

NEWSLETTER

June 2023



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Careers and governance



Enhancing outcomes for the communities we serve.

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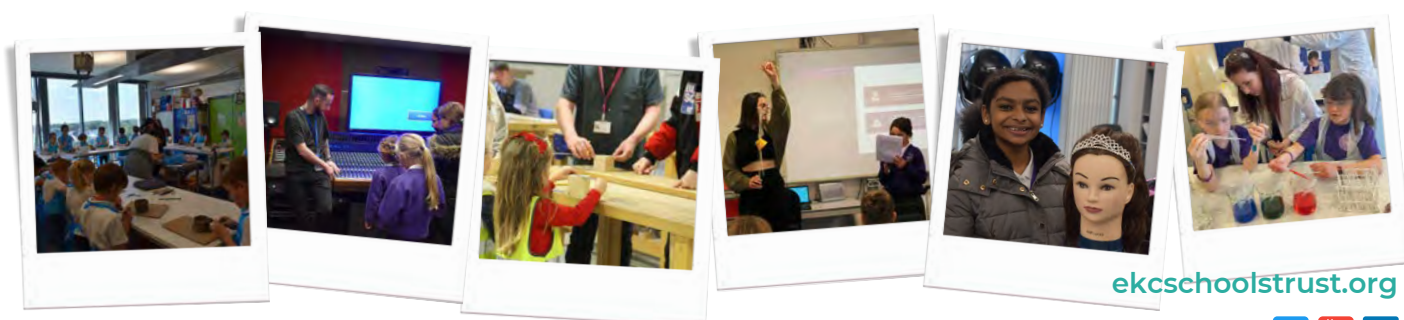
OUTSTANDING NEWS FROM THE EKC FAMILY



First things first, we'd like to say a huge CONGRATULATIONS to our big sister the EKC Group, graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted following its latest inspection.

The education watchdog gave top marks in every category, making EKC Group the first General Further Education college to achieve the highest rating in all categories since a new enhanced inspection framework was introduced last July.

We're immensely proud of our unique, sector-leading EKC partnership. Visits to our EKC family of colleges sees our children collecting memorable moments and inspirational learning experiences, and we so love our college visits!



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

After a restful break, it was brilliant to start Term 6 with our annual summer Trust Professional Development Day. With over a hundred teachers and leaders from across the Trust sharing best practice and learning together, it was an exceptional day!

I am also delighted to share that our EKC family is growing from strength to strength. We are currently in public consultation with The Churchill School Folkestone, who we hope will officially join us in December 2023.

#TeamChurchill have joined us for some of our recent events and workshops and we are extremely excited about the experience and strengths that their school will bring to our Trust.

Talking of growing from strength to strength, we're full of Year 6 pride this term. It has been an honour to support our Year 6 catch-up on lost learning (from their earlier KS2 experience), to champion their exceptional hard work and watch them ready themselves for their secondary adventures.

Indeed with Term 6 a busy schedule of events, trips and transition, can I say thank you to all our families who offer such great support at this time of year. Thank you also to all our committed staff, who give up significant additional time (particularly those organising the residential trips) to support all our children's access to fantastic opportunities.

Speaking of fantastic, I would like to invite you all to support our Reading Volunteer campaign (see our Community Hub), whether volunteering or championing our campaign in the community and amongst your networks we're looking forward to making magic!

Finally, a big thank you to each and every one of you, for all your hard work and commitment over this past year and I hope that when we get to the summer break, you all manage to spend time doing what you love, whether that's going away on holiday, spending time with loved ones, or just lazing in the garden... I hope to have some time doing all three!

Tammy Mitchell
CEO



MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



BRIARY'S CROWNING GLORY

Coronation celebrations started with a trip to our big sister EKC Broadstairs College and joining their fabulous campus street party.

Staff nominate children who always follow our school rules – Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful – had shown particular effort this year; or had overcome particular challenges.

We all had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

We had our own Red, White and Blue day the following day. Children came dressed to royally impress and spent the day finding out more about the monarchy and the coronation.

A lunchtime street party, games and celebrations culminating in our Briary crown.



NEW SPORTING FACILITY

We are also delighted to announce that our new sporting facility will be handed over to us shortly! This will significantly improve the offer we will be able to make to children and families not only through PE and Sport but also by further increasing our space for Forest School and outdoor learning.

Further finishing touches will be made over the summer so that in September, we will also have access to toilet and kitchen facilities alongside the field; with additional car parking for parents and visiting teams being completed in the autumn.



MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bysing Wood Primary School



CORONATION DAY

To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, we wore red, white and blue clothes complete with our own handmade crowns. We held a parade in the school hall school council chose two winners from each class. An enjoyable and memorable event.



