

News from the Central Team

As we reach the end of an extremely busy term and indeed a very intensive year we reflect with pride on all that has been achieved across our Trust. The final weeks have been especially productive, with Sonning undergoing a full two-day graded Ofsted inspection and staff showing great professionalism and dedication throughout. We were also pleased to support Grazeley Parochial CE Primary School through their own inspection ahead of their planned transition into the TKAT family.

Alongside this, preparations for September are well underway, with exciting recruitment activity and changes taking shape to strengthen our teams and continue unlocking the future for every pupil in our care. We hope that you will join us in welcoming our new members of staff:

Julia Mead will be moving into the role of Chief Strategy Officer and Alison Lochhead is stepping up into the Chief Financial Officer role. We will be joined by Amanda Ruthven, Executive Headteacher, Gary Price as School Improvement Partner (Inclusion), Jo Lambdon as HR Manager and Catherine Johnson as Trust Support Officer. They will be out and about in schools getting to know you all next term.

Uplands 1st Anniversary

We were proud to mark the first anniversary of Uplands Primary School and Nursery since they officially joined TKAT on 1st June 2024.

TKAT Annual Staff Survey 2025 - Your Voice Matters

Thank you to everyone who completed this year's staff survey. With a response rate of 53% - we heard from 102 more staff members than in 2024! Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us shape the future of TKAT.

We were pleased to see that 86% of respondents feel their leaders are supportive and 82% believe their wellbeing is considered, both improvements on last year's figures. That said, some colleagues feel these values aren't always reflected in decision-making, which we take seriously.

Career development is improving, with fewer staff feeling unaware of opportunities, and our new use of MyNewTerm is helping to make vacancies more visible. However, 21% of respondents still do not receive regular feedback on their performance, highlighting a clear area for improvement.

On wellbeing, 98% of staff feel supported by colleagues and have strong workplace friendships. While 89% feel a sense of accomplishment at work, half reported experiencing work-related stress in the past year, which is another aspect we are determined to address.

We will continue working to improve communication around TKAT's vision and values, reduce unnecessary workload, review the organisation of our Moderation sessions and support career development through initiatives like the Career Pathways project launching in 2025.

Thank you again for your feedback and continued dedication. Together, we are building a stronger Trust.

*Unlocking
the
Future*

News from The Keys Academy Trust Centre of Professional Growth and Excellence

The team has taken the time to reflect on our exciting experiences since joining the TKAT family of schools. We have been working with schools across TKAT and the Alliance, refining, developing and growing our professional development offer.



As TKAT's Centre of Professional Growth and Excellence we have focused on the needs of Trust schools to better support their priorities. In addition to the continuation of the Thriving Teacher Programme, we are delighted to announce the launch of several new professional development opportunities this coming autumn, including an offer for Teaching Assistants and Early Years Practitioners.

We have had the pleasure of celebrating with our 2025 graduating trainee teachers. We are incredibly proud of their progress and growth throughout the past year. Their enthusiasm for embarking on their early careers in this fulfilling profession was heart warming and a great reminder of the value and importance of our sector. Congratulations to the class of 2025!

In the 2024-2025 period we recruited a further 111 participants to the NPQ leadership programmes and 22 on our specialist programmes. We continue to work in partnership with national Lead Providers Ambition Institute, LLSE (International NPQs), and Education Development Trust for the Early Career Full Induction Programme. These partnerships help us secure DfE funding and recruit to DfE 'Golden Thread' programmes



despite current recruitment, retention and financial challenges faced by schools. Furthermore, these partnerships enable us to contribute to the content and shape programme delivery.

As we approach the next Summative Assessment window, we are proud to share that Forest Learning Alliance has a 100% pass rate across all NPQ programmes since 2021. We firmly credit this to the strength and dedication of the excellent facilitators we work with across TKAT and our Alliance, leadership support from within participants' schools, and of course the commitment of the participants themselves. A huge congratulations to all of our NPQ graduates and good luck to those taking their assessments in the coming academic year.

Festival of Education

The 15th Festival of Education was another great success for both Forest Learning Alliance and TKAT schools, reconnecting with the schools and educators in our network. We are excited about the new connections made across the two day event and how we can harness these new relationships to drive high-quality professional development across TKAT in the coming year.



