

NEWSLETTER

Jun 2022



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Enhancing outcomes for the communities we serve.

ekcschoolstrust.org



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to the 2022 Summer Newsletter.

As we approach the end of another academic year, I continue to be in awe of the care and commitment of our Trust schools, our leaders and our staff.

There has been much to celebrate this year as individuals, teams, schools, and a Trust as a whole and I hope you have enjoyed each new edition of the Trust Newsletter, sharing our many successes.

I hope that colleagues are able to take some quality time over the coming summer period and get plenty of rest and relaxation – so you are ready to tackle the challenges that the next school year will bring. While the schools are closed, I would like to thank those staff that continue to work during the summer. I appreciate that others will be busying themselves in preparation for the start of the term at some point, but I would encourage all to have some quality time away from work.

Enjoy your summer.

Tammy Mitchell
CEO



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

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MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



WE'VE BEEN AWARDED THE SCHOOL GAMES GOLD STAR



We are very excited and proud to announce that the school has been awarded a Gold Sportsmark. Briary have for a number of years achieved both Bronze and Silver awards so to finally gain the top accolade is especially pleasing. The children take great pleasure in participating in a wide range of sporting activities both in school at Briary and in partnership with Herne Bay High School. The and with a summer term packed full of sporting events we wish everyone taking part the best of luck.

As well as on the sports field, we have also had successes in Creative Arts - most notably gaining 11 prize winners in the Canterbury Whitefriars Jubilee Banner Competition. If you have a chance to visit Canterbury over the mid-term break, the banners flying in Whitefriars look magnificent. From 700 entrants, we are delighted to announce that Bradley's (Year6) image was voted overall winner with the judges commenting that his image was "Absolutely stunning with commercial potential".

TAKING A WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH TO NURTURE

The health and wellbeing of the children at Briary is of the utmost importance to us so, this year, we have been participating in the National Nurturing Schools Programme.



This is not a one-size fits all programme delivered in an identical way to all schools; instead, it looks at our core beliefs, our children's needs and our commitment to supporting them to do their very best.

As a school, we know that a nurturing approach, which responds to the emotional needs of the children, underpinned by Quality First Teaching promotes the healthiest outcomes. The Nurturing Schools Programme will enable us to embed this further.

MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



WILD ESTUARY BEACH SCHOOL

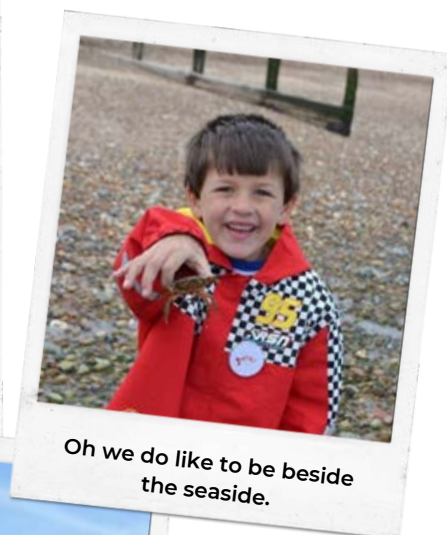
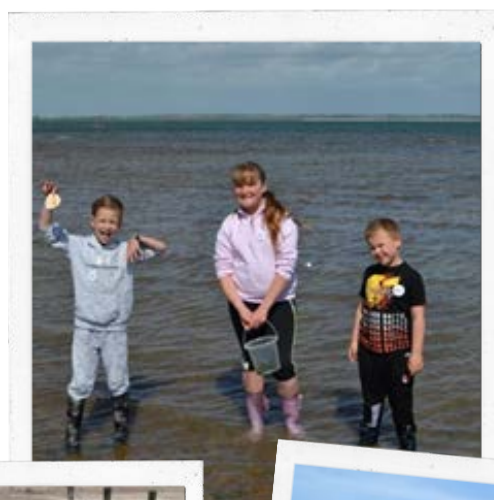
In Term 5, a selection of our pupils who had 99% attendance or better for the year, visited the Wild Estuary Beach School at Seasalter Beach every Wednesday morning.

