

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 | 2021-2022



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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 FOCUS

Not every classroom has four walls...

KEEP ON MOVING!

Read how our dedicated Sports Coaches are keeping our pupils active across TILT



'To be the best we can be'

www.tiltrust.org



I am writing to draw the end of our sixth year as a Trust to a close and to highlight the many wonderful things that our TILT family have experienced and achieved across a very busy year.

Thankfully, this year has seen the return to near normality: the COVID impact, whilst still present: illness, absences, gaps in learning etc. its impact has dramatically lessened: parents have returned to schools unmasked and able to join in many celebrations and special events across the year. Many of you, I know, have experienced many firsts this year despite being part of the TILT family for a number of years. I hope you delighted in these events and have treasured memories for the future.

Across the year the TILT Team did not lose sight of our core purpose: the need to support our children, families and team:

'to be the best we can be.'

Team TILT, our family of schools, adapted, and demonstrated our values:

Resilience, Optimism, Ambition and Responsibility.

Team TILT did indeed **ROAR** across 2021-2022!

We set out in September determined to support our young people to make exceptional progress, to redress the COVID gaps, across all schools and this is indeed largely what we have achieved.

Y6 data for all schools is worth celebrating:

Halfway Houses is 3% above National (59%) for combined 63%

Minster all time high and 36% above National (59%) for combined at 95%

Sunny Bank achieved 51% combined, last results 18/19: 23%, a phenomenal uplift.

Y2 data for all schools is also worth celebrating, Nationally around an 8% dip in all outcomes:

Halfway Houses 6-12% higher than national, no dip in outcomes, positive for the future

Minster 20-30% above national, no dip in outcomes

Sunny Bank although lower than national in reading and writing, maths is in line and all areas are improved on the year before.

I do need to thank parents for being supportive of our drive to secure the basic skills: your support and interest in your child/ren's reading, spelling, tables and progress is a motivating factor for keeping your children trying and practicing key skills. We do indeed value your partnership in supporting learning. The quality of provision in each school has continued to improve across this year: standards of care, nurture, the curriculum, teaching and learning and standards.

In addition:

We have established an exciting relationship with Meadowfield School who will be running a satellite provision from Sunny Bank Primary School from September. A model we hope to replicate across all of our schools.

Our exciting £4.4 million building project is drawing to a close at Sunny Bank and the new build will see our whole school community housed on the one site for the first time ever!

We celebrated a strongly good outcome from an Ofsted visit to Minster Primary School in March this year. Congratulations to our Minster team for the well-deserved recognition that day in day out they deliver for our children.

There are and have been, so many incredible things happening across our schools. This newsletter is about enabling the wider community to have an insight into the wonderful world of our TILT family of schools: **each school unique**, yet bound together by our core Vision and Values, our desire to work in a partnership with parents and carers:

'To be the best we can be'

I feel privileged to work with teams of highly committed, talented and determined staff and calm, focused and caring Heads of School. TILT schools all have a fantastic offer for our young people and their families.

I am sure you are all in need of a break and a reset. Please take care and time to enjoy the summer, your children, family and friends. I hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful summer.

Kind regards

Debbie Wheeler

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Halfway Houses Primary School



Monster Phonics



We are starting a new phonics scheme in September called Monster Phonics and are really excited about meeting the monsters, having a launch day and starting to learn our phonics using them! This scheme has been carefully colour coded to develop children's understanding about the different graphemes that can make the same sound, for example, ai, ay and a_e.



Pride Day At Halfway



At Halfway, we celebrated our very first Pride Day on the 24th June; our children brought in items that they were proud of which included medals, artwork and photos and this led to some amazing conversations about the aspects that make us all unique. We have some fabulous rainbows up and around the school to remind us of this day with some of the important values and messages that we discussed.

