



Newsletter 25: Summer Term 2025

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

As I prepare to retire I want to take a moment to reflect, not just on my time at The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust, but on the journey that brought me here.

My desire to be a teacher, began as a young child.

However at school, I never passed a maths exam beyond a CSE, which is below a grade D at GCSE. Even though I loved maths, numbers and calculations, I struggled because 'the words just got in the way'. At the time Dyslexia was not widely recognised, so for me as a child with dyslexia, I simply had to work ten times as hard just to 'keep up'.

My parents were proud and hardworking, but money was always tight. If the bills were paid, it was then a balancing act to buy food and not much was left over. When I say "I ate what I was given," it wasn't about manners; it was because there wasn't another option. "If you don't eat up, you go hungry".

Things started to look up when my dad was promoted and got a pay rise however, around the same time, he developed severe back pain. When he finally went to the doctor, we were told he had stage 4 cancer. He died at the age of 45. I was 18 years old and my younger sister was just 8.

It was not the best time in my life. I failed my A Levels and in order to help pay the bills and keep our family afloat, I took a job as a trainee manager in a department store.

However, my desire to become a teacher was stronger than ever, so I embarked on what became an eight year journey. As I did not have A Levels and needed to keep working full time, the only way to fulfil my dream was studying with The Open University. I began with a science foundation course and discovered I loved physics. I later realised my favourite subject, and the one I enjoyed the most, was maths, so I started again. I took a maths foundation course and slowly but surely, seven years after I began, earned my maths degree.

At the time, The Open University had just launched a course for a teaching qualification and in 1998, I gained Qualified Teacher Status, QTS. At last I could begin my career in teaching.

Why am I telling you all this?

Because nothing worthwhile is ever easy. No one hands you success on a plate — you have to work for it. My teachers wrote me off as, "lovely but lazy" and "easily distracted." To be honest, that shaped me. It made me determined to prove them wrong and even more determined to succeed.

I never wanted to be anything more than a classroom teacher, but once I got there, I kept seeing children facing barriers. I felt the only way to make a significant difference for all children, was to become a school leader.

The best years of my career were when I was a Year 6 teacher. I will always be grateful to my first mentor, Loretta Frain, who taught me to fight for what is right for children. I will always be proud of the pupils I have worked with and love seeing how they have grown into amazing adults. Mike Little, who was in my very first class when I was training, is now a Paramedic Operations Commander. Cherry Hills, in my first maths group, now runs her own business and is devoted to improving children's mental health and makes the most fabulous cakes.

When I became headteacher of Middlefield, the school was struggling, but with a lot of good people working very hard, we moved the school to 'Outstanding'. When the opportunity came to be the Headteacher of Winhills, I remember thinking, why should the children at Winhills not have the same opportunities as those at Middlefield? Even though everyone had written the school off, because it had been identified as one of the 200 worst schools in the country, I was determined to make a difference.

And that is why our Trust was born.

We are now 15 schools strong and every single one came with specific challenges. I can put my hand on my heart and say that now, every school in The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust is in a better place now than when it joined us.

Why this walk down memory lane? Because I want to say thank you.

Thank you for the education I received, which enabled me to have the best job in the world.

Thank you to the 4,000 Diamond pupils. Remember, always keep going and keep believing, no matter how hard or how long the journey to reach your dreams may be.

Thank you to every member of staff with whom I've worked. Whatever your role, you have worked tirelessly to ensure our children have the very best education.

And thank you, to all of you the parents who have the hardest job of all, especially when your children are facing challenges which at times can feel so very difficult. Challenges can play a crucial role in personal growth, by fostering resilience and patience, by developing a stronger sense of self, by building confidence and compassion and acquiring valuable life-long skills.

As I leave my role as CEO of DLPT and 27 years of working in education, I want to sign off with this final message:

*"From my own experience, both personal and professional, I'd say that at times, it's O.K. to let our children face some challenges. Indeed, that's often been the place where growth and learning begins".*

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DLPT' or similar, written in a cursive style.



## Braybrook

Looking back across the summer term, our time at Braybrook has been filled with a rich variety of learning experiences, creative opportunities, and moments of exciting learning.



One particularly memorable experience was a visit from the Britten Sinfonia orchestra, who performed their musical story *Geoffrey Gets the Jitters* for our Reception to Year 3 children. It was an enchanting event where pupils were introduced to a range of orchestral instruments, and their enthusiasm was clear as they joined in with singing, dancing, and actions.

Year 4 enjoyed an unforgettable day at Burghley House, where they stepped back in time to the Tudor era. They met 'Henry VIII', explored hidden staircases and secret doors, and even discovered some rather unusual Tudor foods – including turtles!



