

The Kite Academy Trust Newsletter

It has been an exciting period of growth and development for our Multi Academy Trust. We are pleased to welcome Hale and Fernhill Primary Schools, who we anticipate completing their conversions before the start of the new academic year. As we welcome these new schools, we have undertaken a review of our leadership structure to ensure our continued success as our Trust grows. The new structure, which will be in place from September, incorporates Executive Head Teacher, Academy Head, Head of Academy Improvement and Academy Improvements Lead posts, with appointments made from our talented staff team. This new structure will strengthen our inter-academy continuity, with the Executive Head Teachers and Academy Improvement Team working across academies.

We look forward to all the exciting events and learning opportunities that the summer term brings, and to welcoming the children, families and staff from the new schools joining our family.

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- Budding Poets!

During the spring term, children from years 1&2 and 3&4 of all our academies came together to take part in maths investigation mornings.

The maths challenge for children from years 1&2 was held at The Grove. The children used a range of maths skills to build some impressive structures! All children worked well with their team and managed to score points for being cost-effective and original. Pupils from Mytchett built a tower 38cm tall and won the challenge overall - congratulations!

Children from years 3&4 took part in the challenge held at Mytchett. Here's what the children from The Grove had to say:

On Wednesday, we competed in a Maths challenge with other schools in the Kite (Mytchett, Lakeside, Grove, Sandringham and Wyke). Our challenge was to a build tower from uncooked spaghetti, marshmallows, card and cocktails sticks. We were given £20 to buy the materials to build the tower, then we needed to make a plan. We needed to make sure that our tower was steady enough to balance Lego men on for 10 seconds. First we tested its strength with cubes on the top and we worked out that triangles were good strong structures for building a tower. We collaborated well and managed to get 12 Lego men on the top and earned 5 points for each Lego man! The Maths challenge was the best day ever even though we came third. We had lots of fun!





During the spring term, children at Cross Farm took part in a Dance Off to raise money for Frimley Health Charity. We danced for 30 minutes to different Gonoodle and Just Dance routines and raised a very impressive £265.42!

We also had a languages day where pupils from Tomlinscote came to visit us and gave the children in KS1 an insight to languages. We looked at French, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. The children had a fantastic day and learnt lots of new things including some cultural information about the places. Children in year 1 who learnt Spanish made day of the dead masks.

As part of our work on Reading for Enjoyment at Wyke, we had a visit from Roald Dahl's secretary! Wendy Kress came to speak to us in assembly and shared many wonderful stories about what it was like working for the famous author. Roald Dahl would write his stories in pencil on yellow paper and give them to Wendy to type. This meant that she was the first person to read many of his books. Wendy donated some Roald Dahl prizes and we held a raffle. We used the money raised to buy some more books for our library.

We were very inspired and wrote our own stories!



World Book Day at Lakeside was very exciting this year! All over the academy, we have been trying very hard to improve our vocabulary so this was a perfect opportunity for us to show off what we had already learnt. Costumes worn were very creative and inspiring, and we had fun guessing what everyone had come as. Some of the favourite words discussed were finicky, gelid, fragile and intelligent in Key Stage 1 and superfluous, haematoma, discombobulated and incognito in Key Stage 2. Some of our parents and carers came in for a 'book and a bite' and could be found all over the academy reading with their children

for the morning. We even managed to raise £320 for the charity 'The Book Bus'! In the afternoon, we were lucky enough to have some students from Kings International College visit all of the classes and read with the children.

Family Support Worker Come & Ask Sessions

Ruth Masih, our Family Support Worker, runs 'Come & Ask' sessions for all our families. For details of the sessions and to book a place, please contact Ruth on 07718 651277. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions available, Ruth is able to arrange appointments on alternative dates.

Maths - Keeping Up with the Children

Surrey Family Learning will be delivering a 'Maths - Keeping Up with the Children' course. It will be held at The Grove and starts on Friday 7th June, 9.15-11.15am, for five weeks. The course is open to all Kite parents and will focus on KS2 maths. Booking details will be sent out next term.



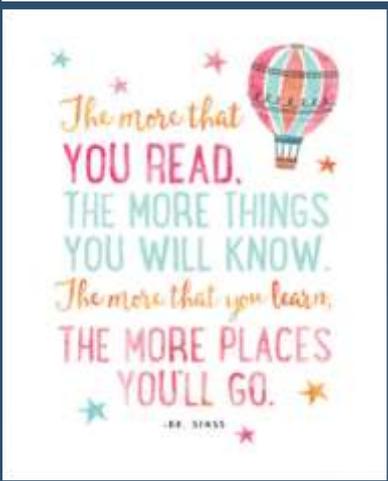
During the spring term the Deputy Head Teachers across the Trust worked together in groups of three to look at reading across our academies. The focus was on reading for pleasure and involved learning walks, talking to children and looking at key actions for each academy.