The sessions follow the Forest School ethos and encourage team skills, independence and taking responsibility for the session. The wider aim of the programme is to connect the children to their local estuary and wildlife, looking at the problems facing the estuary from climate change and plastic pollution and to nurture support, love and caring for it for the next generation. The children also learnt to identify the local wildlife, play safely outside and learn to risk assess.

The children enjoyed a wide range of activities including rockpooling for crabs, identifying shells, litter picking, learning about the geography and ecology of an estuary, creating artworks.



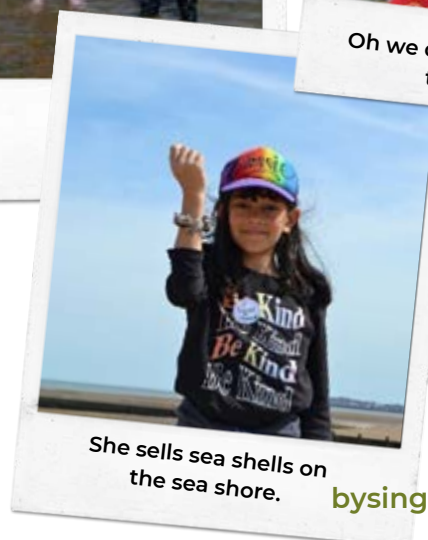
Fun in the sun



Oh we do like to be beside
the seaside.



... with a side of chips?



She sells sea shells on
the sea shore.

bysing-wood.kent.sch.uk

MEET EAST STOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL



As part of their Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Whitefriars Canterbury decorated the shopping centre with specially designed commemorative banners with artwork from of our young artistes. A huge well don eto the winners!



NETBALL NEWS

Netball Tournament

On Saturday, pupils from year 5 and 6 represented East Stour Primary School at a Netball tournament. It was hosted by Ashford School. We were challenged by multiple schools, who were equally as talented as us, making it highly competitive. After the long weekend, we walked in with pride, with our winning medals, making our school proud. Our school came 2nd out of 12 impressive schools, we truly had an amazing time! We really appreciate our outstanding coaches!!
-Mrs McKelnen, Mrs Steele and Miss Mott

THANK YOU!!



YOUNG VOICE CHOIR



On Wednesday 4 May the East Stour Young Voice choir attended the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena in London. The children had a fantastic time. They sang, they danced and they even took part in a beat box battle with the audience. All the children showed their best East Stour behaviour and we are very proud of each and every one of them.

Well done East Stour Choir!

MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



YEAR 1 EXPLORE NATURAL ART

Year 1 were set the task of exploring Natural Sculpture. We started by looking at the artist, Andy Goldsworthy and his use of natural materials. We spoke about the impact of his sculptures and his words, "We often forget that we are nature". Lucas said "I like the tree with the golden leaves around it because it looked like fire" and Maya said "When I looked at his sculptures, they make me feel calm."



We started with a colour chart to look for colours in nature and we explored the patterns he used in his work. This helped us plan our own designs and work together to make our own land art. We left them for the school to enjoy and we will look again after Easter to see how nature has changed our Natural Sculptures – just like Andy Goldsworthy.



70 YEARS, 70 THINGS ART PROJECT

Over the past term we have been busy researching, collecting, designing and creating an art project based on the 70 years our Queen Elizabeth, has been on the throne. The children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out interesting and fun facts about the royal family, exploring significant events which have happened during Her Majesty's reign, researching famous people and collecting objects or artefacts from the last 7 decades.

Each class interpreted the theme differently and used their artistic flair to great effect!



- Year R have made puppets showing things which belong to the Queen such as her crown or her royal carriage.
- Year 1 explored how toys have changed since 1953
- Year 2 looked at portraits of the queen and the royal family and created their own versions
- Year 3 explored facts for every year of Her Majesty's reign and created a large collage of the Queen
- Year 4 found out interesting facts about the Royal family in the last 7 decades
- Year 5 explored changes in fashion
- Year 6 looked at famous sporting events and influential sports people.

Our art projects are on display in the local church for the community to enjoy throughout the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

MEET PALM BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Over the past two weeks, the children have been taking part in Cook School which is a nationwide project offering accessible and affordable cookery lessons for youngsters. Cook School aims to help children to understand food, teach children how to cook basic, healthy meals and give them the skills and the confidence to repeat cook at home for their family and friends.



