

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 | 2021-2022



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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 FOCUS

The TILT pastoral team welcomes new staff



FOREST SCHOOL NEWS

Sunny Bank leads the way!



'To be the best we can be'

www.tiltrust.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Welcome to the new academic year and the new format for The Island Learning Trust newsletter. Unbelievably, this is the start of our sixth year as a Trust and what a journey we have been on!

- The quality of provision in each school has dramatically improved: standards of care, nurture, the curriculum, teaching and learning and standards
- Minster Primary School and Halfway Houses Primary School have grown from 2 classes per year group to 3
- Halfway Houses Primary School has relocated to a beautiful, purpose-built building
- Minster Primary School has a new Y4 building, new fire doors, windows throughout and a new boiler
- A journey from 2 schools to 3
- Sunny Bank Primary School **now has 7 capable and committed teachers!**
- An exciting £4.4 million building project is underway at Sunny Bank and it is poised to expand from 1.5 classes per year group to 2 classes
- The IT provision in each school has massively improved with over £100K of investment: 6 new laptops for every class across the Trust, new teacher laptops too and a number of white board upgrades.

All of the above have happened despite the ongoing COVID-19 context and the challenges that presented to us all.

There are and have been, so many incredible things happening across our schools. This newsletter re-brand 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’

The Island Learning Trust and every school in our family has total commitment to improving the life chances and aspirations of pupils: we hold the tightest expectations, maintain a relentless focus on pupil progress and attainment so that no child is left behind. We put the needs of our children at the forefront of every decision. We are unwavering about the main things: **quality, care, standards and integrity.**

The Island Learning Trust is about to introduce a Pupil Forum and a Parent Forum to enable the Trust executives to meet with parents and pupils to review the quality of education we offer and plan for future improvement collectively. Further details to follow.

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. No school has stood still despite the COVID context.

Debbie Wheeler
CEO



www.tiltrust.org

‘To be the best we can be’

Halfway Houses Primary School



RESILIENCE OPTIMISM AMBITION RESPONSIBILITY

The start of a brand new term at Halfway Houses saw the introduction of our new Vision and Values. Our children had a great first day in school discussing these new values and what they mean. The initial letters spell out the word ROAR so were introduced alongside our new poster with a lion ensuring that the children remember them and demonstrate them in their every day lives within school. They were so excited about them and the school was alive with talk about the values and what they mean. We are looking forward to more focused days around these values and seeing them come to life across the school.



Accelerated Reader News!

The people at Accelerated Reader HQ contacted us to say that last year we read and completed more quizzes than any other school in England!! This is amazing and will be celebrated in style with the children. We are so proud of every single member of our community who has contributed to this amazing achievement. Throughout lockdown and time at school, AR remained a priority for the children and they enjoyed numerous challenges throughout! Well done team Halfway – you are awesome readers!



TT Rockstars

Our children have returned to school with enthusiasm and gusto towards our TT Rockstars. There have been class challenges and individual pupil challenges and the children have all ensured that they are putting their times tables skills to good practise and completing their quizzes each week! Well done all, what amazing enthusiasm you have shown!



Halfway's happy chickens!



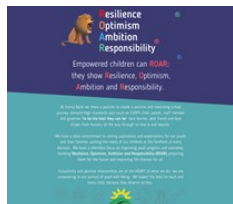
Our chickens are well established members of our school community now. The children are looking after them, feeding them and thoroughly enjoying letting them out in the morning to enjoy the sunshine. We are tucking into delicious recipes that the children are making with the eggs once they have collected them—thank you chickens!

'To be the best we can be'

Sunny Bank Primary School



Vision and Values



Pupils and staff have been revisiting the school vision this term. In assemblies we are focussing on the H of H-E-A-R-T which represents Honesty as well as ensuring that pupils aim 'To be the best we can be' in any situation, whether linked to their learning or behaviour. Pupils and staff have considered what being the best they can be looks like in action and have also embraced our ROAR! To help this to be reinforced daily, the school has created posters to celebrate our values which are displayed across the school.