EID CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate, children learnt about the Muslim festival Eid, and participated in activities, including making lanterns, crescent moons and stars, creating henna patterns and sharing books about Eid.

In Bramley Class, Leena enjoyed showing her friends her henna patterns on her hands. She was able to share with her class what Eid means to her and her family.



We also shared in a whole school, Indian themed lunch, which was prepared by our school cook, Anu. Staff and pupils enjoyed sitting together to share this special meal.



THE ORCHARD

The Orchard is a space which the children can choose to spend their breaktimes and lunchtimes. It's a calm space where children can play, draw, read and explore the garden. This year, we have spent a lot of time developing the garden space. We still have lots of plans, but wanted to share the progress so far.



#BELIEVE WONDER PROGRESS SUCCEED

bysing-wood.kent.sch.uk

MEET EAST STOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL



FIRE AND SAFETY COMES TO EAST STOUR

In May, the whole school was visited by a representative from Kent Fire and Rescue to teach the children all about fire safety. Engaging with a firefighter and hearing stories from their real life experiences engrossed the children in the importance of fire safety.



NATURE VISITS

Term 5 saw our youngest children take an exciting trip to Rare Breeds as part of their Animal topic, immersing themselves in farm life and sensory play! The nature trips continued with our oldest children going on a river trip, as part of their Geography topic, creating some artistic work surrounding the River. Children were also visited by a lepidopterist, who shared all of their interesting facts about moths; whilst others protected their local environment by litter picking on a walk down to a local park.

EAST STOUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our children have been making memories with their friends over at Ashford College this term. Young people from across the school were invited to the college for a day of fun!

We enjoyed a day of pottery making workshops, a teddy bear's picnic and energetic karaoke singing! This role model opportunity brought together a community of like minded young people sharing in a day of pure childhood fun.



Our Year 5 children were welcomed into Ashford College, empowering them with the opportunity to broaden their experiences and encourage a positive attitude to future learning and transition. They spent two whole days delving into exciting activities and learning about pathways on offer at the college. The children engaged in trades such as hairdressing, plumbing, childcare and media.



Fun was also had over at Highworth Grammar School for Girls. A kind cohort of staff and students sharing their love of Design & Technology and Maths with us.

Our children had an incredible term full of fun trips and engaging opportunities.

MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE



To contextualise all the learning that Year 1 have done in English, where they have been studying the book, 'One Day On Our Blue Planet', set in the Savannah they visited Howletts Zoo (along with Year R and Year 2). Here they had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the animals featured in their book and learn even more about their natural habitats.

Year 2 have had some egg-tra special visitors this year... Having spent time looking at life cycles in Science, they focussed on those of chicken. Keeping diaries of the developments, it was fantastic to watch the chicks hatch from their eggs and grow into wonderful little animals. The children took so much from this experience and we're sure it's one they won't forget.



Year 4 have enjoyed everything wet and watery this year. Having taken part in Estuary School, Lower Halstow, where they learned about the estuary as a waterway and all of the different animals and habitats found there. Additionally, visiting Horton Kirby River, they had the chance to consolidate Geography learning about rivers, their features and their uses.

Linking to their English learning of Shakespeare's Macbeth, Year 5e have been on a historic river boat tour in Canterbury, identifying the infamous witches ducking stool! Whilst there, they visited the Beaney Museum to have a hands-on Ancient Greek artefacts experience, supporting their learning in History



Year 6 certainly have got 'out-and-about' this year. Supporting the English work they have done on Charles Dickens' 'Great Expectations', Year 6 visited Rochester and Grain, where they tried to correctly identify the graveyard where Pip visited at the beginning of the book. They have also been building their independence and travel skills by catching the train up to London and visiting Kew Gardens, where they consolidated their learning of rainforests in Geography and adaptation in science.

MEET PALM BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



YEAR 5 KING'S CORONATION EVENT AT BROADSTAIRS COLLEGE

The Year 5 children visited Broadstairs College to take part in their Coronation celebrations, alongside a number of other local schools. They took part in various activities, such as dancing, mini croquet and decorating wooden plaques. They also enjoyed a delicious coronation street party style lunch, with a very impressive cake.



EYFS DUCK HATCHING PROJECT



There was much excitement in EYFS and across the whole school with our Duck Hatching Project. Taking part in the project covered many areas of the Early Learning Goals, including communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, literacy and understanding of the world.

