

NEWSLETTER

Nov 2022



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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

It is difficult to believe that Term 1 has been and gone and we are well into Term 2!

I would like to welcome our new reception children and their families into EKC Schools Trust and hope you are all settled into your new classes and have made new friends.

At the moment, everything feels like constant change around us all, and we have all faced many challenges over the past few years, and there are certainly many challenges ahead. At EKC Schools Trust, we strongly believe in giving our children the best possible opportunities to learn and aspire to do great things in their lives. During these difficult times, we are doing our utmost to continue to support the schools, to provide a warm and safe environment that encourage our children to learn, and to give them a positive learning experience.

During my many visits to our schools over the past few weeks I have been continually impressed by the richness of the curriculum and learning environments and the incredible behaviour of our pupils right across the Trust. It has certainly humbled me and made me realise that despite challenging times, our ethos in every part of the Trust remains focused on high expectations in everything we do.

I would therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their passion and enthusiasm during these challenging times and hope you enjoy the most magical time of the year over the next few weeks. I'm certainly looking forward to our first Trust-wide Carole Service next month. Already I know it will be a magical evening.

Tammy Mitchell
CEO



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MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



WELCOME TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS !

Miss Dillon, Year 6 teacher, has for some while now, had plans for an Outdoor learning space at Briary. With the support of colleagues at the other Trust schools, the plans started to take greater shape as we emerged from lockdown. Contact was made with the housing developer, Bellway, who are building right next door and over the summer break, Bellway's on-site staff turned our overgrown vegetable garden into an open-air learning space complete with wooden seats.



Bellway's staff volunteered to work on the project in partnership with contractors Kingsheath Construction and together they have removed the dilapidated shed and weeded the overgrown shrubbery which had occupied the area. They have also replaced the older planters and fencing while making room for the school's children to grow new trees, vegetables and flowers.



The seats and benches which sit there now, were carved from the wood of a giant tree that was felled during last February's storms. It is amazing to see the garden as it stands now given that it used to be covered with thick and thorny bramble before we began this project with Bellway. Thanks to their help, we have been able to make this area safe for our students again. There is also a lot more space in the garden now that the shed has been removed and the rubbish has been cleared.

We are also planning outdoor lessons in the garden to teach our children to identify and distinguish different species of birds, insects and plants. We could not have used this space for all these activities without Bellway's efforts and so we are very grateful to them for volunteering to help us with this project."

MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



HARVEST COLLECTION

For our Harvest collection, pupils donated to the Faversham Food Bank and collected 175kg of food and household items, which is truly fantastic and will help a lot of people in the upcoming months.

BOOK CORNER WITH A DIFFERENCE

One of the advantages of being part of the EKC Schools Trust is that we have links with other schools and colleges. This large book structure was the final piece from one of the art students at Canterbury College. She wanted to promote a love of reading and we are lucky to be able to exhibit her creation.

As you can see this only just fitted and we are just a few inches away from the ceiling! It was only Lindsay's lateral thinking, utilising a handy skylight that it could stand up!

We are going to be using the book as the entrance to our reading snug. Due to its size, it has created a magical buzz around the reading snug area.

We are going to be holding a competition for our children to design a book cover that will be painted onto the book. Children will be given more information about this in Term 2.



MEET EAST STOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL



OTTERDEN ESTATE - YEAR 3

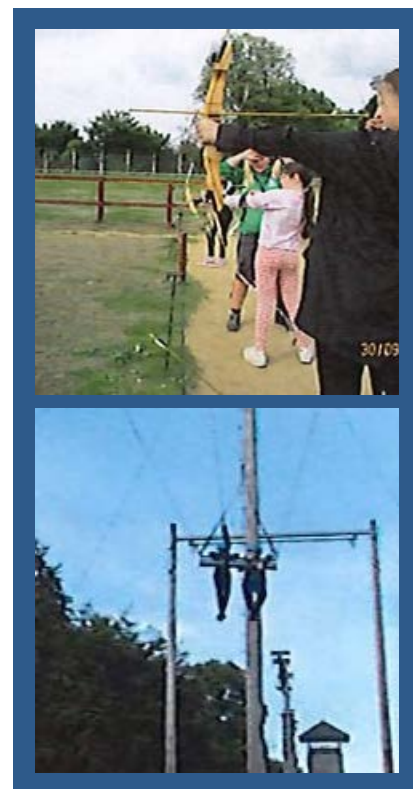
Year 3 went on a school trip to Otterden Estate, near Faversham. Everyone had great fun building dens in the woods using enormous branches.. The children had a leaf scavenger hunt and planted acorns, in memory of the Queen, followed by a picnic in the field.



PGL AND NON PGL

During PGL the children had a fantastic time, working together as a team and pushing themselves to complete activities that were out of their comfort zone. The adults were blown away by the resilience and compassion shown by all the children and they had a fantastic time! The children worked together to complete activities such as craft building, obstacle courses, and a 3G swing. The children were also encouraged to complete other thrill seeking activities such as the leap of faith!

