

BLUE KITE BULLETIN



Jubilee Celebrations
Catherine Wayte Primary School



Welcome to...

With more schools come more staff and as a result our HR team needs to grow. After May half term, we welcomed Hannah into our team. She has vast experience in working Human Resources and also particularly with schools. Welcome aboard Hannah!

Summer Time

Just as we watch the summer weather rolling in, we see the flowers burst into life and it's as if our schools are doing the same. For the first time in years all the things that make us the centre of our communities are flooding back: Jubilee celebrations, residentials, sports days and summer day tea. Just as it should be.

Good luck to...

We would like to wish Miss Elizabeth Horrobin well as she goes on maternity leave. She has worked tremendously hard over the last 3 years as Headteacher of Ferndale, supporting the families, staff and pupils with her kindness and compassion. She will be missed by all as she moves into a new chapter in her life. Exciting times ahead.



An Update from the Chief Executive Officer

In my last newsletter, I explained that it is a busy time for us in growing the Trust and I can now officially say that both Lethbridge and Robert Le Kyng Primary schools are joining us. Lethbridge joined on the 1st of July and Robert Le Kyng are on track for 1st September. Mrs Lisa Mayes, Headteacher at Lethbridge has already been working with us on expanding our Lighthouse team and Mrs Sue Smith has been supporting us with our future growth strategy. We look forward to welcoming all the staff and pupils at both those schools into the Blue Kite family.

Gary Evans,
Chief Executive Officer

The Blue Kite Academy Trust



Growth and Development

Over the last few months, there has been a sharp increase in the number of schools wanting to join us. We have adjusted our growth and development plan accordingly and are looking at how we strengthen our central capacity and team to ensure that we can deliver a quality service to our existing schools as well as cope with an increased number of schools which are coming our way. Watch this space for news on those...

As our team increases, I would like to keep everyone apprised of any new appointments we have. The latest person to join us is Gemma Such who previously worked at the Wroughton Primary Federation. She is a very experienced School Business Manager and has joined our Operations Team working with schools on budget setting, due diligence and conversion. Welcome aboard Gemma.

LA Moderation

As many of you are aware, we have stepped in to support Local Authority fulfil their duties with regards to the statutory moderation process of Teacher Assessments in Key Stage One and Two. Our staff have been working hard to put together workshops, pass moderation tests and deliver training on top of their everyday commitments. A big thank you to all who have stepped up, especially Dan Clarke, who has been instrumental in pulling this together, to ensure that all Swindon schools have the ability to moderate properly and professionally.

Behaviour and Safeguarding

You may not be aware that the Trust collects in safeguarding and behaviour information from all schools 4 times a year, which is then looked at by our Behaviour and Safety Board. On this board is a mixture of Trust staff, DSLs, Headteachers, Lighthouse staff and Sarah Turner, Safeguarding Advisor. At these meetings, we are able to pick-up on trends affecting all of our schools and identify key areas for support or training.

Lighthouse

Many of you will be aware we have planned for some time to increase the diversity of our Lighthouse team to provide extra support for our children with SEND.

To this end we have recruited an Educational Psychologist to work across our schools as a permanent member of staff. This is a very exciting development for us as it means all of our schools will get increased dedicated support in a much more timely manner and not restricted to 7 days of trading a year with the LA.

It means we can organise our own training for all staff when we need it. It also means we can be creative and flexible with our time to offer immediate help if it's required, or to work with our SENDCOs and plan research projects to benefit all of our schools.

Doctor Mathew Baker begins work at the Blue Kite Trust on September 1st, and he will be visiting all schools in the first weeks of term.



Inspire

Initial Teacher Training



In September, Inspire Professional Development will be entering its fourth year of delivering Initial Teacher Training (ITT) across Swindon and its surrounding areas.

