

News from the Central Team

Across our schools this autumn, the spirit of partnership has shone brightly, showcasing the power of collaboration and community support. Together, we have celebrated Harvest with generous donations to local food banks and charities, strengthened ties through events like the TKAT Annual Celebration Service, and engaged in meaningful projects that unite pupils, staff, and families. From supporting community initiatives to fostering connections across our Trust, these partnerships have enriched lives, highlighted our shared values, and exemplified the strength we achieve when working together.



Partnership also continues to be the foundation of the Trust's success. Collaboration through Peer Reviews, the Pupil Premium Strategy, and shared initiatives has demonstrated the collective commitment to improvement and high-quality provision for all.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to these remarkable achievements!



TKAT INSET

The autumn term commenced with a significant milestone for The Keys Academy Trust. For the first time, our INSET was held in the Palmer Building at the University of Reading, because we have outgrown all of our own school facilities!

It was wonderful to welcome 136 teachers to our INSET session in September, which focused on the implementation of our new assessment software.

The Trust is preparing for a highly focused January INSET day at Alder Grove C of E Primary School. This training will bring together colleagues across roles for tailored sessions designed to enhance professional practice. Alex Powley, Director of Teaching, Learning & School Improvement, will lead on achieving greater depth in writing, focusing on assessment frameworks and curriculum design. EYFS teachers will join Julie Sherrington (Primary English Lead, GLF Schools) for a session on early language development, while SENDCOs will work with John Hewitt (Headteacher, The Castle School) on effective use of support staff and strategies to support pupils with ADHD. This INSET exemplifies the Trust's commitment to equipping staff with the tools to achieve ambitious outcomes for all our pupils.

The Peer Review process has been a powerful example of schools working together to enhance practice. Reviews have celebrated the strengths of teaching teams, including their ability to foster high levels of pupil engagement and to implement strategies that promote effective learning. Themes such as retrieval practice, high-quality questioning, and scaffolding have emerged as consistent strengths across the Trust. Beyond these findings, the process has strengthened relationships, with schools learning from one another to refine approaches and embed impactful change. Improvement champions have been pivotal in translating recommendations into clear, actionable steps, ensuring progress remains focused and purposeful.

This term has also seen the introduction of the Trust's Pupil Premium Strategy, which aims to support disadvantaged pupils through targeted interventions and a focus on Quality First Teaching. Strategies such as daily reading, phonics tutoring, and increased family engagement are being embedded across schools to address barriers to learning. Teachers are being equipped with professional development opportunities to support this work, and plans for an on-demand CPD library and further roundtable sessions will provide ongoing support for staff as they implement these approaches.

Looking ahead, February will see the launch of subject networks, led by subject leaders across TKAT, to deepen subject expertise and foster shared learning. These networks will provide a platform for teachers to collaborate, share best practices, and address shared challenges within their subject areas. The first network, will explore the goals of each subject's curriculum and ensure that all pupils across the Trust experience an equity of aspiration regardless of the school they attend.

This term has also shown the value of partnership in other areas. Schools have collaborated to share best practices and refine approaches in areas such as curriculum planning and supporting inclusive teaching practices. These efforts demonstrate a collective commitment to ensuring high-quality education for all our pupils across the Trust.

Ofsted & SIAMS Inspections

No sooner than we had returned from the half term break Polehampton Juniors got the call from Ofsted. Their Inspection took place on 5-6 November 2024 and we are delighted to confirm that they have secured a 'Good' rating across all four key areas. Shortly afterwards Earley St Peter's had their SIAMS inspection, which also had an excellent outcome. These inspection results are another clear example of partnership across the Trust, which is evident when schools and staff come together to support one another. Inspections also provide great learning opportunities for those likely to be in receipt of their inspections next!



Forest Learning Alliance

The FLA has always worked in collaborative partnerships, ensuring we work across educational boundaries to achieve shared goals for our schools. Since 2013, we have expanded our reach and impact of professional growth. Partnering with 37 alliance schools across all phases and, more excitingly, now as part of The Keys Academy Trust, we aim to continue to create evidence-informed professional development, that is purposefully relevant for our teachers today. We are in an emerging partnership phase and look forward to working with you to offer and provide learning development opportunities for TKAT and profession.

