

# Newsletter for Families

Issue 11 - July 2021

*Dear Families,*

With the recent government announcement, and as we start to consider returning to a more usual way of learning and working, it is a great opportunity to reflect on all we have learnt and achieved during this difficult time. While the past 18 months has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging times our community has faced, it has also highlighted what we can overcome and achieve together. We would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support of your academies during these difficult times and your positive responses to the ever-changing scene.

We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful enthusiasm, dedication and team work of our staff and to whole-heartedly thank them for their commitment to ensuring our children are always at the heart of all we do.

A highlight of this academic year was welcoming children back to school, both in September and March, and witnessing the excitement of the whole community. We too were disappointed that the government's four-week delay to complete reopening affected plans for highly anticipated sports days, inductions and other activities but sadly the guidance for schools meant that these could not happen – thank you again for your understanding. We are hopeful that the arrangements for returning to schools in September will be as the government have announced. However, we are mindful that the situation continues to be ever-changing. In any event, we will follow the guidance issued by the Department for Education and will keep families informed of any changes as soon as possible.

We are pleased that we have had a limited number of bubble closures and so hopefully families will be able to spend some quality time together either at home or away during the summer break. We hope you have chance to relax and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Best Wishes,

*Christine Dickinson*

CEO





# Have you heard the buzz...?

We are pleased to announce that, from September, Fernhill Primary will become

## The Ferns Primary Academy

After a consultation with children and families at Fernhill, the name was chosen to maintain a link with the history of the school while celebrating its new status. All children in the academy have received a sweatshirt with the new logo to get things off to a flying start in September! This significant point in the school's journey will be celebrated with a picnic for new Reception families on 2nd September and a special welcome for all the children on 3rd September. We are very proud of the strong, dedicated leadership at Fernhill, the commitment of the fabulous staff team and the inspiring, aspirational learning experience for children.



## Online Safety

On 16th June, we were pleased to offer all of our families across the Trust the opportunity to join an Online Safety Webinar with Sharon Girling OBE. Sharon is a former senior police officer and, as one of the founders of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP), is now one of the country's leading authorities on children's online safety. Even if you have heard her speak before, these sessions are always a valuable opportunity to hear about the latest developments in IT and how you can protect your children. It was quite a shock to hear about some of the apps and online games that are now commonly used and how they can pose a threat to our children. However, Sharon's webinar provided valuable information about devices, platforms and apps used by children and measures that we can all take to keep our children safe.

If you would like any further advice about online safety, please do talk to your child's teacher or Academy Head. There is also a lot of advice and support available through Parentzone (<https://parentzone.org.uk/home>), the NSPCC (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>) and internet matters (<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide>)

"Just to let you know we found the online safety webinar so useful. It was very informative with clear steps on how to activate simple privacy settings. We learned an awful lot about potential risks and things we can put in place to try to mitigate them. Would really recommend that you run it again in the future"





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# Learning Together

It's been a great half term at Fernhill. We managed to dodge the rain so all bubbles took part in sports days. Gareth Southgate would have been proud of the grit, determination and good sportsmanship on display! We've had visits from Ella Chandler, a successful local sports person who plays cricket for England and the Air Cadets who put Year 3 and 4 through their paces. We contributed to the Armed Forces display in Aldershot too! We are rounding off our final full week of the academic year with a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) week and a whole school challenge to build a moving vehicle. We will be hosting our own Fernhill Formula 1 competition to decide a winner!





At The Grove, children and staff celebrated International Day in June by coming to school wearing clothes that represented a country or culture of their choice. Children enjoyed sampling food, exploring maps and learning about the cultures and countries of our wider Grove community.



At Hale, Year 4 have been creating inventions that could take them around the world, based on the book 'Around the World in 80 Days'. They also enjoyed writing their own stories and plays based on the book.

In Reception, the children created their own settings of the farmyard from the story of 'What the Ladybird Heard'. They worked in pairs, creating a plan together first and then selecting different resources to create their amazing settings to re-tell the story in independent learning time.







At Wyke, the children started this term's learning off with the annual National Gallery project "Take One Picture". All the classes looked at Uccello's painting, Battle of San Romano as a stimulus for their learning.