We are very proud to share that 15 of our 2021-2022 cohort of trainee teachers successfully completed their Initial Teacher Training year with us, and all 15 were recommended for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) on 23rd June 2022. We have one trainee teacher who, due to personal circumstances, has been granted an extension for the ITT Programme, therefore will complete at the end of July 2022. This trainee teacher is making very good progress against the Teachers' Standards and is on track to pass. Out of the 16 trainee teachers, 13 of them have currently gained employment from September 2022.

We have secured 14 new trainee teachers, who will commence their teaching careers with us, from September 2022. We have 2 trainees enrolled on the 3-7 years route, with 12 on the 5-11 years route. We recently welcomed them to The Blue Kite Academy Trust, at their induction day on Friday 8th July, and they are all very excited to get started! We have partnered with 12 schools from September, who will support our trainees on their journey into teaching.

Early Career Teachers

We are now closely approaching the end of Year 1 of the ECT induction period, where we have worked in partnership with The Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching School Hub and Best Practice Network. We have completed all the modules of the Early Career Framework (ECF), delivering a blend of online and face-to-face training sessions. We have had consistent levels of engagement from both ECTs and ECMs over the last year. Year 2 of the induction period will involve a reduced timetable, where the ECTs will continue to embed and master the Teaching Standards and the strands from the ECF. Any areas of development identified from Year 1 for an ECT, can continue to be targeted during this time.

We are very excited to share that from September 2022, we are going to be working with a new lead provider to deliver the ECF to Year 1 ECTs. As a Trust, we have chosen to work with Ambition Institute, still keeping our partnership with The Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching School Hub. We have been very impressed by the training materials and resources provided by Ambition, and the level of support they provide. Our facilitators of the ECF have completed their training with Ambition, and are ready to get started. We have engaged with many Swindon schools, informing them of the provision we are providing, and it is great to see so many already registering with us.

On Friday 1st July 2022, alongside The Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching School Hub, we held a conference for new ECMs. This was a huge success with over 90 attendees from across the local area.



Our School Achievements

Ruskin Junior School



The end of the school year is on the horizon and despite so much disruption earlier in the year, it's still been a fantastic one with a great deal to celebrate. What's more, it's not over yet and we still have a few exciting events to come, Sports Day – with parents – being one of them. That reminds me, I need to finalise that fly-past by the Red Arrows...

Ruskin pupils made the local media recently when they helped their local police team with road safety. The 'mini' police team used speeding devices and gave road users important safety messages whilst on 'duty'.

[Mini Police Team Helped Give Speed Lesson](#)



Jubilee Celebrations

The children of Ruskin joined the rest of the country in flying the flag as part of the Jubilee celebrations. The day started with an assembly about the life of the Queen which included a rendition of God Save the Queen. This was followed by a day of Jubilee related activities. The children were invited to wear red, white and blue and enjoyed a wonderfully traditional lunch of chicken nuggets and chips in a basket followed by Eton Mess for dessert. The hall was bedecked with Union Flags and bunting to mark the occasion and each child received a celebratory Jubilee mug. They were also given a book about the event. All in all, a wonderful day of celebration.



Portals from the Past: Ancient Egypt

Year 3 had an absolutely Ancient Egypt-tastic day as they welcomed Portals from the Past for a themed day in support of their history topic. The children turned up in full costume and there were Cleopatras, mummies and Howard Carters everywhere I looked! The day was a wholly immersive, fantastic learning opportunity featuring the ever-popular lecture on how to mummify an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh. Gruesome stuff. What a fantastic day and a huge thanks to our parents in supporting it by sourcing and creating those wonderful outfits!



Musical Ruskin

It's been a musical couple of months at Ruskin with ukuleles going down a storm in year 5, a range of instruments being crafted in year 4 and of course, the legendary Ruskovision Song Contest. The brainchild of Mrs Musty-Jackson, Ruskovision is an event where all of the children, across the school learn a song from this year's Eurovision Song Contest and perform it for the rest of the school to enjoy. After a COVID related hiatus, the competition is back with a bang and next Wednesday there will be a special results ceremony assembly. Which House will be the winner of this year's Ruskovision? Find out on Twitter and Instagram!