I would like to get to know you and your school and I hope to visit your schools and look forward to meeting you during the upcoming January 2025 INSET. My sincere wish is to establish trust-wide partnerships that we can all embrace in supporting professional growth for everyone.



Have a lovely Christmas and a restful break.
Ravinder Ghei (Director of FLA)



TKAT Annual Celebration Service

This special annual event saw us all come together on Thursday 17 October to celebrate the journey of The Keys Academy Trust and how it has grown since 2017. One of our core values of Partnership, was at the heart of this service. Together, we all celebrated the joys of Partnership and the power of working together for the greater good.

In line with our vision, the event was about building strong bonds within our family of schools.

We extend our sincere thanks to Crazies Hill C of E Primary School for hosting and to all who participated and contributed to this successful event. A special thanks must also go to our wonderfully, courageous and confident pupils, who all boldly stood up in front of everyone to deliver their lines, many without needing any prompts at all.

Digital Parenting Support

Thank you very much to Philip Theobald, Headteacher at Alder Grove CE Primary School who was instrumental in organising the Parenting in the Digital World online workshops for all parents, carers and staff across The Keys. This powerful initiative to strengthen digital safety awareness was developed in partnership with The Stay Safe Initiative. These successful events were met with overwhelming positive feedback from parents, who expressed gratitude for the practical support provided.

Inclusion Innovation Funding Secured

Another great example of why partnerships are important, was our successful joint application for funding through Wokingham Borough Council's Inclusion Innovation Fund. The £25,000 secured will enable the creation of dedicated spaces in seven of our schools, tailored to support pupils with SEMH or SEND needs. This initiative is a significant step forward in promoting inclusivity and mental wellbeing within our school community.

Thank you to the schools involved who have already taken steps to develop this project within their school.



Uplands Primary School and Nursery



We kick-started some strong partnerships at Uplands this year with the opening ceremony of our new outdoor classroom. This was a collaboration between the school, PTA and Mace who donated all of the materials, labour and time over the summer to complete the project – an excellent addition to our outdoor learning offer!

Next came our Harvest assembly with generous donations from our parents for the local food banks and elderly folks in need.



We then hosted an afternoon tea for our local elderly community with Year 6 hosting and entertaining – a wonderful afternoon had by all!

We have been sorting our library at Uplands so that we can access, choose and enjoy the books more easily.



We have donated our surplus books in partnership with our local Secondary School, Sandhurst, for them to send to their twinned school in Rwanda and also to Shirley Warren Primary school in Southampton who are very much in need of our support.



Our most important partners, the PTA have been busy. There have been lots of events throughout the term ... including a popular quiz night that was fuelled by a delicious curry prepared by one of our families and of course the staff team won Phew!



And finally ... Our Head Boy, Tom and Head Girl, Layla started our Remembrance Day activities by representing the school at the Sandhurst Remembrance Service at the memorial park – a well-attended event due to the community links with the Royal Military Academy.



We then had a moving service in school where each of our classes made a wreath to place at our soldier memorial.

SO FAR YOU HELPED UPLANDS PTA RAISE:	
Uniform Sale	£40.00
Ice cream sale	£113.51
Uplands Family Quiz 24	£735.37
Clothes recycling	£44.40
Non uniform day	£202.77
TOTAL SO FAR	★ £1136.05 ★
OUR TARGET	★ £15,000.00 ★

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!





St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst



At St Michael's CE Primary School, we understand that strong partnerships enrich the lives of our pupils and foster a deep sense of community. This autumn term has been a shining example of collaboration as we worked together with families, local organisations and community groups to make a positive impact. Here are some highlights from our exciting term of partnership activities.

Harvest Festival

Our term began with the joyful celebration of our Harvest Festival. Pupils, parents and staff gathered to give thanks and share with those in need. Generous donations from our school community were delivered to the Crowthorne food bank, demonstrating the power of collective effort to support those in need in our local area.



TKAT Annual Celebration Service

As a proud member of The Keys Academy Trust (TKAT), we participated in the TKAT Annual Celebration Service. This inspiring event brought together schools across the trust to celebrate our school partnerships and achievements. Our pupils represented St Michael's in what was our first TKAT Annual Celebration Service since joining the trust in November 2023.

