
TRUST TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Where learning is unstoppable and aspirations have no limit



Trust vision: To ensure that every child has an exceptional educational experience.

As we come to the end of another busy academic year, I would like to thank everyone across the trust for all of your hard work over the past two terms.

The Easter holidays certainly brought an unexpected challenge when Brooklands Primary School suffered a significant fire. Whilst thankfully nobody was hurt, it was an incredibly difficult time for the school. I would like to thank Christine and the whole Brooklands team for everything they have done since Easter. Despite losing half of the hall, working without their planning room and temporarily managing without resources lost in the fire, they have ensured that disruption to the children has been kept to an absolute minimum.

Across the trust, there has been plenty to celebrate. A particular highlight was the excellent Ofsted outcome at Springfield Infants – our trailblazers for the new Ofsted framework. Attendance has continued to improve significantly across all of our schools, giving more children the opportunity to be in school consistently and thrive. We have continued to invest in our schools through the IT refresh in the autumn term and the wide range of professional development opportunities, including Chatta and MADE training, as well as our trust PD day focusing on how we can provide the very best support for our most vulnerable pupils.

I would also like to say thank you to our Shared Services Team. They have supported our smashing new Office Managers and during the period between CFOOs, everyone has rallied round, with Lisa and Lianne taking on significant additional responsibilities whilst continuing to fulfil their own roles. They really have been amazing.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff, governors, trustees and volunteers for everything you have done this year to support the children in our schools. One of the best parts of my job is visiting our schools. They are all very different, but what they have in common is the warmth, good humour and support that staff show one another every day, along with a shared determination to do the very best for the children in their care. It really is a privilege to work alongside you all.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer break and I look forward to see you all in September.

Alastair Heath-Robinson
CEO

GRACE COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

We are particularly pleased with the addition of the bandstand and lodge in our outdoor spaces, which have already had a very positive impact on outdoor learning and play experiences.

Our investment in the PlayPod scrap store to support pupil interaction and engagement at lunchtime has also been extremely successful.

The Police have visited twice this term: delivering assemblies to Reception and Key Stage 1 focused on friendship and then returning this week to speak to Key Stage 2 about online safety.



Sun Class

This term our learning was centred around Traditional Tales. Welly Walks have continued to be a much-loved part of the week. The children have enjoyed listening carefully for birdsong, identifying different calls, spotting buds on trees and noticing signs of new growth as spring begins to emerge. In the classroom, we have extended our learning through practical experiences such as making bread and exploring vegetables that grow underground, helping us to make meaningful links between stories and the world around us.

Mercury Class

Mercury class completed an amazing assembly to the rest of the school, all about the artist Mondrian. The children spoke beautifully and enjoyed showing their own pieces of artwork inspired by this artist. Our Geography focus has been hot and cold countries; the children learnt about the Equator and why some countries are hot or cold. After another busy term, the children have earned a well-deserved rest over half term!



Nursery

Moon Room: We explored shapes during construction week, using our fine motor skills to build and create, whilst also learning about different construction vehicles through hands-on play. During Pet Week, the children loved role-playing in our vet's area, learning how to care for animals by washing them in soapy water and showing kindness and responsibility.

Star Room: After enjoying Dear Zoo, the children became fantastic designers and builders, using recycled boxes, tape, scissors and paper to create homes for the animals they especially looked forward to our very own "special delivery" arriving each morning!



GRACE COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Venus Class

We have introduced times tables in maths where the children have sung songs, been introduced to Times Tables Rock Stars and learnt that multiplication is commutative. We enjoyed a busy parent partnership completing a range of times tables activities.

Earth Class

We have branched into narrating short films, with a focus on The Blue Umbrella by Pixar which shows the journey of one Blue umbrella fighting to reunite with his love, Red umbrella. We adapted this film to create our own narrative about two mugs in a coffee shop, focussing on how we could personify the different machines inside.



