

NEWSLETTER

January 2023



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Celebrating the amazing work of our schools & the initiatives supporting our children & their families

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The latest from Action for Happiness

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Careers and governance



Enhancing outcomes for the communities we serve.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and avoided the nasty bugs circulating at the moment and you enjoyed some time with those closest to you.

On a positive note, the longest terms and shortest days are now behind us and we can start looking forward to more daylight hours.

I hope this term can be a positive one for everyone in our schools but we fully recognise that there are going to be some significant challenges ahead due to the economic crisis. I wanted to reassure you all, that we are working hard to plan for these so that we can continue to give our children the best opportunities.

During the recent Strategy Event, we heard about all the good work the schools are doing, and this is evident in this latest Newsletter. I want to thank all of you for all your hard work in supporting our children and their families, and giving our children the best possible education.

Please take five minutes to make a hot drink, have some left over mince pies... or an apple, (if you are one of the many who are trying to post-Christmas detox), and read our latest Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all on my visits to the schools

Tammy Mitchell
CEO



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Want to receive a copy of our termly Newsletter straight to your inbox?

[JOIN THE LIST](#)



MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



A WHOLE WORLD OF PASTA-BILLITIES!

Last year, we gave our Design Technology curriculum a complete overhaul. One of the areas which our DT subject lead, Mrs Amy James, felt needed addressing was food technology. No sooner was the oven glove laid down than Mr Stanley (Year 6 teacher and former chef) had picked up the challenge and addressed this with the children. Children were set the task of creating a healthy spaghetti bolognese recipe. Children started by researching where the ingredients of the recipe came from.



A whole day of cooking then followed. Children worked in groups and made the dish 'from scratch.' They chopped, grated, simmered and stirred and by the end of a busy day, had created some delicious sauces. Children's dietary needs were considered; some were able to use a vegetarian mince to tailor their recipe accordingly.



Year 6 also invited the whole school to an impromptu fire alarm practice having discovered that our newly-fitted sensors were somewhat more sensitive than the old ones. Having ticked that particular Health & Safety box and with the rest of the school safely back in the classrooms, Year 6 carried on cooking.

The next stage was to taste the sauces. Having tasted their basic recipe, children were offered the chance to modify the recipe. Fresh herbs and parmesan cheese were available and were added in different quantities.

The final stage was to design packaging for their spaghetti bolognese. Nets were used and made into packaging – a useful and real-life application of maths skills and knowledge. Children also got a chance to create a television advert to promote their product.

Apart from the learning that took place, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it has whetted their appetite for more!



MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



CHILDREN IN NEED

We had a great spotty day on Friday 18th November for Children in Need. We raised £77.52 which has been sent onto the charity.



WINTER MINI READING CHALLENGE



The Winter Mini Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure. The Winter Mini Challenge is an online-only challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading over the winter holidays. The children can set up a reading goal and log books onto their profile. If they read three books they can unlock a virtual badge and a special certificate!

SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT CANTERBURY COLLEGE

A group of 14 children from KS2 auditioned to join our choir. They learnt the song: The First Noel, to perform at the EKC Schools Trust Carol Service. We also had two children volunteer to be narrators.

Our children sang and spoke beautifully. We are extremely proud of their efforts to learn their parts, but even more so, how they represented our school - their behaviour and attitudes were exemplary.



MEET EAST STOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL



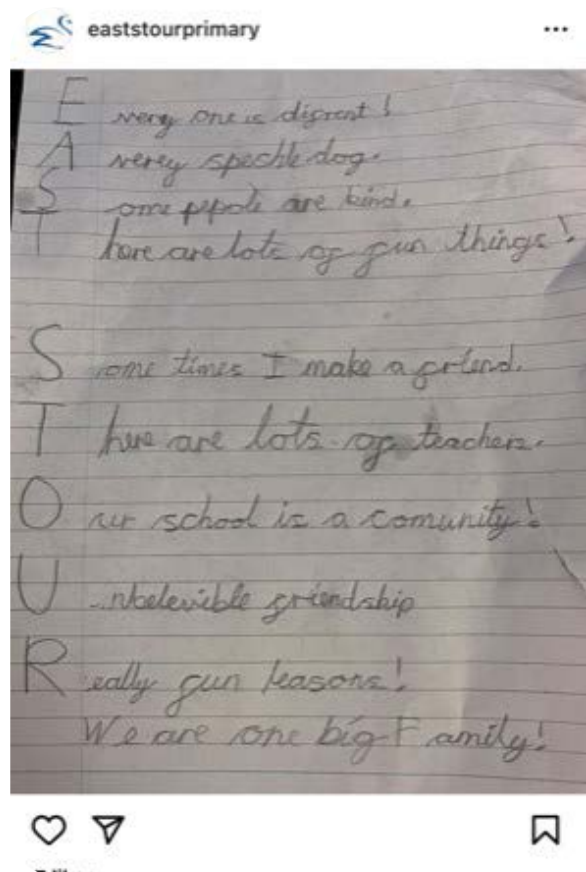
WELL DONE!