SEN

Supporting pupils with special needs continues to be a key priority at Sunny Bank. We are pleased to announce that 'My Time' counselling sessions are available to all Y3-Y6 pupils every Thursday lunchtime with Ms Babbin. Parents can request 'My Time' sessions via the school office or by contacting Miss Baird. Pupils can also self refer by putting their name in the 'My Time' letterbox which is kept in the hall. SEN Pupil Passports will be sent home to parents shortly outlining new targets and support your child will be receiving at school. This term we are introducing 'SEND boxes' to each class to enhance the range of resources on offer to our pupils.

Our first parent coffee morning will take place on Tuesday 12th of October 9-10am. This term's focus is about supporting positive behaviour at home.

Forest School



Mrs Loughheed has been continuing to work and develop our Forest School area so that pupils have opportunities to explore and experience the outside world.

At Forest School, Jeffers Class created some fantastic land art of the Gruffalo characters, using natural resources collected from base camp. The children really enjoyed collecting and using the materials, such as feathers, leaves and small sticks. They created Owl, Snake and the Gruffalo in small groups.



Our Learning Zone

The Learning Zone hub, provides nurture provision and pastoral support for pupils who may find it difficult to settle into the classroom routine. We offer sensory circuit sessions, provide emotional regulation interventions and Talking and Drawing Therapy. We hold lunchtime clubs for pupils who may need access to somewhere quiet during lunchtimes, and enhance their social skills. This includes access to Lego based activities. Small group sessions help the children build their confidence and self-esteem and our pastoral team are always available to support our pupils' needs.

Meet Ben!

Ben the guinea pig is always happy and loves a cuddle. The children of Sunny Bank love to help feed and look after him. Ben is a well-loved guinea pig!



Author of the term – Jeffers

Oliver Jeffers is a visual artist and author working in painting, bookmaking, illustration, collage, performance, and sculpture. Curiosity and humour are underlying themes throughout Oliver's practice as an artist and storyteller.



Cabins

As part of our building project we have two amazing new cabins that have just been built—perfect for supporting the children's outside learning.



'To be the best we can be'

Minster in Sheppey Primary School



Vision and Values

Pupils and staff have been revisiting their school vision this term:

'To be the best we can be'.

Pupils have participated in assemblies and class activities and staff have undertaken training about being the best versions of themselves, **the best learner, the best friend and the best citizen**. Pupils and staff have considered what being the best they can be looks like in action and to help these ideas be visible daily, the school has created nine life size posters. Each poster celebrates an aspect of being the best we can be and are displayed across the school.

Emotional Barometers

We have introduced new emotional barometers into all of our classrooms to support pupils' social emotional learning. Our barometers are based upon the book 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. Pupils and staff will use the barometer frequently to enable each class to develop their self-awareness and provide opportunities to explore and express their thoughts and feelings. The barometers have been designed to promote language progression with new language being introduced at each Key Stage.



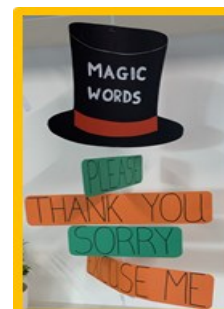
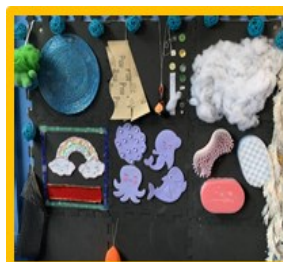
Minster Parliament



Pupils have been busy voting for their new Minster Parliament this term. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 all had the opportunity to stand for a range of posts which promote pupil voice including: Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Wellbeing Ambassador and E-Safety Ambassador. Lucas Hall, Year 6, Kookaburra, was elected Prime Minister after making a presentation to his peers. His first duty was to make a Minster Newsround, a new initiative which will be shared each Friday with the whole school community sharing the week's highlights.

The Den

We are currently developing a new nurture room called: 'The Den'. Our new Pastoral Support Assistant, Mrs Faulkner and our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant, Mrs Kistruck provide a nurture breakfast club for invited pupils, where pupils can be supported with their morning transition into the classroom and a lunchtime chill out zone. Both members of staff are also running a range of social, emotional and mental health interventions supporting a range of needs such as: developing self-esteem, coping with anxiety and friendship skills.



Our Animal Friends

Our Minster Magic family has new arrivals! We now have some new silkie chickens, bantams and guinea pigs. In order to develop our pupils' understanding of democracy, both pupils and parents are voting to name our guinea pigs. Once the guinea pigs are a little older they will be part of our cuddle corner which we are developing. This will be a space where our pupils can interact with our guinea pigs and rabbits.



