

Newsletter 13:

Summer Term 2021



**A Message from Susannah Connell,
CEO, The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust**

This has certainly been a year of highs and lows. I think if anyone had had a crystal ball and told me what was to come, I still would not have believed them. However, saying that, I think our whole community has really pulled together and done everything possible to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

I know I say this in every newsletter, but can I once again extend a huge thank you to all the wonderful staff in the Trust, including all those that work in the background to keep things running smoothly - they have all truly worked their socks off this year. I think parents will all agree that everyone has continued to put the pupils first and adapted so well to the challenges we have faced. Alongside this can we say a big thank you to all the parents, carers, families and pupils for their support throughout this whole process. We are by no means at the end of this but together we will pull through and continue to be the strong team that we have always been.

Good Luck to all our leavers. To the children in Year 4 and Year 6 we wish you well at your new schools. To the Year 11 at King James, you have come out of the current situation stronger, and the sky is the limit for you. We are proud of you all and wish you the very best for your future. We all look forward to welcoming you back to catch up on how you are progressing.

Finally, can I wish you all an amazing summer break, you deserve it. We will see you again on Thursday 2nd September, so until then, on behalf of everyone at The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust, thank you for your continued support, positive feedback and kind messages.

Kind regards

Susannah Connell, CEO

Braybrook



Children in Emerald Class worked with local company 'Up the Garden Bath' who take old bathtubs and turn them into garden planters! They had an amazing morning learning about nature, wildlife, gardening and recycling. All children had the opportunity to choose and plant some beautiful flowers into their **new ladybird bath tub**, and worked hard tending to their tub over the rest of this term to keep it looking stunning. This will be enjoyed by the Braybrook community for many years to come.

During lockdown we took part in the **Peterborough Reads** campaign through the 'Doorstep to Digital' project, an initiative supported by the National Lottery Community Fund to inspire local families to fall in love with reading. Lots of our families took part, enjoying author live sessions, free books and resources to get children excited about reading. Because of the high engagement of our families, **we won the City-wide prize of a one-off special performance by Jason Fenn – Magic Man**. Jet Class loved it and had so much fun!



Our Year Five and Six classes had their **residential trip to Kingswood** at the end of June. They had the opportunity to challenge themselves on the high ropes, abseiling, rock climbing, archery and the 'Leap of Faith' amongst many other fantastic activities. The group enjoyed an excursion to the beach as well as a cosy evening around the campfire. Everyone on the trip challenged themselves and encouraged all their team members to do the same. Children came home happy and proud of what they had achieved.



Glebelands

Here at Glebelands we have had a really productive Summer Term. The children came back ready to learn and teachers were able to crack on apace. We are particularly delighted with some of the writing we are seeing around school, with Year 1 and Year 4 being particular highlights. Everyone



has been relieved to get the curriculum back on track and both teachers and children have worked really hard to ensure that the outcomes are as close to expected as possible. Year 3 were particularly inspired by their chocolate topic – and who wouldn't be! We still have a little ground to make up in places but thanks to great teamwork with parents through the remote learning phases the COVID damage has been minimised. We hope that we will be seeing much less of the virus in the new school year but we're prepared if it dares to raise its head again!



EYFS have loved getting back into PE. In summer 2020 and earlier this year they had missed all the swinging, climbing, swimming and biking that creates the shoulder strength and stability to write. They have worked really hard to make up for lost time in these really important areas.



The children thoroughly enjoyed their sports days and threw themselves into the activities on offer. All of the classes took part during the Glebelands Olympic fortnight, and each class's points contributed to the medal table. It was strange not to have parents cheering everyone on, but everyone still put everything into all of the events.

We are now looking forward to the new school year. We are having quite a big change around in the hope that we can dive into a positive year and put the last two behind us. I am sure they will have a key place in world history but like everyone else, we would like to put them firmly in the past.

Gorefield



It has been a busy term at Gorefield. Children have enjoyed getting back to some of the more normal activities. The most exciting thing has been that our swimming pool has been recommissioned and all the children have enjoyed regular swimming over this half term. We have some super swimmers at Gorefield!

Our Year 1 and 2 class were able to go on a trip to Old Hunstanton which they thoroughly enjoyed, and the weather was kind. Our Year 6 pupils learned how to ride safely through the Bikeability course and enjoyed getting out and about riding round the village.



There has been lots of harvesting of the fruit and vegetables that pupils had previously planted and have nurtured over the months. This included carrots, potatoes, tomatoes and strawberries plus lots of flowers. Reception Children were amazed to see the carrots that they had sown be harvested, and the potato crop was harvested, cooked and tasted.