The non-PGL children had an eventful three days and visited Brockhill Park, where the group enjoyed a countryside walk, Ten Pin Bowling and cinema to see the movie "Minions:The Rise of Gru". Everybody enjoyed the film and the children were very respectful of the facilities, which made school staff very proud.



CALLI IN HER LESSONS

MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



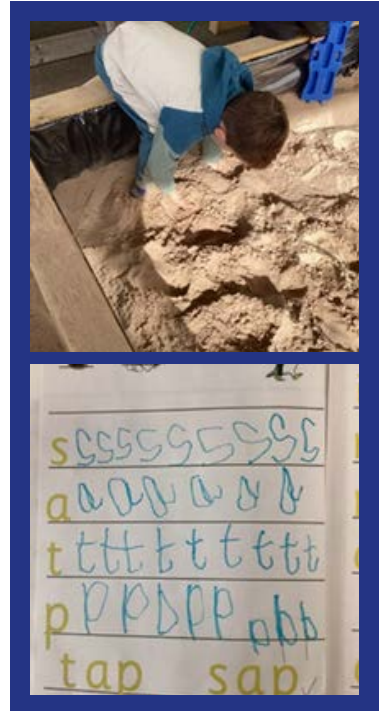
SETTLING INTO RECEPTION

Our children have had an exciting first term in Reception.

They settled in very quickly and have been getting to know each other and their new learning environment. Everyone has been working extremely hard, learning lots of new things both in the classroom and the outdoor area.

In Child-Initiated learning, the children have enjoyed exploring the different areas, especially the new mud kitchen, sandpit, and playhouse, and they have also been creative in the art and construction corners.

In our phonics lessons, we have been learning phonemes and digraphs. We have started reading and writing CVC words and have been enjoying reading stories with the adults who help.



We have been learning about the book called 'A brave bear' by Sean Taylor. As part of this, the children have been learning facts about bears. Here are a few facts they have learned and remembered.

- "Bears can climb trees," said Molly.
- "Bears are strong swimmers," said Jenson.
- "They live in forests," Fletcher said.
- "They eat berries, insects, fish and honey" said Eira.

In Maths, we have been learning about the numbers 1, 2 and 3 and have been using active learning to draw numbers with chalk on the playground.



"We are very proud of what they have already achieved and look forward to the rest of the year"

MEET PALM BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



YEAR 6 ACTIVITY WEEK AND YEAR 5 CAMP OUT

The Summer Term saw our Year 6 leavers enjoy an incredible end to their Palm Bay Primary School journey. The week began with a trip to Betteshanger Park - where the children took on the "Boonies Obstacle Course" a Geocaching treasure hunt and Nerf Gun wars in the forest! On Tuesday the children went to Revolution Skate Park. All the children enjoyed a day at Viking Bay in Broadstairs where Kent Surf School took the children out into the water for paddle boarding and bodyboarding. The week of activities culminated in the Year 6 leavers disco in the school hall with an unforgettable, whole year group rendition of "Sweet Caroline" for the final dance.

In July, Year 5 had a "Big Camp Out" on the Palm Bay school field. A wonderful evening of twilight activities and campfire games ensued. The children pitched their own tents and shared hot chocolate and snacks with their friends before snuggling down for the night.



CANINE ASSISTED LEARNING



Six members of our school team have undergone training from The Canine Assisted Learning team so that our lovely Cockapoo Charlie can be used as part of our therapeutic offer to our pupils. Charlie will be our very own therapy dog and will support in interventions, teach children important life skills, hear children read and also support with our behaviour management. All of the children have met Charlie and are aware of how to look after Charlie in school.

ACTION JACKSON

We have welcomed Action Jackson aka Ambassador for Happiness from the Fix Up academy into Palm Bay. Jackson has worked with us over a number of visits to provide assemblies, and workshops on motivation, self-belief, positivity, and happiness for our pupils (and staff.) Action Jackson days always create such a buzz around school and leaves our whole school community believing we can achieve anything we put our minds to. Jackson has worked with year 6 a lot on helping their transition to secondary school.



MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



NEW INTAKE AT QUEENBOROUGH

Having babies in our Nursery is something that we have been thinking about for a while, but we were pushed into action when five members of staff all announced that they were expecting babies within a few months of each other and we wanted to do all we could to support these staff in coming back to work by providing an outstanding level of childcare. We were fortunate to visit some Nursery settings within EKC Group and from this we began to make initial plans to convert an existing classroom into a purpose-built baby room.



On Wednesday 28th September at 8am, Queenborough Babies and Toddlers opened their doors for the first time! An exciting day in the history of Queenborough and a step closer to achieving our dream of providing provision from birth through to the end of the primary years.