Remembrance Memorial Service

In November, we joined the Sandhurst Remembrance Memorial Service to honour those who served and sacrificed for our freedom. Our pupils laid a wreath on behalf of the school and participated in a moving ceremony alongside other members of the local community.

Sporting Partnerships

This term, we continued to work in partnership with local schools and sports organisations to provide a range of competitive and inclusive sports opportunities. Our pupils excelled in football, cross country, boccia and tag rugby - demonstrating teamwork, perseverance and fair play. These events not only allowed our pupils to showcase their skills but also strengthened bonds with peers from other schools.



Enrichment Opportunities

A highlight of our enrichment programme this term was Year 4's visit to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. This awe-inspiring trip deepened pupils' understanding of Hinduism as part of our Religious Education curriculum and provided a valuable opportunity to experience cultural and spiritual diversity first-hand.

Raising Money for Children in Need

St Michael's pupils, staff and parents once again showed their compassion and generosity by coming together to raise funds for Children in Need. Through a variety of fun and engaging activities, including cake sales and raffles, we raised a significant amount for this great cause which makes a real difference in the lives of children and families across the UK.



Looking Ahead

As we reflect on this term's successes, we are reminded of the strength and value of working together. Partnerships enrich our school community and create lasting memories for our pupils. We look forward to continuing this collaborative spirit in the spring term and beyond, with more events and opportunities to celebrate and support one another - together, we truly are stronger.



Crazies Hill CE Primary School



At Crazies Hill CE Primary School, our network of partnerships with others helps us to provide every pupil and adult in our school community with wide ranging opportunities in order to grow in resilience to weather life's ups and downs, have respect for themselves, others and their environment and the ability to build and maintain good working relationships with all in their community so that they can 'be the best that they can be'. These connections help us to fulfill our vision and deepen our understanding of our values of relationships, resilience and respect.

Partnership within our School

School Council - Year 1 to Year 6 each has a representative that sits on the School Council and the Eco Council. The School Council have previously led projects such as creating the Bug Garden, choosing playtime toys using a set budget, meeting with school lunch providers to discuss menus and lunch quality. The representatives lead class council sessions and then share the thoughts of their peers during the school council meetings. The Eco Council is continuing the great work initiated by last year's Councillors as it works towards achieving the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. This is an international award that recognises educational institutions for their environmental action and learning.



Partnership with St Mary's Wargrave - Harvest Festival

It was lovely to welcome so many of our parents, families and friends to our Harvest Festival. Each class presented and all children sang with confidence in unison and in harmony. We received many generous donations for Woodley Food Bank. We welcomed Richard from Woodley Food Bank and our harvest festival was blessed by Reverend Steve.



Partnership with our PTA - Adventure Playground

We are very fortunate to work in close partnership with such supportive parents who are dedicated to fundraising in order to enhance the experiences for the children. With their support, we have been able to develop our adventure playground space and provide additional equipment and all-weather play space to enhance playtime and lunchtime breaks. Events such as: Race Night, Comedy Night, Spooky Disco, Pjama party and film night are wonderful ways to bring the community together and fundraise at the same time.

Partnership with our Governors - RE Workshops

Our governors are regularly in school, working with, and supporting the staff and children. Our RE inspired workshop sessions enable governors and pupils to work in partnership to deepen knowledge and understanding through practical activities and discussion work.



Partnership with our Community - Charity Events

In November we welcomed one of our local residents in to school to talk to the children about the importance of remembrance. She brought in photos and artefacts for the children to see as she told stories of family members who had taken part in WW1. The children even saw boots that had been worn in conflict. Di has been a volunteer for The Royal British Legion for over 50 years. She provides our school with poppies to sell each year. This year the School raised £166.24 for The Poppy Appeal, which contributed to the Crazies Hill District fundraising total of £1340.93.

Partnership with our Trust

It was a delight to host this year's Trust Annual Celebration Service at St Mary's Church, Wargrave. Stories, Bible readings, poetry and prayers were amongst the range of presentations from each of the twelve schools in The Keys Academy Trust. The service was such a celebration of partnership within our own schools and across our Trust schools. Our School Choir and Hand Chime Group felt very proud and privileged to be able to lead this service.