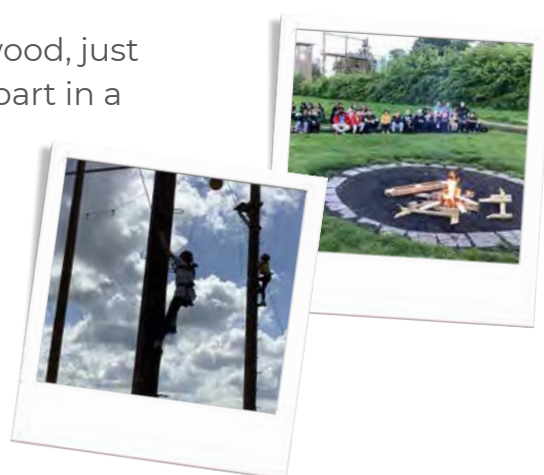
Children, and adults, experienced the wonder from the moment they observed the eggs wobble and could hear noises from the chicks within to hatching. The children rapt as the ducklings made their way out of their shells and settled into their brooding box to eat and drink. The children learnt how to care for them and also hold them. A live web-cam feed was set up on their arrival, so that the whole school to be part of the process and learn

YEAR 5 AND 6 RESIDENTIAL TO KINGSWOOD

Year 5 and 6 children had a fantastic time at Kingswood, just outside Ashford, on their residential visit. They took part in a number of #daring and adventurous activities, such as climbing up very tall towers in harnesses, playing areoball which is like basketball on trampolines, building campfires and much more.

They enjoyed staying overnight with their friends in dorms and building new friendships as well.

They behaved impeccably and were a real asset to the school.



MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



WIRE SCULPTING WORKSHOP

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a visit from Mrs Hall (@iamclairehill) this term and experienced a wire sculpting workshop. The children had a brilliant time learning this new artistic skill and made these fantastic wire poppies. These will now be used to make a war inspired sculpture to reflect their learning on WW1 in Year 5 and WW2 in Year 6.



FOREST SCHOOL

Miss Dance, our Forest School Leader has enjoyed delivering sessions with our Year R children. They have enjoyed learning in the Forest and have been busy exploring their own interests as well as being introduced to adult directed activities every week. The children have been able to link their learning this term to their theme of 'Creep, Wriggle and Crawl' by hunting for mini beasts and creating pom-pom spiders using hammer and nails. The favourite activity, as always is toasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate.



GOD SAVE THE KING

As part of our celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III, we welcomed Ben from 'West End in Schools' who worked with children in Years R, 1 and 2 teaching them a dance inspired by the coronation. Everyone had a great time learning the choreography and a big thanks to Ben for helping us to celebrate this historic event in a fun and engaging way.

We were delighted to come together as a school to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Throughout the day, teachers focused the children's learning around King Charles and the coronation. Not only did the Queenborough community dress in red, white and blue but we also held a street party, enjoying the sunshine and fun with friends.



OUR COMMUNITY HUB

FAIRY GODMOTHERS AND READING WIZARDS WANTED!

CALLING/CONJURING ALL BOOK LOVERS!

If you love books and have a little time in which to make a big impact, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Please contact your local school and join our amazing teams of Reading Volunteers! Just 15 minutes a week can help a child develop improve their literacy skills and grow in confidence... can make magic! Plus it's a lot of fun! You'll meet new people and share your love of books with children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to read and instill a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Each school runs its own scheme; please contact your local school to learn more and offer your support.



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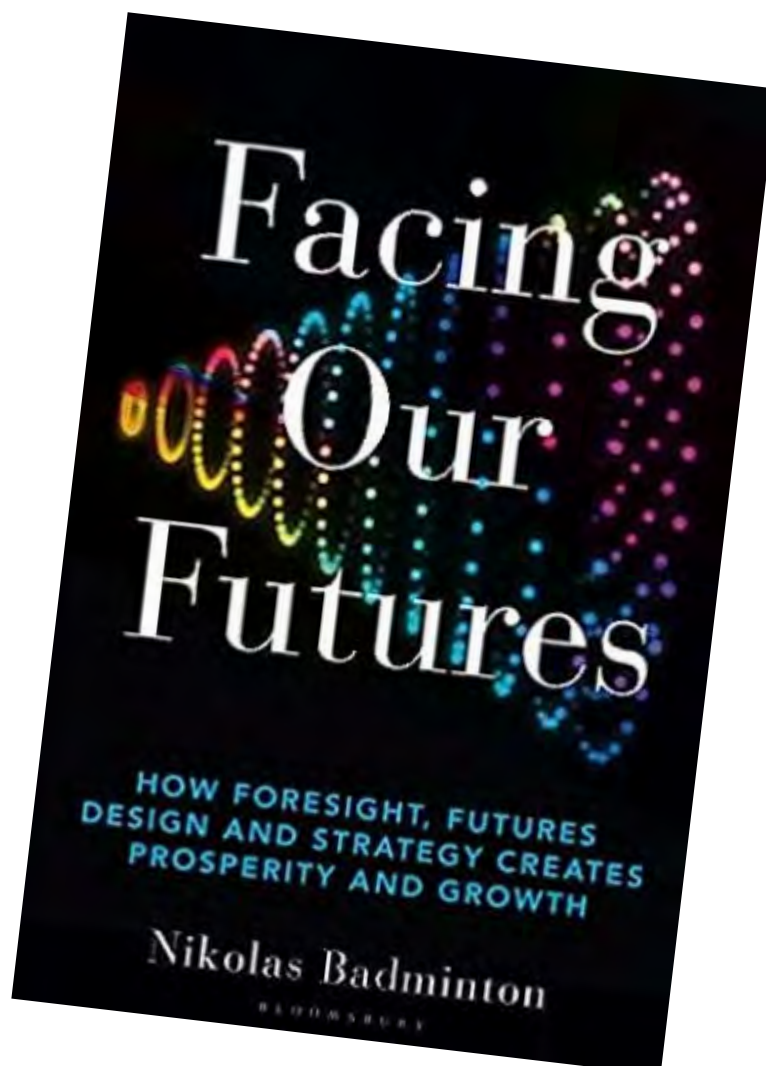


