

# Trust Termly Newsletter

## July 2025



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

As we end another academic year, I want to thank each of you for your commitment, compassion and skill. The work you do is never easy, but you are making such a sustained difference to the pupils' futures and work together to fulfil our vision **to ensure that every child has an exceptional educational experience.**

The 2024–25 academic year sees our Trust educating more children than ever before, with nearly 2,000 pupils now across our schools. But it is not just the number of children that has increased; the complexity of their needs has also grown. Almost a quarter of OMAT pupils have been identified as having SEND, significantly higher than the national figure. Our proportion of disadvantaged pupils is also well above national levels. These figures are not just statistics, they are a reflection of the lived reality in our classrooms, and a powerful reminder of the scale of the responsibility we carry.

And yet, despite these challenges, our Key Stage 2 combined reading, writing and maths outcomes, along with our phonics outcomes for years 1 & 2, remain close to national. With 12% of our pupils at Key Stage 2 achieving the higher standard, outperforming the national figure of 8%. What is more, attendance across the Trust is above national with persistent absence 3.5% below!

This achievement has not happened by chance. It has come from our relentless focus on always striving to reflect on and improve the quality and consistency of our teaching to meet the needs of all pupils.

To support this aim, I am delighted to share that the Trustees have made two significant investments for the year ahead. First, to expand the provision offered by Communicate, ensuring every school will benefit from two additional days per week of professional support. We know how vital language development is to support pupils' learning and future academic success.

Second, we are making a substantial investment in upgrading the IT resources across the Trust. Every school will benefit from improved access to technology, enabling teachers and pupils to harness the digital tools that will shape the world ahead of them.

We also know that to bring about the best outcomes for children, we must invest in you and provide you with the time to focus on your professional development. Hence, why next year, we have added three additional PD days whilst removing the standalone 'odd' day at the end of the summer term, recognising the need for purposeful time that respects your workload and wellbeing.

Finally—and you may wish to keep this quiet from friends in other schools, you finish this Friday! Not Tuesday. Please do try not to gloat. You've certainly earned the extra time to unwind, rest and take pride in everything you've accomplished.

Thank you for making OMAT such an inspiring, inclusive and forward-thinking community. I hope the stories that follow in this newsletter capture just a fraction of what we've achieved together this year. Have a wonderful and well-deserved summer.

With warmest wishes,

**Alastair Heath-Robinson**

**CEO, Orwell Multi Academy Trust**

## Grace Cook Primary School & Nursery



The children and staff at Grace Cook Nursery had a fantastic time taking part in our recent Big Toddle event to raise money for Barnardo's. Dressed as safari animals, the children proudly walked a lap around the field, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork. After their adventure, they enjoyed a special safari biscuit and were each awarded a well-deserved medal. Thanks to the wonderful support of our families and community, we raised an amazing **£250** for Barnardo's. Well done to everyone involved!

Sun Class were full of wonder and excitement as they released the butterflies they had carefully nurtured from tiny caterpillars during Discover and Do. Having watched in awe from the very beginning the children had witnessed the entire transformation from caterpillar to cocoon. The children were amazed as they watched the beautiful

Painted Ladies emerge. It was a powerful hands-on lesson about life cycles, which had been our topic for the term. The children had thoughtfully provided the newly hatched butterflies with slices of orange and apple just before release. Sun Class talked for days about the magical moment their butterflies took flight.



## Springfield Infant School & Nursery

Year 2 have had their final performance and sang and danced their way through 'David Hattenscarf.' It was a musical with a message about taking care of the endangered species around the world, the program for the show was designed by River Burba in Year 2.

Reception have been to the beach, and had a great time paddling in the sea. We had a science week and visit from Kinetic Science and Year 1 are currently watching their caterpillars transform into cocoons. The Year 1 children have also made some fantastic handwarmers in DT and some children across all the year groups have performed in the Rock Steady concert. Of course, in the final week we will be having discos!

We say a fond farewell to some of our staff this term. Mrs. Hall, who has been

an asset to our dedicated support team; she is retiring after 33 years at Springfield Infants. We wish her well and hope she enjoys her more peaceful days. Mrs. Torrance, who has only been with a short while, is moving onto new ventures and she will be replaced by Viv Proctor who will be our new Senco from September.



## Brooklands Primary School

As this 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.