Reception reviewed the painting, made moveable animals, printed and then embellished flags and then the children took distorted perspective photos.

Year 1 used the Battle of San Romano painting as stimulus for their illusion pictures and observational drawings. They also created horse marionettes!

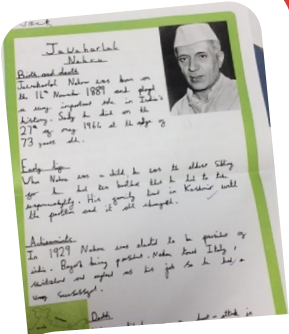
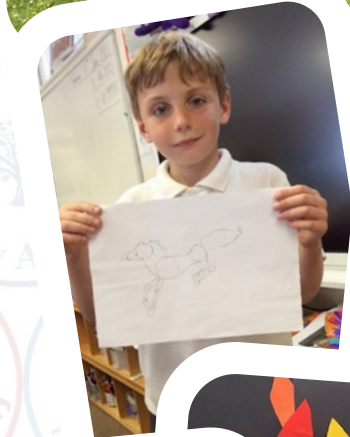
Year 2 acted out the Battle of San Romano to develop the vocabulary needed to write about the event.

Year 3 were interested in the horses in the painting and drew their own anatomical horses. They also learned how to communicate using semaphore flags and created drawings with 1 point perspective.

Year 4 took the theme of battles and war and learned about the Second World War, creating a Blitz display. They wrote diary entries in the role of evacuees.

Year 5 followed the battle theme and went on a journey to the time of the division of India and Pakistan. They wrote some very moving pieces from the perspective of a survivor of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. They also wrote biographies of significant people of the time.

Year 6 designed reward hats that were what were worn after the victorious battle. They looked at perspective and then created their own landscape water colours.







At Sandringham, the summer term has been packed full of fabulous learning and lots of fun. While there has been a focus on ensuring that children re-engaged with their learning and each other after the lockdown, our priority has been the mental health and well-being of children, staff and parents alike. Lessons have been delivered with a wide variety of creative resources and ideas to ensure maximum excitement and engagement for all. The arrival of the 'Enchanted door' encouraged enthusiasm for writing whilst the 'Super Scientists' week fired up our young minds, promoted team working and explorative, collaborative learning.

During 'Creative Arts' week the children were inspired by Gustav Klimt's Tree of Life and worked together to create their own incredible trees out of recyclable materials, modroc, paper and wire. They adorned them with beautiful creations and precious items which were special to them and their own lives. This culminated in an exhibition at the front of the school which was enjoyed by parents at the end of the school day. Our 'Feeling Good Week' was designed to make the whole school community feel happy, smile, laugh, sing, relax and be mindful of ourselves and others. Painting, yoga, a skipping workshop, circus skills sessions, singing together on the field and a visit from the ice cream van really did make us all feel good!



With a visit from the pirates to Reception, a Great British Tea party in Year 1, a day in the life of Victorian school in Year 2 and year group visits to Bocketts Farm, Milestones and Brooklands Museums, we have certainly made up for the time that we haven't been together and have had a really wonderful term.



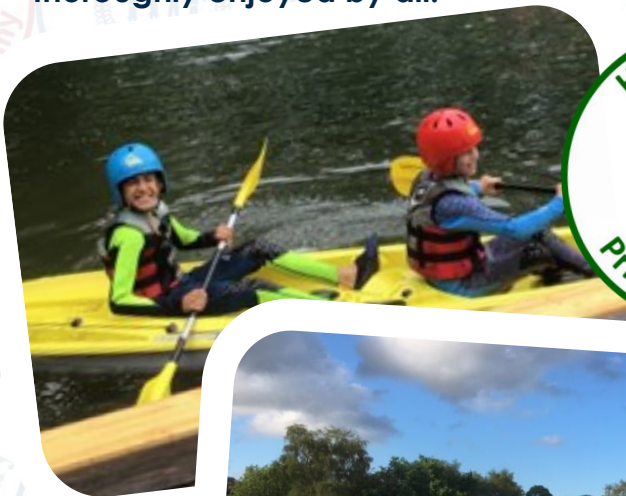
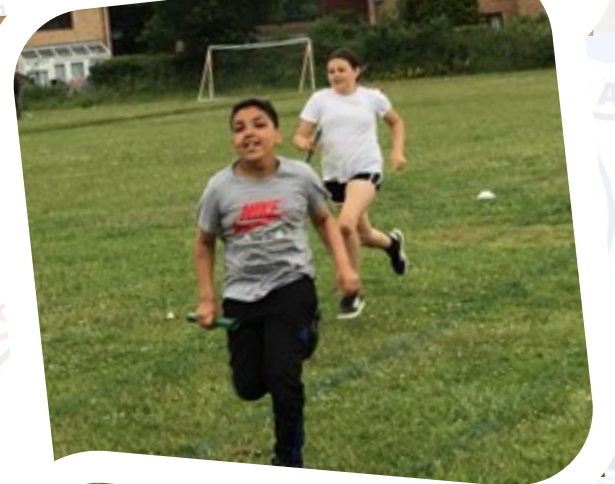
At Holly Lodge, all the children took part in a Japanese drumming workshop run by a professional drummer with authentic Japanese drums: taiko! There was such an incredible energy and a high level of enjoyment over the two days.