Earley St Peter's CE Primary School



At Earley St Peter's CE Primary School, the theme of Partnership is at the heart of our community, bringing together pupils, staff, parents and the wider community to build strong foundations for the future. Our recent SIAMS Inspection (November 2024) also celebrates the strength of Partnerships throughout the school.



Partnerships Within Our School Community

Our commitment to inclusion is a shining example of partnership in action. The recent SIAMS inspection noted, "There is an exceptionally strong sense of inclusion throughout the school. Consequently, pupils and adults feel valued and capable of reaching their full potential." From the dedicated work of our pastoral care and wellbeing team to the creation of nurturing spaces like our enchanted garden and learning bus, we collaborate to ensure every child feels valued and supported which was also highlighted in the report *"Professional caring relationships, built on the vision, ensure pupils have confidence in the adults who teach them."*



Partnerships Beyond the School

Earley St Peter's is a proud member of The Keys Academy Trust, which provides robust support for governance, professional development and school improvement. This collaboration ensures that our curriculum and teaching practices continue to reflect our vision and deliver excellence. The SIAMS report commended this partnership, stating, *"Trustees and governors routinely review policies and practice to ensure that the vision is maintained and remains dynamic."*

Our strong connection with Earley St Peter's Church and the parish community enriches our spiritual and educational offerings. Weekly church services and special festivals bring together pupils, parents and clergy, creating a shared sense of belonging. Additionally, local church members contribute to our religious education and extracurricular activities, deepening our pupils' understanding of faith and values. The inspection highlighted that *"Collective worship is central to the school community. It strikes a successful balance between achieving inclusion and maintaining Christian distinctiveness."*



Partnerships That Inspire Action

Our pupils extend their acts of service and kindness into the wider community. Whether fundraising for local charities like the Royal Berkshire Hospital or participating in initiatives such as litter picking with Earley Town Council, they exemplify the values of our school. The SIAMS report recognised that, *"Pupils articulate clearly and naturally how the vision and associated values link to acts of kindness and service. They express an exceptional and intuitive knowledge that this applies to all areas of life."*

As we reflect on our successes, we give thanks for the many partnerships that sustain and inspire us. Together, we are building a community where everyone can flourish.



St Cecilia's CE Primary School



It has been an incredible 2024 for St Cecilia's where we have continued to grow. This term we have welcomed a Nursery and Reception class and they have settled in very well to life at the school.



Christmas Extravaganza with Hurst Gospel Group

On Friday 6th December we welcomed friends from the Hurst Gospel Group to the school to run a Christmas extravaganza for our children. Steve, Judi and their team worked with every class teaching them all about the festival of Christmas. The children had opportunities to discuss, perform and explore key passages from the Bible. The children really enjoyed the sessions and learnt a lot!



TKAT Cross Country

On Thursday 24th October, a group of our children went and competed alongside other children from The Keys Academy Trust in Sonning. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experiences with many of them saying how nice it was to be with the other TKAT children. We had some positive results with one child coming 5th in the Year 3/4 girls race and one child coming 4th in the Year 5/6 girls race. All the children competed well and did not give up until they crossed the finish line!



Harvest

This year, once again, our School Council made the decision to team up with Wokingham Foodbank to support the local community in our Harvest Festival. The families in the school were incredibly generous and there was great pride amongst the children that they had helped people within their community. Needless to say the volunteers at the Foodbank were very grateful.



Sonning CE Primary School



Sonning CE Primary School has enjoyed a number of exciting partnership opportunities this term. From a learning perspective, our pupils in Year 5 enjoyed a trip to The Mill theatre house in Sonning, where they got the opportunity to perform on the theatre stage. This invaluable experience ensured our pupils got a chance to 'tread the boards' and hear their writing come to life. It also meant that, for a number of pupils (including those from disadvantaged backgrounds), they were able to build cultural capital by experiencing something new.



Our school has also enjoyed working with our North Hub colleagues on a number of CPD opportunities, which has benefitted all of our staff and, in turn, the pupils of our schools. This term, we enjoyed CPD sessions on reading, writing and maths.



As well as benefitting from support from within TKAT, we have also been able to lead in some key areas to work in partnership with others. One special event from the last term was our cross country event which we organised for all schools in TKAT. This was held in partnership with Barnes Fitness and Berkshire County Sports Club (BCSC). It was a fantastic event, and one that gave opportunities for a number of pupils from each school to challenge themselves in a sports competition.



