

NEWSLETTER

March 2023



IN THIS ISSUE:

CEO MESSAGE

A message from our CEO, Tammy Mitchell

MEET OUR SCHOOLS

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

EKC COMMUNITY HUB

We celebrate our Trust Football Tournament, our Governor Conference and share news of Palm Bay's upcoming Art Auction.

WELLBEING FOCUS

The latest from Action for Happiness

JOIN US

Careers and governance



Enhancing outcomes for the communities we serve.

ekcschoolstrust.org



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

I hope you all managed to have a good break and have come back feeling refreshed.

I am sure that I am not alone in thinking that 2023 seems to be flying past and I cannot believe that we are in Term 4 already. I am certainly enjoying the lighter mornings and a little bit of sunshine.

At the end of Term 3, we held a Governor's Conference at Canterbury College for all the Governors on each of the Local Governing Boards. This was very well attended and there were four different workshops covering Safeguarding, Stakeholder Engagement, Inclusion and Pupil Outcomes. We had some excellent speakers, including two of our Local Board Members (and a really excellent supper provided for us by Canterbury College who provided the venue and our evening meal). I am always exceptionally grateful for the time and commitment our Governors give to our schools and although they are not often celebrated, their role is critical in ensuring the effectiveness of our schools and they are highly valued by our Headteachers for the support and challenge they provide.

Term 4 will be another busy term for all our schools and safeguarding visits to all the schools are well underway. I have been accompanied by some Governors, Trustees and our Director of Operations and we have all been impressed by the safe cultures in our schools. On every visit it has been overwhelming how positive the children are about their schools, how happy and safe they feel and how well the staff teams look after them. I have left each school extremely proud of our staff and the efforts they go to in ensuring every child is safe and happy in their learning.

As part of our safety work, Barry Boden, EKC Group Director of Digital, will also be visiting all the schools to undertake cyber security assessments within the next few weeks and at the end of the term we will be holding a Marketing Workshop to support our leadership teams in promoting all the amazing work that goes on in the schools to our wider communities.

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating one of our Headteachers in obtaining a new headship. Darran Callaghan, currently Headteacher at Holywell Primary School was successful in his interview and will be starting as Headteacher at Aylesham Primary School next term. Darran has been instrumental in developing our Trust and is a highly valued member of our Trust Leadership Team. Aylesham will be very lucky to have such a terrific leader and we very much hope to continue our collaboration with Darran in the future.

Tammy Mitchell
CEO



MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



LOUD AND PROUD AT BRIARY! SCHOOL COUNCIL ATTEND CHILDREN'S FORUM

Over 100 School Council representatives from across the Whitstable and Herne Bay infant, junior, primary and secondary schools came together to listen to guest speakers who talked about the cost of living crisis and the impact this was having on the local community. One of the speakers was from the Canterbury Foodbank who described how schools could help to support them.



In smaller groups, the children and young people generated ideas of what could be done in individual schools to help. These ideas were collated and the most popular ones identified to propose to the next meeting of Headteachers. Of the three children chosen to make the proposal, two came from Briary! Sophie and Harrison in Year 6 explained the proposal from the Children's Forum:

- A fund-raising event in each school
- Promotion of the Foodbank App in each school
- Devoting a storage space in each school for collecting donations for the foodbank
- Their pitch was so convincing that the Headteachers agreed unanimously.

Sophie said "It was quite a daunting experience to talk in front of all those adults but I was proud to be there representing Briary and the School Councils"

BRIARY CHOIR ON TOUR AT THE O2!



The Briary Choir were very excited to be representing the school for the first time at the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena in January. There was a packed schedule to learn all of the music, starting back in September last year, and culminating in the most spectacular concert, singing as part of a choir of nearly 9000 children. From singing in 4 part harmonies to rocking along with Heather Small to her single "Proud" and stepping out some crazy dance moves with Urban Strides, the Briary choir has made us all proud.

MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



YEAR 6 HISTORY PROJECT PUBLISHED

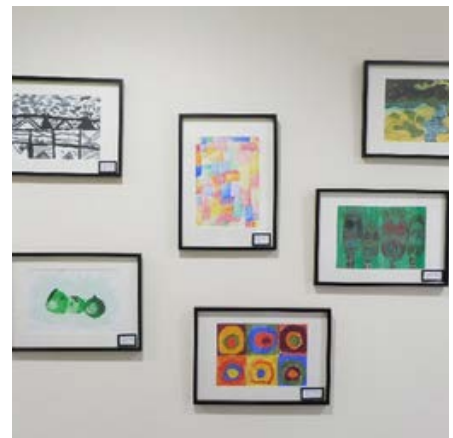
Finding The Fallen was a local history investigation carried out by the pupils from Year 6. Set up to commemorate the centenary of the first Remembrance in 1922 and run by Neil Tonge of 'Horrible Histories' fame, our pupils learnt about different aspects of World War One and the impact on the local community. The full, published version of the project outcome is linked below and also found on the Year 6 class page. Each family in the school has received a paper copy in the last week.



ART DAYS

We began this term by participating in two whole school art days. The focus for the days was to explore painting, in particular colour. Every class explored an artist who has specialised in painting.

As well as this, the children built on their prior knowledge of painting and different mediums were used across the year groups. The children all learnt new skills, that they were able to apply to their final piece of art work, which was inspired by their artists. A wonderful creative two days was had by all, and the artwork which was produced was to a high standard. A piece has been chosen from each class to be framed and displayed in the school.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

On Monday 23rd January, we took part in activities to celebrate Chinese New Year. We shared a Chinese lunch together too. This day was full of joy and wonder as the children took part in different activities from: a virtual author visit, Chinese flag making, constructing Chinese lanterns, baking biscuits and paper cutting a rabbit.

MEET EAST STOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL



TRUMPETS AND CORNETS

Year 3 had a Stone Age workshop where we split into groups and learned lots of facts about the lives of Stone Age people. We learnt how they made tools such as axes, arrowheads and spears. Everyone dressed up in costumes, had faces painted and pretended to hunt for deer using wild animal calls. We chipped away at chalk with a flint to make a drum.



ATHLETICS

Our amazing year 5 and 6 athletes competed against 22 other schools in an Athletics competition at the Stour Centre. Each athlete competed in 4 events. Our East Stour athletes are super speedy runners and came first in several of the track events!



STAR DOG

We are very proud of Calli. She has been nominated for Canine Assisted Wellbeing Groups Star Dog of the term by Mrs Chapman. Calli is only 2 years old. She attends the whole school assembly and makes the children smile even on the gloomiest of days. Calli is very pastoral and knows when a child is upset - she moves calmly towards the child and sits right close for the child to stroke her. Calli attends the morning Hub club. This is for a few children who find the classroom noisy first thing in the morning. She lays on her settlemat and laps up the fuss! On our school Instagram she has over 900 likes! The photos show Calli reading the 'sit' and 'lay' cards where she does the actions. Calli also likes to help the children choose a reading book. She does this by using her paw to select a book. Well done Calli!

MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



YOUNG VOICES 2023



On the 16th of January, 30 children across Year 4, 5, and 6, attended Young Voices Concert at the O2 In London. The children worked tirelessly over the course of several months to learn all of the songs and actions, which they then performed as part of the choir comprised of 15000 children to thousands of parents and loved ones. Young Voices was proud to partner with Place2Be and FareShare for our 2023 concert series. The children and parents were proud to be a part of such an amazing event for such a good cause; the atmosphere was incredible and every child made us all very proud with their ready, responsible, respectful and resilient attitudes all day and evening!

"I loved being part of the Young Voices concert because it was like nothing I've ever experienced before! It felt like we were really making a difference because it is for charity and was having so much fun at the same time!" (Honey Yr 6)

"The Young Voices concert was so good! It was a really long day, but every bit of it was enjoyable. At first, I wasn't sure about taking part, but I am so glad I did. I had never been to the O2 before- It is huge! And I had never seen so many people in one place! The best bit though was knowing everyone was there to share the experience and raise money for charity." (Jack yr 6)

EKC SCHOOLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 2nd February, Holywell hosted an intra-trust football tournament for Year 6 teams in all EKC Primary Schools. The day was supported by PE students from Canterbury College and they did a fantastic job officiating, scoring and running drills. The children had a great day and it was a fantastic opportunity to develop relationships across schools. Holywell did brilliantly too, finishing fourth and second with our two teams. This is what some of the children had to say about the day:

"We had lots of fun playing and we enjoyed playing together as a team!" (Brady)

"We showed good communication in our team and it helped us all to bond together. It was good to all play together!" (Lyla)

"It was my first time playing – I liked how the teams played for each other and everyone passed the ball around." (Ellie)



MEET PALM BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ECO-SCHOOLS

At Palm Bay we have an Eco-Committee made up of a group of children representing all of the KS2 year groups that are divided into 6 teams. The Eco-Committee have been busy carrying out official tasks such as the Environmental review and creating the action plan along with leading phase assemblies to encourage every member of the school to make an eco-pledge in a small way that they can make a difference.



