

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | 2022-2023



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CEO MESSAGE

A message from our CEO, Debbie Wheeler



OUR TILT FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

A look into what has been happening across our schools



PASTORAL NEWS

Latest information from our Pastoral Team

FOREST SCHOOL NEWS

Latest Forest School information



'To be the best we can be'

www.tiltrust.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Welcome to the first TILT newsletter of this 2022-2023 academic year.

This is our seventh year as a Trust. Together our team, working in partnership with parents, have created a strong Trust and a thriving learning community across our family of three schools. All schools similar in their determination and ambition that they will enable our children

'to be the best we can be,'

An Independent School Improvement Advisor recently visited all schools to provide assurance to the Trust Board that all schools and indeed the Trust are well led. The report that followed captured the essence of our Trust, our Trust Premium:



The Trust's vision and values are embedded across each school.

The key question: what is in the best interests of our children?" drives the Trust but also each school.



A culture of high expectation and aspiration is modelled by senior leaders who are passionate for what pupils can achieve and determined to put in place strategies to achieve this.



Behaviour is a strength. Each school is calm, orderly, and purposeful. Pupils have a positive attitude to learning.



Reading is given high priority and there is a determination that every pupil will learn to read with every opportunity provided for them to access rich texts to support their enjoyment of reading.



Care and attention have been given by the Trust in maintaining school accommodation to a high standard. The schools are light, attractive places to learn and work. Classrooms are well resourced. This extends to the grounds and outdoor classrooms for the youngest pupils

As a CEO the external validation of the strength of our schools is fabulous to read. I am rightly so very proud of our children, leaders and staff team, this is our **Trust Premium: we prioritise children, well being, reading as key levers to success. TILT schools all have a fantastic offer for our young people and their families.** As a Trust we aim **to lead schools of choice:** we invest heavily in teaching and learning, our curriculum, our resources, our accommodation, to enable this to become a reality.

We aim for **our buildings and grounds to be an oasis** for our children: safe, warm, dry, modern and beautiful



Inspiring indoor and outdoor environments to support the delivery of a great curriculum and high quality learning.



21st Century infrastructure to free teaching and learning and ensure rapid response to needs.

Sunny Bank Primary School has now taken up residence in a brand new, beautiful building. The nursery and main teaching block allow the whole school to come together finally and operate as a tight community. I was thrilled to attend the grand opening and see the delivery of a project the children and Murston community deserve.

Sunny Bank is now successfully working in partnership with Meadowfield Special School hosting a satellite provision. It has been a joy to see the children of both schools working and playing together, inclusion at its best. We are now in the early stages of planning to host a further satellite of Meadowfield at Halfway Houses Primary School.

Minster School and PTA have hosted two spectacular community events: Minster Magical Fireworks and again the Father Christmas Grotto, open to the local community too. Both planned and executed by parent, family and friend volunteers. Thank you to you for your hard work and commitment to our children.

This year Trust launched our People Strategy: we are determined to become **an employer of choice:** this sees further investment in training, workload reduction, greater support for flexible working and well-being promotion. A positive indication of our success is that **over 75% of our leaders are home grown!** Many of our teachers have also trained and qualified with us! The Trust has extended our staff employee benefits: Westfield Health care, Education Support Employee Assistance Program. We aim to ensure that through high quality: recruitment, talent management, succession and workforce planning we ensure TILT schools will continue to build effective teams to secure ongoing success for our children and families.

What a busy two terms we have had, please read on to delve in to and delight in the wonderful world of our TILT family of schools.

Kind regards

Debbie Wheeler

Mrs. Debbie Wheeler

CEO The Island Learning Trust

'Be the best we can be'

www.tiltrust.org

Family Support Newsletter



The Island
Learning Trust

Spotlight on Support

We are very lucky to be able to provide additional support to our children and families using our Family Liaison Officers. The role of the FLO is to liaise between parents and the school and to be a point of contact and support for parents and children if they have any concerns, issues, worries or feedback they wish to raise or discuss.

Our FLO's have many links with specialist organisations and support services, we are able to make referrals for support with finance issues, foodbanks, behavioural concerns, learning concerns, mental health support, overcoming barriers to regular attendance and lots, lots more. If we cannot help then we will do our very best to refer to an outside agency/organisation that can support.

We know times are particularly difficult at the moment and we want to help and support our school community where we can, please do not sit and worry, call your child's school and speak to your FLO.