Mars Class

In writing, we delved into Aladdin's cave and experienced how he may have felt to be trapped inside with no way out! This led to some fantastic story writing where we wrote from the genie's perspective and how he came to be tricked and trapped in the enchanted lamp. To follow, we studied poetry and learnt to use creative metaphors. We then performed the poem with actions and thought carefully about our delivery to an audience.

Jupiter Class

In our writing, we wrote two narrative pieces, one based on Zoo, by Anthony Browne, the other based on a short film called One Small Step. We explored the emotions of characters as they went through highs and lows, and how we can use writing techniques to portray these emotions.



Our fantastic eco team led a lovely whole-school assembly alongside Phil from Greenpeace. The children talked about the impact of climate change, and what we as a school can be doing to help. They were all incredibly confident and talked so clearly for the school to hear.



HALIFAX PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a wonderfully busy and enriching term at Halifax Primary School, with pupils across the school taking part in a wide range of visits, events and experiences beyond the classroom.

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a highly successful residential trip to London. During the visit, pupils experienced travel by train and the London Underground, took in the views from the London Eye, watched Matilda in the West End and explored the Science Museum. The children were fantastic ambassadors for Halifax, demonstrating independence, responsibility and enthusiasm throughout the trip.



Across the school, pupils have also benefited from a range of memorable educational visits. Year 1 enjoyed a visit to Colchester Zoo, Year 2 explored Easton Farm Park, and Year 3 visited Colchester Castle. These experiences brought learning to life, supported pupils' curiosity and gave children valuable opportunities to represent the school exceptionally well in the wider community.



This term also saw a group of Year 6 pupils support Ipswich Town Football Club with their Senior Blues Memory Café. Pupils spent time talking with senior members of the community, learning about their experiences of primary school, playing games and sharing songs from their summer production. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by both the pupils and the café patrons, and was a lovely example of our children showing care, confidence and respect within the community.

Our Year 6 pupils have also been developing their teamwork, responsibility and enterprise skills through a fantastic fundraising initiative. With the support of the Year 6 team, pupils have raised over £3,000 through a range of events, including making sweet jars for the Christmas Fair, holding a book cover competition for World Book Day, running a bake sale during Parents' Evening and organising a summer fair. This will fund their end-of-year celebration visit to Pleasurewood Hills, along with pizza to mark the end of their time at Halifax. It will also leave a small amount to help our next Year 6 cohort begin their own enterprise journey.

HALIFAX PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 17th June, we held our annual Sports Day, which was very well supported by our families. All of the children showed excellent sportsmanship and worked hard to gain points for their teams across a range of events, including turbo throw, triple jump and hurdles.

Our younger pupils also took part in adapted activities such as an obstacle course, target throwing and jumping.

Green Team were triumphant overall, and the day ended with a fantastic finale: the masked runners race. Unicorn, Capybara, Frog, Zebra and Shark lined up to be set off by ITFC mascot Bluey, with Capybara taking the win before being revealed as our Year 3 teacher, Miss Bishop.



These events have had such a positive impact on our community, strengthening relationships, broadening experiences and creating memories that will last well beyond the end of term.

BROOKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Just as the Easter holiday began Brooklands was engulfed in flames and smoke. Villagers spotted the smoke rising as far as three miles away. Thanks, in no small part to Peter Marsh, our caretaker, who's vigilant observation and prompt action led to the rapid alert of the fire service, the school was attended by six fire crews from across Suffolk and Essex in response to the call. It took several hours for the blaze, which is believed to have begun in the roof, to be brought under control.

It is with huge relief that no one was injured in the fire on 30th March but the school has incurred significant damage. Thankfully, however, there was no damage to classrooms internally but there has been significant internal damage to the school hall, the middle of the school, the teachers' preparation space, and adjoining small group spaces.