Our termly Passport to the World day once again offered pupils the chance to explore a wide variety of countries, cultures and languages. It was a day full of creativity, with music, art, and research all playing a part.



We were delighted to welcome Kingsley Nebechi, an award-winning Nigerian-Italian illustrator and graphic designer, who worked with our Reception to Year 3 children. Kingsley, who has collaborated with major names such as Nike, the BBC, Disney, and the Premier League, spoke about his journey as an artist and inspired our pupils to create their own artwork in his vibrant and distinctive style.

Year 3 deepened their understanding of food origins with a fantastic visit to Nene Park, where they explored how land is used to grow food and how biodiversity can be supported. They used maps to explore the park, examined soil samples, identified plants, and even made seed bombs – a wonderfully hands-on way to connect classroom learning with the natural world.

Meanwhile, our Year 1 and 2 children took a trip to the seaside and visited the Sea Life Centre in Hunstanton. They learned more about marine animals and their habitats and had the chance to experience the beautiful Norfolk coast as part of their topic on seaside environments. It was a joyful day that combined discovery, learning, and plenty of smiles.

Alongside all these learning opportunities, we have continued to enjoy a lively and varied calendar of events. From sporting fixtures and VE Day celebrations to PTFA-organised Father's Day teas and our much-loved Summer Fair, the term has been full of energy and community spirit.



As we head into the summer holidays, I would like to thank all our pupils, families, and staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and continued support. It has been a term to be proud of, and we now look forward to a well-earned rest before we begin another exciting year together in September.



## Burrowmoor

Burrowmoor in the Summer

So far this term we have been very busy both inside and outside.

Our children have represented the school in a number of sporting competitions. They have been to POSH in Peterborough for a football tournament, athletics in March and also have represented the school at the Diamond Learning Partnership Trust – FENLAND swimming gala. Children focussed on being resilient and working as part of a team.



Our forest school has been in use all term too. We have had sessions with all year groups and our Year 6s were especially glad to have their turn. Every week two additional groups are taken to the area to learn Bushcraft and one Saturday in June, we teamed up with 20Twenty Productions and had a FUDGE Day for our Dad's on the weekend of Father's Day. Fudge is Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads and Everyone else. There were shmors made and eaten, a fire lit and dens built.

Our year 5 and 6 classes hosted their parents for a Picnic. The children had prepared a MEZE for them to enjoy, it included Koftas, Couscous, Yoghurt/Tzatsiki, Humus and Pitta Breads. The children enjoyed the preparation and our visitors enjoyed eating what they had made.



Our Year 3 and 4 children have been busy with their learning too, one science experiment that they enjoyed was making a representation of the Water cycle using a plastic bag – which they posted onto the windows and were able to see evaporation in action. In Year 1 and 2 we too have spent time in our wonderful Forest school where our work on life cycles has been interesting. We have had so many frogs spawning in the pond we expect to welcome many frogs.

Looking ahead, we have our sports days to enjoy and then at the end of June the whole school is going to Hunstanton for a beach day – sand castles, games on the sand and sea glass hunting are all on the agenda. We wish all our students and friends a happy summer holiday when it comes.

## Glebelands



provide an insight into their work within the community.

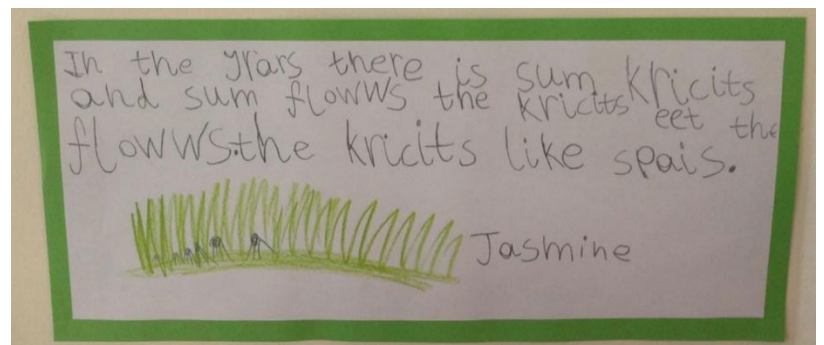
This year has flown by and what fun everyone has had! This term has been jam-packed with exciting trips, and we are so very grateful to businesses (near and far) who have allowed us to experience wide and varied activities. This year, we have continued to forge links with Skanska as they introduced us to another company: Kelly's Groundwork. They came in to celebrate National Bee Day with Year 1 and left us some bee hotels and planters to grow wildflowers in! Burmor Construction – who are building in the local area are also visiting us to

Year 3 and Year 5 have been involved with The Museum of Zoology in Cambridge. Year 6 have also had a brilliant succession of trips: Duxford War Museum, The Playground and a trip to see Wicked were the first three and now they are awaiting their final trip to Wicksteed Park! Year 2 have also been off to a Skills Escalator Day and Year 1 have visited Shepreth Wildlife Park. Year 5 also still have their trip to Chester to look forward to aswell!



