

Trust Termly Newsletter

July 2024



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

This year, as a trust, the proportion of children leaving Year 6 and meeting the expected standard, matched the national average of 61% for combined Reading, Writing and Maths. This represented a significant improvement on last year when it was 51%. Also, the proportion of pupils reaching the higher standard exceeded the national figure at 11%, compared to 7% nationally and up from 5% the previous year.

All schools have seen an improvement in Key Stage 2 outcomes, but there have been truly tremendous results at Brooklands, Halifax and Handford Hall, where the pupils exceeded national benchmarks in all subjects at both the expected and higher standard. These achievements must be celebrated, as they demonstrate that, within our trust, we have the gold standard of knowledge, skills and expertise to provide our children with a truly exceptional education experience. Hugely well done and thank you to everyone involved in securing such great outcomes.

I have seen such incredible hard work this year to ensure that we continue to build on our strengths through collaboration and sharing of effective practice. Together, we will ensure that every child leaves an OMAT school with the best possible opportunities ahead of them.

After a year of setting our expectations through clear KPIs, rigorous internal and external quality assurance, peer reviews and sharing our strategic ambitions, we have established a very a succinct focus for 2024-25. That is **to continue to improve the quality and consistency of teaching and learning to meet the needs of all pupils.**

These ambitions kick started at our Teachers' conference on the 21st June and will continue into the new academic year, reflecting and reinforcing how we approach all our roles as educators of pupils with SEND.

As the school year closes, I would like to sincerely thank and wish all those that are leaving the trust the very best in their future endeavours. This includes wishing Anita Krishna all the best for a long, healthy and happy retirement and Lee Abbott all the very best in his new role as headteacher at Bosmere Primary School. We also look forward to welcoming many new members to our team in September, including Kelly Landers who will be stepping up as the new headteacher at Halifax and Gemma Havord who will be joining us as the interim headteacher at Grange.

Thank you all for your incredible hard work and for making OMAT such a joyous place to work. I hope you have a smashing and very well-earned summer break with lots of sunshine!

Please enjoy the stories from our schools on the following pages.

Very best wishes,

Alastair Heath-Robinson

CEO

WHERE LEARNING IS UNSTOPPABLE AND ASPIRATIONS HAVE NO LIMITS

Grace Cook Primary School & Nursery



Our staff, parents and children have all worked so hard and provided such great support this year. Our Governors have also provided challenge and support for all we do at Grace Cook and our brand new Friends of Grace Cook have started off with a successful event alongside our Sports Afternoon. Finally, our wider community involvement - including

Kicks and Tricks who provide our wrap around care, Holiday camps and PE/ Sports provision, Chilton Community Church, Open the book, Gipping Valley Sports Partnership, Local sports clubs and businesses have all made valuable contributions to our school this year .

Springfield Infant School & Nursery

As we draw towards the end of the year, it ends in a whirlwind of activity, and no-one can believe another year has flown by. The year 1 classes have all been to a working farm, Reception have been to the beach and paddled in the sea (in between the showers); year 2 had a fun filled trip to Bewilderwood, and nursery have been on their first school trip by coach to Jimmy's Farm. All year groups produced art based on literature and fairytales and parents came in to view their child's masterpieces. Year 2 have also performed their leavers show called, 'You are Special', to families and friends. We have had Olympic sporting event day, with hurdles, botcha, sprints and target practice. In the final week we say goodbye to Miss Santos who is leaving us to train as a speech therapist and we welcome Mrs Torrance who will be our new SENCO in September. And as ever we culminate the year with discos and awards assemblies, where we celebrate individual children and their successes by awarding effort cups, cloud nine badges and attendance awards.



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Brooklands Primary School

As this academic year draws to a close it brings with it a time for brief reflection on the many amazing things we have achieved and celebrated at Brooklands in the past year.

Our children's outcomes at the end of Early Years and phonics screening were once again above national figures and this was accompanied by shining results in Key Stage 2 for a further year. These results reflect all the exceptional work and effort that everyone involved, including the children, staff and parents have put in.

We also celebrate two further teachers successfully passing their Forest School Level 3 qualification supporting our commitment to all classes visiting our Forest School site regularly throughout the year.

Brooklands has strong links with Manningtree. Our youngest children have enjoyed Beach School visits in the town this Summer. Our Year 6 children have also had the opportunity to take part in sailing on the estuary.

Our Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 children have been the first children taught in our fabulous new teaching block. Pupil numbers have also continued to climb to record levels.

This year has seen our children making an incredible difference to their community. From donating pocket money to charity, collecting items for Foodbanks to sponsored walks and litter picking to name a few. We have also had some sensational fundraising events including our recent 'Spellathon' which raised £4175.

We are sure next year will bring continued success as new children and parents join us along with new teachers and governors.



The Willows Primary School

The Summer Term has been filled with amazing opportunities for the children to shine beyond the traditional curriculum. Our new 'FISH' philosophy is ensuring that personal growth and essential life skills are placed right at the heart of school life and all children have a chance to participate in activities that challenge them and raise aspirations.

Through our Sports Events and the Year 6 residential at PGL Bawdsey, the children have developed teamwork and collaboration skills, learning to support and trust one another while working towards common goals. The Year 6 residential in particular provided a platform for building resilience and demonstrating courage, as children pushed their limits and faced new experiences with determination.