Our choir visited Asda on Tuesday 6 December to sing Christmas Carols and raise funds for the school. The choir raised an amazing £175.00!

A huge well done to Mrs White and the Choir. We would also like to give a big thank you to all that came to support the choir and made donations.



ONE OF OUR YEAR 3 PUPILS WROTE THIS ABOUT EAST STOUR...



YEAR 3 HISTORY OF ASHFORD

Year 3 have been studying the history of Ashford this term. We have been learning about the importance of the railway works and how Newtown was developed for the workers. We walked to Newtown Green and sketched the steam engine wheels, the public baths and the actual railway works that remain.



MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



SWALE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Our Girls and Boys football team have been in action this term in the Swale football league against local teams. The boys team are currently top of the league having won all 3 of their games so far against Westlands, Hartlip and Milton Court schools. The girls have played 2 games this term. They lost their first one at Newington but won the second against South Avenue school. Both teams have played really well, showing great team work, resilience and respect and we are very proud of them. Go Team Holywell



WE ARE ARTISTS IN YEAR R!

This term Reception have enjoyed learning about different shapes. We focused in particular on circles and triangles and looked at the artist Kandinsky. He inspired us to make our own versions of his famous pieces 'Circle in a circle' and 'Stained in triangle.'

"I enjoyed mixing the colours together and liked making different circles," said Jacob.

"It reminded me of car wheels when I was painting it," said Zac.



EXPLORING BIG QUESTIONS IN YEAR 5

In RE, Year 5 have been exploring the big question 'Why do some people believe God exists?' To answer this question, we have taken on the role of investigators. We explored what some Christians believe God is and is not like and looked at the beliefs of atheists and agnostics. We particularly enjoyed interviewing two Christians from completely different continents and cultures (Reverend Julian from Upchurch and Bethuel from the Kapsabet Diocese in Kenya) to see how their world views may affect the way they live and follow their Christian faith.

"I found it interesting to learn about people's personal beliefs and different perspectives about God."

"It was interesting to learn about the contrast between an atheist, theist, and agnostic and see what they all believed."



MEET PALM BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



SHAKESPEARE FOR SCHOOLS

The Year 5 children took part in the Coram Shakespeare for Schools Festival on 22nd November, performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury. The children had been rehearsing for many months to really immerse themselves in the story, and to understand the role of each of the characters. When performing, it was clear just how much they were enjoying being on the stage. They were so professional and confident and were an absolute credit to the school.

The Shakespeare for Schools compere's feedback about their performance was really positive and the Palm Bay community in the audience were all brimming with pride watching them, especially the ones who took us by surprise with their unexpected confidence.



SCIENCE WORKSHOPS AT ST PETER-IN-THANET JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Year 2 children from Palm Bay had the chance to attend a Science Spectacular event at St Peter-in-Thamet Junior School this term.

Science leaders from a number of local primary and infant schools worked together to create a day of science activities to inspire and amaze.

These included seeing how far a stomp rocket could fly, how to stop a superhero from sinking, exploring scribble-bots and making chromatography butterflies. They were also treated to an amazing science show by some 'real life' scientists from Pfizer!



MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



A CRACKING CHRISTMAS TREAT!

We were thrilled to kick off our Christmas celebrations this term with a visit from our friends at Let's All Dance ballet company who brought us two of their most popular and successful shows. Years 2 to 6 were treated to a wonderful performance of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet The Nutcracker and were delighted to see the adventures of the main character, Clara, as all of her Christmas toys come to life! Meanwhile, Nursery, Reception, and Year 1 enjoyed A Christmas Wish in which two best friends, a lovely fairy and a cheeky elf, prepare for a special Christmas Day together.

In recent years we have been unable to invite professional performers into school due to the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic and so it was fantastic to be able to bring back high-quality live performance to all of our children from Nursery all the way through to Year 6.



THE NATIVITY STORY

On Thursday 8th December, Queenborough children started their Christmas celebrations with visits to our local church, Holy Trinity, Queenborough. The children attended services and took part in Reverend Paul's retelling of The Nativity Story. He even encouraged the adults to participate! Prior to the services, each class created their own amazing Christingles, which they brought to church with them. The children sang beautifully and can now confidently retell the Nativity Story, understanding the true meaning of Christmas.



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We have been delighted to welcome families back into school this Christmas to watch Christmas performances from all year groups. Our youngest pupils in EYFS retold the story of the Nativity whilst our older children focused on spreading Christmas cheer with beautiful singing and a few dance moves too! A special mention to our Year Two pupils who produced their own story of Alice in Wonderland. We definitely have some budding actors and actresses in Yellow and Orange classes and are excited to see their artistic flair develop over the coming years.