Finally, we have been working hard on business partnerships and opportunities, including linking up with a local business to open Caffè Alfresco, a coffee van which has been set up just outside the school gates. The school receive a percentage of the profits to help support our school. This has been very well received by our community.

We are grateful for this term's partnership opportunities with our TKAT colleagues, and we look forward to continuing this into next term and beyond.



St Sebastian's CE Primary School



Our Pupil Worship Leaders are working in partnership with Reverend Rickey Simpson-Gray to develop worship themes and prayer areas within our school and community.



Here is a photograph of our Worship Leaders with the tree that we sponsored for display at St Sebastian's Church Christmas Tree Festival which was held on Sunday 1st December. The children decided to hold a Pyjama Day to raise money for the tree. The colours that were chosen for the decorations match our uniform colours (red, blue and yellow) to represent our school values and our school family.



We worked in partnership with Kylie Grimes MBE, triple Paralympian and motivational speaker to put the children through their paces, inspire them with a love of exercise, and encourage them to follow their dreams. The event was covered by Wokingham Today and the article can be accessed [here](#). The children's sponsorship raised around £400 which will go towards new sports equipment for our school.



We worked with the Fire Service to teach the children about keeping safe and the vital job that the fire service carries out. The children learnt about the purpose of the loud siren (to let other drivers know that it is an emergency and they need to get there as quickly as possible).

They were able to see all the equipment that the fire service use to help them and other people stay safe.



All the children were very excited to see the fire engine on the playground!

As a community, we continue to support Evelyn (one of our Year 6 pupils) with her mission to fund London and Sandhurst Air Ambulance Appeal Air Ambulance by bringing in our plastic bottle tops to school.

Evelyn collects the bottle tops which are then inspected and put into clear plastic bags before they are shipped off to the recycler. The money paid for the bottle tops goes to the London Air Ambulance appeal.

We were very proud of the four children who represented our school at the TKAT Annual Celebration Service in Wargrave. They spoke clearly and were thoughtful and respectful throughout.



A group of KS2 children took part in the TKAT Cross Country Competition. They reported that they had a great time. Working in partnership with the other schools in TKAT means that the children get to take part in additional enrichment opportunities, alongside children from other schools in the trust. We are very grateful for this partnership working.



The Coombes CE Primary School



This term at The Coombes we have nurtured partnerships with our TKAT colleagues and many organisations such as The NSPCC, Wokingham Food Bank, Thames Valley Police, British Legion and many more. We have also continued to benefit from our strong relationships with our community, such as our PTA, school families, local Church team and our local Parish Council. We are proud of the opportunities our partnerships provide our children and the ways in which they help our children and staff to grow a love of learning. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all next term and beyond.



NSPCC - All children took part in an assembly where we learnt that the NSPCC is a charity that works to keep children safe and help protect children's rights. This links with our work on the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Sometimes children have worries. The NSPCC encourages children to **'speak out, stay safe'**. We learnt that we can lighten the load by sharing our worries with safe adults and by talking to child line.



The Coombes PTA - In November we proudly thanked our PTA for their hard work and commitment to our school. Through this partnership with the PTA, we have been able to fundraise and build our new outdoor classroom! Their hard work and commitment to arranging and range of experiences and events is hugely admired and appreciated.



Tray Day - We invited our parents and carers into school to spend time during the school day with their child/ren. During the sessions, parents have the chance to share and discuss the experiences, learning and progress for their child/ren this school year. These events are a great way to foster partnerships with our parents who are all important in the learning and development of each child. It was lovely to have them in!



Wokingham Food Bank and Harvest Festival - Here at The Coombes we work closely with Wokingham Food Bank. We advertise the food bank timetable in our newsletter as well as signpost any families who need their support. During our Harvest Festival in November, families donated a range of non-perishable food which were gratefully received by the Foodbank.



Carolling around the Tree - Our newly formed Choir joined with members of the community and Parish Council members to officially 'light' the village Christmas tree. The school has formed a close partnership with the Parish Council and actively supports a range of events and activities throughout the year.