The different teams have been busy ensuring that recycling is collected; fruit and vegetable waste is composted; lights and appliances are turned off; litter is picked up and the outside planters are kept weed free. In addition to this, we have our YELs (Young Environmental Leaders) who, in collaboration with Turner Contemporary, have embarked on an exciting new project linking environmental issues and art. They have already created a colourful litter picking station that is now in the school playground, and are planning other projects including an art installation using recycled materials.

Working in this way means that more pupils, their families and the wider community can be included, we can maintain our Green Flag status and we can continue our journey to become even more environmentally aware.

LIVING HISTORIES

This term, Year 3 took part in a Living Histories Stone Age workshop designed to encourage children to consider the relationship between technological advancement and lifestyle. They took part in a variety of activities designed to piece together the past using evidence and Experimental Archaeology including all the children dressing up in costumes and make-up, taking part in drama and re-enactment, and making their own tools which they could then take away as souvenirs.



BIKEABILITY

The Year 6 children have been taking part in Bikeability training this term. As part of the national initiative the children have been learning practical skills and have been helped to understand how to cycle on today's roads. Qualified, expert instructors have supported the children to build the confidence needed to cycle when moving to secondary school and to enjoy cycling into later life.

MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



AS YOU LIKE IT!

This term, as part of our ongoing partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company as an Associate School, we were visited by costume designer Sarah Booth who worked with our Year 5 children on creating costumes for their upcoming production of As You Like It. The children learned how to weather, distress and age items of clothing using different techniques and methods. It was a very messy morning, but the final results were fantastic! We can't wait to see some of the costumes used in the actual production later in the year.



WONDERDOME PLANETARIUM

What a 'wow!' moment for our students this was, as they entered this unique learning experience. Using specialised visual and audio equipment, which projects onto the inside of the planetarium, they had a 360-degree, immersive perspective of our solar system and a wonderful view of the universe! We visited the moon, plummeted into the cracks of Europa and swirled around wonderful constellations! We have many budding Astronauts and Astronomers now, who left the day inspired and ready to soar back up into space!



SPORTS WORKSHOP AT CANTERBURY COLLEGE



This term, our Year 5 pupils were invited to take part in a sports workshop at Canterbury College. This was such an exciting opportunity and they had the best time! After travelling by train and taking the scenic walk through Canterbury, we arrived at the college. We were greeted by some of the mature students and sports coaches, who helped us settle in. Some of the activities that we were able to take part in were: cricket games, basketball, trampolining and some exciting strategy challenges. It was so nice to work with equipment that we do not have at our school and every single person having fun, learning and taking part. The coaches and leaders were fantastic with the Year 5 pupils and we are looking forward to working with them again in the future.

OUR COMMUNITY HUB

A BEAUTIFUL GAME INDEED!

Following the success of our first Trust Cricket Tournament, we hosted our first Trust Football Tournament this term to great success!

Hosted by Holywell Primary and led by Canterbury College's Sports department students, the day was an excellent display of collaboration and a wonderful opportunity for Year 6 to build their teamwork skills, sportsmanship and confidence.

A big congratulations go to winners Queenborough School, but also to everyone who took part on and off the field.

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



EKC Schools Trust Football Tournament

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

ekcschoolstrust.org



OUR COMMUNITY HUB

GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE



EKC Schools Trust Governors came together this term for our inaugural Governors conference.

6 Schools, 45+ Governors, 4 Workshops* and 1 networking supper.

**Monitoring Safeguarding, Stakeholder Engagement, Inclusion and Data*

Special thanks to our friends at Canterbury College for hosting our event.

IMPACT IS EVERYTHING!

