

Stronger Together

Community Newsletter from The Kite Academy Trust

POSITIVITY ▪ INTEGRITY ▪ RESILIENCE ▪ RESPECT ▪ ASPIRATION

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In this issue:

- Nurturing brilliance in the Early Years
- The teams behind the scenes
- The Ferns goes from strength to strength!
- Kite Community Week

The Kite
Academy
Trust
Flying high
together

Welcome from our CEO

Dear Parents, Colleagues and our Kite Community,

As the school year settles into its rhythm, we are delighted to share with you some of the wonderful things happening across our Kite family of schools. This edition is full of uplifting stories and proud moments that reflect the values we hold dear - **positivity, integrity, resilience, respect, and aspiration** - brought to life by our incredible children, dedicated colleagues, and supportive communities. From the fantastic achievements at The Ferns Primary Academy to the inspiring developments in our Early Years settings, and from the behind-the-scenes work of our business teams to the heart-warming success of our very first Kite Community Week, this newsletter offers a glimpse into what makes our Trust unique. This year also marks a major milestone - our **10th anniversary**. It's a moment to reflect on how far we've come and to look ahead with excitement and purpose. Thank you for being such an important part of our journey. Your support, encouragement, and partnership make all the difference.



We truly are stronger together.

Best wishes,

Jeremy Meek

Chief Executive Officer

One Strategy, One Vision, One Team

Over the past six months, we have undertaken a Trust-wide consultation to shape a unified strategy for the future of The Kite Academy Trust. This process brought together voices from across our Kite community - **colleagues, governors, Trustees, our parent and carer community** and **other partners** - to co-create a shared strategy that reflects our collective ambition and values. We are proud to now share our four strategic aims with you, our community:

- **Remarkable People** – Investing in, caring for and empowering our exceptional colleagues.
- **Exemplary Education** – Ensuring equity, wellness, belonging and academic excellence for all.
- **Stronger Communities** – Positioning our schools as anchor institutions with deep, purposeful partnerships.
- **Exceptional Services** – Delivering intelligent, sustainable, and high-value support across the Trust.

Within each aim are a series of objectives, outlining specifically what we are collaboratively striving to achieve. Having one Trust strategy is only possible because we work as one Trust team, committed to working in collaboration for the benefit of our pupils. This unified approach ensures that every colleague and every pupil benefits from the same shared expertise, high standards and collective strength - regardless of which academy or team they belong to - and places us in the strongest possible position to support every child to achieve our shared Trust vision: **for every pupil to be happy and healthy; to contribute positively to their communities and achieve academic excellence.**

This strategy is more than a plan - it's a **promise**. A promise that together, we will continue to grow, improve, and thrive as **one Kite community** for the benefit of **every child**.



Nurturing Brilliance in the Early Years

At The Kite Academy Trust, we know that the Early Years are a precious time in every child's life - a time for **discovery, joy**, and **feeling truly cared for**. That's why the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** is a prioritised focus across all our academies, reflecting our deep commitment to giving every child the very best start.

Over the past two years, we have also invested significantly in our settings; with our incredible EYFS and Estates teams working together to **reimagine** and **revitalise** our Early Years environments, we have created even more beautiful, purposeful spaces for our children to explore, play and learn together. Just this year, these teams have fully redesigned and rebuilt the **outdoor spaces** at both **Folly Hill** and **The Ferns** whilst also adding a purpose built mud kitchen at **Holly Lodge** and bespoke landscaping at **Mytchett**. With many more exciting projects still to come, we are committed to ensuring that every setting reflects our belief in the power of play and connection.



Matt Swain
Director of Education



Nurturing Brilliance in the Early Years



Katie Lye

Trust leader for EYFS & ITT

Amazing settings are essential for purposeful play and learning, but **meaningful interactions** between adults and children are at the heart of great early years practice. Across all of our academies, we prioritise time spent engaging, listening and responding to our children in early years - placing relationships and learning above paperwork and record keeping.

We are incredibly proud to have sector expert - **Katie Lye** - driving this renewed focus, supported by her passionate team of **Early Years Strategic Leaders**. Together, they have worked tirelessly over the last two years to drive standards and ensure that every child is welcomed into a nurturing, inspiring environment where they feel **safe, valued** and **ready to learn**.



We also prioritise the **brilliant people** who care for your children. That's why our teachers and support staff receive regular, high-quality training from our sector expert team and why we are the only local teacher training hub able to offer an Early Years specialist teacher training route.