Thanks to the mammoth efforts of an extended community including Essex and Suffolk fire services who dealt with the fire and subsequent assessments of the situation, Orwell Multi Academy Trust, and the support of Alistair Heath-Robinson, liaising alongside me with the Department of Education and with our insurers, the Suffolk Local Authority Infrastructure Team and Concertus who have guided us through the process of recovery and next steps. Brooks and Wood Building Contractors who have worked tirelessly to restore our school for our children's safe return. We have been able, rather amazingly, to welcome our children back from their Easter holiday only one day later than planned (14th April). Additionally, we also acknowledge the Educational Psychologists who have supported us ahead of the school opening and following the children's return to school, providing us with guidance and information on responding to a critical incident using trauma informed practice.

With the support and amazing work of Brooks & Wood (contractors) visible signs of fire damage have been concealed although the process of comprehensive repair work won't begin in earnest until the summer holidays. For the time being, flooring has been replaced, walls painted and ceilings have had to be lowered temporarily to conceal the damage from the children. Consequently, within the hall we have lost about a third of the hall space resulting from the need to panel off a significant part of the hall in order for the building team to continue working in this area. There is also scaffolding around the building to enable work on securing the roof possible over the coming weeks and onsite parking has been impacted.

In other news our Year 5 children completed their Bikeability training meaning that they can now safely and confidently enjoy cycling. Our Year 3 and Year 4 children have been enjoying reaching new heights on the mobile climbing wall and our youngest children have been relishing the delights and adventures on Beach School visits to Manningtree beach. Our Year 6 children have been enjoying action packed adventures on their residential at PGL, Bawdsey where they took part in raft building, archery, fencing and feeling the wind through their hair as they experienced the thrill of a zip wire as well as weekly swimming sessions at Fore Street in Ipswich. We are pleased to share that we have recently achieved the LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) Bronze Award. The award recognises our efforts to make food, farming, and sustainability visible through practical activity throughout our curriculum.

Our Year 3 and Year 4 recently took part in landscape photography workshops and explored the rural beauty of Constable Country, where the painter John Constable was born. The painter celebrated for his revolutionary approach to landscape art was inspired by our local area and his works. A selection of our children's photographs were submitted for consideration for the 'Unconventional Constable' exhibition at the Constable Memorial Hall, East Bergholt with one being selected as a winning entry.

Reminded of the words of Michael Jordan (basketball player), "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it". Thanks to a strong collective culture of support and teamwork Brooklands has a lot to celebrate and look forward to this term and has made an incredible recovery in a very short time.



THE WILLOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Summer Term is always defined by competition, community and creativity at The Willows and 2026 has been no exception. We were delighted to host two fantastic Sports Days, ensuring every child from Reception to Year 6 had the chance to participate. The EYFS, Year 1, 2, and 3 event was filled with joy and foundational skills, while the Year 4, 5, and 6 Sports Day showcased impressive determination and sportsmanship.

Pupils in The Reef have also had the opportunity to develop their confidence and coordination through their horse riding lessons, a lovely example of our commitment to unique personal development.

As part of our Mighty Oak work, the children in Year 4 took part in a public speaking competition at the Anglia Ruskin University. They spoke beautifully and won many commendations, with one of the children proudly taking an individual award, complete with medal, for his confident contribution.



We also continue to enjoy a close and impactful relationship with ITFC Foundation and had a very special visit when the Championship Runners Up Cup came into school. This provided an inspiring moment for our aspiring athletes to see a piece of sporting history up close.



Our older pupils have had incredible opportunities to see more of the world beyond IP2. Year 5 pupils embarked on an unforgettable journey to the Tower of London, where they explored centuries of history firsthand and Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful weekend at PGL Bawdsey, raft building, climbing, swinging and learning to be more independent. Back at school, the magic of the arts took centre stage with the Grandad Anansi theatre performance, which captivated the children with traditional storytelling and cultural richness.



THE WILLOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children in EYFS and Year 1 enjoyed an educational visit to Jimmy's Farm, discovering the wonders of local wildlife and agriculture. This was complemented by our Year 5 pupils attending the Suffolk Farm Fair, where they learned more about the vital role of farming in our community.



Learning within The Willows building itself continues to be an exciting adventure. We celebrated National Numeracy Day with dedicated events for Key Stage 2 and a special "together" event for Reception and Key Stage 1, making mathematics engaging and collaborative.