Meadowfield Parent, Carer & Family Workshops

Sleep Awareness - Tuesday 10 January 2023 09:45 - 15:30

Presented by: Kate

Chatfield, Specialist Teacher, Meadowfield Susan Cassingham, Sleep Scotland Sleep Counsellor, Meadowfield. This course is designed to identify barriers to sleep and share strategies to overcome these.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ASD - Tuesday 24 January 2023 09:45— 12:45 Presented by Jamie Evans, Specialist Teacher, Meadowfield Becky Selfe, Inclusion Support Assistant, Meadowfield. This is a workshop about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) for parents, carers and families of children with a diagnosis of ASD or a noticeable social communication difficulty. Participants will gain an understanding of ASD and a overview of some of the strategies and interventions that can be used support children and young people with social communication difficulties.

These courses are free, to book please contact Jenna Paternoster, MIDAS Administrative Assistant on 01795 477788 (option 6) or via MIDAS@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk

If you need support

We know that anyone can find themselves at crisis point for a number of different reasons. The current economic crisis means some families are finding it very difficult and struggling to make the budget stretch. If you need support when the school is closed please contact one of the following organisations for help and support.



The food bank works via vouchers, if you have any issues getting a voucher please call **07486370709 Mon—Fri 9am—3pm.**



Fuel & Water Advise

If you need help paying for gas and electricity or find yourself in crisis with fuel bills please reach out.

Call: 01795 889233

Email: fuelvoucher@children-families.org

NEED SOME HELP?

Are you in emergency credit on your pre-payment gas or electric meter and can't afford to top up?

Are you at risk or disconnected from your energy supply?

email us to see if we can help
fuelvoucher@children-families.org
(subject to criteria)



Halfway Houses Primary School Curriculum



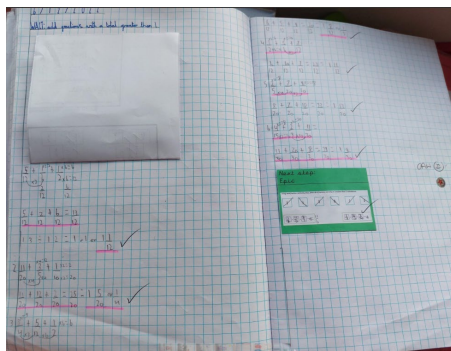
Art and D&T in Year 3

Year 3 have been busy looking at clocks and thinking about how the exterior design is important dependent on the clock's purpose as well as thinking about the cogs and inner working parts! They made a number of different prototypes using different materials such as recycled boxes and lego.



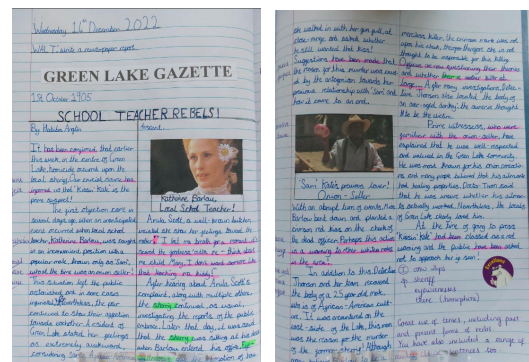
Maths in Year 5

Year 5 have been challenging themselves by adding and subtracting fractions and then converting the improper fraction to a mixed number.



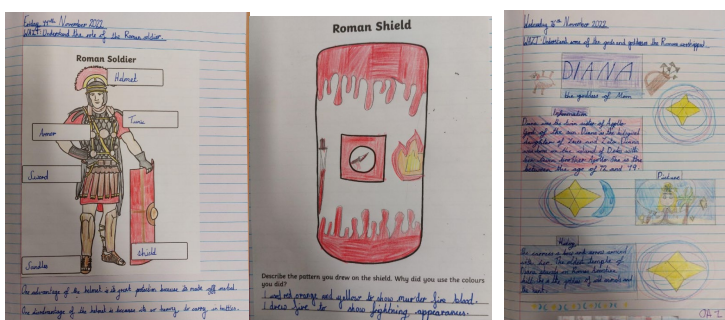
Literacy in Year 6

Year 6 have recently finished newspaper articles about 'Kissing Kate Barlow', a rebel school teacher that turned to a life of criminality! They have been thinking about how to draw the reader in with an orientation and then changing their writing style to tell the whole story in greater detail.