Why, Why, Why Delilah

Delilah one of our chickens has been engaging in a variety of activities since term began. She particularly enjoys spending time in the nurture room and the IT room but can also be found walking along the corridors and visiting the school office!

'To be the best we can be'

Family Support Newsletter



Hello and a warm welcome to a new term and school year! I would like to introduce you to The Island Learning Trust Family Liaison team. We are here to liaise between parents and the school, to be a point of contact and be a support for parents and children if they have any concerns, issues or worries. We can offer you confidential advice, support or guidance in any area concerning your child or children's education and development. Our primary role is to focus on early intervention and preventative activities with the view of empowering children and families so they are able to achieve to the best of their ability. This can include issues around domestic abuse, housing, parental separation, attendance, health, social services, early years, police, counselling etc. We can offer you an appointment within the school on a 1:1 basis, or if you would prefer, you can email your school's FLO directly or contact via the school phone number.



Helen Potts

Family Liaison Officer

Halfway Houses Primary



Lisa Newbury

Family Liaison Officer

Sunny Bank Primary



Kate Forster

Family Liaison Officer

Minster-in-Sheppey Primary



Jemma Tate

The Island Learning Trust

FLO & Attendance Lead

We know that anyone can find themselves at crisis point for a number of different reasons. We have close links with Swale Foodbank and are able to issue vouchers and provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for your crisis. Please contact your schools FLO for confidential support.



**WE ARE A
COMMUNITY**

Free Parental Courses

The MIDAS Centre at Meadowfield School provide parental courses and many of these are free.

On **Tuesday 23rd November 2021** MIDAS are running a free workshop called '**An introduction to ASD**' this is free to attend and is about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for parents, carers and families of children with a diagnosis of autism or a noticeable difficulty. Participants will gain an understanding of autism and the strategies and interventions to support children and young people with social communication difficulties. If you would like to attend please call the MIDAS centre: 01795 477788 (option 6)



Forest School News!



Sunny Bank Primary School have been undergoing an exciting transformation of their Forest School area! Mrs Lougheed, Sunny Bank's Forest School Leader, has been working hard to make this happen! Here she gives us an insight about the progress so far...



"As Sunny Bank's Forest school Leader, I am incredibly passionate about our Forest School and our outdoor learning provision. I have spent the last year developing our Forest School basecamp, creating an inviting area for the children to explore. Our basecamp seating area was created using logs and wood donated from Oare Country Park, Faversham. The country park ranger Kris Staples kindly supported our Forest School development by delivering the logs to the school so that the transformation could begin.

With the support of my colleagues, and some heavy lifting, our basecamp was created and ready to be explored! We have also developed a log pile habitat to encourage nature to our grounds and introduced a bug hotel, which was donated by our amazing Early Years team. We have also created a fire pit in the centre of our basecamp, which we have used to introduce fire lighting and the pupils have enjoyed toasting giant marshmallows over the fire!



It has been a privilege to run/deliver whole class sessions throughout the summer term and curriculum linked whole class sessions with Years 1, 2 and 3 this term! The children have really embraced the Forest School process, and have developed their confidence and self esteem and a love for the outdoors. With the tricky times we have all experienced over the last 18 months, I truly believe that the Forest School provision has had a positive impact on our pupils' mental health and wellbeing."



A big thank you to Councillor Hall, our local community councillor!

During the summer term, I invited Councillor James Hall to attend one of our Forest School sessions which was held at The Murston Heart Project. I arranged to take all classes weekly to the lovely historical old church and grounds and in collaboration with Sioux Peto of the Murston Heart Project, the children were able to learn all about their local history. Councillor Hall was very impressed by the children of the then Murphy class, as they were so engaged and answered all of his questions with such enthusiasm and they proved they really were **The Best They Can Be!** We were all very proud of them. I drafted a request for some funding to purchase a whole class set of waterproofs to enable the sessions to continue through the winter months.

Councillor Hall was so impressed he agreed to a grant of **£1210.00** to cover the cost of the waterproofs and other resources. The order has now been placed as I have had confirmation that the funding has gone through! Councillor Hall also posted a lovely post about Sunny Bank's Forest School on the Murston community page.