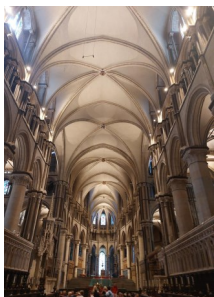


Reconnect Charity Event

This year we were contacted by Reconnect, a Kent charity who are striving to fund opportunities for children because of their missed opportunities throughout the Global pandemic. They allocated some funding to us and we chose to spend it on an additional school trip for our Young Carers to Canterbury Cathedral. We had a wonderful day exploring stone masonry, stained glass windows and the finding out about the gory and gruesome details of Sir Thomas Beckett. Our Year 3 children will also be benefitting from this charity on their upcoming trip to Creed outdoor centre.

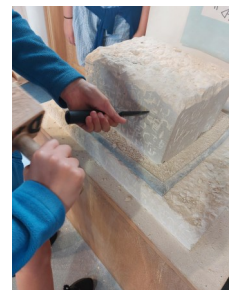
British Athletics Champion Visits Our Pupils

Ezekiel Ewulo (or Zeeks once we had got to know him) visited our school as part of the Sports for Champions UK charity and he led our assembly as well as workshops for each class. He was the British champion in 2011 and talked about his journey leading up to this point. He also challenged Mr Green to see how far he could jump!!!



Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6 residential trip was a great success; the children climbed a 30ft pole to complete the leap of faith, swung through the air on the 3G giant swing, completed obstacle courses whilst blind folded and made campfires to toast marshmallows. Our children returned on Wednesday last week full of stories to share with their parents and full of confidence that they were able to face their fears and overcome any obstacle in their way.



'To be the best we can be'

Sunny Bank Primary School



Year 6 Work Experience

This term, Year 6 have been given a range of jobs around the school including:

Gardeners, Assistant Headteachers, Caretakers, Forest School Assistants and Reading Assistants to name but a few. Pupils had to apply by completing application forms and attending interviews! Following that process, they were then assigned different jobs. The children have taken their roles and responsibilities seriously and have been doing an amazing job!



New School Library

As part of our school improvements planned for this year, a brand new Library will be located in our current school building. We have exciting plans already put in place, including some amazing wall art like the library pictured below:



The children have already been asked who their favourite book characters are and which books they enjoy reading. Top answers have been passed on to PromoteYourSchool who have been asked to start the design process!

Cricket Tournament

Our pupils took part in a cricket competition at Bapchild Cricket Club. All the children had a fantastic day and should all be very proud of themselves!



Sunny Bank's New Build Is Almost Complete

The final stages are underway...here are some of the latest pictures...



Donaldson on the hunt for mini beasts...

Our pupils in Donaldson class have been exploring mini beasts this term and continued their learning in our Forest School. They have read the story of The Hungry Caterpillar and even made their own caterpillars using pip-cleaners and sticks!



Role Models

This year, photos were taken of two children from each year group for our Pupil Concept. Our Curriculum Intent can now be seen on our website and Facebook page.



'To be the best we can be'

Minster in Sheppey Primary School



Platinum Jubilee Timeline

In June, the school marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a range of events. The day was a great success with the pupils and staff being keen to ensure there were lasting tributes to mark Her Majesty's 70 year reign and legacy. Each year group contributed to a visual timeline, which highlighted key events from each decade of her reign. The children also planted seven silver birches near the forest school.



Wear It Wild Day

In May, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Pratt and the Eco-council arrange a 'Wear It Wild Day' for the whole school community. This special event aimed to raise awareness of the World Wildlife Fund's work and in particular their work linked to the protection of the planet. Pupils and staff were invited to show their wild side by dressing up as their favourite animal, wearing animal print clothing or using face paint. Lions, elephants, leopards, peacocks, flamingos, sloths, zebras and even sharks strutted their stuff.



Our New Arrivals

In May, Following the end of 'Flockdown' we were pleased to welcome 12 new chicks. Initially the chicks spent time being nurtured indoors by our pupils whilst they developed and became strong enough to be reunited with their flock. All chicks are now living happily with their proud Dad, Roy.