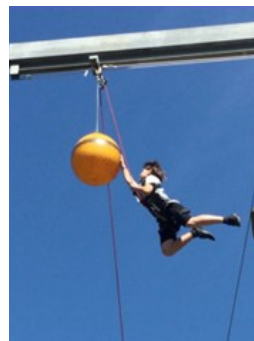
Our children's outcomes at the end of Early Years, phonics screening and the multiplication tables check were once again above national figures and this was accompanied by shining results in Key Stage 2 for a further year. These results reflect all the exceptional work and effort that everyone involved,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

This year has seen us extend our use of technology to enhance learning in all areas of the curriculum through 1-1 iPads.

Brooklands has strong links with Manningtree. Our youngest children have enjoyed Beach School visits in the town this Summer. Our children have been doing many exciting things including: beachcombing, minibeast hunting in the sand and mud dipping in the saltmarsh. Our Year 6 children have also had the opportunity to take part in sailing on the estuary.

Our children, especially those with autism, ADHD, sensory processing disorders or anxiety have benefited from a recently created Sensory Room. The room includes: a striking bubble wall with colour changing LED lights, comfortable seating with large beanbags and cushions, a swing, tactile floor tiles to name a few.

This year has seen our children making an incredible difference to their community. Most notably, we celebrate our Year 3 children (Barn Owl Class) taking part in an owl conservation project involving working in partnership with wildlife charities and local landowners (farmers) to increase the owl population in the area.



## The Willows Primary School

The summer term is all about The Arts at The Willows. We have been celebrating artists, designers, musicians, poets, architects as well as innovation and imagination across all subjects. Exploring questions such as: '**What makes something a masterpiece?**' and '**Can we always believe our eyes?**' The children have immersed themselves in the creative process, crafting their own works of art, instruments, songs, poems and patterns.

Finally, we showcased their amazing work at our Arts Afternoon, where parents were treated to poetry readings, dance and song, as well as being able to visit classrooms around the school to see their children's achievements. Reception even made their own costumes for the event! Smiles, positivity and applause filled the school.

There was further drama as Year 6 treated us to a spectacular leavers performance based on their enquiry question, '**Which is more important talent or hard work?**' and we were treated to a brilliant brass concert by Year 5, who also took part in the WCET festival at Trinity Park.

As we reflect on the term and the look back over the year, our community has so much to celebrate and be proud of. Every small step forward, whether in the classroom or beyond, reflects the time and energy invested by all who have supported our school this year. To answer Year 6's enquiry question – it is clear that when it comes to success at The Willows talent and hard work are equally important as it is the mix of the two which mean our children and staff now shine in everything they do.

*WHERE LEARNING IS UNSTOPPABLE AND ASPIRATIONS HAVE NO LIMITS*

# Handford Hall Primary School

## 'When a photo speaks a thousand words..'

What an incredible summer term it has been at Handford Hall! Our Sports Day in June was nothing short of spectacular. Watching our children throw themselves wholeheartedly into every activity – from sprinting and javelin to the egg and spoon race, football dribbling, boccia, netball shooting, hockey slalom, and our challenging long-distance run – filled our hearts with joy. The competitive spirit was alive and well, but what struck us most was how every single child supported one another. We truly all had the best time, and we could see future athletes being born right before our eyes!

Year 2 pupils had the most extraordinary opportunity to develop life-saving skills during their First Aid workshop. Under the watchful eye of the East Anglian Air Ambulance team, our young learners discovered how to administer help to injured people, care for poorly individuals, and even conduct CPR. This hands-on experience perfectly complemented their topic about Medical Heroes, and we are thrilled to hear so many children declaring their dreams to become nurses, doctors, and paramedics. These are the moments that remind us why we do what we do – inspiring the next generation of healthcare heroes.

Our Year 5 pupils have been immersed in the Thomas Wolsey 550 Project, a captivating dance initiative that has brought a spark of creativity and expression to our halls. For five weeks, we've had the privilege of welcoming talented DanceEast artists into our school. These artists have been working closely with our pupils, guiding them through a collaborative journey to create a unique piece of dance work. The theme of their project, 'Migration', has allowed our children to explore profound concepts such as belonging, identity, and individuality. It's been heartwarming to see how they've engaged with these ideas, translating them into movement and expression.

The musical adventures this term have been truly extraordinary. Taking our children to London's O2 Arena to perform as part of Young Voices – the biggest choir in Europe – was an experience none of us will ever forget. The pride on their faces as they sang alongside thousands of other young people was absolutely magical.

Equally wonderful was our participation in 'Travelling by Tuba', organised by Ipswich School. Our pupils had the most fantastic time learning about the fascinating history of brass instruments from around the world. Under the watchful eye of some brilliant musicians, they had the opportunity to try playing these magnificent instruments themselves, and their enthusiasm was infectious.