Wishing everyone at The Keys Academy Trust a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Merry Christmas from The Coombes



Polehampton CE Schools

As we reflect on the autumn term at Polehampton, we are reminded of the exploration we have done of our school values, 'gratitude' and 'friendship'. We are deeply grateful for the friends we have within TKAT, whose partnership provides valuable opportunities to help us grow.



The term began with partnership in action, as all teachers participated in training for our new pupil progress tracking system. This opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across the Trust, sharing ideas and learning from one another, has been a wonderful start to the year. We continue to be grateful for the thriving partnership we have with Alex Powley, who works with us to help our schools grow and ensure that both staff and students have the opportunity to shine their light. We look forward to continuing this in the spring term.

We were incredibly proud of our successful Junior Ofsted Inspection this term. The support, guidance, and encouragement from TKAT schools and trustees played a vital role in this. Above all though, our children were amazing and we could not be prouder of them.



A key partnership for Polehampton is the work we do with the North Hub of Schools. This term, some children took part in a Forest School event and some in a swim session at The Coombes. We felt proud to host the KS2 Forest School event at the Juniors – partnering up with peers from Sonning, Crazies Hill and St. Nicholas. We loved having them visit us!

The TKAT Annual Celebration Service is a special date in the calendar. A huge thank you to Crazies Hill for hosting this year. It was wonderful to hear and think about partnership alongside all TKAT schools. We may be biased but we think our tiny-but-mighty Infant children stole the show!

The end of the Autumn term is a special time in any school. The last few weeks are filled with an abundance of joy! Our Reception children performed a nativity to their parents, as did Years 1 and 2. Year Four performed their Christmas play to Year 2, staff, children and parents. Finally, Years 5 and 6 led a Carol Service at St Mary's Church. Welcoming our parents into the school and church for these events is always a cherished experience and we look forward to many more in the future.

As we conclude this term, we would like to wish our TKAT family a very Merry Christmas and extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our schools.





St Nicholas CE Primary School



St Nicholas celebrates the many **partnerships** that make our school community so special. We welcome the opportunity to express our gratitude for the people and organisations we work with—both within the Trust and beyond—and to celebrate our own core values: **Respect, Honesty, Courage** and **Kindness**.

Respect at St Nicholas: we partner with a different local charity each year, helping those in need and ensuring they feel the respect they deserve. This year our School Council have chosen the Alexander Devine Children’s Hospice and are completing the reverse advent by filling shoeboxes that will be delivered to children in their care.

Across the Trust, we show respect to one another through our Cross School Collective Worship, a wonderful time for our schools to come together, reflect and listen to each other’s thoughts, words and share a time for prayer. We also came together as part of the whole Trust for our Annual Celebration Service at Wargrave, St Mary’s Church.



Honesty is a foundation of transparency, and at St Nicholas, our partnership with our governors provide valuable, honest feedback on the progress and vision of our school. In the wider Trust, our schools collaborate through peer reviews, ensuring that we learn from each other’s experiences. This term, we had our first peer review of the year, focusing on writing - a fantastic opportunity to gain honest insights and ensure continued improvement.

Courage is the strength to stand firm in the face of challenges. Our children demonstrate courage by volunteering for positions such as School Council members, taking on leadership roles and advocating for their peers.

A partnership within the North Hub enables the children to demonstrate courage through the Forest School programme where children face new challenges outside the classroom, helping them grow and build resilience.



Kindness is at the heart of everything we do. It is about treating others with consideration and compassion. Our partnership with our PTA is vital, not only for the fundraising they support the school with, but also enriching the children’s primary school experience through a number of events throughout the year, but particularly at Christmas with their first Elfridges event, discos, bauble hunt, bake sales and, of course, liaising with Father Christmas to arrange a visit to our children. We also value our partnership with the volunteers of ABC to Read who come in twice a week to read with some of our children, all our parent helpers, the members from our churches and our Parish Council. Across the Trust, kindness is evident in our sporting events, where every child is given the chance to compete in a safe and supportive environment, making new friends and learning important lessons in teamwork and encouragement.

We are grateful for the wonderful partnerships and support that make all of this possible. Together, we continue to strengthen our community, uphold our shared values and make a positive difference in the lives of our children and beyond.

From all the staff and children of St Nicholas CE Primary School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.