We have continued to work on our lunchtimes through following the OPAL scheme. This means that children are given opportunities to experience many types of play – 16 types in fact! We are always looking for exciting new things to offer! Next step, will be welly storage for the wetter months!!

Look at what our reception children can do! This writing just goes to show how much learning they have done this year! Isn't it amazing!?





# Gorefield

*'The magic of summer is in childhood memories and the excitement of creating new ones'*

As we wrap up another wonderful school year here at Gorefield, we want to take a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished.

To mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, each class learned about the events of 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 in a Picture News assembly. Reception and Key Stage 1 helped to decorate the hall for lunch with red, white and blue bunting and Union flags. Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed learning about rationing before writing their own recounts and Years 5 and 6 wrote poems with some children performing these in our VE day assembly.



We have been very fortunate to have 20Twenty Productions visit school to teach Years 3/4 on how to create a stop motion animation on an iPad. The children have learnt how to use onion skinning to improve smooth transitions between frames and have investigated the frame rate and number of frames per animation. They have designed, created and filmed their own backgrounds using Lego characters and we now have a few budding animators in the making!



We immersed ourselves in 'Mixed Media Mash Up day' across school, where each class focussed on a different media to create their own masterpieces. We set up an art gallery to showcase our wonderful creations and sold these as a school fundraiser at the end of the day. Reception collected natural foliage, such as twigs and leaves and painted these in neutral colours before printing on canvas. Years 1/2 were inspired by Henri Matisse and crafted collages using bright paper and bold shapes; layering different materials to create their masterpieces. In years 3/4 it was tie-dyeing T-shirts. First, they dampened their shirt before twisting and scrunching them tight before securing with an elastic band. The children then applied the dye before being put safely in a plastic bag. 24 hours later they rinsed them out. After drying, they attached washing instructions and then they were ready to showcase. And finally years 5/6, were tasked with clay. The children made bespoke trinket trays and handprint bowls which were fabulous souvenirs for their parents to treasure.



We still have a busy few weeks ahead before the end of term with class assemblies, transition days, the Kingswood residential, end of term celebrations, class assemblies and golf day to look forward to!



# Great Staughton

We've recently launched our Creative and Adventurous Play sessions—and they've been a fantastic hit! The children have thoroughly enjoyed inventing their own games and exploring the play shed. These sessions have been wonderful for nurturing their creativity, sparking imagination, and building communication skills with their peers.



Jupiter Class had an absolutely fantastic day at the Botanic Gardens! The children were amazed as they explored a treasure trove of over 8,000 incredible plant species, including nine impressive National Collections and a breathtaking arboretum. It was a day full of wonder, discovery, and excitement!

Mars class had an unforgettable adventure at Hamerton Zoo, where excitement and curiosity filled the air from the moment they arrived! The children were thrilled to see a wide variety of animals up close—from the beautiful tigers and playful meerkats to exotic birds and curious lemurs. They wandered through the zoo's beautifully designed enclosures, learning fascinating facts about each species and their habitats. It was a day packed with discovery, leaving everyone with wonderful memories and a deeper appreciation for wildlife.



We were thrilled to celebrate Access All Arts Week once again this year with an amazing programme of creative experiences for our pupils. The week featured visits from two inspiring artists—a clay sculptor and a watercolour painter—who led hands-on workshops that sparked imagination and creativity. Our children also took part in exciting live lessons in costume design and rap sound production, explored photography, and enjoyed mark-making activities. Lunchtimes were buzzing with art sessions led by our very own artist-in-residence pupils, giving everyone a chance to get involved. A highlight of the week was a captivating theatrical performance, and we rounded off the celebrations with a special community art showcase at a local pub, where the children proudly displayed their work.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible PTA for another fantastic year of fundraising and community spirit. Their dedication and creativity have brought us a wonderful variety of events that not only raised funds but also brought joy to our school community. From school tea towels, Relight My Fire Disco, to Donut/Ice Pop Fridays, the Bangers and Bounce event, the magical Christmas Craft Fair with Santa, Tea and Treats afternoon, Parent Quiz Night, Valentine's Cake Sale, and the ever-popular Break the Rules Day—just to name a few! We truly appreciate every effort, every idea, and every moment of time given. A big thank you as well to all the parents who supported these events—your involvement makes a real difference.