Of course, everyone has also been working very hard and in particular children have been honing their writing skills following the introduction of our new approach to teaching writing using the 'Jane Considine' Method. Our Year 5 and year 6 have produced some amazing writing around the Antarctic, as part of their learning all about this.

As with all schools in the Trust, pupils undertook assessments and staff have been busy marking these and writing reports. We are pleased to say that there has been good progress across the school. Thank you and well done to everyone for all their hard work this term.

Eagles Class Learning about Chromatography as part of secondary transition activities.



Great Staughton



What a crazy year we have all experienced! But we were pleased to be able to host our school Sports Day, which enabled us to bring the whole school together, albeit socially distanced! Our Mars class children had a fabulous time running lots of different races, with our Reception children really enjoying taking part in their first school Sports Day. The children in Mars class competed brilliantly and demonstrated some fantastic sportsmanship. They enjoyed racing with eggs and spoons, bean bag balance and bean bag hoop throw, hurdles and a long distance run. Our Jupiter and Saturn class children challenged themselves in their running race, hurdles sprints, football relays and long distance race. Whilst parents were unable to join us at this event this year, it was still lovely to hear so many parents comment on how much their children had really enjoyed all of the events. Well done Pearson for winning the cup again this year, but we also want to say a big well done to **all** of our children! They have shown resilience, perseverance and real team spirit. They all should be very proud of themselves.



Our end of term performance is **The Wizard of Oz**, with our children all working hard learning their lines and the songs. The enthusiasm that is being put into their performances, including some solos songs is amazing. We are all very proud of how the children are putting their heart and soul into their roles, we definitely have some budding actors in our school! We would also like to say a big thank you to some amazing parents who have produced some costumes fit for a West End show.



Kimbolton



Our Sports Day was very special this year - we saw children holding hands with each other; faster runners seeing slower runners round; children cheering others on and congratulating teams from different houses. They were competitive, determined, supportive and tenacious. It was such a joy! **Congratulations** to Montagu who were our overall winners!



SAWG Week: through creative use of science in the classroom children realise that science, the arts, writing and geography are interconnected as they discover new and exciting ways of looking at the world. Here is a display from Ash Class looking at plastic pollution and the impact this is having on the sea creatures.

Special thanks to Mrs Duncan for obtaining the prestigious and honoured **Rainbow Flag Award** from The Kite Trust for our school. We were the first Cambridgeshire school to renew the Award. We have been very impressed with the mature and empathetic attitude of all our pupils during this process. We are proud of them all and of the future members of society they will become.



Our Year 6 children were invited to a "Posh Picnic Party" after school to celebrate the end of their primary school years journey. They all said what a wonderful time they had and didn't want the evening to end!



King James Academy Royston

The summer term has provided plenty of exciting enrichment opportunities in Key Stage 2 at King James Academy, Royston. Years 5 and 6 were fortunate to receive an invitation to take a virtual tour of Parliament. They saw and learned about the history and functions of both the Houses of Commons and Lords. At the end of the session, Sir Oliver Heald, MP for Royston, joined the classes by video and answered a number of pertinent - and sometimes difficult - questions posed by children. Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed the book "Gaslight" and were delighted to meet with its author Eloise Williams for a virtual Q&A session.



KS4 History pupils visited Framlingham castle as part of their GCSE course. Despite the rain, they worked hard and saw for themselves the castle they have been studying.

KS3 Design and Technology students have been busy in the kitchen preparing curries. We made our own spice mixes and the results were delicious!



Our Art Department welcomed year 9 students into the GCSE Art class of 2021-23 on Tuesday 20th July. We went on an Art Walk from our school to the Heath, a local landmark, stopping to do some speed sketching. Students took part in a Photography Challenge and experimented with printmaking using the etching press. Our students were a credit to the school and made an excellent start to the course. We can't wait to welcome them back to school in September!



Our KS2 catering team and pupils have planted a herb garden which they will maintain and use in creating our delicious school dinners.

Leverington



We celebrated **Arts Week** focussed on the theme of 'Our Heroes', linked to the book One Hundred Steps about Captain Sir Tom Moore, and to celebrate a return to more normal times. Each class was given an inspirational quote to focus on, such as 'The first step is always the hardest, but unless you take that first step you never finish', 'you can do and be anything you want' and 'every day can be an adventure!' They completed art activities linked to their quote which will be displayed in school. Our Year 5 and 6 children even composed and recorded their own song called 'Our Hero' with 20Twenty Productions.