Furthermore, Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils enjoyed a visit to the local library, reinforcing our commitment to fostering a lifelong love of reading.

We also took the time to celebrate the children's commitment to school life, with a special Attendance Pizza Party for Year 2 and 3.



Whether through history, sport, or the arts, this term has truly inspired the children, providing them with invaluable experiences and creating lasting memories that reach far beyond the classroom walls.

We are incredibly proud of the progress we and children have made both individually and as a school team this academic year

HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Spring and Summer Term at Handford Hall has been enriching for our children, staff and school community. From celebrating reading to attending variety of enrichment opportunities, our children have embodied our values of growth, respect, enjoyment, aspiration and togetherness.

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration with children and staff dressed as their favourite word, participating in reading-themed activities and visiting our local Waterstones.

The enthusiasm was infectious as children immersed themselves in storytelling and literacy challenges, reinforcing their love for books.



The Last Days of Pompeii

The Immersive Exhibition transported our Year 6 pupils back to 79 AD, blending dramatic storytelling with cutting-edge technology to bring the doomed Roman city to life.



Ancient Egyptian experience
Year 4 have explored the fascinating culture of the Ancient Egyptians in Virtual Reality and explored Ancient Egypt by participating in a historical workshop.



As part of our RE curriculum in Spring 1, pupils have been learning about Hinduism. In line with our planned annual Places of Worship visits for each year group, Year 4 visited the Ipswich Hindu Samaj. During this time, our Year 1 pupils were learning about Holi, the vibrant Festival of Colours, which celebrates spring, love and the triumph of good over evil. In Spring 2, our whole-school RE focus day explored Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism, further enriching pupils' understanding of different world faiths and beliefs.



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 6 visit to Suffolk One in Summer Term

Our year 6 pupils had a great opportunity to visit our local Sixth Form, Suffolk One college. They were exploring business careers as they are already thinking about their employment in the future.



Sports Day and summer term enrichment trips



Happy retirement

At the end of this academic year, we are saying goodbye to two amazing teachers, Mrs Pearl and Mrs Bacon, who are retiring after remarkable 25-year careers in the classroom. Throughout their years of service, they have supported, inspired, and nurtured generations of students, while also being valued colleagues and friends to so many staff members. Their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to education have made a lasting impact on our school community, and they will leave a huge void that will be difficult to fill.

Both Mrs Pearl and Mrs Bacon are among the most dedicated and respected members of our school family, and we are enormously grateful for everything they have contributed over the years.

We wish them both a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement. Now is the time to explore the world, create new adventures, and enjoy plenty of well-earned "me time" with your loved ones.

Thank you, Mrs Pearl and Mrs Bacon, for your outstanding service and for the difference you have made to so many lives. You will be greatly missed.



IT IS TRUE WHEN WE SAY THAT HANDFORD HALL IS A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE LOVES TO BE!

GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Busy Summer Term at Grange Primary School

As another exciting school year draws to a close, we have been reflecting on a fantastic summer term packed with learning, enrichment and memorable experiences for our pupils.

Learning has certainly extended beyond the classroom this term. Our Reception children had a wonderful day at Easton Farm Park, where they enjoyed meeting and feeding the animals, exploring the farm and learning more about life on a working farm. The visit provided memorable, hands-on experiences that complemented their learning beautifully. Year 1 enjoyed an exciting visit to Africa Alive, where they loved seeing a wide variety of animals while bringing their Science learning about living things to life.

Year 2 explored our local area with visits to Landguard Fort and the Felixstowe Nature Reserve, discovering more about the history of Felixstowe while taking part in litter-picking activities to help care for our local environment.

Year 3 travelled back in time with a fascinating visit to Colchester Castle, supporting their History learning and giving pupils the opportunity to explore real Roman artefacts and discover what life was like during Roman Britain.

Our talented Year 4 musicians proudly represented the school at the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) Celebration at Trinity Park. After a year of learning an instrument, the children confidently performed alongside pupils from other schools, showcasing their musical skills, enthusiasm and growing confidence.