At this time of year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. To make their final weeks truly memorable, they performed in their KS2 musical performance, we held a special leavers' assembly—an emotional occasion filled with smiles, laughter, and a few tears! The celebrations continued with a lovely garden party, where our children joined friends from Kimbolton Primary Academy to share memories and celebrate their journey together. We rounded it all off with an unforgettable trip to Hilltop.



We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and wish them all the very best as they take their next exciting steps in education.



## Kimbolton

We have had a very busy summer term at KPA and even as we all look forward to the summer holidays we are still very busy with lots of events still taking place: our KS2 school production, a summer concert, sports day, Year 6 residential to Hilltop, leavers party and celebrations to mark and goodbyes to be said.



KPA have been very continental too! Miss Chhibber and her French club organised and ran a French café serving croissant, brioche and other French delicacies to parents and pupils to mark the end of the spring term.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA who have paid for the new large, wooden blocks for our new creative adventure play area. Lunchtimes have become a hub of creativity and problem-solving, with children working together to build, explore, inspire teamwork, all through imaginative play.

As part of our Religious Education enrichment activities, the children went on a visit to St Andrew's church for a whole school role-play wedding ceremony. This engaging and educational experience helped deepen the children's understanding of Christian wedding traditions in a fun and memorable way.



Oak class, during their science topic of plants, had an inspiring trip to the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. They explored and saw lots of different flora! They ventured into the green houses before cooling themselves down with an ice lolly after lunch.

As part of our KS1 topic, Amazing Africa, Ash class went on an adventurous experience to Hammerton Zoo so that they could get close to many of the rare, unusual and endangered species of animals and learn about their habitats.





## Primary

This week, we have seen the start of our enterprise challenge, Grow £5 where we task our pupils with taking a £5 investment and grow their money with a product or a service. This year, we have seen so much creativity around the stalls and children have demonstrated superb entrepreneurial flair conducting market research and responding to supply and demand in their pricing structures. In the first week, initial counts suggest the children have raised over £1000!



## Secondary

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks at the Academy, with many achievements to celebrate. Our students have been actively involved in a range of sporting events, including our Year 7 Sports Leaders who successfully managed 120 tennis matches at Royston Tennis Club – a fantastic accomplishment. Year 8 students have also shown great enthusiasm through their involvement in cricket club.

This week marked the final GCSE exams for our Year 11 students. Year 7 students will begin their end-of-year assessments this week. Teachers have been working hard to ensure students are well-prepared.

At King James, we are committed to providing students with opportunities to explore the wider world and their place within it. This term, our Languages Team has played a key role in this by welcoming visiting students and staff from China. Earlier in the year, we hosted French and Spanish exchange visits, and it has been wonderful to see our Languages Ambassadors supporting their peers and making our visitors feel welcome. The Chinese students have now returned to Suzhou after what we hope was a memorable and enriching experience.





## Leverington

As the school year begins to draw to a close, it is an exciting time to look ahead to September in our transition activities but also an opportunity to reflect on all we have achieved this year, and in a busy summer term.

We hosted both our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 sports days before half term while the weather was perfectly sunny! All children showed wonderful determination and sportsmanship to enjoy their races. Key Stage 2 also completed their high jump, throwing and standing long jump athletics events during PE to contribute to their teams' final scores, making the yellow Earps team the 2025 sports champions!



Although the summer term has brought its assessments and checks, we are incredibly proud of our Year 6s for their resilience during SATs week and our Year 1 and Year 4 children for taking their phonics and multiplication checks in their stride. To celebrate the end of these assessments, we hosted a mixed media mash-up day across the whole school. Each class was given an art media that we don't often use across the curriculum to create a masterpiece to sell in our art galleries, hosted after school the following week. Our under-the-sea collages, natural wall hangings, tie-dye t-shirts, personalised prints, photography portraits, clay trinket holders and scented

candles raised over £320!

As well as working hard in school, lots of children have also enjoyed class trips this term. Year 1 had a wonderful day in Hunstanton, visiting the Sealife Centre to see their science and geography learning come to life. Linked with their work on local history, Year 2 also enjoyed a visit to Sandringham to tour the estate. Year 5 had a fantastic day at the National Space Centre in Leicester, where they enjoyed a planetarium show and learned about British, Russian and American space crafts. Year 6 visited the Wisbech fire station to learn about fire, water and online safety, and the crew were kind enough to return the visit with one of their own! The emergency services brought their vehicles to the playground to share what they do with the school.



Thanks to 20Twenty Productions, Years 1, 4 and 5 have taken part in this year's Literacy Festival. Year 4 joined a webinar with author Anne-Marie Howell and received their own copy of her newest book, *The Garden of Lost Secrets*. Years 1 and 5 enjoyed a range of art, drama and book activities at the Wisbech Castle, museum and library as part of the festival too.

