

# Trust Termly Newsletter

## March 2024



## New beginnings

Easter is a celebration of new beginnings, and the start of 2024 has been a fresh new start for OMAT with the arrival of a new trust board in January. With all but one of the trustees having strong links, either directly or indirectly, with primary education, and our Chair of Trustees, Mayleen Atima, being a practising primary headteacher and living in our community, there is a renewed vigour and excitement about teaching and learning and the aspirations for what we can achieve together.

Therefore, in this term's newsletter, I would like to reflect on our Trust mission:

**To create excellent school communities where learning is unstoppable and aspirations have no limit, enabling all children to flourish, no matter what their starting point or needs.**

In the last newsletter, I reflected upon how success motivates us and so this term, I would like to think about what our shared vision for success is and how it fuels our job satisfaction and ultimately, wellbeing.

I know from our discussions and observations of your hard work, that our shared driver is a desire to make a difference and to enrich children's lives. The leaders of your schools have worked collaboratively to set ambitious targets for this and established the Trust's strategic direction to create an inclusive provision across our schools that advantages the disadvantaged and ensures that no child is left behind. This is born from a shared desire to provide all children with the opportunity to achieve their full potential and to lead successful, rewarding and enriching lives.

The schools you are part of are a hub of opportunity and aspiration within our communities and they are the windows to a world of opportunity for our children. Your hard work ensures that, as the pupils walk through the doors of our schools, they are immersed in the richness the world has to offer, from enjoying art to exploring the planet, the mysteries of history, the awe and wonder of science, the intriguing puzzles of maths, the joys and heartache of sport and the rich fulfilment of books and language, taking them on adventures and journeys into their imagination. The sense of job satisfaction that this brings is immense and is why we all work in education.

However, we all know that it is not without its challenges and for some pupils, there are barriers to them accessing this rich opportunity. That is why I would like to thank the SENCOs in your schools for the work they have been carrying out to review the strategies being used to ensure every child can embark on these journeys of discovery. This is such a great opportunity to work collaboratively and to share the strengths across our Trust so that we can be stronger together.

To achieve this, we may need to take feedback and to make changes which can start to feel like a threat to our job satisfaction and wellbeing. But we know, as educators, one of the most powerful tools in our teaching toolbox is feedback and that when it is embraced, success is achieved. Therefore, as we start our Easter break, please reflect on your potential new beginnings, be prepared to take risks and embrace new ideas that will continue to motivate you, unlock your job satisfaction and support your wellbeing.

Thank you all for your incredible hard work and I hope you enjoy a very well-earned Easter break.

Very best wishes,

**Alastair Heath-Robinson**  
CEO



## Grace Cook Primary School & Nursery



We've had a really busy and productive term at Grace Cook Primary School and Nursery and look forward to our Nursery being full from the start of the Summer term.

As you may be aware, at Grace Cook we promote the Curiosity Approach, incorporating authentic resources into our teaching to support children's learning. At the end of the term we have been bringing the lifecycle of a chicken alive - we are hatching our own chicks. At the beginning of the week ten eggs arrived and we placed them in an incubator and watched. On Wednesday cracks appeared and six chicks had hatched by the end of the day. The children are amazed by this and are asking so many questions about the lifecycle. Over the next week we will learn how to care for the chicks as they grow and those of us brave enough will be able to hold one.

## Springfield Infant School & Nursery



Reception have been learning about healthy living and learning the story of the 'Little Red Hen'. They have also made their own bread to make a healthy snack. Science week this year has been linked to sustainability; so, we had a fun filled toy swap, the children all brought an old toy into school and went home with a different toy. This was followed by a clothes and cake sale to raise money for a new water butt and a poly-tunnel as requested by our ECO School Council.

Parental support for the event was amazing and we have some very talented pastry chefs in our parent body. Year 1 visited Colchester Zoo, it was also World Book Day and then we finished the last week with an Easter egg raffle raising another £400. The children are also looking forward to the next term when Youth Olympian, medalist & gymnast Danny Crouch will be visiting the school and fund raising with the children.



## Brooklands Primary School

Brooklands prides itself in being leaders of outdoor learning and places a significant focus in both time and financial investment in our school environment.

Over the Easter break, in readiness for the Summer term, we have in place some exciting plans. We will be installing an all-weather surface in our Early Years outdoor space. The project will also see an enlarged roadway for bikes and trikes as well as installation of a larger sand pit together with many other new features.

Our Early Years children will also be experiencing Beach School next term with visits to Manningtree. We are the only school in Suffolk to be recognised as a Beach School which is something we are extremely proud and pleased to be able to offer. Manningtree provides us with great opportunities for roaming, play and exploration. We run activities from paddling to shelter building, beach art to scavenger hunts, foraging and the obligatory wild cooking!



*WHERE LEARNING IS UNSTOPPABLE AND ASPIRATIONS HAVE NO LIMITS*

# Halifax Primary School

This term we have continued to develop the use of Oracy across the curriculum, and it is becoming an integral part in how we learn at Halifax. We have been thinking a lot about how we use Oracy in terms of the four strands (cognition, physical, linguistic, and social and emotional) especially to ask clarifying questions when others are offering explanations; this relies on very careful listening. Below are some examples from different areas of the curriculum.