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# Halifax Primary School

## Celebrating Success in Performance and Oracy at Halifax

We're delighted to share a number of wonderful achievements from this term that reflect the talent, enthusiasm, and teamwork of our pupils and staff.

Earlier this year, our Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) group gave a fantastic glockenspiel performance at Snape Maltings. The children's focus, teamwork, and musical progress were clear to see, and their efforts were rightly recognised.

Following this success, the group was invited to perform at the Music for Youth National Festival at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham on Friday 11th July, a prestigious opportunity and a real highlight of the year. Performing *Firebird* in such an impressive, world-class venue was an experience the children truly valued. With support from their families and teachers, they rose to the occasion and did themselves and the school proud.

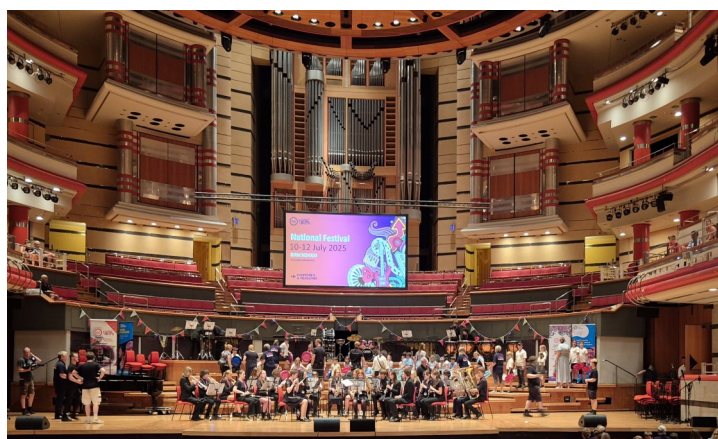
A big thank you to Stephen Moulton from Suffolk County Music Service and the Year 4 team for their guidance and support, and to the families who travelled with us to share in the occasion.

We are also very proud to announce that Halifax has been designated an Oracy Centre of Excellence, in recognition of the work that has been done to embed oracy as a core part of our teaching and learning.

This achievement reflects our commitment to helping children express themselves clearly, think deeply, and engage meaningfully with others. Staff have planned and delivered purposeful oracy opportunities across the curriculum, and our whole-school approach has had a clear impact on pupils' confidence, communication skills, and engagement in learning.

To top off the term, our Year 6 pupils delivered a fantastic end-of-year show, *What's the Crime, Mr Wolf?*. The audience were treated to a polished and highly entertaining performance, full of sharp comic timing, expressive acting, and powerful musical numbers. Every child in Year 6 radiated joy and confidence on stage – a fitting celebration of their time at Halifax and a memory they (and we) will treasure.

These achievements are a credit to the hard work and creativity of our pupils, the dedication of staff, and the continued support of our families. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.



# Grange Community Primary School

Grange Community Primary School have had an extremely busy term. Year 6 visited Duxford museum linked to their World War Two topic. They had the most glorious weather and were able to watch spitfire planes take off from the runway.

Year 3 have visited Colchester Castle and crawled around the foundations of the building to find out more about Roman History. Year 1 and 2 are visited Languard Fort nature reserve to find out more about the local environment, the cost of this visit was kindly funded by the Harwich Haven Port Authority Community Fund.



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### Grange continued...

Level 2 have continued to support year 4 and now year 5 with weekly workshops exploring themes of friendship, tolerance and resilience. KS2 pupils had the opportunity to attend quad kids and showed determination and perseverance in all of their events.

All of our KS2 pupils attended a special assembly lead by Kelly Stroud, senior education and outreach Officer for the UK. The whole school have been invited to participate in an art project that culminates in an art trail around Felixstowe in the summer holidays. Year six have taken part in a screen-printing workshop and the rest of the school will add to a giant heart that will be displayed on the trail.

Staff have also organised a carnival committee and staff, parents and volunteer helpers are busy with our carnival float preparations for Felixstowe Carnival on 26th July.

Colchester Castle



Quad Kids



Duxford



## Finally, it's Quiz Time!

- 1) What are the warning signs of a phishing website, and how can you verify its authenticity before entering personal information?
- 2) What should you do if you notice boxes obstructing a corridor or fire exit route?
- 3) Why is it risky to use the same password across multiple websites, and what can you do to manage your passwords securely?
- 4) In the event of a power outage during school hours, what initial steps should staff take to ensure pupil safety?
- 5) If you accidentally click a suspicious link, what immediate actions should you take to protect your device and data?

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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