We are proud to share that in addition to the highest number of attendees from across TKAT and Alliance schools to-date, we were represented on the Speakers Stage by Ravinder Ghei during the well-attended 'Skin in the Game' session. Speaking opportunities at the Festival are highly selective, therefore establishing the prominence of our Trust and our wider Alliance was both a privilege and an occasion to celebrate. We would like to thank you for your active engagement and commitment to the professional growth of your staff and your schools. We look forward to continuing to support you all in unlocking the future potential of TKAT and our children.

MyNewTerm Launches in all Schools

We are excited about the launch of the MyNewTerm recruitment portal across all our schools, which forms part of our People Strategy to attract, recruit, and retain the very best staff. It is a user-friendly platform that makes it easier for candidates to find, apply for, and track job opportunities within TKAT. It also helps streamline recruitment for staff by reducing admin tasks and centralising the process. This step supports our commitment to high-quality recruitment and professional development, ensuring we continue to build strong teams to support our pupils and school communities. All staff can explore available opportunities in all of our schools [here](#).



Place =

DSL Supervision Meetings

This term marked the start of our Place Group DSL/DDSL Supervision sessions in all schools, and we would like to thank all DSLs and DDSLs for their time, openness and commitment they brought to these meetings. The thoughtful reflections and engagement made the sessions with Louise truly valuable. Louise noted the strength and professionalism across all our schools and highlighted how powerful your knowledge becomes when it is shared. As a Trust, we are proud of the collaborative safeguarding culture we are continuing to build.



Alder Grove CE Primary School

Alder Grove held our fourth annual PCSA Quiz Night at the start of this term. The evening was a huge success raising over £900! Towards the end of the term we held our Summer Fayre which again was a big hit with the community raising over £5,500!



We are delighted that the funds raised by the PCSA this year have already made a big impact—helping to subsidise trips and experiences for the children, as well as funding the new learning booths built in the upstairs corridor. Over the summer, we will also be building a new outdoor sensory classroom, which will support many children during their time here at Alder Grove. We are really excited to begin using it from September 2025 onwards.



One of the stand-out moments of this term was our first Culture & Diversity week. The atmosphere and sense of community were truly breath taking and it made everyone feel incredibly proud to be part of such a special school. The children learnt about different cultures and traditions during the week, coming in dressed in colours to represent their chosen country. The week ended with an International Food Festival where parents / carers contributed tasty homemade dishes from their countries of origin.



We also unveiled a new permanent display in the hall, celebrating the richness of the community we have here at Alder Grove.

As our community continues to grow, we hope to grow even deeper roots in understanding and appreciating each other's cultures and traditions. We know we live in a complex and often divided world, but this week has shown that the more we know and understand about one another, the greater our respect and tolerance become. And with that, we hope our children will grow to be compassionate, respectful global citizens.

The week before half term saw us hold our annual Sports Week, which culminated with the 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.

Towards the end of term, we hosted our Stay & Play sessions for our new Nursery and Reception starters and Transition mornings for our new Reception children. The rest of the school also 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. As we add a new year group each September, our Year 4 children remain our pioneering cohort, progressing with the school year by 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.



The Coombes CE Primary School

In this Summer TKAT newsletter edition, we celebrate just a few of the events, opportunities and individuals who are helping to unlock the potential within our school and shape the future for our wonderful children.



Mini Police/Community Coffee Mornings

Year 6 have been involved in the Mini Police Programme to engage and build positive relationships with the police from their local policing team. The children were involved with lots of interesting aspects of policing including coming across a mock crime scene and searching for clues, using the police radio to help locate lost items and K9 dog unit visit.



In June, we held our second Community Coffee Morning. The aim is to bring the community together to promote access to local services beneficial to all such as First Days charity, Arborfield Parish Council, the School Nurse, Henley and Berkshire Dance School, Kumon-Maths/English tutoring provider as well as our own After School Club provider and our Community Engagement Office



Parents/Carers and Governors

Our parents/carers and governors support us with our Volunteer Reading Scheme, Eco Day and Governors Day. The support they give to the school is invaluable and they are an integral part of unlocking the success of the school.

We have also helped our parents/carers support their children's education at home by holding a number of workshops including; Writing, · Reading, Maths, Phonics, Behaviour, and Online Safety.

