

News from the Central Team

The spring term has been extremely busy and our value this term was 'Love of Learning', which is at the heart of everything we all do.

Our love of learning for teaching staff commenced straight away during our INSET day. When for the first time we ran three specialist INSET sessions simultaneously. Our areas of focus for these insightful and knowledge gaining sessions were; Greater Depth Writing with Alex Powley, TKAT Director of Teaching, Learning and School Improvement, EYFS Language of Learning with Julie Sherrington and our SENDCO's heard from Jon Hewitt, Headteacher at

The Castle School. Some of our teaching assistants also enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Forest Learning Alliance TA Conference, which had a focus on; in the moment marking and Maths and English subject knowledge. The learning didn't stop there! We have also held ShREC training for 48 EYFS professionals and launched our TKAT Subject Networks sessions too.



Celebrating Learning and Growth at our Staff Wellbeing Festival

In January, we hosted our Staff Wellbeing Festival, a week-long event dedicated to staff learning, personal growth, and wellbeing. With a variety of sessions - including Zumba, watercolour painting, mindfulness, and practical wellbeing talks - we all had the opportunity to explore new skills, discover fresh interests, and connect with colleagues in a supportive environment.

This festival wasn't just about relaxation; it was about embracing curiosity, stepping outside comfort zones, and finding joy in learning something new. Many attendees shared how these experiences provided valuable tools for daily life, from reducing stress to fostering creativity.

At The Keys, we believe that staff wellbeing and continuous learning are at the heart of a thriving educational community. By investing in our team's development, we create a culture that benefits not only our staff but also the pupils and communities we serve.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a success. Together, we are fostering a culture where growth, health, and happiness are celebrated.

Celebrating Leadership and a Love of Learning

Our Annual Leadership Conference on 6-7 February 2025 brought together inspiring speakers and engaging discussions, reinforcing our commitment to learning, growth, and excellence in education. Julie Sherrington explored early years leadership, offering insights into play-based learning, effective routines, and high-quality interactions. Vivienne Porritt highlighted the role of culture in leadership, emphasising trust, consistency, and psychological safety in schools. Joel Enoch's session on the second day focused on goal setting and what the real key to lasting achievement is.



It is a great opportunity to share this learning with other leaders locally. Attendees valued the opportunity to reflect, gain new strategies, and connect with colleagues, with 97% keen to attend future events. We believe great leadership starts with a love of learning - and we already planning next year's conference!

Our Schools Unite for Children's Mental Health

Our schools came together to support Young Minds, reinforcing our commitment to both learning and community wellbeing. Through a variety of engaging activities, pupils not only raised awareness and funds but also deepened their understanding of mental health, resilience, and kindness. From mindfulness sessions and obstacle courses to sponsored runs and dress-up days, every event encouraged pupils to embrace emotional wellbeing as part of their learning journey. Schools also celebrated Children's Mental Health Week, helping pupils develop self-awareness, confidence, and empathy. By working together, we show that our schools are more than places of learning - they are anchors in our communities, shaping compassionate, thoughtful, and resilient young people.



The Keys Academy Trust Centre of Professional Growth & Excellence

The Love of Learning is central to our provision of professional development, both as the TKATCPGE and within the broader work of the Forest Learning Alliance. This term, we launched the highly anticipated Thriving Teacher Programme. This group, consisting of teachers in the third and fourth year of their careers, expressed their passion for the profession, their schools, and their pupils by exploring what "high-quality teaching" means to them. They engaged in self-reflection about their learning and strong commitment to further self-development. They created individualised lines of enquiry which they will undertake in their schools.



"I enjoyed hearing from others, and it was nice to see that experiences are similar in other schools. I feel excited to implement something new that will hopefully make a positive change to my class."

Train to Teach Events

Liz Lord (Deputy Head, Uplands Primary School and Nursery), and Rav Ghei (Director of Forest Learning Alliance) presented at the University of Reading's Train to Teach event. They met many like-minded colleagues who emphasised the importance and values of the teaching profession. We are continually committed to recruiting trainee teachers and we are hosting more events next term.



THE JOURNEY STARTS HERE
ITT programmes with FLA for 2025/2026 and beyond

Are you interested in a career in teaching?