We still have lots of exciting events to look forward to as the end of term edges ever closer, including Year 6's residential trip and leavers' celebrations, our summer fayre and transition day activities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and children for their hard work this year, our parents and carers for their support, and wish our Year 6s the best of luck at secondary school in September.

## Middlefield

Life at Middlefield has been extremely busy this term. From trips to bikes, gardening to fundraising, there always seems to be something happening!

Our love of the great outdoors has, as always, been high on the agenda (whatever the weather!). The Honesty table is back with an even greater variety of produce for the school community to access, all grown by the children in our gardens. Excitingly, our efforts were recognised earlier in the term when we achieved both Level 2 and Level 3 Awards in the RHS School Gardening scheme! Level 3 included growing and naming a range of plants, implementing effective techniques to keep the plants healthy and being planet-friendly gardeners, demonstrating a clear plan for sustainability. Huge well done to the children, led expertly by Miss Jarvis and Mrs Barker.



Another outlet for the vegetables we grow is the school kitchen! Diamond Diners are now in charge of school dinners here at Middlefield and benefit from supplies from the garden! The new menus have been well received, particularly the return of the pasta/ jacket potato option!



slept away from home!

The summer term always brings a variety of school trips as the weather warms up and this year has been no exception. It is always a special moment to see the excitement of the EYFS children as they board the coach for their first ever school trip! This year, Shepreth was the venue and the children had a fantastic time looking at and, on occasions, interacting with the animals. The children in Year 4 experienced another first on their trip to Grafham. For many of them, their first residential school trip also represented the first time they had

At Middlefield a love of reading is cherished, valued and nurtured. We are fortunate to have a wonderfully, supportive PTA who also recognise the importance of reading. This term, they supported a Read Anywhere Readathon. All round the school, at various points in the day, children could be found reading in unusual places – the staff room, the EYFS play area, the trim trail, even the headteacher's office! Over £900 was raised through this event, showing that the parents and wider school community values reading as well!



Another example of the fantastic fundraising efforts of the PTA can be seen in the newly renovated bike and scooter area. Previously, the land was just a grassy patch of land but now it has a smart gravelled surface on which proudly sits a covered bike rack and a row of shiny new scooter racks. The children have enjoyed having somewhere so smart to park their transport!



## Murrow

With the end of the school year fast approaching Murrow Primary Academy have been enjoying lots of trips and visits as well as enjoying life in school.

The school was a sea of red, white and blue for VE day and the children represented the school impeccably well at the local war memorial followed by returning to school to enjoy a special dinner menu to celebrate VE day.



Throughout school, we had a 'Mixed Media Mash Up' day and every class was completing their own Art work to sell to our parents during the class Art gallery event. Class art work ranged from natural art, collage, tie dying and clay pot making. The children were thrilled to show their parents their work in their Art galleries.

Year 6 visited the local Fire station and listened carefully to talks about healthy living, water safety, fire safety and online safety with the emergency services. This morning was very informative for the children and they reported they had a wonderful time.

After half term, the school pool was open and children have enjoyed swimming twice a week with their class. The children are developing and securing their water safety and swimming skills each which is wonderful to see. A small group of Key Stage 2 children also represented Murrow Primary Academy at the Diamond Swimming Gala. They had a fantastic time practising and racing. For many children this was their first experience of this – well done everyone.

Parents have been welcomed into school for class assemblies this term and the children have performed with confidence and clarity as well as enjoying the opportunity to display their learning in front of their parents.

Sports day was a great success and following on from years of blue team dominance, red team finally took the trophy – well done red team!



Recently, years 1 and 5 have attending the recent Wisbech Reads Festival where they have met authors and enjoyed the magic of storytelling for the day.

With many more annual final events of the year ahead, it looks set to be a busy run in to the end of the academic year at Murrow Primary Academy!

Have a wonderful Summer everyone!



# Roman Way



## **Aspirations Week Celebrations**

What an exciting week we've had at school celebrating *Aspirations Week*! We welcomed some fantastic guest speakers, including a chef, police officer, delivery driver, physiotherapist, and paramedic, who all spoke about their roles and how they help the community. One of the highlights was seeing the children dress up as their dream job - there were some amazing outfits, from astronauts to artists! We were especially impressed by the thoughtful discussions about jobs that might exist in the future, showing just how imaginative and forward-thinking our pupils are. It was a brilliant week full of ambition, creativity, and inspiration!