Our Staff

Equipping our staff with the tools they need to support our children is key in unlocking their future. This year staff have undergone various training courses in areas such as: Water Safety and Lifesavers, First Aid at Work/Asthma and Epi Pen training, Read Write Inc Phonics Scheme, Forest School- Basic Tree Inspection, Assessment for Learning Strategies, Moderation, Career Pathways, EEF CPD for Support Staff

As we reflect on a successful academic year, we would like to congratulate all schools across TKAT on their achievements and progress.

We also wish every pupil, staff member and family a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break.



VE 80th Anniversary



Local Author Visit



Positive Learning attitudes



School Events



Crazyes Hill CE Primary School



Our vision is that, 'A tree is known by its fruit, people by their actions' (Matthew 7v20) Our 'fruit' are our children and adults who have the **Resilience** to weather life's ups and downs, demonstrate **Respect** for themselves, others and their environment and have the ability to build and maintain good working **Relationships** with all in their community so that they can 'be the best that they can be'

As we grow our learners, we look for every opportunity to inspire and ignite curiosity through our values based planned and progressive curriculum, and we use enrichment opportunities to forge lifelong memories through wonderful experiences and tap into hidden interests that can unlock hidden potential.

Palaeontology – EYFS, Years 1-2

Our Infant classes became palaeontologists and were captivated by archaeological digging, exploring fossils and meeting a dinosaur hatchling through the Life Long Ago Workshops.

The children located and identified fossils from some of the most iconic dinosaurs of the past including Tyrannosaurus Rex, Stegosaurus and Triceratops. They learnt when each dinosaur lived, where they came from, what they ate and much more. It was a truly memorable way to learn incredible facts and deepen the children's dinosaur knowledge.



Zoology and Botany – Years 1-4

Year 1-4 pupils visited The Living Rainforest in Newbury. They saw lots of amazing plants and animals during their tour, including marmosets, armadillos, crocodiles and tortoises! They were fascinated to learn about how all of the living things have adapted to thrive in rainforests. The children showed their respect sapphires, listening attentively to our tour guides.

Outdoor and Adventurous Pursuits – Years 5-6

Year 5-6 pupils had a brilliant time on their PGL Residential and were encouraged to explore new activities and push themselves out of their comfort zones – very character building as their Resilience Emerald powers were put to the test!



Sporting Events encourage all children to be active and participate in in-school and out of school sporting events. Recently many of our children have participated in the Woodley Football Festival and TKAT Athletics event.

As we draw the year to a close, we had a brilliant afternoon of sporting events and races as our parents joined us for our annual Sports Day. Neptune Team were thrilled to be crowned this year's overall winners, with Mars Team winning the house cup for demonstrating exemplary understanding of our school values.



Earley St Peter's CE Primary School

This term at Earley St Peter's, pupils have engaged in a wide range of experiences that reflect our commitment to Building Strong Foundations for the Future. Our recently launched Computing curriculum has been a major step forward in developing digital literacy across the school. Pupils now access over 30 apps and platforms, including Scratch, MakeCode, TinkerCAD and iMovie. Alongside the curriculum, a strong focus on e-safety and an investment in additional laptops and iPads is helping to ensure that all pupils can use technology safely and confidently—unlocking the skills they need for an increasingly digital future



Outdoor learning continues to play a central role in our school. As an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) school, we have created an environment where play is valued as a vital part of each child's development. Through access to high-quality, varied outdoor experiences, pupils develop physical confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Crucially, the open-ended nature of play, and wide range of activities available to pupils during lunchtime, nurtures imagination and helps children to think which will equip them well for the future.



Educational visits this term have included a Year 6 residential in North Wales, where pupils developed resilience and independence through climbing, gorge walking and mine exploration. Year 4 explored Anglo Saxon life at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, while Year 3 experienced a full Victorian school day at the Milestones Museum. These visits have provided valuable opportunities to deepen learning and apply knowledge in real-world contexts.



In Early Years, children have been developing curiosity and confidence through stories and role play. Nursery children have explored emotions through The Colour Monster and taken part in sensory play and creative activities that support communication and emotional development. Reception have been investigating the past through traditional games and classroom artefacts, beginning to understand how life has changed over time. By encouraging children to explore, ask questions and make choices, we are laying strong foundations for unlocking their future from the very start of school.