Join us at one of our Initial Teacher Training events to find out how you could shape children's futures with the help of Forest Learning Alliance.

Earley St Peter's CE Primary School, RG6 1EY
Thursday 24 April, 12:30 - 14:30

Virtual Event
Thursday 8 May, 17:30 - 19:30

Scan to book your free place

Website: www.forestlearningalliance.org Email: info@forestlearningalliance.org

In partnership with the Institute of Education
University of Reading



Building Alliances

The FLA are dedicated to strengthening our relationships with their partners. This term, they hosted a termly alliance member meeting, which emphasised the importance of strong connections with various local and national providers, including Wellington College, The Bridge, the University of Reading, Educational Development Trust, Ambition Institute, Digit<all>, Bracknell Forest Council and representatives from several Trusts. Each organisation shared its contributions, and members explored avenues for enhancing professional growth opportunities together.

Galloping Towards Success



Pupils from our North Hub schools had the fantastic opportunity to visit Lands End Equestrian Centre on Thursday 20 March, where their love of learning came to life in a hands-on exciting way. During their visit, pupils enjoyed grooming horses, washing their tails and exploring the stables. They also got the chance to meet a variety of other animals including chickens, goats and even peacocks! The experience was both educational and enriching, allowing them to learn more about animal care. Alongside these activities our pupils played games in the yard, reinforcing teamwork and communication skills in a fun and engaging way.

To top off a memorable day, each pupil was gifted a lucky horseshoe, a wonderful keepsake to remind them of their time at the equestrian centre! This experience truly captured the spirit of our love of learning, inspiring curiosity, care and enthusiasm for the world around us.



Uplands Primary School and Nursery

Uplands Love Learning!

We love nothing better than learning at Uplands and this term has been crammed full of learning in lots of different ways as usual!



World Book Day – Back by popular demand this year, is the traditional dressing up as our favourite book characters! We also did lots of activities in the classroom themed around books and a love of learning and nursery visited the local library.



We take advantage of every possible learning opportunity we can – including in the outdoors with our new WOW (Wear Our Wellies) days where we spend all day outside linking our learning to activities we can do and enjoy outside!



We also like to leave the school site for our learning with trips out to exciting places such as Wisley RHS Botanical Gardens. And join our friends at Wellington College for DT and Music experiences ...





St Nicholas CE Primary School



At St Nicholas CE Primary School, we believe that a love of learning is the key to laying firm foundations for our children's future. This term has been filled with exciting opportunities for our pupils to explore, create and develop their curiosity across a range of subjects.



Fossil Class Afloat! - Our youngest learners continue to develop their love of learning through Drawing Club, where they challenge themselves in their creativity and writing. A recent STEM focus ignited their curiosity as they explored materials, investigating which would float or sink and identifying waterproof materials. They designed and built their own boats, testing their creations with great enthusiasm!



History Brought to Life in Flint Class - Flint Class had an unforgettable trip to Windsor Castle, where history came alive. As part of their learning, they explored both the exterior



and interior of the castle and took part in a session focused on the life and work of King Charles III. They even got the chance to use replica Crown Jewels to recreate a coronation ceremony and took part in role-play activities, including inspecting the guards and participating in an investiture. This enriching experience deepened their understanding of British history and our traditions.



Science Sparks Curiosity in Sandstone Class - In Science, Sandstone Class has been investigating the magic of magnets! They enjoyed creating scrapyards to explore magnetic materials and even designed their own board games where magnets were used to move playing pieces. Their creativity and problem-solving skills were put to the test as they applied their learning in a fun and interactive way.



Maths Challenges and Hands-On Learning in Quartz Class - Quartz Class embraced challenge and teamwork as they took part in a maths Escape Room challenge on World Book Day, using their problem-solving skills to crack the codes and complete the challenge. The children found themselves "lost in the library," but teamwork and determination guided them through a series of tricky puzzles, unlocking clues and navigating their way to success. Their resilience and critical thinking shone as they worked together, making it a truly rewarding experience!

Fire Safety Foundations for the Future - Both Quartz and Marble Classes had a special visit from the Wokingham Fire Service, who taught them key fire safety messages. This visit helped our pupils develop awareness of fire safety, fostering responsible attitudes that will serve them well as they grow. A highlight of the visit was the chance to climb inside the fire engine - an exciting moment that made the learning experience truly memorable!