EKC FAMILY FACING THE FUTURE WITH RENOWNED FUTURIST NIKOLAS BADMINTON

Further evidence of the impact of our outstanding EKC partnership, Headteachers and our CEO joined the EKC Group's summer leadership conference with renowned Futurist Nikolas Badminton.

A leading and global voice in the field of strategy, disruption and futures thinking, we flexed our strategic thinking and leadership muscles ensuring we're prepared to meet the opportunities and obstacles of the future in service of our children and communities.

And what an exciting future we have, together!



OUR COMMUNITY HUB

Follow us on Twitter [@EKCSchoolsTrust](https://twitter.com/EKCSchoolsTrust), and/or visit the Community Hub on our website this summer and enjoy our online summer holiday activity pack.

Whatever your summer holds there's an activity for everyone and fun for all the family.

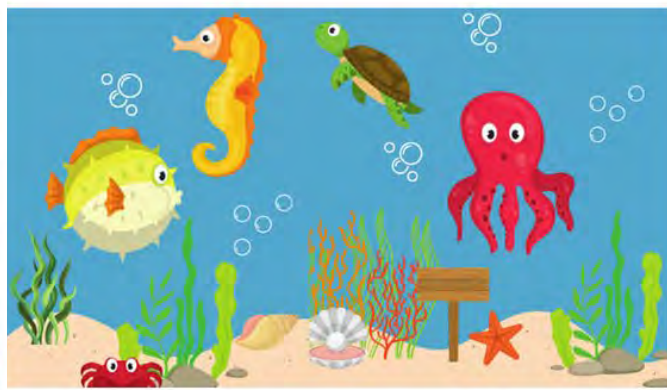
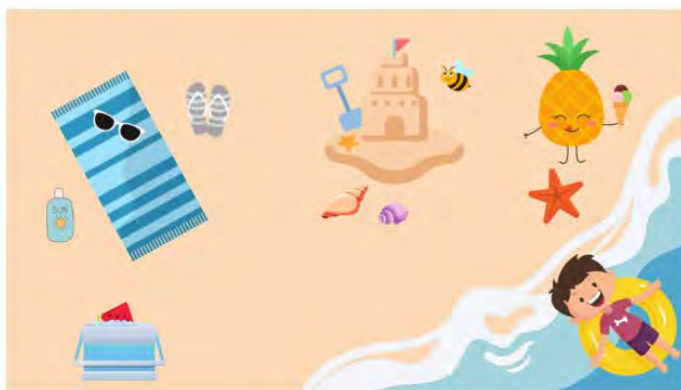
www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust/community-hub/summer-activity-pack

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PACK

Your summer holiday mission is to complete as many of our fun-fifteen as possible!

Links to the activities are hidden within the images below. Take a stroll along the beach and a dip in the water to find the activities.

And to help get you started... what's your favourite sea creature? Maybe they have a surprise for you!



These fun, free and fabulous activities are brought to you by our friends, the Business Level 2 students at Sheppey College, part of the EKC Group.

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.

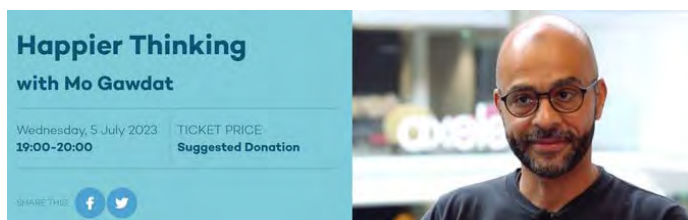
Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



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 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.

ekcschoolstrust.org



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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