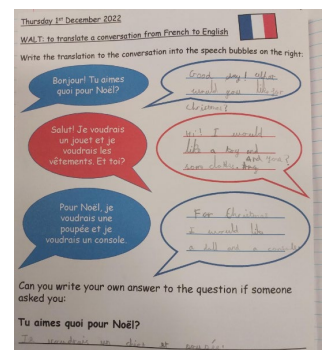
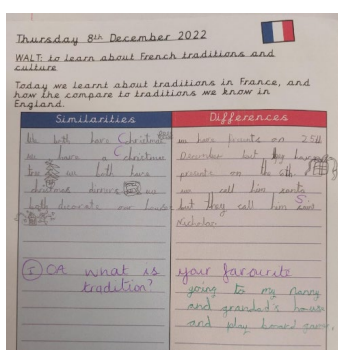
History and Geography in Year 4

Children from Year 4 have been learning about the Romans; they have thought about their armour and shields as part of their defence strategy. They have also been learning about the Roman Gods such as 'Diana – the Goddess of the Moon' and finding out about their families and responsibilities.



French in Year 3/4

Our mixed Year 3/4 class have been learning to recognise French greetings relating to Christmas and translating them. They have also been thinking about the similarities and differences between Christmas traditions in our own culture in comparison to the French culture.



Halfway Houses Primary School Events



Children in Need at Halfway

The whole school took part in Children in Need Day and either dressed in something spotty or bright colours. We raised around £644! Well done everyone! We asked the children what they thought about Children in Need Day. "I wish I had a bit more money so that I could give it to the children who need it" - **Isaac**. "I like my spotty T-Shirt so much I am going to wear it tomorrow as



Pantomime Day

The whole school went to Sheerness East to watch the pantomime 'Dick Whittington'. There was lots of singing and dancing and everyone loved joining in, especially booing King Rat! "I thought that the cat was really funny!" – **Evie**. "The best bit was the Ghostbusters song when the ghost got scared at the end" – **Callum**.



Remembrance

On Friday 11th November at 11am the whole school gathered on the playground to honour a two-minute silence for remembrance. The School Parliament leaders went to the local cemetery to place crosses on the Commonwealth war graves on behalf of the British Legion. This is something that we do every year to honour the fallen.



Our Christmas Trips to Halfway Petting Farm

Children from Reception to Year 4 walked down to the local petting farm in Halfway. They met Bob the donkey, Ted the Shetland, Waffles the Ardenne heavy horse as well as a number of goats, pigs, alpacas, sheep, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, rabbits and turkeys! There was a particularly unusual bird called a rhea that looked like a small, white ostrich with pale blue eyes – it was fascinating! The walk culminated in a visit to Santa's grotto where he asked us questions about our Christmas lists this year and provided us with a farm-related gift! We all had hot chocolate and marshmallows when we arrived back at school!

Christmas Stories on Zoom

This year we added a new event to our Christmas line-up... Stories across zoom in the evenings! Each night at 7pm we all signed in to listen to different members of staff read a story and on the last evening, we had an extremely special guest!



Christmas Fair



This year our Christmas fair returned, courtesy of the hard work from the Friends of Halfway Houses – they worked tirelessly and raised a huge amount of money to fund different activities throughout the year!

Sunny Bank Primary School



Mayor Opens Our New Build

Sunny Bank Primary School celebrated the Grand Opening of its new school buildings on 17th November 2022 and the feedback from guests clearly demonstrates the strength of the school and the positive transformation of Sunny Bank Primary School since joining the Island Learning Trust.



ELSA

Miss Loughnane will be starting her ELSA sessions from the January term. Here is a little information on what an ELSA does:

ELSA's are emotional literacy support assistants with a wealth of experience of working with children. ELSAs are trained and regularly supervised by the Educational Psychologists. An ELSA is a warm and caring person who wants to help your child feel happy in school and to reach their potential academically. Their aim is to build your child's emotional development and help them cope with life's challenges.

An ELSA will help your child to find solutions to any problems they may have.



School Choir

The choir of Sunny Bank Primary School delighted shoppers by performing Christmas carols at the Forum Shopping Centre on 8th December. The 40 strong choir only formed in October, with hard work during practice they performed superbly as if they were a long established group. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children at Sunny Bank to show off their hard work and skill, and it was wonderful to see the children giving something back to the community and spreading festive Christmas cheer.