As we come to the end of this busy and exciting term, we are proud of the curiosity, creativity, and determination shown by our pupils. Their love of learning continues to grow, and we know that the strong foundations they are building today will support them for years to come.

From all the staff and children of St Nicholas CE Primary School, we wish you a very happy Easter!



St Michael's CE Primary School, Sandhurst

At St Michael's CE Primary School, we believe that fostering a love of learning is at the heart of everything we do. Learning should be an adventure - something that excites, inspires and remains with our children for life. Through our broad and ambitious curriculum, we strive to ignite curiosity and passion in every child, ensuring they are not only absorbing knowledge but also experiencing it in meaningful ways. By 'bringing learning to life' through hands-on experiences, we create unforgettable moments that deepen understanding and make learning truly engaging.



Year 3 brought their learning to life through a fascinating and interactive Stone Age Day workshop. This hands-on experience transported pupils back in time, allowing them to explore all aspects of Stone Age life. They engaged in practical activities such as tool-making, shelter-building and even cooking a rabbit over an open fire. These immersive experiences helped pupils develop a real sense of what life was like for early humans and deepened their understanding of how people survived and thrived in the past.



Year 4 enhanced their study of the Romans with an unforgettable visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace. Walking in the footsteps of the Romans, our pupils toured the ancient site, marvelling at the intricate mosaics and learning about the luxurious villas that once stood there. They took part in immersive workshops, handling artefacts, dressing in Roman attire and even trying their hand at Roman crafts. This experience allowed them to see history come alive and put their classroom learning into context.

For Year 5, their love of learning was fuelled by an exciting three-day residential trip to Hooke Court in West Dorset. This experience was closely linked to their study of the Vikings and their stay was designed to transport them into the world of Norse explorers and settlers. The children engaged in a variety of activities, from making Viking jewellery and cooking traditional Viking meals to designing and constructing their own longboats. They also explored Viking traditions, learning about their way of life in a way that was both engaging and memorable. Beyond the academic benefits, the residential trip helped build resilience, independence and teamwork - valuable skills that extend far beyond the classroom.



These rich and immersive experiences not only enhance our pupils' learning but also spark a true passion for discovery. When children are given the opportunity to engage with their learning in such a tangible and exciting way, they develop a genuine enthusiasm that stays with them for years to come. It is through these moments of hands-on exploration that a love of learning is nurtured and strengthened.

At St Michael's, we are committed to ensuring that learning is not just something that happens within four walls but is an exciting, lived experience. By bringing learning to life, we inspire our pupils to be curious, motivated and eager to explore the world around them. Whether stepping back in time to the Stone Age, walking through the ruins of a Roman palace or living like Vikings for a few days, our children are gaining more than just knowledge - they are creating lifelong memories and developing a true love of learning.



St Cecilia's CE Primary School



Lunar New Year

On 29th January 2025, our pupils had a wonderful afternoon celebrating and learning all about Lunar New Year. Miss Tam and a group of children planned a range of activities and this was supported by some willing parental volunteers. The children loved the activities and asked so many questions to learn more about this special event.



Visit from the Farm

On Tuesday 11th February, we had a lovely visit from the farm. The EYFS children have been learning all about animals in the E.I.E.I.O topic and this really brought that learning to life. They had the opportunity to pet and feed the different creatures and enthusiastically asked questions to develop their understanding further. This has certainly been the highlight of the year for our EYFS children.



Come Dine with Me

This term the Year 6 pupils completed their 'Come dine with me' project as part of their learning in DT. The children had to create their own recipes and then cook them from scratch using everything they had learnt previously. The children, in teams, had to create a starter, main meal and dessert, just like they do on the TV show. The enthusiasm shown by each team was amazing and the quality of food produced was very high.





St Sebastian's CE Primary School

As we continue our journey through this academic year, we are embracing the theme of a Love of Learning. It has been wonderful to see our pupils engage with a wide range of activities and subjects, expanding their curiosity and building a love for discovery. From exploring science to developing new skills, there has been so much to celebrate in recent weeks!