The Den Open Afternoon

In May, The Den (our Nurture Room), held its first open afternoon for parents. Pupils who use this resource had the opportunity to invite their parents to spend time with them in The Den and enjoy cake and drinks. This event also enabled parents the chance to speak with key staff. All parents who attended the afternoon were asked to complete a feedback form about the support their child had received; the feedback was resoundingly positive.



Sports Week

In July, Minster held its annual Sports Week. The aim of the week is to provide pupils and staff with an opportunity to explore the benefits that a range of sporting activities have upon physical and mental health. Pupils and staff were able to connect with each other by participating in a whole school dance. They also had opportunities to learn new skills when Creed visited and undertook archery sessions with our older pupils, whilst our younger pupils undertook sessions with Kidz Fit.

'To be the best we can be'

Family Support Newsletter



Every Child, Every Day

The DfE has published new guidance for schools in tackling school attendance that will come into force from September 2022. The guidance applies to all maintained schools, academy trusts and alternative provision providers and is accompanied by a summary table of responsibilities for school attendance. School attendance has come into even sharper focus given the disruption faced by so many pupils due to the pandemic. The new guidance asks schools to work in close collaboration with local partners to address school attendance issues and improve school attendance across communities. In a recently released report by Dame Rachel de Souza (Children's Commissioner) schools are advised 'to create a culture which prioritises and obsesses about attendance and promotes this message amongst children and parents'. We will be issuing further information in September detailing how we intend to implement the new guidance.

Sunny Bank Attendance Reward Trip

At Sunny Bank, we are keen to reward pupils that put in outstanding effort into their education and school community, having excellent attendance or improving attendance is one way pupils can demonstrate this! Last term to encourage good attendance at school every class took part in a raffle. Each week a child had a week of 100% attendance they added their name to the raffle, every child had the potential to add their name up to 6 times and then a random draw took place to determine the winners. These are just some of our lucky attendance raffle winners, everyone had a fantastic afternoon of fun at Little Potters!



Help in the holidays

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 during the Summer Holidays 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

07486 370709

Mon - Fri 9am to 3pm



Fuel & Water Advice

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)





What a busy year our TILT family have had in their Forest Schools...from mini beast hunts to wand making, den building to cloud spotting, it's all been happening in our wonderful outdoor learning spaces! We strive to ensure our Forest Schools offer the best environment for our children to grow, learn and explore. Our committed Forest School Leaders continue to lend their creative skills to support our pupils 'to be the best they can be'. We hope you enjoy reading about their amazing adventures here...



At Halfway, Year 1 have been reading the book 'Winnie The Witch'. They collected Elder from the forest and used it to make their own wands. They used tools to whittle their wands and create patterns. They also created their own potions using things they found in Forest School!



Some children in Year R made bracelets at forest school. They found different things in the environment and stuck them on their bracelets.

Mud Painting

Some children in Robin class made their own paintbrushes from sticks, leaves, grass and other objects they found in forest school. They made mud paint and added red powder paint to it to make it red. The children used their brushes to paint with the mud paint.



Den Building

The children in Year R worked together to build a shelter. They used tarpaulin, ropes and pegs. They also built a campfire to keep warm.



Kestrel class performed their own version of the witches first scene from Macbeth in forest school.





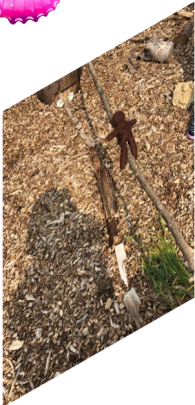
We have enjoyed many Forest School activities at **Minster** this year.

We have introduced termly forest school based challenges for year groups 1 to 6. These challenges may link to their classroom learning and allow the children to think about scientific ideas or literacy texts outside of the four walls of their classroom. Alternatively, they may link to nature allowing the children to investigate the creatures that live on our grounds or the trees and plant that surround us. Year 3 particularly enjoyed making their own compasses and were very surprised that they actually worked, pointing north to help them to navigate around the school!