Sunny Bank held the vote for our new Head Boy and Head Girl



13 aspirational children from Year 6 put themselves forward for the role and wrote and delivered some fantastic speeches to the whole of Year 5 and 6, who then voted for their favourite candidates. After a very close race, we can announce that our new Head Boy is Oliver and Head Girl is Amelia. All 13 children should be extremely proud for putting themselves forward and showing themselves to be great role models. The remaining candidates will be heavily involved alongside the Head Boy and Head Girl in helping our school to continue to achieve great things as a school parliament.

Author Officially Opens New Library

A multiple-time New York Times Best-selling writer, Tony Lee has worked professionally for over thirty years. He has written for Marvel comics, DC comics, Doctor Who comics (to name but a few) and now writes crimes novels!

Tony hosted a special assembly then cut the ribbon, officially opening our brand new library.

He then met with all the children and answered questions whilst signing bookmarks.



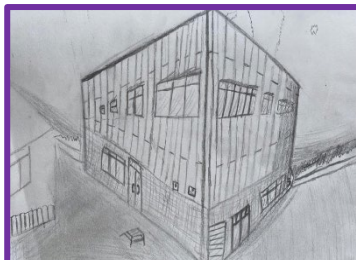
Word Cloud Art / ROAR pebbles

We asked parents to contribute to a piece of art in the form of a word cloud, to be unveiled as part of our Grand Opening Ceremony. Parents also helped children paint pebbles to showcase our ROAR values, for an outside display.



Home and Away

One of the most memorable, exciting and creative moments of the year so far is when they got to learn all about two-point perspective in drawing. After learning this technique, the whole year group created some fantastic observational drawings of our new build and then went on to create mono-prints and mixed media pieces from these. What a fantastic way to bring our new school to life and to act as a lasting memory of this very important time for Sunny Bank Primary.



Going on a Bear Hunt

The Nursery and Reception children have settled well into our new EYFS unit and have had fun exploring the new building and garden. This term we have been looking at ourselves and have joined in with 'Going on a Bear Hunt', making faces from natural objects and investigating natural object in forest school. We read the story Owl Babies and made our own forest owls. The children planted bulbs to make our entrance beautiful in the spring.



Changing Materials

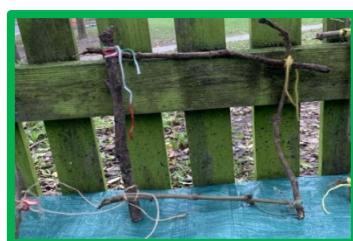


Juniper Class have been looking at Changing Materials as part of their Science topic. They were asked to find a thermal insulator for a lunch box. As a class, they made their very own lunch boxes and lined them with a variety of different materials. The lunch boxes were then filled with ice cubes and the temperature taken every 10 minutes.

Forest School

Some fabulous tool handling and canvas frame making at Forest school. Aspen & Willow class worked as a team to build a frame for their large Jackson Pollock style art work from their previous session. They then stretched the fabric painting over the frame and used a special staple gun to secure the fabric in place. The end result is amazing!! This will be displayed in school.

Year 1 Birch class also made frames for their nature paintbrush paintings that they have created.



Minster in Sheppey Primary School



Vision and Values

In September the school unveiled its new wall art in the school hall. This piece focused upon celebrating the school's vision and values of:

'To be the best we can be' – Best Learner, Best Friend and Best Citizen. Weekly assemblies focus upon this theme and our Minster Learning Muscles. All pupils are challenged to recognise the important of being the Best Learner, Friend and Citizen on a daily basis.



Remembrance Assembly

This year the school marked Remembrance Day by focusing on the many service animals, who supported during the World Wars. All pupils created purple poppies in memory of these animals and a Wall of Remembrance was created on the school playground for all the parents to enjoy. The Minster Parliament shared an assembly focusing on this theme with the whole-school. Emily Collins, an old pupil performed the Last Post on her trumpet, followed by pupils then observing a one minute silence.



Wellbeing – Our Emotional Barometers

Following the school's participation on the EEF's learning behaviour course, Kent Senior Improvement Advisor, Kate Wilson asked the school if she could create a case study focusing on this project. The project involved the school developing a Social Emotional Literacy approach based upon: The Colour Monster to support pupil wellbeing. Each classroom has an emotional barometer in their classroom to enable all pupils to recognise and talk about their emotions. The completed case study was presented at the Kent's Association of Headteacher's Conference, it was well received by colleagues.