Wellington College Trip: Chemistry in Action

Sycamore Class recently went on a trip to 'The Chemistry Spectacular' at Wellington College. It was an absolute highlight! The pupils had an exciting time delving into the world of chemistry. They clearly enjoyed the hands-on activities and left feeling inspired. Whether they go on to become future scientists or simply nurture their curiosity, we hope this experience sparked their imaginations. Isla, one of our budding journalists, is kindly writing a report on the trip. We can't wait to read it!

DT – Scones and Food Tasting

In Design and Technology, the Year 3 & Year 4 pupils enjoyed a fun food-tasting session! They had the opportunity to taste different ingredients before deciding what (if anything) they would add to the scones they'll be making in the next couple of weeks. It's a great way to combine learning with a little bit of culinary creativity.

Multi-Skills Festival at Alder Grove

On Friday 21st March, some of our KS1 pupils participated in a Multi-Skills Festival at Alder Grove C of E Primary School. They had the chance to showcase their physical abilities and compete in a variety of fun activities. It was an event full of teamwork and enthusiasm, and we are so proud of how well they represented the school!



World Book Day Fun

Our World Book Day celebrations were filled with fun and imagination! The children shared books and stories, and enjoyed reading with blankets and hot chocolate. They also had the opportunity to participate in a Book Exchange – it was a lovely way to share the love of books!

Year 1 Scooter Training

Our Year 1 pupils had a fantastic time learning how to ride scooters safely. The training was both fun and educational, helping the children to improve their balance and coordination. It was a great way to keep them active and engaged!

Number Day: A Fun and Fundraising Success

Our Number Day was a resounding success! The children enjoyed playing a variety of maths games that supported their learning in class while also raising £77.83 for the NSPCC. It was wonderful to see our school community working together, combining a little friendly competition with lots of cooperative spirit. A big thank you to our amazing staff for helping the children learn new games and skills!



Golf with Wellington College Students

Oak class had the exciting opportunity to learn golf from some students at Wellington College. They have been working on their golfing skills and have shown great enthusiasm in learning something new.

Year 6 Science: Light Investigation

Year 6 have been learning about light. The children investigated how light travels in straight lines and explored the properties of light. It's always exciting to see their curiosity in action as they experiment and discover new concepts.

It's been an incredibly busy term and these are just some of the enrichment activities our pupils have participated in, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm and commitment to learning.



Crazies Hill CE Primary School



At Crazyes Hill CE Primary School, we nurture a love of learning in all our pupils through our thoughtfully planned, sequential, values-based curriculum. We look for every opportunity to inspire and ignite curiosity and use enrichment opportunities to forge lifelong memories through wonderful experiences



Workshops and drama sessions are always popular. The infants enjoyed learning about space through their Drama 4 All, Out of Space workshop.

Our Year 3/4 pupils were so excited to welcome Henry VIII for their Historic Workshop Day. They explored Tudor artefacts and asked many questions to deepen their understanding of their topic. Henry VIII also joined the whole school for lunch in the hall and had some of the older pupils waiting on him hand and foot!



Year 5/6 pupils enjoyed bringing history to life through their Anglo-Saxons Day.



Nothing is more memorable than our whole school trips. We hire two coaches and take the whole school out for the day. Our recent whole school adventure was to Woburn Safari Park. We loved seeing animals such as lions, tigers, bears and monkeys, at such close range on the coach safari, and then each class enjoyed a workshop session followed by a foot safari to study animals, such as lemurs and red pandas. The work produced by the children following this trip was very impressive. The children (and adults) are still reminiscing and sharing knowledge learnt during that day.



In addition to the curriculum learning and enrichment, our children engage in a wide range of clubs before and after school including yoga, fencing, sewing, mindfulness, art, science, music, dance and sport. These are wonderful opportunities for the children to discover those hidden talents. Our parents are also invited, on occasion, to join their children in some of the club activities.



Science Club



Yoga Club



Break Dancing Club



Archery Club



Fencing Club

There is no doubt that a love of learning grows in each and every one of us at Crazyes Hill CE Primary School.