## **ARK Farm Visit – A Wonderful Experience for Nursery and Reception**

Our Nursery and Reception children had a fantastic time during a special visit from ARK Farm! The school field was transformed into a mini farmyard, where the children met a variety of animals including a donkey, rabbit, goat, dog, and sheep. Each animal was introduced by the farm team, who shared fun and interesting facts, sparking lots of curious questions from the children. With the support of our amazing parent volunteers - whom we are very grateful to - children were able to stroke and even brush some of the animals. It was a hands-on, memorable experience that brought big smiles and helped the children learn more about caring for animals.



## **Year 3 and 4 Visit to Hertfordshire Zoo**

Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic day out at Hertfordshire Zoo, filled with excitement, laughter, and learning! The children were absolutely thrilled to see animals like penguins, otters, meerkats, and a majestic tiger up close. They showed real bravery visiting the reptile house - every single child faced their fears and got a close look at the snakes and spiders! One of the highlights was the dinosaur trail, where the children squealed with delight as they were splashed by some very cheeky prehistoric creatures. The fun didn't stop there - singing filled the coaches on both journeys, creating a joyful atmosphere from start to finish.



## **Design & Technology Meets Music: A Creative Collaboration**

Roman Way Academy recently hosted an exciting day where Design and Technology seamlessly blended with music, sparking creativity and teamwork across all year groups. Children used everyday materials - such as grains, cereal, lentils, and rice - to craft their own musical instruments, including rain sticks, guitars, and shakers. This hands-on project not only enhanced their understanding of sound and engineering but also encouraged imaginative thinking and problem-solving.



## **Reception's 'Egg Drop' Challenge: A Creative Exploration of Design and Technology**

Reception children were inspired by the storybook *Egg Drop* by Mini Grey, leading them to embark on a hands-on Design and Technology project. In the classroom's designated area, they were tasked with designing protective structures to safeguard an egg from a fall. Utilising materials such as cotton wool, straw, yogurt pots, and bags, the children engaged in creative problem-solving to construct their designs.

## The Round House

### Reception trip to Johnson's

The Reception children had an exciting first school trip to Johnson's Crocodile Farm, and what a memorable day it was! Despite the hot weather, the children showed great enthusiasm as they explored the park and saw a variety of animals, including meerkats, bears, lions, crocodiles, and snakes. Their behaviour throughout the trip was excellent, and they represented the school beautifully. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn more about wildlife and enjoy a fun-filled day out with their classmates.



### Pre-School Forest School



Mrs Claydon, Deputy Lead in Pre-School has recently completed her Forest School training. Since then, Pre-School children have been thoroughly enjoying their Forest School sessions at Auntie's Wood, where they've had the chance to explore nature and take part in some exciting hands-on activities. From making beautiful necklaces and printing on wood with ink and stamps, to climbing trees, trying out the catapult, and even using a saw to cut pieces of wood, the children embraced every opportunity to learn and play. It was wonderful to see everyone listening carefully, helping one another, and showing great care for their friends—true teamwork in action!

### Pizza Express

Year 3 had a fantastic visit to Pizza Express, where they learned all about how to make delicious pizzas from scratch. The children got stuck in, kneading the dough, adding toppings, and discovering what goes into making the perfect pizza. The highlight of the trip was getting to bring their very own freshly made pizzas back to school to enjoy! It was a fun, hands-on experience that combined learning with a tasty reward.



## Thomas Eaton

We are proud to celebrate an exciting and productive summer term at Thomas Eaton Primary Academy full of wonderful new opportunities for our pupils. Here are some of our highlights.

On Friday 21st March, we supported Comic Relief by going retro! The School Council decided to celebrate 40 years of Comic Relief, children and staff will be invited to dress up retro in their best 80s outfits in return for a donation. So, we dusted off the neon leg warmers, shoulder pads and shells suits and went back to the 80s. In keeping with the 40th celebrations, we donned our dancing shoes and boogied away to 40 minutes of 80s tunes! We all had a great day and enjoyed busting our moves in the hall performing the routines, which many members of staff could remember from the original release date!



The summer term has seen exciting developments regarding the enhancement of our lunchtime provision. The local community have been very generous in donating a range of resources including tyres, pallets, rope, scooters, bikes and small world play toys, all of which have been put to good use. Half term saw the introduction of four zones, with two more opening before the end of the academic year. It has been simply wonderful to see the children exploring and enjoying themselves, with many sharing their excitement with their families. There is a real buzz around lunchtimes now and we can't wait to see what is in store for the autumn term.

In order to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day, seven of our pupils had the opportunity to ring the bell at St Peters Church in the village. The children (and Mrs Webb) were naturals, each giving ten tolls of the bell and thoroughly enjoying the experience. The Church community commented on how the children were 'superstars' and we are sure they will remember the part they played in the anniversary for many years to come.