One of the term's highlights has been a fundraising effort by a Year 4 pupil who cycled 100 miles from Reading to Bristol, raising over £2,000 for school playground improvements—a fantastic example of determination and community spirit.

Through purposeful play, digital learning, meaningful visits and strong values pupils at Earley St Peter's are well equipped for the future.



Polehampton CE Schools

Like everyone, it's been a very busy term here at the Polehampton! We are proud of everything our children and staff have achieved; here are just a few of our highlights – alongside this were our sports days, a swimming gala and a residential trip!



Our Year 2 children visited the junior site to work in teams to design and make "garden trays." These trays were filled with many living things that the children had carefully gathered ... they were beautiful! Fostering a love and appreciation of nature is so important and we hope our children remember this day for a long time. A step towards unlocking a future where they care for and protect the world around them.



We are so proud of our youngest children who have now completed their first year at school. They have experienced so much throughout the year but this term has included a trip to Wellington Country Park and an 'Under the Sea' themed day. As well as lots of sequins and eye-patches, there was exploration of marine life, habitats and environmental care ... opening up rich language opportunities, creativity and social skills!.

Year 3 performed a fantastic programme of drumming, using djembe drums, for the rest of the Junior school earlier this term. We hope this musical performance will inspire the next generation of musicians while also broadening the children's understanding of the rich and diverse cultures found across the African continent.



Polehampton were crowned District Sports winners again this year, retaining our title! An incredible achievement. We are almost certain that a Polehampton pupil will, at some point, represent their country in the Olympics and/or World Championships! Those who don't will have discovered a lasting love for sport and physical activity that will stay with them into the future



Polehampton Day is another big day in the summer calendar! Children, staff, parents and the wider community come together to remember our founder, Captain Edward Polehampton. We hope this tradition and legacy influence the future of our children by giving them a strong sense of identity, belonging and values to build upon. Trustees and other TKAT leaders are always welcome to this!

With our wonderful Year 6s moving on, we reflect on how incredibly proud we are of everything they have achieved. We have absolute faith that from the hard work of the children themselves, their families and Polehampton staff, past and present, the foundations for lifelong learning, curiosity, and confidence have been embedded and set them up for successful futures!

What a wonderful way to end the school year. Wishing everyone a lovely summer.

Sonning CE Primary School

“Unlocking the future”

The theme of ‘unlocking the future’ ties in well with our end of summer term. At the time of writing, Sonning has just had its graded Ofsted Inspection (8th and 9th July) and have enjoyed celebrating the school’s successes with inspectors. The report will most likely be released in September 2025. In our inspection, we spoke passionately about the personal development opportunities which we feel help our pupils ‘unlock the future’, in addition to our curriculum work. Recently, we have engaged with community events which help inspire our work to ‘unlock the future’ for pupils:



Sonning Rounders

The Sonning Village Rounders is an annual event: teams were made up from organisations across the village (including the school, PTA, Women’s Institute, Tennis Club and St. Andrew’s Church), and we all competed for a coveted wooden plaque! Our Sonning School team, made up of staff and governors, enjoyed being a part of this community event and helping bring our village together. We have an emphasis on our pupils seeing the value in a community, and events like this really help.



The Sonning Regatta, another annual event, is held on the River Thames in Sonning and features dragon boat races for adults and children. We are very fortunate to live in Sonning and for the school to take part in the regatta. To help prepare for the event, our pupils were able to attend water safety and dragon boating sessions, courtesy of the Sonning Regatta team and a local charity trust.

Our school team was also sponsored by Signature at Caversham care home. It was a lovely event and it was great to see so many of our community on the river bank, especially our pupil teams but also the amount of parents involved in the adult races. Providing these kinds of opportunities unlocks the future for pupils as they can experience new activities, hopefully encouraging them to take up water sports or events.

Gardening Club, between Sonning Primary and Signature at Caversham Care Home

In Autumn term, our pupils visited a local care home weekly to interact with the residents for arts and crafts sessions. Now, in summer term, it is our turn to host the care home residents. Each week, residents from Signature at Caversham visit the school to work with the pupils in our gardening club, growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. It is a wholesome community event, and allows our pupils to see the value of working with others, including the elderly.