The Coombes CE Primary School

A Love of Learning Grows Here

We celebrate the theme 'Love of Learning', which aligns closely with our vision at The Coombes Church of England Primary School. Our vision is rooted by the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-8) and we believe that when children are nurtured in a rich and supportive environment, their learning, faith, and personal growth flourish.



This term, we continue to cultivate curiosity, resilience, and a deep love of learning in all our pupils. Through inspiring experiences and strong Christian values, we ensure that every child is given the opportunity to develop their unique gifts and thrive academically, spiritually, and personally.

As part of our wider Trust community, we are delighted to share in this celebration of learning across our schools. Together, we are sowing the seeds for a future where every child grows with confidence, knowledge, and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

We have enjoyed a very busy, diverse and exciting term together. Below is just a snapshot of what we have been up to.



Forest School

The children have taken part in team building, risk taking games and scavenger hunts. We have had a fire and listened to stories at the end of each session.



Through Books

Year 4 have begun studying 'The Iron Man' book in our reading and writing lessons. We looked at clues from the book that described his appearance and drew what we felt he would look like. Here are some of our drawings. We are building up to writing an atmospheric narrative snippet in which we will be describing a scene from the book.



On Trips

Year 5 had a wonderful time on their school trip to Winchester Science Centre. The children enjoyed the interactive activities and workshops on offer which helps to enhance and underpin their learning in school.



Number Day - In February we celebrated Number Day in aid of the NSPCC.

Values Day

In January we had our annual Values Day. This emphasises the importance of character development through a series of engaging activities that develop a deep understanding of our school values, and how if we live them, we can enable everyone to grow and flourish. For Compassion and Forgiveness, the children crafted beautiful woollen hearts, symbolising warmth and kindness. During an inspiring assembly focused on Perseverance, pupils learned valuable lessons about resilience and determination. Physical activities during PE lessons emphasised Respect, encouraging teamwork and sportsmanship. Additionally, the children created vibrant Wisdom wheels, illustrating their understanding of this important value. Lastly, they took Responsibility for the environment by planting sunflowers, nurturing a sense of safeguarding for our planet. It was a day filled with learning, creativity, and the celebration of values that will guide our young pupils throughout their lives.

Careers Day

In February we had the exciting opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths during our Careers Day! We had visitors from family members, friends, and members of our local community where our guest talked about their chosen career and the path they took to get there. These careers included: Forensic Scientist, Dance Teacher, Musical Theatre Teacher, Building Surveyors, Cyber Security and Police.

Sonning CE Primary School

“Love of learning”

At Sonning, our vision of building strong foundations for the years ahead only works when we develop a love of learning. This term, our pupils have enjoyed a range of exciting initiatives to inspire them in their learning. Some of our highlights include the following:



World Book Day / Book at Bedtime

For World Book Day 2025, all of our staff dressed as Aliens Love Underpants and performed the story to the school in a special collective worship. This year, each class also used AI-education to help write their own story, which the pupils then edited and created a front cover for. This inspirational activity helped inspire more writers and readers, as did our annual EYFS and KS1 ‘Book at Bedtime’ event. During Book at Bedtime, adults from across the team (and parent volunteers) read to small groups of pupils, who came back to school in their pyjamas and who also got to enjoy biscuits and hot chocolate with marshmallows.

Careers Day

Developing a love of learning doesn't necessarily mean anything without direction and passion for an area, role or cause. Therefore, we held another of our successful Careers Days, where volunteers from our community gave up their time to talk to pupils about a range of different careers and opportunities. This was powerful in helping broaden our pupils' horizons and help them consider the reason and necessity for so much of our school curriculum work.



Cookery through DT

One of our continued foci through our personal development curriculum is foundational skills. We see cookery as a key foundational skill, and teach a form of cookery in each year group from Reception to Year 6. This term, Year 6 (Oak Class) studied different recipes to create a healthy but tasty soup. The pupils designed, costed out, tested and made soups in groups, which were then judged by an independent staff panel. Bringing learning to life in a meaningful and purposeful way has allowed our pupils to continue to develop their love of learning through practical application of skills that will serve them well in years to come.