Catherine Wayte Primary School



Term 5 ended in a spectacular way with our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, which included our annual art gallery with all art based on Her Majesty, The Queen.

Term 6, as always, is a busy term with events that involve the whole school community. We look forward to sports day, discos, class assemblies, the Y6 Production and of course the Summer fete.



William Morris Primary School

At William Morris, we had a great time with families to come together for Jubilee events and celebrations. We loved being able to open our doors to all parents and families at once. We had an amazing cake sale and enjoyed listening to the children's lovely singing.



Greenmeadow Primary School

Greenmeadow has been a hive of activity this term – we have been busy with Y6 going to the Junior Good Citizen event learning how to keep safe; Jonathan's Jungle worked with FS, Y3 and Y4 to look at how we care for animals and to understand some of the wide variety of animals that exist around us; Y1 and Y2 learnt more about nursing when one of our parents came in to share what she does as part of her job; and FS have been to Cotswold Wildlife Park where they got to see the penguins being fed and also waved to Y1 who were watching them in the classroom. In school, the Dog's Trust has been in to work with all classes where we have been learning about how to be safe around dogs and how to treat them nicely. Y5 and Y6 took part in a poetry trail in Seven Fields, close to our school with the Literacy Trust. The children went out to see what animals and plants exist in our locality and came together to brainstorm phrases and vocabulary that they could use to then draft and produce their own poems.



Another highlight has been the musical work that Y4-6 have been working on with Nova Hreod. The classes learnt a range of songs which they performed together in a recording, with students from Nova – it was a great opportunity and sounded beautiful. We have also had a group of students who have been learning the violin in Y5 and Y6, and were very impressed when they put on a performance to their parents and families.



For the Jubilee celebrations, we were very impressed with the high standards of entrants to our celebration competitions. At home, children made cakes, wrote poems, decorated crowns, produced fact files, made model castles and produced a range of other quality work. Clearly a lot of fun had been had! In school, we came together with our parents and families to have a picnic party on the field where we sang songs and got an opportunity to watch some performances from our after school performance club. The sun shone and we all had a fantastic time!



Ferndale Primary School and Nursery



The children at Ferndale commemorated the Platinum Jubilee with two days learning about the how the role of Queen Elizabeth II has changed over time. They looked at the log book entries to see how Ferndale marked significant events in the Queen's life, including the Coronation in 1953 and the Silver Jubilee in 1977.

We kicked off the Jubilee celebrations at Ferndale with a long- awaited disco. With the sun shining, we decided to hold the discos on the playground and the children happily danced the evening away. It was lovely to see them all enjoying themselves at the first disco we've had for over two years.

We held our Jubilee party on the playground with all the children and staff from Ferndale, the Blue Kite Trust, and guests from the community. Each class chose a child to be the Queen and they proceeded to dress their Queen using any materials they had available. The children looked amazing and paraded around the playground waving regally at all the children who cheered them along. There was a game of Pass the Parcel, where children from each class uncovered forfeits and completed their challenges supported by their classmates. There was singing and, of course, there was cake, lots of cake!



Curriculum

We are so excited this year to see the return to trips, which enhance the learning the children do at school.

Year 1 had a great day at Studley Grange, sweltering on the hottest day of the year so far, at Butterfly World and seeing all the animals.

Year 2 have visited Westonbirt, where they got hands on, looking at different habitats.

Year 3 had a great day out in Avebury to support their geography and history learning – they even had time to get 'grounded' in amongst the stones, taking off shoes and socks and finding some peace in their very exciting day.

Year 5 took a walk to STEAM to find out about the impact that the Great Western Railway has had on Swindon. They were encouraged, throughout the day, to imagine what life would have been like for railway workers and their families and they did this through participating in a Discovery workshop at the museum, touring the museum and walking around the railway village.

Year 6 are off to Coleshill to support their WW2 history topic and are now at Barton Hall for their first residential in two years. This is a new location for the year 6 children so we'll be excited to hear how they get on. They enjoyed their Junior Good Citizen experience, coming back more informed and knowledgeable about how to keep safe.