Although we couldn't hold Sports Day as we normally would, each class still had a fantastic time competing against their 'bubble' in a competitive sports afternoon led by POSH. Children enjoyed races such as the flat race, hurdles, egg and spoon and newspaper race. All children received a certificate for taking part and we celebrated our winners for each race too! To finish the day, they enjoyed ice creams.

Unfortunately, the annual Wisbech Reads event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic however our Year 1 children were lucky enough to enjoy a live zoom session with Robert Starling, the author of 'Super Sloth'. He spoke to them about creating their own superhero based on their favourite animal and then they made their own comic strips. All children received a signed copy of the book and gained their Discover Arts Award through 20Twenty.

Year 6 are currently enjoying the great outdoors as they have finally been able to take part in the highly anticipated residential trip at PGL Caythorpe Court. They are all enjoying their stay in tents and taking part in activities such as abseiling, zip wire and the high ropes. It is a wonderful way to round off their time with us at Leverington.

Middlefield



Lockdown has not diluted our sense of community. We continue our Friday Zoom celebration assemblies with parents attending. Reading is high on the achievement list: so many children have reached 1,000,000 words this year, with some children reading 100 books! Our PTA have continued to support us with events, the most recent being 'Middlefield Little Legs Challenge' where £1000 was raised for the school from the miles the children clocked up!

The annual Young Voices event returned this year. Sadly we were not able to go to the O2, so instead we brought the O2 to us! Year 6 took part in a **Guinness World Record Attempt for the largest simultaneous sing-along** with the charity single 'Lovely Day', joining thousands of other schools and choirs around the world to sing together, all conducted LIVE from the O2. We made the day extra special, with a few chocolate biscuits and even a dance competition, and they sang their hearts out!

Year 5 took part in Keep Britain Tidy's '**Great Big School Clean**'. They did their bit for the community by litter picking at Pocket Park. The council provided the children with some litter pickers, and off they went – great job Year 5!



The excitement of going on a coach...and on a school trip! The children's faces as they approached the coach were a picture! KS1 had a wonderful time at Woburn Safari Park, and EYFS had fun at Hamerton Zoo. KS2 also enjoyed their trips to Go Ape, Paradise Park and of course, Hilltop.



We will be saying a sad goodbye to Mrs Cornell at the end of term as she is retiring. She will be sorely missed, as will Harold her tortoise!



Murrow

We have had a great term; it has flown by! We have continued to work with Commando Matt – he has challenged us to work as a team and also to communicate effectively.



Class two went to Hunstanton beach for a day at the seaside. This fitted in with their topic work. They made sandcastles, ate ice-creams, learned about the cliffs and had a lot of fun.

The whole school had two days dedicated to sport. POSH organised our sports day competition – we challenged ourselves and truly enjoyed being outside with our friends having fun.

Children in Class 4 attended an action-packed residential trip to Grafham Water at the beginning of this term. It is safe to say that they were all absolutely exhausted upon their return. They all had a fabulous time and were proud of their accomplishments whilst they were there.



Pippin has settled so well into school life, from hearing children read, playing football, stealing pen lids, playing with her Gruffalo toy... etc. She also listened intently to our singing performance on our outdoor stage. The children have been so inspired by Pippin, and have been drawing portraits of her as well as writing about her adventures around the school.

Roman Way



Aspirations Week

Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 took part in Aspirations Week. The children came to school dressed as who they would like to work as or as someone who inspired them. Many of our parents spoke to the children on Zoom about the jobs they do.



Green Fingers in Nursery

Our Nursery children have been growing flowers and vegetables from seed. The sunflowers are almost as tall as the adults, and we are looking forward to runner beans for tea.

Measuring Capacity

Our Year 2 children measured capacity in their maths lessons and their teacher came up with the idea of filling some old tyres with soil, in which they planted flowers and herbs. They look beautiful!



The Round House

All the children took part in a sponsored **Fit and Fun Read 'a' Thon** with a mixture of reading and fitness sessions to raise money for new reading books. Everyone had great fun reading, including books and comics from home. In between the reading sessions, children spent 15 minutes doing a dance session, laps of the playground, circuits including burpees, star jumps and squats, and a special fitness challenge from Mr Franco. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and there were certainly a lot of tired children by the end of the day. We are looking forward to spending the money raised on some fantastic new books.



Year 6 rounded off their year with a performance of **Aladdin**. They had been rehearsing hard, and it was recorded so that all the parents could see it. It was a fabulous production, with some great individual and ensemble performances.