Polehampton CE Schools

The Spring term began at the Junior site with a very successful Scholastic Book Fair. Both schools are dedicated to fostering a love of reading, and it was wonderful to see children (and parents!) discovering new books and authors. We also include book recommendations in our weekly bulletin, so it was great to see some of these suggestions being bought and sold at the event. Let's face it: a deep love for learning often begins with books. Later in the term, we enjoyed celebrating World Book Day where we honoured both popular and lesser-known characters in our fancy dress!



Enhancing our EYFS provision has been a key priority at our Infant site, making sure our littlest learners are inspired from the moment they start their Polehampton journey. Our outdoor provision is taking shape and becoming an area we are super proud of – thanks to our wonderful team. The newest feature in our space is a gravel pit, where children may seem to be simply "digging" but, in reality, we all know that there's so much more happening! However, Evil Pea recently wreaked havoc in the area and some serious investigative work had to be undertaken by the children. Our team have been totally inspired by Julie Sherrington – satisfying the adults' love of learning, too!

Year 5 had their first residential trip and visited Woodrow High House. As always, the experience provided real world learning, sparked curiosity, provided hands-on experiences, promoted teamwork and, perhaps most importantly, created a wealth of truly memorable experiences. They also had to make their own beds which was probably the steepest learning curve for many of the children!



Our Year 2 children visited Reading Museum and discovered more about the town's history. We do this every year but it really resonated, for many reasons, for our current cohort. We wanted this trip to help develop the children's sense of belonging by learning about how communities rely on each other to run effectively - something they can then replicate in school. We hoped this trip would ignite the children's interest in history and inspire a deeper curiosity about the past – and it didn't disappoint.

Recently, the Junior school Cross Country Team were crowned Division One champions! There have been other successes in football and The Wokingham Area Schools Music Association concert, where we had three phenomenal soloists. So many of our children have been showcasing a host of different skills, outside of the classroom, in various events. We discuss, frequently, how we are always learning; we discuss how learning looks and how people learn in different ways. Every child at Polehampton has let their light shine this term, by embracing a love of learning, be that in a national curriculum subject or through many of the wider personal and spiritual learning taking place.

We have loved seeing our TKAT family over the course of the spring term and wish everyone a lovely Easter.



Earley St Peter's CE Primary School



At Earley St Peter's CE Primary School, we are proud to celebrate the vibrant and engaging learning taking place across our year groups. Our pupils show a genuine love of learning in many forms – from creative arts and scientific enquiry to real-life experiences that inspire curiosity, imagination and confidence.



In Year 5, writing was brought to life with a visit from two friendly Labradors. This experience sparked rich discussions, enhanced vocabulary and created a wonderful opportunity for pupils to explore language through their senses. One pupil said, *"It was an extraordinary experience and I'll never forget it,"* capturing the impact such moments can have in developing both confidence and creativity in writing.

Our Reception classes also embraced cross-curricular learning with great enthusiasm. During a week themed around frogs, pupils explored the life cycle, engaged in phonics games, painted frog art and made their own headbands.



They have also recently had a visit from a British Airways pilot which added further excitement, as pupils asked questions, shared their dreams and extended their understanding of the world beyond school. The classroom was full of energy, with learning through play and discovery at its best.

In Year 6, pupils recently explored identity and symbolism through a powerful art project inspired by the work of Diego Rivera and Dan Fenelon. Linking back to their History unit on the Maya civilisation, children reflected on traditional patterns and motifs before designing their own symbolic artwork that expressed personal character traits. The quality of the sketches and the thoughtfulness behind the designs were impressive, showing how pupils are able to make deep connections across subjects.



Year 3 impressed us with their creativity and perseverance while sculpting dragon's eyes from clay. Pupils refined their techniques, learned from mistakes and took great pride in their finished pieces. This project showcased not only artistic skill but resilience and a sense of achievement.

Our youngest learners in Nursery have been learning about people who help us. Through role play, visits from real-life professionals and imaginative activities, children have been building vocabulary, asking questions and making meaningful links between their learning and everyday life.



Across all of these examples, what stands out is the joy our pupils find in learning. Whether through art, science, writing or role play, children at Earley St Peter's are inspired to explore, ask questions and celebrate their progress. We are proud of them all!



Alder Grove CE Primary School



To start the Spring Term, Alder Grove had the privilege of organising and hosting a South Hub event. We welcomed around 40 children from Years 3 and 4 for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) workshop. They spent the afternoon exploring these areas through practical, hands-on experiences.