Hampton Court Flower Show

We were delighted to work with Polehampton CE Schools to enter a bid to have a stand at Hampton Court Flower Show, for which our entry was successful! Our Eco Committee pupils thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this collaborative effort and presenting their design in the show.





St Cecilia's CE Primary School

This term we are thinking about the Trust's vision of 'Unlocking the Future'. This term the children have had so many opportunities that will hopefully give the children a new outlook on their own futures.

Year 6 at PGL

On 2nd July, Year 6 children went on their residential trip to PGL Liddington. For many of the children it was an opportunity to overcome challenges and fears. They had the opportunity to do climbing, abseiling, canoeing and archery amongst a number of activities.

For many of our children it was an opportunity for them to stay away from home for the first time. The children learnt how to look after themselves and gained a new level of independence and confidence, setting them up perfectly for the next stage of their lives at secondary school.



Year 3 and 4 Cricket Festival

On Thursday 26th June, a group of Year 4 children attended a cricket festival held at St Paul's school. The children completed a range of different activities linked to batting, bowling and fielding. They had so much fun and for each of them, it was their first experience of cricket. All 4 of the children said that they would be interested in playing more cricket in the future which is amazing to hear!

Author visit

We were fortunate to host author Simon Murray for a special visit. He shared his wonderfully imaginative book Icky Doo-Dah with us and brought the story to life through his lively storytelling (<https://www.ickydoodah.com/>). Simon thoughtfully tailored his sessions to suit our Nursery children, making the experience both accessible and engaging for them.

Afterwards, we had a fun and creative time trying our hand at drawing the quirky main character, with some fantastic results. So many of our children now want to author their own stories!



Fire Brigade Visit

The fire brigade came to visit our year 5 children this term. The children learnt a lot about fire safety and heard all about the role of a fire fighter. The children got to experience shooting the hose and then got to see all the other equipment in the truck.



Growing Our Own Potatoes

The EYFS children have been growing their own potatoes. They have loved seeing them grow as part of their class learning. Once they had grown, the children then made roast potatoes to eat. They were delicious. It is so important to teach our children about growing their own food and then how they can use it to cook.



St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst

As we near the end of this academic year, we celebrate our achievements and look to how we will build on these in the coming new school year. At St Michaels we believe that our ambitious curriculum and exciting extra-curricular offer lay the foundations of knowledge, creativity and confidence that unlock the future for our pupils.



New Transitions

We were delighted to welcome the new pupils who will be joining our school community in September. It was wonderful to see their curiosity as they began to explore their new school environment at the start of their future here at St Michael's. Our Year 5 buddies gave them a warm welcome, and hopefully it will be the start of many lasting friendships for them as they move up through the school. Meanwhile, Year 6 students, coming to the end of their St Michael's experience, have had the excitement (and nervousness) of visiting their new secondary school and we hope that they look back on their first day with fondness.

Sports Day

This year we combined the KS1 and KS2 sports days into a fun-filled community day event with a picnic. The weather was beautiful, and the children's resilience and strong sense of belonging shone through. They demonstrated 100% commitment, doing their best and cheering on their teammates from all age groups with pride and enthusiasm!



Lakeside Residential Trip

Always a highlight in the school's calendar, Year 6 went to Lakeside in Cumbria, for their annual residential trip. They represented the school impeccably, embracing new experiences and challenges with enthusiasm. The memories they created will stay with them as they move onto the next stage of their academic journey.



A day at the beach

Ducklings and their parents had a wonderful day at Sandbanks beach. Much fun was had by all, learning about water safety from the lifeguards, braving the cold sea and building elaborate sandscapes!



Breakdancing and Beatboxing

Our pupils had the exciting opportunity to showcase their breakdancing and beatboxing skills in workshops for the whole school. These sessions revealed some amazing hidden talents and offered children new challenges and experiences. Most importantly, they helped build confidence and encouraged everyone (including staff!) to have a go!



It has been an incredibly busy summer term of wonderful experiences, both in school and beyond, all of which build lasting memories and character, unlocking the future for our pupils.



