Issue 10
December 2020

The Kite Academy Trust
Flying high together

The Kite Academy Trust Newsletter

Dear Families,

This time last year, as we celebrated Christmas 2019 and looked forward to what 2020 might bring, we never imagined facing such a challenging year. This term has brought much uncertainty and anxiety, however we are very pleased to have been able to safely open for all of our children and we are grateful for your support throughout this difficult time.

A highlight of the year was being able to fully re-open our academies in September. It was fantastic to have our academy staff back to welcome our children and provide them with an element of a more normal way of life through the education they are both entitled to and deserve. There were, of course, anxiety and concerns that were shared by parents and staff alike, but through our risk assessments and safety measures, and your observance of these, staff, children and families were all able to return with confidence. We are proud that the procedures we have in place have meant only eight bubble closures across the Trust, with six of our academies being unaffected. All positive cases of COVID-19 have come from outside of our academies and there has been no evidence of any internal transmission within our academies. Where bubbles have closed, we have been able to learn from the experience, tweaking arrangements and risk assessments as necessary, to continue to provide safe, secure environments for our children and staff.

Our strength and successes are underpinned by the collaborative nature of our Trust and this has never been more evident than it has during these past nine months. We have been able to support each other, at all levels, across all academies, learn from each other, and share challenges and ideas. Every member of staff has made a unique contribution and we would like to thank them for the part they have played in the successful reopening of our academies. Collaboration is a key element of the Trust's vision that has helped us work through the difficulties of the pandemic, whilst also moving the Trust forward for the benefit of all of our children.

Our families have been very supportive during this time and, although slight changes have been introduced as we continually assess the safety of our academies, these have been understood and accepted. Thank you!

Following our recent survey regarding Friday afternoon closures (for planning, preparation and assessment time for teaching staff), the majority of responses were in favour of the arrangements continuing. Given the uncertainty that we all continue to face, this we help us to ensure our academies remain safe places to be. There will be a further review of the Friday afternoon closure at February half term.

We hope that you all have a chance to relax and enjoy time with your families over the Christmas break.

The Executive Team

Merry Christmas

Cross Farm Infant Academy · Fernhill Primary Academy · The Grove Primary Academy · Hale Nursery & Primary Academy · Holly Lodge Primary Academy · Lakeside Nursery & Primary Academy · Mytchett Primary & Nursery Academy · Sandringham Infant & Nursery Academy · Wyke Primary Academy

Proud to be supporting:
Phyllis Tuckwell

Elf & Reindeer Runs!

It has been fantastic to see so many of our children - and staff! - getting out in the fresh air and raising money for such a good cause!

Fernhill have raised an incredible £1200! We can't wait to find out the total raised across the Trust!

Family Hub

My name is Kate Beer and I am the Inclusion & Welfare Officer for all of the academies in the Kite Academy Trust. My role is to provide the academy, as well as our parents and carers, with support and advice in all aspects of attendance.

This year has been a very different and challenging one! Being in the midst of a global pandemic, and the natural worries it causes is not something any of us expected to be living through. I am delighted though that the overall attendance in all Kite academies is far above the national average.

As we are in the middle of the cold and cough season, it can be difficult to judge when your child should or shouldn't be attending school. If your child presents with any COVID-19 related symptoms, they will be asked to stay at home until they receive a negative test, or they have completed 10 days isolation. If they are in isolation due to a family member testing positive, this extends to 14 days. The main symptoms for COVID-19 are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough – coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

If your child appears to have a cold or any other minor ailment, and does not have any COVID-19 symptoms, they can attend school as normal.

The Department for Education has created a new attendance code for children who are off school specifically for COVID-19 related issues. If you are given, or request a copy of your child's attendance register from their academy, these absences will be shown with an X code. X coded absences do not have a negative impact on your child's attendance levels. The child must, however, be displaying at least one of the above symptoms and be either in isolation or awaiting a test result for themselves to have an X code. The other reasons for an X code are when the child is isolating whilst waiting for a family member's test result (from the same household), or they have been contacted as being in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person (Track & Trace).

If your child receives a negative test result, but is still too unwell to attend school, then their code will be changed to I (illness), until they are well enough to return.

We pride ourselves that we maintain fantastic attendance levels throughout the academies. These are monitored weekly, and if at any point the attendance levels become a cause for concern, we will notify you in writing or by phone call. We will then monitor the situation until it reaches an acceptable standard of over 95%.

If as a parent or carer you have any concerns or questions in relation to attendance, please contact your Academy directly - I am on hand to assist wherever I can.

0 days off school	100%	Perfect!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	98%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight concern
Equates to 13 days off school each year	93%	Improvement required
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very concerned

Mytchett are rising to the **WOW** challenge! Each day the children have been tracking how they come to school. Congratulations to Year 4 Kingfisher Class who are 85% active by either walking, scooting or parking and striding.

Unable to go on their trip to Pizza Express, Year 3 Nightingales brought Pizza Express to them, Mytchett-style! **Viva Italia!**

Learning Together

At Holly Lodge, the children have participated in Surrey's Trees for Schools campaign, part of Surrey County Council's ambitious target to facilitate the planting of 1.2 million trees by 2030. Holly Lodge received trees from SCC and the Woodland Trust, planting them on the school field and allotment.

Year 5 have been learning about the Tudors this term. On Tudor day, they came to school in Tudor dress, and enjoyed learning about the food, dancing and history.