It is always a privilege to visit other academies and these visits were informative, enjoyable and we all took away new ideas for our own settings. What was clear is that the children in our academies love books and that we are 'reading academies'. The children spoke with enthusiasm about the books that they have read both at home and at school. It was evident that teachers are exposing our children to a wide range of texts and class stories are a highlight of the day for all.

It was observed that children are taught to read in a variety of ways. These include hearing children read individually, shared reading, guided reading in groups and as a whole class and phonics sessions. These teaching methods are good quality ways to ensure progress in reading, but what was clear in our

academies, was that adults are also encouraging a love of books. Classrooms have dedicated, cosy reading areas. Children are given time to free read a book of their choice anywhere in the classroom – some academies are calling this 'read wherever you like'. This is certainly proving a popular time of the week.

Leaders are aware of the areas that need development and all academies continue to have a heavy focus on children understanding the texts that they are reading. This starts through discussion in the early years and then builds up to written comprehension from Year 2 upwards. This is something that can always be supported at home when hearing your children read. Please visit this link to Mytchett's website for ideas for questions that you could ask: <https://www.mytchett.kite.academy/curriculum/reading-at-mytchett-primary-school/>



Over 400 children and staff took part in the 5K Race for Life at Holly Lodge just before Easter, raising an amazing £4714 for MacMillan! The children were cheered on by members of the Holly Lodge School Association, who also provided fruit snacks around the course to keep everyone going.



At Holly Lodge, we are immensely proud of all of our Year 3 and 4 children who came together to take part in a musical production of "What a Knight". The talent of our children was incredible! The cast performed to both children and parents over the course of a week, with the final performance reserved for all the Year 4 children across the Trust to come and watch.





Year Two children from Mytchett, Holly Lodge, The Grove and Lakeside have formed a cluster to give children the opportunities to take part in 'Multi-skills Festivals'. The festivals give children the experience of competing against children from other schools whilst developing their agility, balance and co-ordination. There is an emphasis on fun, physical activity and enjoyment whilst learning through sport.



The first event was held at Mytchett on a very wet and windy day in March! The children were full of enthusiasm, despite the weather and upheld our sporting values throughout the event. Well done to Team Mytchett who scored the most points at this event.

Our second event was at Holly Lodge on 25th April. The weather was much kinder to us and the children performed brilliantly. There was a focus on the sporting values with each academy being awarded points for determination, team work, respect and honesty.

Both events have been well attended and supported by parents – thank you to those who came along. It adds to the atmosphere and the children love to hear encouragement from the side lines.

The Sports Leaders (children from KS2) at both events did a great job of welcoming visitors, leading the warm ups and the activities. They demonstrated excellent leadership skills and represented their academies very well. We look forward to our final event on 6th June at Lakeside.



Year 3 children from across the Trust have been busy writing poetry. The standard of writing was really impressive and we are very proud of the work produced. All of the poems have been collated and published in a book which is now available to purchase! Copies can be ordered from each of our academy offices for £7.99. The deadline for orders is Friday 10th May - don't miss this opportunity to order a copy, hot off the press!

Congratulations to Holly Sheridan from Wyke who won the competition to design the front cover.



Kite Academy Trust Term Dates and Holidays 2019-2020



Autumn Term - Wednesday 4th September - Friday 20th December 2019

(Half Term - Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2019)

Spring Term - Monday 6th January - Friday 3rd April 2020

Half Term - Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020)

Summer Term - Monday 20th April - Friday 17th July 2020

(Half Term- Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2020)



Easter



At Mytchett, we celebrated Easter with an Easter egg raffle and an Easter Bonnet Parade. The last day of term started off with a lot of chocolate - our PTA, 'FFMPS' drew a raffle where three children won a HUGE Easter hamper and every child won an Easter egg. It was very 'eggciting'! We then moved onto judging the vast and varied Easter Bonnets that were made. The efforts put into the bonnets was superb and choosing the winners was not easy! The winners led the Easter Bonnet Parade at the end of the day. It was a colourful and happy way to end our term and wish everyone well into the holidays.



Cross Farm Reception classes took part in a fantastic Easter Bonnet Parade. The children brought in bonnets that they had made at home and walked around the playground showing all the lovely bonnets to their grown-ups.