On Safer Internet Day, we held workshops on digital citizenship and online safety for children and staff, delivered by the Stay Safe Initiative. The key message for adults was that living in a digital world is here to stay - it's an integral part of both our lives and our children's lives.

During 'Pet Week,' Reception loved meeting a variety of animals and learning about how to care for them, what they eat, and where they live. The children showed great courage when stroking and handling the animals, and they thoroughly enjoyed visits from Lola the dog, Kellogg the corn snake, and Sheldon the tortoise.



Our Year 1 children visited Milestones Museum as part of their History topic to learn about how transport has changed over time. They discovered how cars, planes, and trains have evolved and the impact this has had on the world today. The children returned with lots of new knowledge after a thoroughly enjoyable day of learning.



Year 2 had a fantastic DT unit on healthy eating. To demonstrate their understanding of how to stay healthy, the pupils made their own nutritious wraps to enjoy. The activity was a great success, as the pupils learned skills in safe cutting and good hygiene, all while having fun and leaving with a big smile - and a delicious wrap to share with their friends in the classroom.



The children's love for sports has continued this term, with many of our KS2 pupils participating in multiple sporting events both at Alder Grove and externally. The events they attended included football, multi-skills, running, kurling, badminton, netball, and boccia.

To celebrate World Book Day and our love for reading, we had an amazing visit from author and illustrator Simon Murray, who ran incredible workshops for our pupils. It was a delight to see them in the hall throughout the day, being creative and inspired by such a talented person!



We also held dance workshops based on famous books, which received fantastic feedback from both staff and children. It was wonderful to see them exploring some of their favourite books and bringing different characters and parts of the story to life through movement.

We then hosted our annual PTA Story Night, where pupils returned to school in the evening in their pyjamas to enjoy listening to different stories read by adults from across the school. This was followed by our ever-popular travelling book fair. The number of books purchased was a testament to how much our pupils love reading!

Our parents were also incredibly generous, contributing to our school library by purchasing books from our Amazon wish list.

Thank You from David Horrocks, Chair of Trustees

It's good to reflect on all that has been achieved across our Trust, as we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term. As Trustees, we want to express our gratitude to everyone who plays a part in making our schools such vibrant and inspiring places to learn and grow.

This term, we have continued to see great commitment, from staff, pupils, governors, and wider school communities, to upholding our shared values and fostering a deep love of learning. Our INSET training, leadership conferences, and many creative and enriching opportunities provided in schools make it clear that our dedication to excellence in education is stronger than ever.



We particularly want to highlight the outcome of the recent SIAMS inspection at St Nicholas CE Primary School. This result is a testament to the school's strong ethos and unwavering commitment to nurturing both academic and personal growth in all their pupils. Congratulations to everyone at St Nicholas!

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication of our staff teams, the enthusiasm and curiosity of our pupils, and the ongoing support of governors, parents, carers, and others in our wider communities. Each of you plays an important role in making our schools the inspiring places they are.

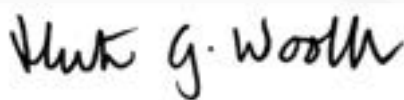
We are also very pleased to welcome Dr Louise Ceska as a new trustee. Louise brings a wealth of experience and expertise in education, and we are confident that her insights and leadership will be invaluable as we continue to strengthen and grow as a Trust.

As we look ahead to the summer term, we are excited at the further opportunities to build on our successes, embrace new challenges, and work together to provide the very best educational experiences for our pupils.

In the meantime, we hope that everyone has the chance to enjoy a well-earned Easter break. Thank you once again for all that you have done and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the months to come.



David Horrocks
Chair of Trustees



Hester Wooller
CEO

TKAT Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 23 April 2025: TKAT Moderation

Thursday 24 April 2025 - FLA ITT Event at Earley St Peter's C of E Primary School

Wednesday 30 April - TKAT SENDCo Network

Thursday 1 May - TKAT Leaders Attendance Champions meeting

Tuesday 6 May - TKAT Curriculum Development Network

Thursday 8 May - TKAT DSL Network

Thursday 8 May - FLA ITT Virtual Event