OUR COMMUNITY HUB



2022 saw the Trust proudly host our joint Carol Service and Christmas Concert with the EKC Group. Wonderfully festive and such inspirational performances, a good time was had by all.

Visit our YOUTUBE Channel [@ekcschoolstrust](#) to revisit the magic!

YOU CAN NOW FIND US ON YOUTUBE - @EKCSCHOOLSTRUST

Visit our YouTube Channel for more on the inspirational events children have enjoyed across our schools and together as a Trust.



EKC Schools Trust and EKC Group Carol Service &...

EKC Family Partnership - Enriching Children's Learnin...

Inclusion & SEND in Primary School

EKC Schools Trust at Kent Cricket 2022

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OUR COMMUNITY HUB

INSPIRATIONAL ENRICHMENT DAYS - A PHOTO GALLERY



Through our Trust and our EKC partnership we're able to provide inspirational opportunities for children to experience a wider and richer curriculum. Our children experience enrichment days including learning experiences in music, computing, construction and design, technology, hair and beauty, travel and tourism, business and many more sectors - accessing the resources, equipment and specialist staff of the Group to provide them with a whole range of new, exciting skills to support them in their learning. Industry experts also provide workshops and events within the schools, bringing the learning to the children.

For more on our inspirational enrichment days and a look at some of the opportunities our children have enjoyed see our website.

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WELLBEING FOCUS

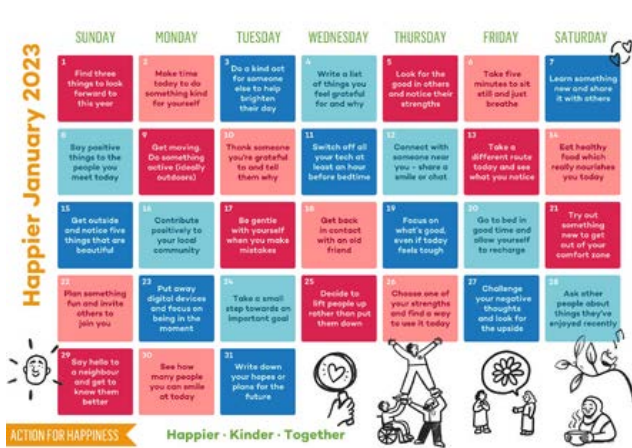
The wellbeing of our school community is uppermost in our minds, particularly supporting our dedicated staff so they can continue to support our children and families.

Action for Happiness, a registered charity, have dedicated themselves to encouraging happier living.

We invite colleagues across the Trust and beyond to learn more about these keys and how you might apply them in your daily lives.

There's a wealth of resources on the website actionforhappiness.org and we'll continue to highlight them here.

Monthly Wellbeing Theme



Check out today's daily action and give it a go, take some time for you!

Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox.

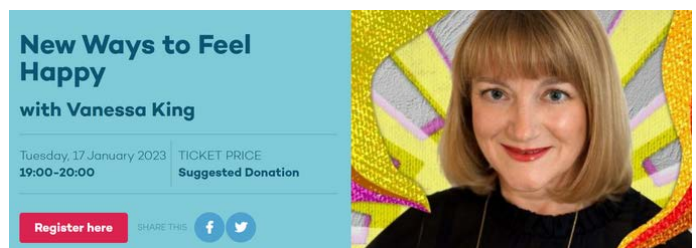
Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



Online events

Action for Happiness host a regular series of free online events with world renowned speakers.

Upcoming events:



Here is one of our past favourites:



Click to book/ view or visit the [AfH website](https://afh.org) to learn more.

JOIN US

Are you looking to start a rewarding career in education? Or know someone who is?

Are you looking to the step next in your career?

Want to work in an amazing learning environment and amongst a fantastic team?

Interested in sharing your skills in a Trustee/Governor capacity?

Well our family of schools could be just the right place for you and your career!



If you're interested in joining the talented teams in one of our family of schools or in supporting our work as a Governor or Trustee, we would love to hear from you. Please visit our website to learn more.

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LET'S ALL SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOLS

The national THANK A TEACHER campaign recognises all staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. It celebrates the professionalism, passion and commitment of our schools.

Parents, colleagues and partners please take 5 minutes to thank an individual, team or school in our Trust (or other school/setting) for their hard work with a FREE Thank You e-card.

Not only is it lovely to receive a thank you but a card can be a springboard to entering the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Please THANK A TEACHER today, it's simple, it's free and will make someone's day.

The THANK A TEACHER campaign is run by The Teaching Awards Trust and supported by Department for Education.



Simply go to www.thankateacher.co.uk

**and they will send a FREE personalised ThankATeacher card
on your behalf**

If you're feeling shy you can send a card anonymously!

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