## Science – Night and Day Videos

During Science in Year 5, the children used their oracy skills and group skills to produce a video to explain why we get night and day on Earth. Using a torch and an orange with a bamboo skewer through as their tools, they did a great job to think of different ways to present their explanations.



## Jumpstart.... To help keep things ticking over...

Jumpstart Maths forms the bedrock of our maths curriculum here at Halifax. Children spend 15-20 minutes every day completing a range of calculations that cover the core aspects of mathematics: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and reasoning, and then utilise their oracy skills to explain how they reached their conclusion and any patterns they may have noticed.



## Mathematical Reasoning

Mrs Kirby's maths group regularly use oracy to explain their reasoning and justify how they have reached an answer. Recently, they have been describing the properties of shapes for others to guess.



# Handford Hall Primary School

## Growing A Global Community at Handford Hall

Promoting a love for reading sets children up as readers for life, with all the accompanying benefits that follow. Our children know that being able to read well is a key life skill, which will open a door to their success.



Handford Hall Curriculum incorporates hands-on activities which ensure all our children have a workshop experience throughout each topic. Our skillfully planned enrichment opportunities allow pupils to enhance and deepen their learning. Workshops, educational visits, and trips, help to teach life skills that benefit children beyond the classroom, and develop an appreciation for cultural and community issues, teamwork and social responsibility.

What is better than transporting our school to Ancient Egypt for a day and learning about mummification process or becoming scientists for a week and exploring amazing science phenomena? There are also opportunities to explore current issues that affect all countries and communities like history of people movement and current topic of migration in Europe.

As part of their Migration IPC topic, our Year 5 students visited the Hold, located within Ipswich's unique Waterfront. The Hold safely houses the bulk of Suffolk's nationally and internationally significant archives. The pupils learnt that it was more than a building, the development of this centre was the catalyst for a transformed, audience-focused service, which reaches diverse communities in Ipswich, the county and beyond.



Egyptian Day



Science Day

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## The Willows Primary School

We have much to be proud of as across the school children have enjoyed a rich variety of learning experiences with visitors, special days and new clubs adding to the fun.



Year 5 went to space thanks to some visiting virtual reality headsets, Gemma's farm visited our Reception and Key Stage 1 children; and we all enjoyed a celebrating Numbers on our Maths Day and brilliant literature on World Book Day.

It has been a real joy to see the smiles and excitement at our new 'Football for all' and 'Gymnastic Nurture' clubs which are designed to boost confidence and enable participation of those who may struggle to shine amongst their more competitive peers,

This term we are also trying a new style of parent consultation with children writing invitations to their parents asking them to come and celebrate the learning they are most proud of. Check out Connor one of our Reception children, his mum and teacher demonstrating our new approach here: <https://youtu.be/Ohcqcfyi99U>

More film stars were created when our Reception class was filmed taking part in a model 'Chatta' lesson led by its creator Chris Williams. The clips will be used to support teachers to use the approach which is designed to build confidence in oral sentence composition and vocabulary and unlock writing potential.

It has been a short but exceptionally busy term at The Willows!



## Grange Community Primary School

Spring has finally arrived at Grange as we end this term. Daffodils are in full bloom; spring themed plant pots greet you as you approach the entrance, easter themed prizes will be handed out to our Always Club recipients. As always, a very busy term with lots of changes afoot for Grange when we return, with the **timetable change etc. Here are some snippets of what we have been up to...**

**This term we started our 'No Outsiders' programme as part of our PSHE lessons. The programme focuses on educating pupils on each of the protected characteristics and celebrating the things that make us a unique within a culture of inclusivity.**

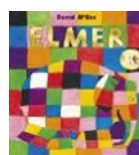
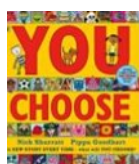
**Comic Relief**-We had a wild time with wacky hairstyles, fun hats, and head-dresses all to celebrate Red Nose Day.

There was a joke competition and a bake sale, all to raise money. We raised nearly £90 for this great cause.

**Continued...**



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## Community At Grange

### Ease the Squeeze on cost of living with East Suffolk Council

We were approached by East Suffolk Council who were funding cooking workshops with a company called Abbeycroft.

#### The aim is twofold:

- To support those families in the school most in need of some financial aid
- To promote healthy eating, cooking at home and whet the appetite to 'grow at home'

At the end of the day, aside from learning new skills and having fun the families were able to take home a beautiful big box of free fresh food ingredients and recipe cards to make 5 more family meals. A big bonus to struggling families.



#### A Goodbye

This term we say a very sad goodbye to Danny, our wonderful Deputy. A huge thank you to Danny for all the support and knowledge he has given to Grange for the past 4 years. We wish him (and Bailey) all the very best for the next exciting venture, he will be greatly missed!

## It's Quiz Time!

- 1) What the current recommendation for the number and type of words you should use in your password?
- 2) What's another secure way of accessing online accounts?
- 3) Who is responsible for Health & Safety across your school?
- 4) If your bank calls and asks for your account details and PIN number, what should you do?
- 5) What should you do if you find a hazard at work?



Risk Assessment				
Severity	Disaster	High	Medium	Minimal
Probability	Critical	Critical	High	Medium
Regularly	Critical	High	Medium	Medium
Probable	Critical	High	Medium	Low

Find out more about protecting yourself from fraud [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view the National Cyber Security Centre's top tips for staying secure online.