his staff team to our Trust Inset Day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. The venue is at Alder Grove and we will be joined by Anne Andrews, RE Adviser, from Oxford Diocesan Board of Education.

Once again, we are delighted to see the number of colleagues across the Trust engaging in the National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) and we would encourage those of you who would like to engage with the NPQs to speak to your Headteachers/Heads of School. The Keys continues to work as a Local Area Coordinator for Teaching School Hub Berkshire in the delivery of the Early Career Professional Development Induction Programme. Many thanks to our Director of Teaching and Learning, Alex Powley, who is the Lead Facilitator. We would also like to thank all our Senior Leaders who co-facilitate on this programme and those colleagues who are facilitators or coaches for the NPQs. If this professional development opportunity of becoming a facilitator is of interest to you please email Alex directly for more information and an application form: [dl@keysacademytrust.org](mailto:dl@keysacademytrust.org)

### **News from our Schools**

#### **St Cecilia's Church of England Primary School**

We have come to the end of what has been a very special year for St Cecilia's. It feels like an age since we opened the school with just 8 children and now we finish the year with over 60 children, all arriving at the school from no less than 18 different countries. We have learnt so much about each other and have created a special, family like ethos at the school where we all support and encourage each other.



### Year 6 at Dinton Pastures

This term, Year 6 children went to Dinton Pastures to take part in different water-based activities. They did Kayaking, raft building and paddle boarding. A number of children started the day fearful of water and quite anxious but as the day progressed this disappeared. It was wonderful to see how the group supported and encouraged each other throughout the day. We then finished the day with the children jumping in off the pontoon. All the children loved the experience and the instructors were extremely complimentary of their behaviour, attitudes and team ethic.



### King Charles III's Coronation

To celebrate the King's Coronation, we had a wonderful day on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The children arrived at school in red, white and blue clothing and then had a delicious afternoon tea, which for many of the children was their first time having a scone. We also wrote letters to the future and, along with pictures the children had drawn, we placed them in a time capsule, not to be dug up for 20 years. We also planted an apple tree to commemorate the coronation and the children are looking forward to trying the apples from it.





## St Sebastian's Church of England Primary School

The new term started with Year 3 and 4 going on their Ufton Court residential. The children had an amazing time and enjoyed being Romans for three days. There were lots of brilliant activities and some of the teachers dressed up too!



In May, children in Year 5 were lucky enough to use the fantastic facilities at Wellington College. Over the course of this term, we managed to send children there on three separate occasions. May also saw the Coronation of King Charles III. We started off with a service led by the children and then they took part in various celebrations throughout the day, including a family lunch.

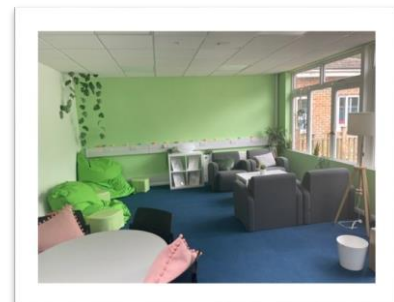
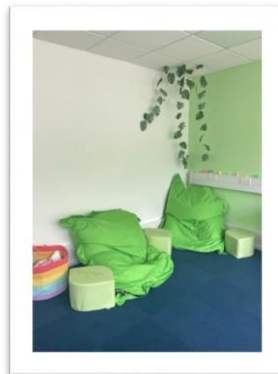
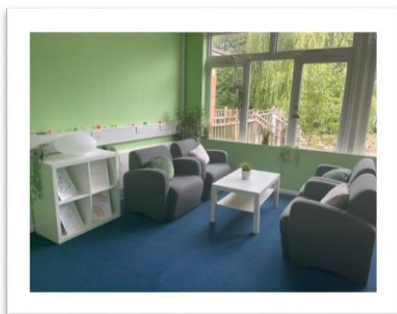
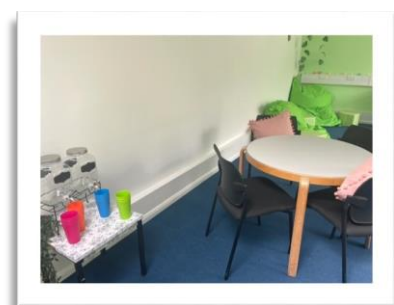
## The Coombes CoE Primary School

Here at The Coombes, we are in an exciting period of change. The school premises continues to transform at a rapid rate. Recently we have relined our drains, re-carpeted our Year 6 classrooms, installed new classroom furniture throughout Key Stage 2 and signed off the design for our new STEM room and Key Stage 2 library: both of which are scheduled to begin in early July. We are also scheduled to begin the full refurbishment of EYFS/Nursery in the coming weeks with further refurbishment works throughout the Key Stage 1 building scheduled for August. The school will be an extraordinary place for all the children to learn in the coming months when all works are completed.



### New Nurture Room

Please see our before and after photos of our old ICT suite, transformed into a calming and relaxing Nurture Room.



### New Nursery Area

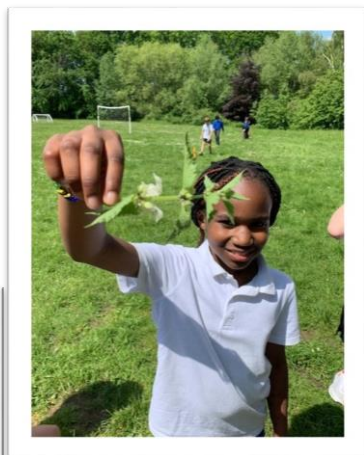
We are excited to see work start in the next couple of weeks to transform our Nursery area. Here is an example of what we can expect in September.





## Eco Day

We all got stuck in and helped to improve our outdoor areas during Eco Day. Parents, children and staff all chipped in to clear the site, prepare and plant flower beds, create habitats for wildlife and work towards our vision for next year.



## Sports Events

This term has also been busy with external sports events including Netball, Quad, Football and Multi Sports. A huge congratulations to all our teams who did The Coombes proud with their achievements.



## Our Swimming Team

We have also opened our new swimming pool and started internal class swimming lessons as well as Ducklings to Dolphins external lessons.



Our Year 6s have been really busy getting ready for their end of year production of Oliver. They have also been visiting their new schools in preparation for their transition to secondary school.

Bohunt very kindly came in and gave our leavers a taste of what to expect when they join them, by delivering a science lesson.



We will also be preparing to say a fond farewell to our Year 6 leavers with a special service. We send them on their way with good luck and our very best wishes for their new adventure.

We would like to wish all our Trust friends a very happy summer holidays.


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

### **A Message from Jane Peters, Chair of the Trustee Board**

I am sure you are counting the days as we approach the end of term and are looking forward to a well-deserved break over the holidays. This year has continued to see many challenges with the longer-term impact of the pandemic still evident and the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis which is affecting families and of course school budgets now and going forward.

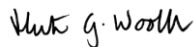
As trustees we are grateful to our central team who provide support to each of our schools and the staff and local governors who are navigating this challenging landscape while continuing to provide a curriculum which is innovative and one which develops a love of learning. Our termly newsletter is a joy to read as we share together what is happening in each school. Thank you also to those staff who provide additional support to our pupils with SEND and also nurture for our more vulnerable pupils. As another academic year closes and as we reflect on some key events this year – our annual Keys Service at Alder Grove, the marking of the late Queen's life and the celebrations of the King's Coronation and of course Ofsted, as trustees we are thankful for each school in the Keys family. Have a wonderful summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Peters".

Jane Peters

**Chair of Trustees**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hester Wooller".

Hester Wooller

**CEO**