HSBC Workshop

HSBC attended school in November to provide an enrichment activity focusing on: 'Financial Skills for Work' for our Key Stage 2 pupils. This workshop focused on a number of different areas including: Budgeting and saving, Value of money, coin recognition and money maths, Becoming a critical consumer and Careers and building a financial future. All staff and pupils enjoyed this engaging and interactive session.

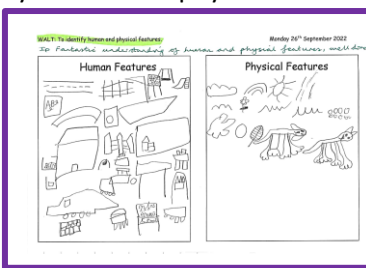
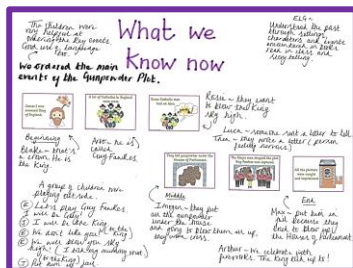


Santa's Grotto

Minster's PTA, created a magical Santa's Grotto in the school's forest area for our pupils and families to enjoy. All pupils from Years EYFS to Year 3, visited Santa and were able to decorate gingerbread with Mrs Claus and enjoy the Winter Wonderland Forest complete with snow and bubbles. Later in the day Santa and his Chief Elf visited pupils in Year 4-6 with every child in the school receiving a gift. On the Saturday the grotto was open for our families and wider community to enjoy.

Home and Away

Our Geography learning since September has seen pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the local area. All pupils have studied a different area of the Island including: Sheerness, Eastchurch, Queenborough and Blue Town to enable everyone to understand our Island's historical and cultural heritage. Pupils have been able to use their mapwork skills and undertake a range of fieldwork activities. Year 6 visited Blue Town and deepened their understanding of Sheerness Dockyard, whilst staff from the Heritage Centre visited school and spoke to Year 3 about the development of Sheerness and its significance as a seaside town. Our Year 1 pupils walked around Minster and were able to classify human and physical features and then create their own maps of the local area.

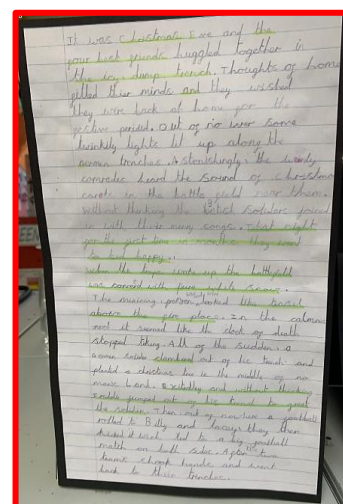


Anti-Bullying Week

Across the school, Anti-Bullying Week was marked, with all pupils exploring the theme of 'Reach Out'. The idea behind this theme was enabling pupils to think about and recognise their support networks if faced with any aspect of bullying, whilst also thinking about the ways in which they could support others. Pupils in Key Stage 2 watched an online production called: 'Hope', which explored the theme of bullying with particular attention given to cyberbullying. Following the watching of this production, pupils considered what they would do when facing different bullying scenarios.



Literacy – Year 2 War Games



The pupils in Year 2 have been enjoying War Games as their core text in Literacy. The novel focuses on World War 1 and the football game played during the Christmas truce and the pupils have been writing about this.

Time Tunnel

The pupils have been exploring a range of historical themes including, the Great Fire of London, Mary Seacole, Stone Age to Iron Age, the Roman Empire, Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. Many areas of learning have supported the pupils to consider how these different groups of people settled in Britain and the impact they had on Britain.

Pupils have been able to pose historical questions, explore primary sources and think about different interpretations of the past.





Ice Art!

We had a frosty wander around our forest school basecamp. Pretty cool ice art could be seen with frozen/frosted leaves!



Canvas Frame Making!

Some fabulous tool handling and canvas frame making at Forest school.

Aspen & Willow class worked as a team to build a frame for their large Jackson Pollock style artwork from their previous session. They then stretched the fabric painting over the frame and used a special staple gun to secure the fabric in place.

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