Sports day took a different format this year with classes competing against each other in their year groups. It was lovely to see such great team spirit with pupils supporting and cheering each other on in their bubbles.

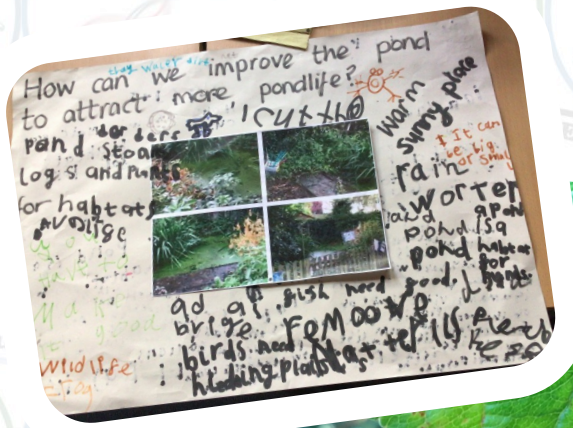
The Year 3 children enjoyed Roman Day. They built shields and then learned about battle tactics the Romans used!

The Year 5 children enjoyed an outdoor activity day at The Quays where they had the opportunity to learn how to kayak, take part in land games, orienteering, trim trail adventures and a scavenger hunt!

In Year 6, the children enjoyed an activity week, which kicked-off with a fun day out to Legoland to learn about forces and rollercoasters. The week finished with a camp night on the school field. The weather stayed kind to us the entire week and all the children (and staff!) had a great time! The Year 6 open air theatre production of 'The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan' took place in the evening sunshine over two nights and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.







At Cross Farm, the children explored a range of activities during STEM week linked to our topic – Biodiversity.

Reception explored the wildlife that lives in our academy grounds.

Year 1 have looked at how we will improve our pond and Year 2 have created a new bug house in our playground using a range of resources available.



Marvellous Mondays have continued at Cross Farm with the children recently exploring creating their own art using a range of outdoor resources. They explored colour, texture and different shapes to create a piece of art work.



At Mytchett, the field came to life with the return of Sports Day! Nursery and Reception children took part in an Early Years Sports Day together where the Reception children guided their younger peers around a carousel of balancing, running, dribbling and throwing activities. The children were awarded their own specially designed golden medal to mark this momentous occasion in an awards ceremony at the end of the day. Years 1 - 6 enjoyed their carousel of sports games and sprint races and the events were completed by Cross Country for Key Stage 2 - and ice pops for all! Congratulations to Sapphire House who won the House Sport Trophy, proudly displayed by our House Captains, Scarlett and Harley. All the children demonstrated Mytchett's HEART values of Happiness, Empathy, Aspiration, Respect and Trust. Well done to everyone!







For Year 6, Relationships & Sex Education includes a very practical element at Mytchett with the arrival of our Flour babies. Year 6 learnt that being responsible for a baby is really demanding!

The Reception children had the idea to have a very special outside party—Robinfest! They set about writing letters to Mrs Willans to ask for permission, painting a giant backdrop for the stage, practising playing musical instruments, making yummy healthy snacks of chocolate apples and bunting to decorate. The children came to school wearing their best "funky festival fashion" to enjoy music, dancing, games and face painting! Everyone had lots of fun celebrating the end of their time in Reception.