St Nicholas CE Primary School



"Unlocking the Future - Laying Firm Foundations through Respect, Honesty, Courage & Kindness"

As the school year draws to a close, we reflect on another term of experiences that have helped our children grow in confidence, character and curiosity. Every activity, challenge and achievement this term has played a part in unlocking their future, while laying firm foundations built on respect, honesty, courage and kindness.



Break Time Fun

Playtimes are more than just a break – they're a daily opportunity to build social skills, practice kindness and solve real-life problems. From teamwork on the football pitch to quiet moments in the book corner, every interaction helps children develop the emotional literacy they need to thrive – both now and in the future. We have benefitted from working with colleagues within the Trust who have shared good practice, their experience of Outside Play and Learning (OPAL) and we are looking forward to building on this even further next year.



End of Year Assessments

Our Year 6 pupils demonstrated maturity and resilience during their end-of-year assessments, tackling them with calm determination. Their hard work is a testament to the strong foundations they have built at St Nicholas.

To celebrate their achievements, they enjoyed a fun day out in Wokingham Laser Quest, a chance to strengthen friendships and make lasting memories. They also completed their Junior First Aid Training, gaining essential life skills such as how to stay calm, think clearly and help others in an emergency. These are powerful tools for unlocking a future where they can lead, support and care for others with confidence and courage.

Residential

Year 4 and 6 have experienced unforgettable opportunities to build resilience, leadership and independence through their end of year Residential Visits. Year 6 travelled to Rhos Y Gwaliau, taking on outdoor challenges that stretched their (and the teacher's!) comfort zones and built courage and teamwork. Year 4 explored Sayers Croft, where they built dens, completed a zip wire challenge and blindfold trails, deepening friendships away from home.





St Nicholas CE Primary School



Maths Challenge Day

Nine of our confident mathematicians represented the school at The Piggott School's Maths Challenge. Working collaboratively to solve puzzles and problems, they showed perseverance, logic and teamwork. Events like this nurture critical thinking, creativity and self-belief – all key ingredients in unlocking future potential in a wide range of careers and life paths.



Sports Events

Representing the school at both TKAT and District athletics, and bringing home the Bronze, our children gave their best on the track and field while showing respect for opponents and pride in their team. These events help children set goals, bounce back from setbacks, and celebrate the joy of healthy competition building physical and mental strength. Our Key Stage 2 children have been completing Levels 1- 2 and for Year 6, Level 3 in Bikeability, ensuring that they have the road safety skills in place for their journey to secondary school.



Music and Drama

Our pupils have truly come alive on stage this term. Our Keyboard and Piano musicians have built confidence, discipline and focus through weekly lessons, and an end of year performance at our family event. Musical Theatre Club and Rock Steady Bands have helped children express themselves, collaborate creatively, and prepare for live performances on stage to the whole school community. Our Year 6 children led on our end of year performance of School-O-Vision, an unforgettable experience for ~~By~~ giving every child a chance to be heard, perform and shine, we're helping them discover their talents and passions possibly even developing future stars of the stage or screen!



Transition Day

Finally, change can be daunting, but our children embraced Transition Day with courage and optimism. They stepped confidently into their next stages of learning, meeting new teachers and peers with respect and enthusiasm. Whether these were to their new schools or within St Nicholas, these experiences help develop adaptability and resilience. The children can move on with their educational journey with the foundations needed for a successful year ahead.

Together, as a Trust, we are laying firm foundations for every child to unlock a future filled with opportunity.

From all the staff and children of St Nicholas CE Primary School, we wish you a very happy and fun filled Summer break.



St Sebastian's CE Primary School



Unlocking a Healthier Future – School Games Gold Award!

We are thrilled to share that St Sebastian's has achieved the School Games Gold Award! This is a fantastic milestone in our mission to unlock every child's physical potential and nurture a lifelong love for health and movement for a bright, healthy future.



Unlocking Environmental Awareness – The Great Big Green Week

We all stepped into the role of future guardians of our planet as we took part in The Great Big Green Week. Through hands-on learning and thoughtful action, children explored the environmental challenges facing our world, and the power they hold to make a difference.