Trips - we are so pleased that we were able to provide trips away from school for the

children. Reception visited Paxton Pits for pond dipping and exploring, KS1 went to Whipsnade Zoo to see some of the animals they have been learning about in their Africa topic, and Year 3 headed to Hunstanton Beach where they enjoyed paddling in the sea and other activities. Year 4 were very brave on their aerial adventure at Go Ape, and Year 5 travelled to London on the train and took the Tube to the Science Museum. Year 6 are really looking forward to their residential trip to Hilltop to finish off their time at primary school.



Thomas Eaton

At Thomas Eaton Primary Academy we have been making the most of the drier days and warmer weather!

Our pupils in years Two and Three have been investigating plant growth and learning the processes of fair testing. We were very fortunate to have received support from March Rotary Club who provided the school with a new "potting shed", wooden planters and tools, and many of our children have enjoyed watering, planting and weeding. The results are very pleasing on the eye and have brightened some of the more dreary wet weather days.



Our Year six have worked hard all year and are currently busy rehearsing for their Leavers' Assembly. Last week they enjoyed a visit to Gulliver's World where they experienced all the rides on offer. In their words it was:

Fun! Awesome! Superb!



Winhills

We have had a fantastic term at Winhills. I would like to thank the children, families and staff for all their hard work over the last term and year. Together, we have ensured that the children continued to receive a fantastic education.



Over the last part of term, it has finally been possible to take the children on trips out of school. The children certainly have been very excited! Year 5 went to London to visit Kew gardens, where they explored the children's garden and glasshouses. The children were complimented by a member of the public on how well behaved they were.



Topaz and Opal class absolutely loved their trip to Paxton Pits, especially the pond dipping, and came back with stories all about their adventures.

Year 1 and 2 had a wonderful visit to Woburn. The children went on a mini 'safari' on the coach seeing some of the big animals such as the lions, before spending the afternoon in the zoo. The meerkats

were a highlight. Year 3 and 4 went to Gulliver's Land and got to go on some fabulous rides. It was an experience that they won't forget - I think the staff enjoyed themselves as well!

This is the time of year that we have to say a fond farewell to our Year 6. It has been a hard final year for them with all of the restrictions, but they have been fantastic. They have just returned from a residential at Hilltop, and have had a great last few days in school where they had a 'Leavers' Party' and a final reward day. We certainly will miss them and wish them all the best in the future.



Wintringham



Wintringham held our first **Sports Day** in our new school and thoroughly enjoyed the experience on such a huge sports field. Sadly we were unable to invite parents to watch this year, but we are looking forward to them cheering the children on next year. The children were also delighted to be invited by Urban & Civic, the developers of the Wintringham estate, to be the first to try out the new play equipment they have installed. The children had a wonderful time and really enjoyed all of the equipment.



Wintringham Pre-school will be opening its doors for the first time in September. We have received lots of applications and the staff are busy preparing for the start of term. We can't wait to welcome all the new children to the Wintringham community.

Our **sponsored Read-a-thon**, raising money towards new books for the school, was a huge success. There was lots of reading, star jumps, dancing and running taking place! We are looking forward to choosing the new books for the children.



The Reception children have been on their first ever school trip, to **Paxton Pits Nature Reserve**. They enjoyed travelling on the coach and proved to be talented birdwatchers, minibeast hunters, pond dippers and otter holt builders! Years 1 and 2 visited **Whipsnade Zoo**. They also enjoyed the coach journey, and looking at all the different animals, especially going into the butterfly house and being close enough to identify the different types of butterflies.





A huge thank you to all the course facilitators, mentors and consultants who have spent time this academic year supporting and training others whilst managing their own teaching and leadership commitments.

We have continued to write and lead remote training sessions for teachers and teaching assistants across the DLPT and local area this term, and in total we have welcomed over 1000 people to our courses throughout the year.



New courses are being designed ready to launch in September and we hope to offer a blended model of training. Online courses have meant less travel time for participants but we all miss being in the same room together. It will be great to share excellent practice and ideas face to face again.

Congratulations to our School Direct trainee teachers, who have all qualified this term, gaining Qualified Teacher Status. They are now preparing for their first teaching jobs. We are looking forward to welcoming our next group of trainees in September and will start recruiting for our 2022-23 cohort in October. Anyone interested in training to teach can contact us through our website below.

We are re-branding in September. We will be known as Diamond Education & Professional Learning (Diamond EPL) and still provide high quality training and school to school support.



We are also launching 'Discover', a new portal exclusive to DLPT staff. This will focus on professional learning and support all staff in becoming more research-led and evidence-based in their work.



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