At Palm Bay the children followed a detailed recipe to make black bean and pepper mini puff pastry party pies - which pupils and teachers agreed were delicious. Riley from Year 6 summed up the power of Cook School when he explained, "I've never cooked anything before and now I want to do it all the time!" Many thanks to Mrs Wright for all of her hard work in preparing and delivering the Cook School lessons.

RUGBY FESTIVAL

The Palm Bay Rugby Team have been in action this term - taking part in the annual Thanet Schools Rugby Festival at Upton Junior School. Each school were given a



country to represent and this year Palm Bay were given Japan. Some fantastic rugby was played by all of the children; noise and theatrics followed during the banner procession at the end! Some of the year 6 children had this to say, "We had so much fun and we really loved working as team – everyone got a medal and we got a team trophy too!"

BOWLING

After SATs the Year 6 children were rewarded for their hard work with a trip the Bugsy's Bowling in Cliftonville. For many of the children it was their first experience of bowling but a fun time was had by all. The Year 6 children are now looking forward to their residential trip to Kingswood activity centre at the end of the summer term.

SAVE THE HEDGEHOGS!

Palm Bay are becoming a hedgehog friendly school! Six children from KS1 have become our hedgehog champions. We have recently completed an audit of the Palm Bay school grounds to identify any risks to hedgehogs. All of the children in the school have watched a hedgehog friendly documentary video and have taken part in a poster competition to educate the local community about hedgehog preservation.



palmbay.uk

MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



AMAZING TRANSFORMATION

In November 2021, we started our journey of improvement for our outside area, with a particular focus on the Year R environment. Our existing Year R outside area was relatively small in size, often flooded and with no permanent structures to excite and entice our children to want to explore further. Despite this our children have always been extremely creative with the limited provision and are always actively engaged in their self-chosen activities.

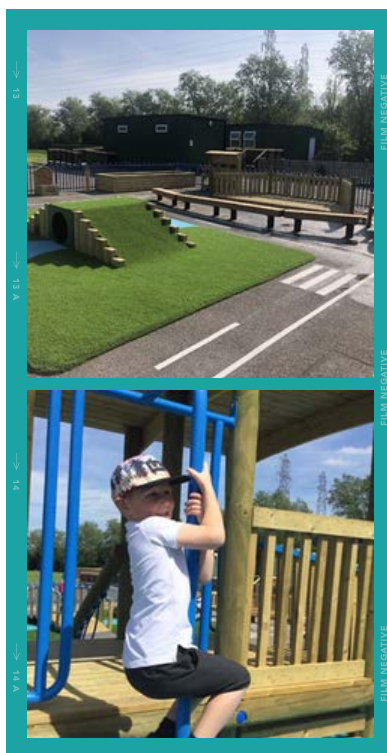
Our Old Year R Outside Area

We thought carefully about what we wanted from our new outside area and spoke to the children about what they thought was missing. Many of the children wanted something to climb on, particularly if they had been to our Nursery and had the experience of our Nursery castle! We know our children love to build using various materials and it was important to us to have an area where they could continue using their imagination in this way.

We also felt it was important to develop a growing area where the children could be responsible for taking care of plants and vegetables as well as observing changes in the environment.

Although it is very early days in measuring the impact of the new outside learning environment, if the smiles and level of well being and involvement are anything to go by then we are heading in the right direction!

Our New Area



MEET OUR TEAM OF TRUSTEES



With the beginning of Term 6 coinciding with National Volunteers Week we thought it only apt that we hear from our some of our Trustees on why they volunteer for EKC Schools Trust.

Graham Razey

"I've always been passionate about education and about improving the outcomes for young people in our society.

As the Chief Executive of a large further education college Group, I have witnessed the truly transformational impact of a great education and I wanted to help make that a reality for even more young people. As a Trustee, I'm able

to deliver a real and tangible difference to young people's lives, ensuring that they get the education they deserve and that their life chances are enhanced through its power. I'm really proud to be able to help in this way, and hope that the communities I serve benefit from my input."