I see the connection between using what I have learnt and educational improvement



100% Strongly Agree - Agree

How often will you use what you have learned ?



88% said they'd use 70-100% of the learning

How much of what you have learned will you use?



100% said they'd use 70-100% of the learning

How likely are you to recommend this CPD to a friend or colleague? (Scale of 1-10)



88% gave us 9+/10

How will you use this CPD on-the-job?

- *"I will be more aware of Safeguarding and able to ask relevant questions when visiting the school and carrying out my role as a Governor"*
- *"Better understanding of data and challenge, and as Chair will encourage the development of stakeholders"*
- *"The relationship between Safeguarding and school finance and the number of opportunities there may be to promote the school in both the local and wider areas"*
- *"To be a more critical friend and ask more in-depth questions"*

OUR COMMUNITY HUB

ART AUCTION

A R T A U C T I O N

FRIDAY 24th March 2023

7PM WALPOLE BAY HOTEL

Auctioneer Keith Brymer-Jones
f u n d r a i s i n g f o r
Palm Bay Primary School Art Department

Artists include:

Ann Carrington / Bob & Roberta Smith
Charlie Russell Studio
David Shillinglaw / Hayden Kays
Jo Elbourne / Kate Harrison / Kavel Rafferty
Laurie Vincent / Margo McDaid / Megan Metcalf
Melanie King / Melanie Tong
Nat Maks / and many more

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.

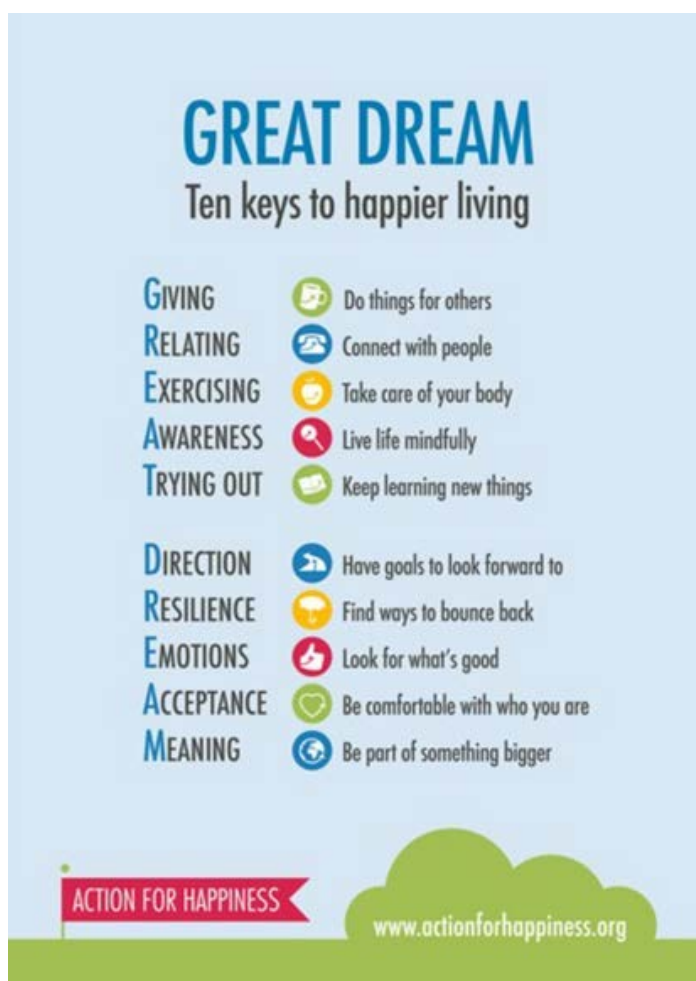
Monthly Wellbeing Theme



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.

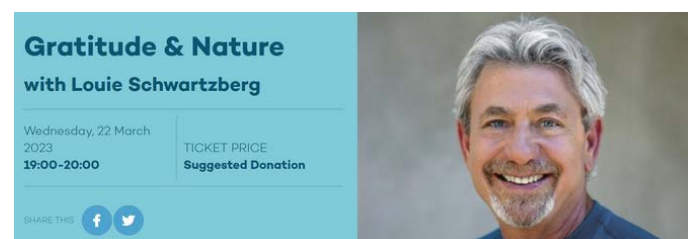
Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



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.

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!

ekcschoolstrust.org