Creative and STEM projects, such as the Year 5 participation in the WCET festival and the Year 2 Skills Escalator day at Suffolk One gave children a taste of different worlds. The



events raised children's aspirations of what was possible to enjoy and achieve, as well as encouraging perseverance as they worked through problems and learned the value of committed teamwork.

We are so proud of the great strides the children have made at The Willows this year. They have not only grown as individuals but they have also strengthened their social and emotional skills, laying a solid foundation for their future success.

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Handford Hall Primary School

'When a photo speaks a thousand words..'

Summer Term at Handford Hall is always full of learning adventures. Our pupils participated in a variety of carefully planned Enrichment Opportunities: school trips to West Stow, River Orwell Cruise, Felixstowe, The Hold and Kingswood, Christchurch Park and many more. They also continued to enhance their learning through Fab Science workshops, Excellent Writers workshops, Drama, Orienteering and Crucial Crew events.

Handford Hall learning adventures involved collaborative learning experiences with a high level of physical (and often emotional) challenge. Practical problem-solving, explicit reflection and discussion of thinking and emotion (metacognition and self-regulation) were vital in developing our pupils' resilience, focus and determination and pure love of learning.

Once again, our children have worked very hard which resulted in fabulous End of Year results. Our committed and driven staff skillfully led our pupils through the wonders of learning across all subjects and a joy of learning was visible every single day!

It has been a rewarding and exceptionally busy term at Handford Hall and now we are ready for the summer holidays!



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Halifax Primary School

The trips, events and experiences we have had this term, supported not only our learning about the world but also ourselves. At Halifax we continue to give these opportunities to our children to support their learning and to create rich memories of their own.

Our Year 6 children worked incredibly hard to learn their parts for an amazing production of 'Alice the Musical'. With super soloists, amazing acting and well-learnt songs by all, the performance was a true success to be enjoyed by our pupils, parents and staff alike. The hard work and determination shown to bring together such a display was a reflection of the incredible attitudes and perseverance that we have seen from the children all year. We are all very proud of the children's many achievements in their time at Halifax and wish them every success as they move to high school.

We have also had an excellent year of WCET (Whole Class Ensemble Teaching) learning Clarinet in Year 5. We worked hard on all our pieces, including stand out favourites, 'WCET Fiesta' and 'Lego House' and our year culminated in performing with 7 other schools at the WCET Festival at Trinity Park. We topped this off by performing all the pieces we learnt throughout the year at a special concert for parents and our Year 3 friends in school, which simultaneously raised the roof and brought the house down (if that's possible!). Mr Whiteman, our tutor, reported that this has been one of the best Year 5's he's taught in his long association with us, so everyone can be rightfully proud of a job well done.

Our small group learners in violin have adapted well to our new Suffolk County Music Service (SCMS) tutor, Miss Webb, and are all making steady progress. Our brass players now encompass trombone, cornet and baritone players, with our SCMS tutor, Mr Garrido, continuing to develop our talented young musicians. We have one of our brass players playing outside of school now, in a SCMS weekend orchestra, and we hope that many more decide to join such groups during their time at Halifax and beyond. Our end of term Music Extravaganzas continue to get the whole school singing and playing and show how we work as a team in all our year groups to make music inclusive, positively challenging and, above all, fun.



Grange Community Primary School

It's been a busy term for trips, summer term is always a favourite to get out and about. Year 6 have been to Duxford Imperial War Museum, lots of 'oohs', 'ahhs' and 'wows' as they toured the hangers. Year 3 have visited Colchester castle where they were able to find out about living in England during the Roman times & how Queen Boudicca invaded. Reception have had fun exploring the local area, getting to know where they live and of course checking out the local play parks.



Continued...

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Grange continued...

We have continued to engage the children with 'Green Impact'. We learnt about the ways we can all make a positive change in our local area by doing the smallest things. Some of the children have asked to go out litter picking in our last week of term, showing how impactful the assemblies have been. The children also learned about the Green Hero certificates and badges that are available to earn and were excited about the possibility of receiving one.

Bastille Day - There is a lot happening in France in 2024, and we have been celebrating and learning about it. The children learnt about the Summer Olympic Games, the Tour de France, and Bastille Day over the course of the week, with a final French Celebration on the morning of Friday 12th July. We sang French songs, ate French foods (including snails) and took part in a special Eiffel Tower-building competition!

Forest Schools is still a firm favourite across all our age groups. Mrs Hughes does a wonderful job adapting the learning to suit every class. The weather is sometimes not very kind but it never stops the adventure.

This term we say a very sad goodbye to:

Lee, our wonderful Headteacher. A huge thank you to Lee for all the support and knowledge he has given to Grange for the past 4.5 years. We wish him all the very best for the next exciting venture.

Debbie our fabulous ELSA. You have made such a difference to so many. Good Luck in your new role.

Pauline our SLT Teaching Assistant who is retiring at the end of this year after 22 years at Grange. Thank you doesn't seem enough. Enjoy your retirement.

Rosie one of our class teachers has come to the end of her fixed term contract with us and will be leaving for new adventures at a local high school. Good Luck.



Finally, it's Quiz Time!

- 1) What steps would you take if you discovered a fire in the workplace?
- 2) What should you do if you receive an email from an unknown sender with an attachment?
- 3) What is multi-factor authentication and why is it important?
- 4) How should you share sensitive information with others?
- 5) What is the purpose of a risk assessment in the workplace?



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

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

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