All our pupils (and staff) had the opportunity to journey into space when the Wonderdome visited school. The Wonderdome, which is an inflatable mobile planetarium, provided pupils with an immersive 360° planetarium show. Each class took their turn to view an age appropriate captivating planetarium show, which delivered curriculum-focused topics, led by a presenter. The visit ignited curiosity and sparked a desire to explore and learn more. It was an unforgettable opportunity to bring the marvels of space directly to everyone who stepped through the Wonderdome door and provided the children with an experience they understood, were inspired by and above all will never forget.

Alongside school-based learning, there has also been a number of sporting events which have given a large number of our pupils the opportunity to participate in. A selection of our Year 5 & 6 pupils participated in a cricket tournament at March Cricket club, with other pupils showing great team spirit in the pool during the DLPT swimming gala. Children also attended a netball tournament at our local secondary school and a second swimming gala was held between our cluster schools! It is exhausting just thinking about it!

Finally, we would like to say a fond farewell to our current Year 6 children as they transition to Secondary School. We are extremely proud of every pupil and they will be missed in the TEPA camp. We have no doubt that they will go onto achieve great things and we wish them well in the next stage of their educational journey.

EYFS: This term children have been looking at exhilarating journeys centred around all forms of transport! We explored various travel methods around the globe, imagining how aliens might traverse the universe. The children's creativity soared as they crafted astonishing spacecraft using an array of materials. We also delved into two fantastic books which enriched our learning. 'The Hundred Decker Bus' inspired us to apply our design and technology skills to make our own buses, with the children eagerly using hacksaws. Another favourite, 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch,' motivated us to create beautiful lighthouse paintings. This term has truly been a feast of imagination and learning!



Year 1 and Year 2: One highlight this term was having a visit from History off the Page to learn about life in a mediaeval castle. In the morning, the children learnt about jobs in the castle - from making candles and cooking food to defending the castle walls. In the afternoon, the children celebrated with a banquet where they were served food before watching traditional entertainment, such as jousting, dancing, singing and court jesters. After their very exciting and informative castle day, they have shared so much of what they have learnt through their conversations and their writing.

Year 3 and Year 4: Children have spent time in English planning, writing and editing Beowulf inspired narratives. The gore and detail have impressed all who have read them! Recently in maths, children have worked on calculating money, which is linked to our new theme in PSHE of economic well-being and understanding the pressure of budgeting as well as deciding on necessities rather than desires. Children have really enjoyed our outdoor learning sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. They have engaged in a range of activities that include gardening, planting and weeding, litter picking, scavenger hunts and sketching nature pictures.

Year 5: Within Year 5, children have explored Greek myths and completed lots of writing within English lessons. In maths, children have continued their maths mastery journey through decimals, geometry and consolidated their understanding of statistics. Science had the children researching and exploring the solar system as well as completing practical tasks based on day and night. Children have also started pop-up books in DT as well as completed well-being tasks within PHSE and thinking about finances.

Year 6: We are all super proud of our Year 6 cohort, they were brilliant during the recent SATs week. They thoroughly enjoyed the variety of breakfasts before school. Children had a big push with writing and they completed some fantastic pieces of work showcasing their writing talents. Their excellent re-counts of the story of 'The Selfish Giant' really encompassed the skills which the children have accumulated during their time in Key Stage Two. Recently, the children enjoyed a visit to Kettle's Yard Art Gallery in Cambridge. Here, they were able to appreciate art and sculpture as they sketched and observed some of the many pieces before transferring their favourite sketch onto a monoprint.

Recently, we have had many children attend sporting events with other local schools. Each tournament or festival attended the children have represented Winhills so well – showing great sportsmanship as well as consideration for others within their team. It has been a delight to see these children demonstrate these skills.

We have also had a number of school trips, these included the Space Centre in Leicester, Cadbury's World and Hertfordshire Zoo.





## Wintringham



Our Pre-school children have been busy developing their green fingers with the help of a beautiful new planter, generously designed and donated by Lashley's Landscapes. The children have already enjoyed harvesting some of their homegrown produce, including radishes, lettuce, strawberries, and tayberries and can't wait to use them in their snack times and baking activities!

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Grafham Water. They enjoyed kayaking, Jacobs ladder (high ropes), mountain biking, archery and the infamous Grafham Challenge. The children worked towards 'The National Outdoor Learning Award' which celebrates and captures participation in an outdoor learning environment.



Year 5 had an amazing time on their trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. They started with a visit to the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium, where the children got a taste of what it's like to be an astronaut. They were fascinated by the sights and sounds of space! They then explored rocket parts, expanded their knowledge of the planets, and took part in fun interactive activities — including steering a space buggy!