Bernadette Lax

"I chose to be a Trustee within EKC Schools Trust as I believe in the model of trust formed, whereby schools work in partnership whilst keeping their own unique character. I am delighted to be part of a Trust really making a positive difference to the lives of local children, their families, and communities. Being a trustee allows me to make use of my professional experience and keeps my knowledge of educational changes current. I enjoy being part of a team that brings such a variety and wealth of experience together for such an inspiring purpose - the future life chances of children."

Peter Goldsack

'With two daughters who have successfully been through the education system from Primary to University, I volunteer as a Governor and Trustee so that I can play a part in helping all other children have a similar outcome, thereby ensuring that they are able to grow and develop to their full potential.

I particularly like using the skills and experience developed over a number of years to support school leaders and also working with a wide range of like-minded people who all share the same goal, to make schools better places for pupils and the wider community'

From everyone at EKC Schools Trust... *Thank you*

ekcschoolstrust.org



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](https://www.actionforhappiness.org) and we'll continue to highlight them here.

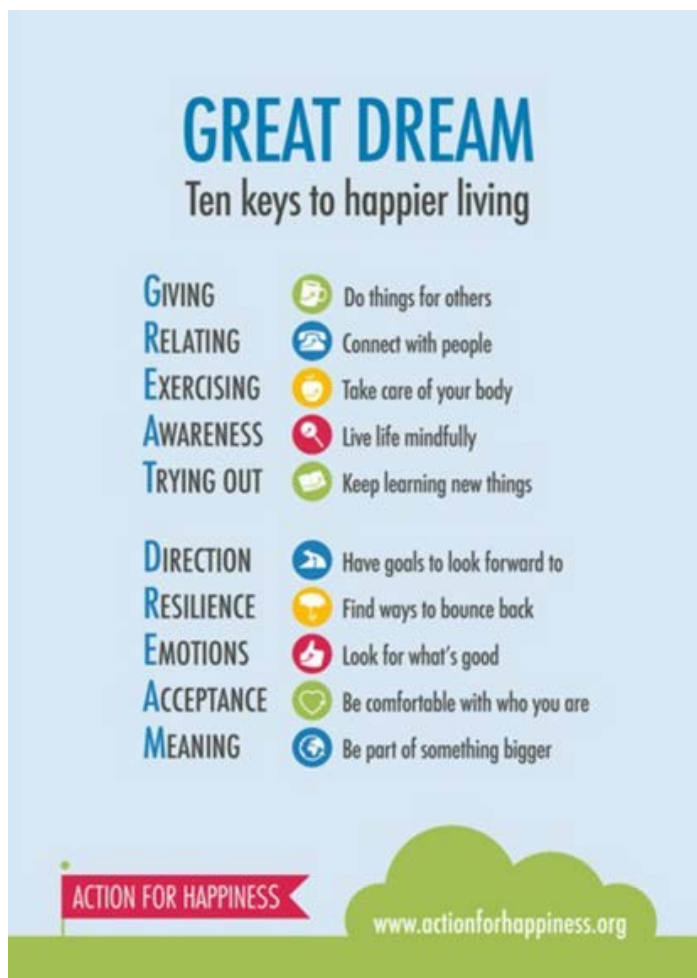
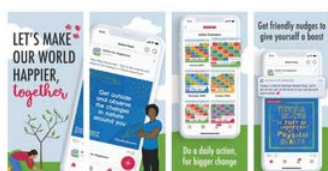
Monthly Wellbeing Theme



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

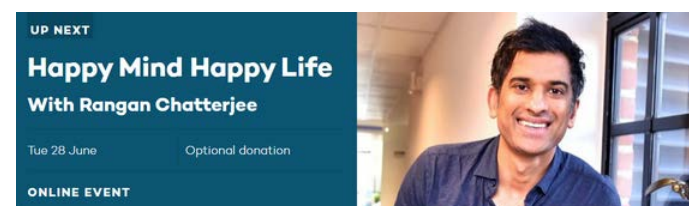
Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox.

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.



You can also access their Talks Library for more than 100+ recordings of these inspiring and informative talks.



Here is one of our past favourites:



[ekcschoolstrust.org](https://www.ekcschoolstrust.org)



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.

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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