Our year 5 children had a visit from the BBC as part of their 'Share a Story' tour of the country. Robyn Richford (a Radio 1 and CBBC presenter) and Carla Fowler, an investigative journalist came into Ferndale to share their stories and stories that the children had written. It was a thought provoking, inspirational session which captivated our year 5s.

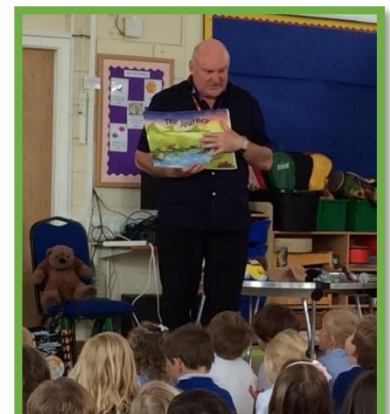


We were asked by the Great Western Hospital if would produce some art work, along with Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, for their, soon to be opened Urgent Care Centre. Children from across the school produced paintings of their NHS superheroes and 20 of these are now at the hospital. Next week, three of the artists will be going with Mrs Prevost and Miss Lanham to see their paintings in place and to have a tour of the new centre before it opens.

Colebrook Infant Academy



The children at Colebrook Infants have had a tremendous term participating in some lovely enrichment activities. The EYFS children had a visit from the Fire Service and got to use some of their specialist equipment, the whole school had a visit from Neil Griffiths an inspirational and entertaining Swindon-based author and the Gardening Club enjoyed planting vegetables and watering the potato plants. They can't wait to feast on their produce!



Brook Field Primary School



Jubilee Celebrations

Jubilee Celebrations at Brook Field took the form of a whole day celebrating the Queen and finding out lots more about her reign. Everyone dressed in red, white and blue and had great fun with all sorts of activities in the morning from making crowns, dot painting the Union Jack to Pop Art and collage.



In the afternoon and with the sun shining, the whole school took part in learning traditional playground games that perhaps the Queen may have played when she was young. These included wheel barrow races, Farmer, Farmer, in and out the dusty bluebells and What's the Time Mr Wolf. Wheel barrow racing was the firm favourite!

Year 4 Braeside Residential

Last term, we had a wonderful residential trip to Braeside, where we enjoyed a range of exciting experiences from canoeing along the Kennet and Avon canal to pond dipping at Drew's Pond! The children were a joy to take away, persevering well with the different activities and building on their teamwork skills. Well done Year Four!



Year 6 PGL Residential

Year 6 had a fantastic residential trip to Barton Hall in Torquay. The children completed activities such as zip lining, abseiling, climbing, buggy building and orienteering, as well as trips to local attractions such as the Kent Cavern caves and Babbacombe model village. The children were an absolute pleasure to take away and fun was had by all!



Badbury Park Primary School



Badbury Park Primary School has been continuing to embed outdoor learning into as many aspects of the curriculum as possible and always with a purpose. Here are some examples of DT, Science, maths and English.



Badbury Park had a lovely afternoon celebrating the Jubilee. The children created dance moves to songs that represented each decade the Queen has reigned; they baked cakes for an afternoon tea and performed to all the parents. Our parents and staff took part in the first 'Badbury Bake Off' and raised £300 for the school.



Abbey Meads Community Primary School

Life has been very busy recently at Abbey Meads.

All classes have now performed their Curriculum Assemblies, live to their parents, and we have had the return of our Family Learning Workshops, with the latest having the focus on Storytelling.

As we move through the summer terms, we have seen the return of Disco Nights, classes travelling far and wide on trips to support their learning, climbing walls on our playgrounds, amazing Sports Day events, the return of our annual Camp Out, the Summer Fete, the Year 6 production of Darwin Rocks and our annual Musical Extravaganza



The Blue Kite
Academy Trust



Tel: 01793 332425

Email: admin@bluekitetrust.org.uk