Unable to put on their annual festive concert at Cedar Lodge, the Holly Lodge Choir have exchanged Christmas wishes with the residents at Cedar Lodge. The children were delighted to receive messages from the residents and replied back to bring some Christmas cheer and let them know they were thinking of them at this time of year.

At Fernhill, all children took part in acts of remembrance to mark November 11th and, while classes couldn't get together as usual, Year 6 created a special display on the school fence to remember and say thank you to all those who have risked or given their lives so that we can live in peace. The Year 6 children also made friendship bracelets to mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week.

Learning Together

At Lakeside, the children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 enjoyed Nursery Rhyme week—a week full of rhyming activities. We explored a variety of classic Nursery Rhymes such as, Humpty Dumpty, Baa Baa Black Sheep and The Wheels on the Bus. Year 1 were faced with a Humpty Dumpty crime scene! They wrote police reports and explored different materials to keep the egg safe. They tested their safety jackets using real eggs. There were a few successes, but some eggs were smashed in the process!

At Hale, to make this Christmas magical despite the year's challenges, all the children have been very busy making wonderful decorations. They have truly decked the Hale!

Learning Together

At Cross Farm, the children have continued to celebrate Marvellous Mondays! Mondays are the most exciting day of the week, with themed activities and learning. Recently, the children learnt about Saint Nicholas and the giving of gifts. All the children received a gift to hang on our Christmas Tree and will take these home at the end of this term. Our Christmas Tree was kindly donated by Longacres Garden Centre Bagshot.

Christmas Performances have been a little different this year, but the children have enjoyed sharing stories, singing Christmas songs and using instruments to create a wonderful Christmas experience that was shared with parents through Tapestry.

Christmas Jumper Day was a lot of fun, with Mr Titley-Rawson stealing the show!

At Sandringham, the children celebrated Marvellous Maths Week - thinking about how we use maths everyday and enjoying a week full of maths problem solving, reasoning and other exciting maths tasks!

At The Grove, Year 4 have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians, including pharaohs and mummification! In art, they have designed and made canopic jars using old water bottles, papier maché and clay. In maths, the children learnt to read and use hieroglyphs to work out mathematical problems. They then made posters about themselves in hieroglyphs. They also learned how to play Egyptian games such as Senet and Grabfoot.

Learning Together

At Wyke, the children have been exploring their creativity! Each child created a wooden decoration for the Christmas tree. Year 2 tested various materials, designed and made waterproof and warm outfits for Santa's Elves. Year 4 created Viking Longboats from clay. Year 6 wrote World War 1 poetry.

Kite Heroes

Lynn Pople celebrated 35 years of working at Cross Farm. Lynn has been a huge asset to the academy and has helped in numerous roles over the years, impacting so many children's lives. Thank you Lynn for your dedication to Cross Farm.

Our staff truly set us apart with their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to providing the very best for every child. It is wonderful to be able to celebrate some of our particularly dedicated staff who have given incredible years of service to our academies and the many, many children they have supported. *Thank you!*

Tricia Lucas has worn many 'hats' over her 25 years at Mytchett—nursery practitioner, ELSA and leader of needlework club. With her kind, caring and compassionate nature, Mrs Lucas is respected by the whole team and remains a key part of everything the school represents.

Stewart Clark has been Site Manager at Hale for 30 years. Nothing is ever too much for him, he always go the extra mile and takes tremendous pride in his work. The children love his teddy treasure hunts and topiary creations. Hale would be lost without him!

Spring Term 2021 Timetable

Family Hub

Come and Ask sessions

Our FSW team will be holding Come and Ask sessions fortnightly during the spring term. One-hour appointment slots are available every other Thursday morning between 9:00am and 1:30pm. All appointments are booked via Eventbrite using the below link.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kite-fsw-come-ask-tickets-132099070877

Dates for sessions are:

Thursday 14th January 2021
Thursday 28th January 2021
Thursday 11th February 2021
Thursday 25th February2021
Thursday 11th March 2021
Thursday 25th March 2021

If you would like to attend a Come and Ask session but are unable to do so on a Thursday morning, please contact fsw@kite.academy.

Parent/Carer Workshop

Routines to support children at home

This session will support parents and carers to understand the need for clear and consistent routines for children. We will explore how to set these up and implement them. Routine examples within the session will focus on the below but will be transferable to other elements of home life.

- mornings
- home learning
- bedtimes

Dates:

Tuesday 16th March 9:30am – 10:30am or
Wednesday 17th March 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Booking: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/routines-to-support-children-at-home-tickets-132104043751

These will be a virtual session delivered via a Microsoft Live Event. You do not need a Microsoft account to be able to access the sessions.

Family Links Nurturing Programme

The Nurturing Programme is a 10-week parenting course that looks at family life in a thoughtful and fun way. It helps support positive behaviour in children and goes much further than that by looking at the emotional needs behind our children's behaviour.

The Nurturing Programme benefits both children and parents by:

- improving mental well-being
- improving the child's behaviour
- improving family relationships
- improves the child's long term educational and future prospects
- building self-esteem
- developing communication and social skills
- teaching positive ways to improve resolve conflict
- encouraging parents to take time for themselves

Dates: Starts Monday 11th January 2021 for 10 weeks.
Jan 11th, 18th, 25th – Feb 1st, 22nd – March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Time: 9:30am – 11:00am

Venue: This will be held virtually - via Microsoft Teams (You do not need to have a Microsoft account)

Booking: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-links-nurturing-programme-tickets-132145501753

Merry Christmas

We hope that you enjoy the festive break and wish you all a very happy, healthy New Year!

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