We currently have 8 babies on our register and we are open from 8 am – 5 pm, term time only. Word is spreading fast and we are already receiving enquiries for spaces in the very near future... and the need is also there for 2 year old provision ... watch this space

GOLD MARK FOR QUEENBOROUGH

Following a successful SMSC Quality Mark verification visit, we are proud to say that we have retained our Gold Mark status! As always, it was the fantastic children who communicated their passion for the school and their learning that helped us keep our Gold Mark.



OUR COMMUNITY HUB

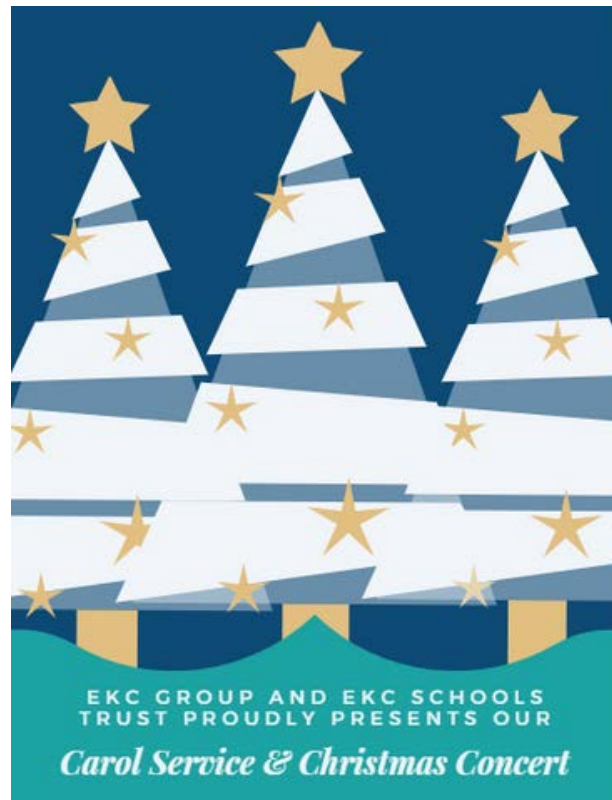
WE'RE GETTING FESTIVE

The EKC family – our schools alongside students and staff across the EKC Group colleges and business units - are coming together this year for the first time for what we hope will be an annual carol concert.

Briary Primary are will play out the nativity, narrated by Year 6's from across the Trust schools.

Followed by a carol concert performed by the colleges and we'll be closing our sing-along with a rapturous rendition of the 12 days of Christmas.

Postponed from last year we are doubly excited to come together and celebrate Christmas as a whole EKC family.



A LITTLE FESTIVE GIFT FROM US



Twas the countdown to Christmas and we want to share some festive cheer so head over to our website www.ekcschoolstrust.org and Our Community Hub or scan the QR code below and enjoy our virtual Christmas Advent calendar. Packed with festive fun!



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 and we'll continue to highlight them here.

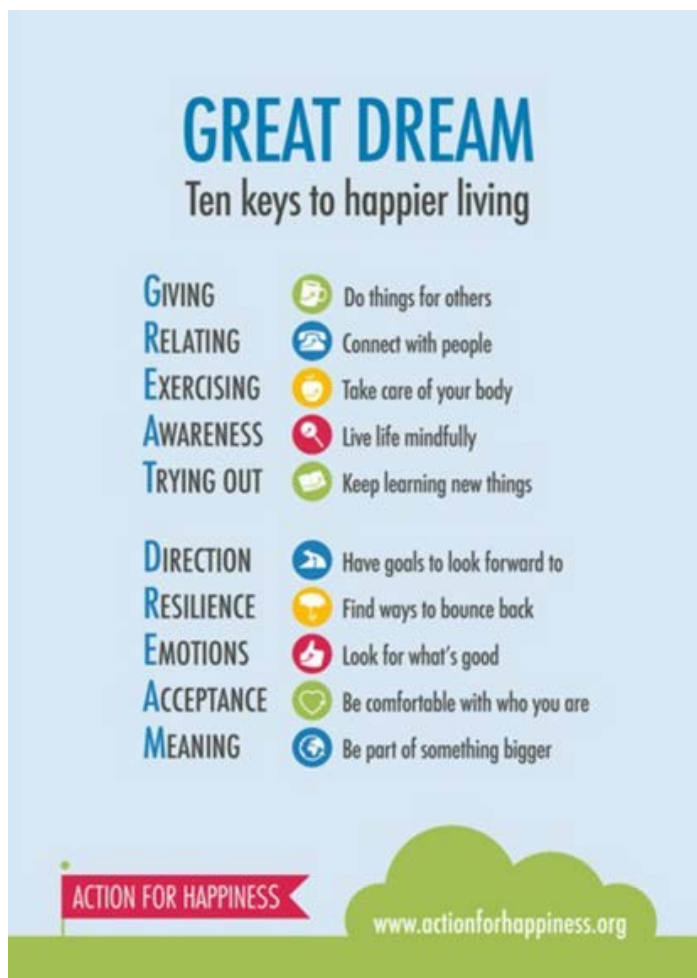
Monthly Wellbeing Theme



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.

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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