Pine Class investigated the effects of plastic pollution and discovered the vital role of bugs in our ecosystem during a nature walk. Holly Class focused on waste and recycling, designing bin labels and appointing Recycling Superstars, taking real steps toward a more sustainable school. Oak Class rolled up their sleeves for a litter pick, unlocking pride in caring for our shared spaces. Sycamore Class built bug hotels and bird boxes to support biodiversity, showing how small actions can unlock a better future for local wildlife.



Unlocking New Spaces – Building for Tomorrow

There's a real buzz around school as our building improvements and classroom renovations take shape! The new roof is complete and is enabling internal improvements to begin. We've finalised a design for our brand-new multipurpose library space — a place where pupils can unlock new worlds, ideas, and possibilities.

Unlocking Values for Life – Vision and Values Day

Our community came together to celebrate Vision and Values Day, reflecting deeply on what it means to live out our core values of Love, Aspiration, Respect, and Courage.

Children engaged in meaningful activities that challenged them to think about who they want to become and how they can contribute positively to their communities today and in the future. We explored the Biblical story of The Good Samaritan, embracing the message: "Go and do likewise."





This term has been a busy one at Uplands with lots of exciting projects and innovation; all to enhance the learning and environment for our pupils, as well as giving them an insight into their responsibilities for the wider world, environment and each other...

AVI Robot in Year 1

We have just welcomed a new pupil to Year 1, Athena the robot! She is an AV robot that is joining the class in place of a pupil who is currently struggling to attend school for medical reasons.

Athena can allow the pupil to hear and see the children and what is going on in the classroom via the cameras in her eyes and she can interact with the class either via the eyes or through the microphone. No screen shots or video capture is accessible, nor can anyone other than those with the security codes access the robot.



This has been a really successful way in which schools have been able to include and re-engage pupils that have difficulties accessing school for medical reasons.

Athena may even be a part of the upcoming Marwell Zoo trip ...



**WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**
Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946

Bee Swarm

We had an exciting week with the hot weather and our recent visitors! We had a swarm of bees take up residence in the tree adjacent to the trim trail, which caused a buzz across the school! As Bees are protected, they can't be removed via pest control options. However, we were able to get in contact with our local Beekeeping association and we were then visited by Steve the Bee Keeper!

He came on site in his full safety gear and was able to scoop up the Queen Bee into a special box. Many of her soldiers joined her straight away but a few needed time to join their friends and so he and I returned to school in the evening. Most of the bees had joined their colony and so he was able to take them safely to a bee sanctuary in Wokingham!



Nursery Plans Taking Shape!

After receiving the exciting news that we are one of the first schools to be successful in being awarded the DfE Nursery expansion grant, our plans have been taking shape! We will be able to welcome lots more children to our nursery and help provide much needed spaces for the younger members of our community into the future.



Year 5 Visit to Magdalen Farm/Environmental Trust, Dorset

Year 5 have just returned from their 3 night visit to Magdalen Farm in Dorset, where they spent their time experiencing life on a farm, tasting fresh produce and learning about the importance of sustainable living and protecting the environment for the future.

Thank You from David Horrocks, Chair of Trustees

As the summer term and academic year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of our staff for their continued dedication, resilience and commitment to our school communities. This term has been filled with inspiring moments that reflect the very best of what it means to be part of TKAT.



Across our Trust, pupils have enjoyed a rich range of experiences from Sports Days and residential to author visits, musical performances and cultural celebrations. Schools have hosted vibrant community events like Alder Grove's International Food Festival, Sonning's involvement in local traditions like the Regatta and Rounders, and The Coombes Mini Police and Coffee Mornings, helping to deepen connections between schools and their wider communities.

We have seen children discover new passions from growing vegetables and cooking them in EYFS at St Cecilia's, to building bug hotels during The Great Big Green Week at St Sebastian's. Pupils across TKAT have been building confidence through drama, mastering new technology through computing, and developing resilience through outdoor learning and adventurous trips. Our staff have continued to go above and beyond supporting new starters, celebrating Year 6 leavers, and participating in CPD that supports our collective aim of unlocking every child's future.

Every achievement shared in this newsletter big or small is a direct result of the passion and professionalism you bring to your roles every day. Thank you for all you have done this year to create nurturing, ambitious, and inclusive school communities. We wish you a restful and refreshing summer break, and look forward to welcoming you back in September as we continue this important work together.

David Horrocks
Chair of Trustees

Hester Wooller
CEO