Our Foundation classes go to forest school each week and use this time to extend their learning in many areas of their curriculum, Understanding the World, Expressive Art and Design and PSED. In Term 5, we had great fun finding all sorts of creatures that live in our forest area. We found magnificent stag beetles and centipedes as well as ladybird larvae, which started lots of conversations about the life cycle of a ladybird.

This year we have introduced an afterschool forest school club for years 1 -3. So far have recreated the creatures we found using playdough and natural materials, built the perfect way for the Gingerbread Man to get across the river and fabulous clay faces to decorate our trees. This has been good fun and we look forward to continuing this next school year.

The children benefit in countless ways from getting outside. They love it and the adults love it just as much!



At Sunny Bank, this term's Forest School focus has been attempting lots of different nature/wild challenges for The Wildlife Trust's #30DaysWild. The whole month of June offers 30 different challenges. Year R (Donaldson class) and Year 1 (Jeffers class) have loved engaging with 5 different nature challenges per week giving them lots of choice to experience different activities at each session. This included cloud spotting, nature sculptures, 123...hug a tree, bug hunt, scavenger hunt, colour matching, create a mini pond, listening for wild sounds, making own binoculars & bird watching to name but a few.



The Year 6 children who did not attend the residential trip, also enjoyed an afternoon session of Forest school activities in basecamp. They engaged with tool handling, using peelers to whittle a stick, Den Building, team games, bug hunting & creating Hapa Zome Flower prints on fabric. It was great to welcome them to Basecamp and lots of fun was had.

It's been lots of fun so far and we are looking forward to many more creative outdoor learning opportunities at Forest school.





KEEP ON MOVING!



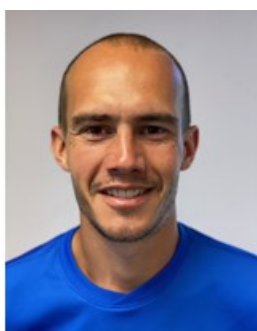
Sport at TILT

We strive to provide high quality PE and sports teaching in both the curriculum and extracurricular activity. We aim to ensure that, within their own level of ability, all children can achieve success, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential. We value the benefits of PE and Sport to build children's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth which is essential for our pupil development. We aim to provide opportunities for all children to experience competition at various levels both individually and as part of a team. We look to provide, intra school competition within the trust, and interschool competition within the county, both virtually and in person.

Meet the Coaches...



Nicole Ward
TILT Lead Coach



Josh Mitchell
Sports Coach



Darren Cooper
Sports Coach



Lee Smith
Sports Coach

A fantastic effort from our Year 6's at the Kent Cricket Kwick Cricket Tournament. 10 schools took part on a glorious sunny day at Bapchild Cricket Club. We showed great grit and determination throughout the tournament winning all of our games except the final, where we played our sister school Halfway. The final was a brilliant game to end on, with players from both teams showing great team play and sporting prowess, and what better than an Island Learning Trust Final. Both teams will now progress to the County Finals on the 12th July at Upchurch Cricket Club..... Watch this space!

Year 1+2 Rapid Fire Cricket

We had another great day of weather at Bapchild Cricket Club for the year 1+2 Rapid Fire Tournament. This tournament saw 10 teams full of young sporting talent ready to put their hearts and souls into their performance. Our children were outstanding throughout, in both their ability and their exemplary behaviour. For a team that had never played together before we progressed through the tournament at a rate of knots, only losing one of our games by 3 runs!! We then played the same team in the final and drew! Making us joint 1st overall. What an experience and what an achievement for such a young group of children!

Sports Week and Sports Day

The week of the 4th July was a week full of sporting activity. 540 children took part in various activities and experiences themed around sport and wellbeing ranging from Archery to Fitness. We took part in the daily mile and did daily yoga sessions to think about mindfulness and have a good old stretch.

We were finally able to have a proper sports day and invite our parents to come and watch. Our sports day saw all year groups try their hardest and showcase some of the PE skills they have learnt this year.

What a wonderful week of weather and fun for all.

Summer of sports fun

Keep an eye out. We will be sending out lots of fun sports challenges, ideas and activities over the summer to keep our students active.