Alder Grove CE Primary School



Partnership with our local community

For Remembrance Day, the children explored its connection to our half-termly focus on Service. We also participated in the annual Shinfield Act of Remembrance at School Green, while the rest of the school held times of reflection in their classrooms. As always, it was a very special event that we were proud to share with our Year 3 and Year 4 children, as well as students and colleagues from other local schools. The children were brilliant ambassadors for Alder Grove, showing incredible respect during the service.

Alder Grove was also represented at the main Remembrance Sunday Service, where we presented a wreath on behalf of the school.



Charitable Partnerships

We welcomed two members of the REDI Food Foodbank team from the local community to talk to the children about the important work they do at this local foodbank. As part of our Collective Worship cycle of Windows, Mirrors, and Doors we hope the children have been inspired to take positive action. We donated goods to our local foodbank as part of our Harvest Celebration, helping others and reinforcing our half-term focus on the Value of Kindness.

Sporting Partnership

We also had a very special visitor at Alder Grove during November. Thanks to all the tickets purchased for a Reading FC game in October, we were the top-selling school and earned a visit from Reading FC's first-team goalkeeper, Joel Pereira. All the children had a wonderful time meeting him during an assembly, where they had lots of opportunities to ask questions. He also presented Alder Grove with a signed football.

Business Partnership

Our Digital Leader team organised an amazing afternoon with engineers from Balfour Beatty focusing on women in engineering and what jobs are involved in the construction and engineering industry. If that wasn't special enough, we had the unique opportunity to meet their incredible Robot Dog, Spot.



Our PCSA Partnership

The PCSA hosted Alder Grove's first Firework Night which was an absolute blast! The event raised just over £3,000 for the school which will go a long way toward supporting some exciting projects this year.

They then hosted a Wreath making evening and our Christmas Fayre including Santa's Story Grotto, Raffle and Chocolate Tombola, bringing 2024 to end on a high!



Thank You from David Horrocks, Chair of Trustees

There is much to be grateful for as we reach the end of another busy Christmas term. While there are always challenges in education (lots of them!), there have been plenty of highlights too, including very positive outcomes to two inspections, the signing of an Academy Order allowing another school to join us later next year, and positive conversations with a number of other schools who are interested in what TKAT has to offer too.



We never want to lose sight, though, of some of the other successes that maybe don't grab the headlines in quite the same way, but matter just as much as ones that do. Every day, children are being helped to flourish in each of our schools, academically and in all sorts of other ways too. Every day, staff and others give their very best to serve and provide for those in their care. And every day we see people embodying our values as they work together in so many ways.

We take each of our TKAT values very seriously. We want everything we do to be marked out by 'Excellence,' a 'Love of learning,' 'Nurture,' 'Innovation,' and true 'Integrity' too.

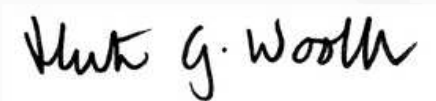
It does seem, however, that it is the value of 'Partnership' that we tend to speak about most of all. We really can do so much more as we work together. And so, for many of us, perhaps the highlight of this last term was our TKAT annual celebration service. We were blessed with bright sunshine, a beautiful church building, and wonderful hosts (thanks again to Crazy Hill and the team from the church). But the best thing of all was seeing children from all twelve of our schools, all proudly representing their schools, coming together to lead us as we reflected on and celebrated this all-important value of partnership. What a reminder of the privilege it is to be part of a family of schools like this!

Thank you to you all for your hard work and service of others this term. We wish you a very Merry Christmas, with time to rest, relax and catch up with family and friends, and look forward to continuing our journey together in 2025.

Yours sincerely,



David Horrocks
Chair of Trustees



Hester Wooller
CEO

TKAT Dates for your Diary:

Monday 6 January 2025 - INSET Day

Wednesday 8 January 2025 - Round Table: Securing Strong Reading Outcomes in KS2

Monday 13 January 2025 - Wellbeing Festival (events taking place all week)

Thursday 6 February 2025 - TKAT Leaders Annual Conference

Thursday 13 March 2025 - Thriving Teachers Programme (for teachers in their 3rd or 4th year of teaching)

Wednesday 26 March 2025 - Subject Networks (Across Art, Computing, English, Geography, History, Maths, Music PE and RE)

Wednesday 2 April 2025 - Round Table: Keep up, not Catch up