We also have trips planned to go to Sacrewell Farm for Reception, Whipsnade Zoo for KS1 and the Tower of London for Year 3. Everyone is looking forward to these, not to mention the KS2 performance of Matilda!

Year 3 joined The Round House for a visit from the author S.A. Reyhani, who gave them an insight into her first novel, 'A Sequence of Cosmic Accidents'. The children listened attentively as she described the characters and the adventure they go on. The children also asked her some questions about how she got into writing and where she gets her ideas from.



Year 6 had an inspiring visit from Geoff Watts, a magistrate, who spoke to them about his important role in the justice system. He explained how magistrates help make fair decisions in court. The children asked thoughtful questions and learned a lot about law, responsibility, and making good choices.

## **Governance Recruitment**

### **LGB Recruitment**

The purpose of LGB's is to ensure that all children at our academy schools are receiving a high-quality education and are making rapid progress towards achieving the full extent of their potential, and that the resources available to the academy school are appropriate and deployed effectively.

Our current vacancies are:

Braybrook – Parent LGB Member

Glebelands – Parent LGB Member

Kimbolton – Parent LGB Member

Murrow – Parent LGB Member x 2

King James – Parent Member

We are always looking for Community Members to join our LGB's, if you know of anyone who maybe interested please do contact the Clerk to the Trust Board on the below email address.

### **Trustee Recruitment**

The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust (DLPT) is seeking dedicated and experienced individuals to join our Board of Trustees. DLPT is an academy trust of 15 schools located across northern Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough, educating over 3,500 children with the support of an outstanding workforce of 650 teachers and support staff. DLPT operates a mix of primary-phase schools and one all-through school. We educate children from age 2 to 18. We have a strong track record of improving schools in challenging circumstances, with all our schools now rated 'Good'.

### **Why Join Us?**

As a trustee, you will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our schools and ensuring the best possible educational outcomes for our students. This is a unique opportunity to:

Influence Strategic Direction: Help define the vision, ethos, and strategic direction of DLPT.

- Hold Leaders Accountable: Ensure executive leaders are delivering high educational performance and effective staff management.

- Oversee Financial Performance: Ensure funds are used efficiently to achieve the best educational outcomes.

### **Who We Are Looking For**

We are seeking individuals with expertise in:

- Estates Management

- Finance

- Human Resources

- Secondary Education

While prior experience in the education sector is not required, a strong interest in education and the ability to think strategically across a complex, multi-site operation is essential.

If you would like further information and to register an interest in a role please email [dlptclerk@diamondlearningtrust.com](mailto:dlptclerk@diamondlearningtrust.com) or visit [My New Term](#)



- ◇ Continuous Professional Development & Learning
- ◇ Initial Teacher Training
- ◇ School to School Support

All of our staff are provided with a wide range of professional development opportunities throughout the year, which is a Trust strength. These opportunities both enrich teaching and learning in the classroom to improve outcomes for pupils, and support career progression. In addition to courses and networks, staff have access to support and development in school from Trust Leads and assigned mentors as well as regular Professional Development Meetings, INSET day development and moderation events.

**Testimonials:**

*"Well led and informative"*  
*"Very informative and a nice refresher."*  
*Information was heavily rooted with theory, which is always great to see!"*  
*"Very interactive with lots of potential resources and examples to give to children."*



Our strong and established partnerships with Best Practice Network and the local Teaching School Hub enable us to enhance our offer and deliver National Professional Qualifications and the Early Career Framework. It also means we train teachers from the locality and further afield.



We are also proud to be able to develop school staff through a range of apprenticeships based in the classroom or for the wider workforce. We currently have 12 apprentices across the Trust, which is an increase on previous years. We hope to engage even more staff next academic year.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in researching, writing and facilitating our training events.

We are still a Lead Partner for Initial Teacher Education with the University of Bedfordshire, and welcome trainee teachers from other providers too. These training routes provide trainees with a balance of academic study, formal training and 'on the job' school experience which includes ongoing coaching and mentoring. This year's cohort of teacher trainees have successfully completed their training year with us and secured their first teaching job. We have no doubt they'll go on to make a lasting impact in the lives of the pupils they teach.

A huge thank you to the mentors who support trainees so expertly by helping them develop essential skills and knowledge to become highly effective teachers.

We will start recruiting more trainees in October 2025, so if you or anyone you know would be interested in pursuing a career in teaching, please look at our website for more detailed information or contact us for a discussion about the many teacher training options available.



**Recruitment starts October 2025**

**We are a Lead Partner for Initial Teacher Education.**

**More information:**  
[www.diamondepl.org](http://www.diamondepl.org)  
[info@diamondepl.org](mailto:info@diamondepl.org)