At Lakeside, everyone has been relishing the return of sports day! The children have enjoyed competing together for their countries in jumping, throwing, sprinting, long distance runs and the odd novelty race too!

Year 6 spent a night camping out on the school field followed by an adventure day with Surrey Outdoor Learning. The children went rock climbing, orienteering and worked collaboratively to solve team challenges. What a super way to say goodbye to life at Lakeside!







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# Improving our Estate

The Kite Academy Trust Estate comprises 36 acres of land, with 37 buildings and a boundary length totalling over 3 miles! We are very proud of, and fortunate to have, our dedicated, experienced Estates Team who ensure that our sites provide learning environments that are safe, secure and attractive for our children, both indoors and outdoors.

As a multi-academy trust (MAT), we are able to apply for additional funding specifically for estates maintenance. The Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) is an annual bidding round for academies, sixth-form colleges and voluntary-aided schools to apply for capital funding. CIF applications are by no means guaranteed to be awarded; as with any bidding process, CIF applications must evidence that a project meets the specified criteria.

We are extremely pleased that, over the last 3 years, our team has been incredibly successful in a number of these bids, securing nearly £3million additional funding to invest in improving the conditions of our sites. Each academy has been successful in having at least one CIF project completed in that time and these have included new roofs, fire risk works and safeguarding and security of our premises. These CIF allocations are ring-fenced grants that can only be used for the specific project they were awarded for, but the success of our applications has meant that significant capital improvement projects have been completed without requiring funds to be allocated from our annual income. Here are some of our projects completed this year:







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# Ambassadors for Excellence

We are delighted that our academies have been designated Regional Ambassador Schools for SFET (Success for Every Teacher) Teaching School Hub (formerly South Farnham). Our role is key in shaping and spreading awareness of the new education training landscape from Autumn 2021 and sharing excellence across the Hub's area in Surrey and Hampshire.



Through these regional partnerships, a high quality school-led training offer is being developed that benefits all teachers, support staff and schools' leaders. The Kite Academy Trust is a member of a partnership of ambitious and talented teachers and leaders who will help to roll out the exciting educational reforms.

We will be working alongside organisations that include curriculum hubs, research schools, universities, SCITTs, School Direct partnerships, subject associations and outstanding school-based training providers. *Exciting times!*

## "Truly Fantastic!"

On Friday 9th July, Holly Lodge welcomed the Rt Hon Michael Gove, the Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath. Mr Gove saw how children have been supported to recover lost learning as a result of the pandemic. Mr Gove particularly commented on Holly Lodge's excellent library facilities, how reading for pleasure is promoted and was interested to see the impact of how Sports Premium funding is used.



Loved visiting Holly Lodge in Ash Vale this morning - a truly fantastic school with such happy and energetic pupils. Huge thanks to Headteacher Cheryl Dancer for a wonderful tour and wishing the Holly Lodge team all the best.



60 2 comments • 3 shares





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# Kite Family Hub

Over the last academic year, we have continued to support families across the Trust through our parent programmes, workshops, virtual drop-in sessions and focused 1:1 work. We are really looking forward to being able to resume more face-to-face contact with families over the coming months, particularly our Stay and Play sessions. These will begin with sessions at the end of July aimed at children starting school with us in September, followed by sessions for all Kite families from early in the Autumn Term.



## Family Hub

Please do keep your eyes open for our Autumn 2021 timetable, which will be shared by your child's academy in September. It will also be available on our website [here](#).

To help us ensure that our support offer is continuing to meet your needs as best we can, we would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to answer the questions in our survey [here](#).



# Kite Heroes

Our staff truly set us apart with their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to providing the very best for every child. It is wonderful to be able to celebrate some of our particularly dedicated staff who have given incredible years of service to our academies and the many, many children they have supported. During the 2020-21 academic year, 23 members of staff had reached 20+ years of service - *Wow!*



*We would like to wish those staff who are leaving us all the very best for the future!*





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# Enriching Our Curriculum

As a multi-academy Trust, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) allocates funding for the Trust every year through a General Annual Grant, providing the Trust's main source of income. In addition to this, there are certain areas of the curriculum that the government allocates funding specifically for. The School Sport and Activity Action Plan sets out the government's commitment to ensuring that children and young people have access to sport and physical activity every day. Sports Premium funding is specifically intended to help primary schools to achieve this aim through additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sport offered. This funding is ring-fenced for this purpose only and schools are required to report on how it is spent.