Meanwhile, Year 5 have been immersed in their study of the Ancient Maya. They were fortunate to take part in a virtual session with a Mayan archaeologist, gaining first-hand insight into this fascinating civilisation, before trying their hand at preparing and tasting traditional Mayan-inspired foods.

Year six are fully immersed in rehearsals for their end of year production 'Mission Implausible' and have participated in themed learning activities to get them into character.

Our annual Sports Day was a huge success, with children showing excellent determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day.



Our children also enjoyed an inspiring visit from Science Boffins during Science Week. Through exciting experiments and hands-on investigations, pupils were encouraged to think scientifically, ask questions and develop their curiosity about the world around them. We even made the local and national news when our choir performed on the beach in Felixstowe to celebrate Davis Attenborough's 100th birthday.

Key stage 2 pupils represented Grange Primary at the Quad Kids athletics competition. They demonstrated excellent determination, teamwork and resilience, proving themselves to be fantastic ambassadors for our school.

After a break of 7 years we have been able to establish a new PTA who have introduced a range of fund raising events. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the events—it was wonderful to see our school community come together. Thanks to the generosity of families and supporters, valuable funds were raised to enhance opportunities and resources for our children.

We are excited to take part in this year's Felixstowe Carnival, with our colourful school float based on the theme of Rock versus Pop. A special thank you goes to Rock Steady Music School for their fantastic support on the float, who promise to keep us entertained with live music along the route.

We wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning.

SPRINGFIELD INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

What a whirlwind of a term Spring term was!

We started with Ofsted and finished with Brody from Year 2 'Flying the Flag' at Portman Road.



In between January and March, we had lots of visitors to school. We have been planting out pots and pond dipping thanks to our Nature Park grant, and our new pond has an armada of newts.



We had an ear-splitting visiting Panto retelling Jack and the Beanstalk in January. Workshops for parents began again, and class visits for parents to see a RWI session in reception were held.

Year 2 parents came in February to sew with their children, and all the teachers visited a school in Brentwood.

Animal World visited year 2 in school, they brought some friendly smooth skinned and fluffy creatures in for the day.

World Book Day in March saw us dressed in some unusual school wear, and we had our termly Rock Steady concert, and of course our Easter Egg raffle which raised over £900. Year 1 parents came into school to make Easter bonnets and Easter crafts with their children. Finally, we finished the term by singing at church. One beautifully sung round and another silly, fun song with actions about a hot cross bunny.



April started with Effort Cup and 100% attendance assemblies, and we also looked forward to the Wolsey Theatre performing 'Grandad Anansi' for year 1 and 2, and reception headed off to the farm. Year 1 parents came in for a RWI masterclass with Mrs Rose and Miss Scott. It promised to be another busy term!



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Quiz Time

Please find the link to the online Quiz –
[Newsletter Quiz July 2026](#)

Or find the questions below.



1. **True or False:** If an email appears to come from a colleague, you should always trust it if it uses their name.
2. **Which of these is the biggest warning sign of a phishing email?**
 - a. Poor spelling or grammar
 - b. Unexpected requests to click a link or open an attachment
 - c. Pressure to act quickly
 - d. All of the above
3. **What should you do if you think you've clicked on a suspicious link?**
 - a. Delete the email and carry on
 - b. Notify your headteacher and report it immediately to the Sweethaven helpdesk
 - c. Wait to see if anything happens
4. **True or False:** Fraud only involves money being stolen.
5. **Which of the following should make you stop and think?**
 - a. A supplier emails to say their bank details have changed.
 - b. A colleague asks you to make an urgent payment.
 - c. An invoice looks slightly different from usual.
 - d. All of the above.
6. **Following the fire at Brooklands, what is the most important lesson?**
 - a. Health and safety is only about complying with legislation.
 - b. Effective planning, reporting concerns and working together help keep everyone safe when unexpected events occur.
 - c. Fire drills aren't necessary if alarms are installed.