Our academies seek to promote a long term healthy lifestyle through their provision of physical education, encouraging children to engage in physical activity, raise their attainment, extend their potential and develop a lifelong active lifestyle. Each of our academies determines the best use of their allocated Sports Premium funding each year and this targeted investment has seen significant improvements to our academies' provision through such projects as installation of 'daily mile' tracks and outdoor gym equipment. Further information about the Sports Premium can be found here.

# Become a Governor

- Would you like to help shape the future for our children?
- Do you have valuable/professional skills you can offer?
- Are you committed to contributing to your local community?

A Governor is a valuable 'critical friend' to an academy's leadership, asking constructive, pertinent questions, monitoring specific aspects of the academy and reporting their findings to the Trust Board. Governors are highly-valued volunteers and key members of an academy's community, advocating for their academy and the Trust, building relationships and encouraging engagement with families and other stakeholders. If you, or somebody you know, would like to contribute to the Kite Academy Trust community and support us in providing the very best opportunities for all our children, please consider becoming a Governor. There are currently opportunities across the Trust. Please speak to your Academy Head or contact [clerk@kite.academy](mailto:clerk@kite.academy) for more information.



# Attendance

As we move into a new academic year in September, we would like to remind you of attendance expectations. Every child has the right to an education and good attendance at school is the foundation of a child's learning journey. The Kite Academy Trust is committed to inspiring a lifelong love of learning which enables all our children to achieve more than they ever believed possible. For these reasons, attendance and punctuality are monitored weekly at all of our academies. We are keen to continue to support our families in ensuring children have the best possible attendance and we will always liaise with you if any concerns arise (this may be via a conversation, phone call or letter). We will then monitor attendance until it reaches our expected standards of over 95%. If your child is going to arrive late or be absent for any reason, please ensure you contact your academy office by 10am. If, as a parent or carer, you have any concerns or questions in relation to attendance, please contact your academy directly. I am on hand to support wherever I can.



*Kate Beer*  
Inclusion Welfare Officer

0 days off school	100%	Perfect!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	98%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight concern
Equates to 13 days off school each year	93%	Improvement required
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very concerned

# Summer Holiday Clubs



Holiday Activity Clubs are being held at some of our academies over the summer which children from all of our academies are welcome to attend. If you are interested, please book directly with the providers as below:

Fernhill: [Casa Club](#)      Lakeside: [Casa Club](#)  
Holly Lodge: [SCL](#)      The Grove: [The Club](#)





# Community Involvement

Do you work for a company that supports community involvement? If so, or you are interested in volunteering to work on projects on our academy sites, we'd love to hear from you! We are always looking to improve our sites to ensure they offer the best possible environments for our children and staff and would be very glad of any support. If you or your company can help, please contact [estates@kite.academy](mailto:estates@kite.academy)

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As you will be aware, Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrating her platinum jubilee in 2022 and an additional bank holiday has been planned to commemorate the amazing service of The Queen. The additional bank holiday has been set for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and the Whitsun bank holiday has been moved from its usual last Monday of May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 to make a four day weekend. These bank holidays fall within the half-term holiday. To ensure that teaching staff benefit from the additional public holiday, the Department for Education have amended the Teachers' Pay & Conditions for the academic year 2021-22 to reduce the number of teaching days by one for the year, effectively meaning that there will be an additional day closure. This will be on [Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021](#).

# Term Dates

## Kite Academy Trust Term Dates and Holidays 2021-2022\*

*Autumn Term* - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

(Half Term - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

**Day Closure: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

*Spring Term* - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

(Half Term - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022)

*Summer Term* - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

(Half Term - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022)

*Please check with your academy for additional local INSET days*

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT FERNHILL HAS DIFFERING TERM DATES WHICH CAN BE FOUND ON THEIR WEBSITE [HERE](#).**



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