We also understand that children will need a little **extra support** sometimes, which is why our teams are trained to spot and respond to individual needs early, ensuring **every child** gets the support and care they deserve.



The results of this renewed focus?
Outstanding outcomes, eight glowing Ofsted judgements - and most importantly, thriving children who feel seen, supported, happy and healthy.



Learning through play!

Early Years at The Kite Academy Trust



The Teams behind the Scenes

How Our Business Teams Help Your Child Flourish

Here at The Kite Academy Trust, everything we do is driven by our vision: **for every pupil to be happy and healthy; to contribute positively to their communities and achieve academic excellence.** While teachers and school staff focus on inspiring and supporting your children every day, there's a dedicated team working quietly in the background to make it all possible.

Our specialist teams in Estates, Finance, HR and IT provide the **expertise** and **infrastructure** that enables our academies to thrive. From ensuring robust technology systems and keeping classrooms connected, to safe, well-maintained learning environments, to managing resources effectively and supporting the recruitment and development of exceptional staff, these teams work **tirelessly** to create the conditions that foster success.

By taking care of these essential operational areas, our business services teams allow our Academy Head Teachers, school leaders and staff to focus on what matters most – **the children.** Their work ensures that every classroom is a place where pupils can learn, grow and flourish without distraction. By working **together** in this way, and harnessing the collective power of our collaborative way of working, we are more than just a group of schools – we're a community committed to working **hand in hand** to give every child the best possible start in life.



Dee Hughes
Deputy CEO

The Ferns goes from strength to strength!

The Ferns Primary Academy was delighted to be nominated for - and named as - the **Community School of the Year** at the **Pride of Rushmoor Awards 2025.** This prestigious award was given to the school in recognition of its ongoing commitment to serving our local Kite community in a wide variety of ways over the course of the year. From picking up litter, painting fences, providing artwork for the Princes Mead Shopping Centre, running clothes drives, visiting local care homes to chat to the residents and much, much more - **The Ferns has done it all!**



We could not be prouder of our Ferns' children who continuously demonstrate our Kite values of **positivity, integrity, resilience, respect** and **aspiration**, along with their understanding of the importance of local community, of helping others, of taking care of where we live and receiving the support of the people around you.

Mr Gittins and **Mr Huotari** were incredibly proud to receive this award and the children were delighted to have their efforts recognised by **Mayor Mara** and other local dignitaries. We are delighted to see our vision for our academies to be **cornerstones of their local communities** becoming a reality. It is our belief that schools are so much more than places of learning - they nurture the values, connections and aspirations that help our local areas **thrive.**



Kite Stronger Communities Project

Kite Community Week

July 2025 marked the launch of the very first Kite Community Week - a truly **exciting** and **inspiring** milestone for our Trust. Throughout the week, pupils and staff stepped beyond the classroom and into the heart of their local communities, offering their **time**, **compassion** and **a helping hand** to those around them.

The children took part in a rich variety of meaningful activities, reflecting the creativity and commitment of our academies, which included:

- Litter picking to improve local environments
- Creating care packages for refugee families
- Writing letters, singing songs, and playing games with care home residents
- Baking and delivering sweet treats to spread cheer
- Designing and sharing handmade 'get well soon' cards, joke books, and colourful posters with local hospitals



Jo Ford
Trust Leader



Kite Community Week

In addition to giving back, our pupils were also given the opportunity to **learn more** about their communities.

A wide range of valued guests visited our academies, including representatives from the Rotary Club, the Mayor, local police officers, a nurse, an army officer, religious leaders, and the Fire Service.

These visits provided **powerful insights** into the vital roles these individuals play in society and helped deepen pupils' understanding of community life.





Kite Community Week



Fundraising was another key feature of the week, with mufti days and activities held across the Trust in support of **Chloe and Sophie's Special Ears Fund** - our chosen charitable cause.

Pupils and staff embraced the opportunity to take part and give generously to support children with hearing loss. We are delighted to share that we raised **£2,581.83** for this great cause!

In addition to this Trust-wide effort, individual academies organised their own creative fundraising events, including sponsored scoots and small change art projects. These thoughtful initiatives raised funds for charities that hold special meaning within each school community, reinforcing the **spirit of compassion** and **local connection** that defined the week.



From youngest pupils to seasoned staff, the week was a shining example of the **positive impact** that comes from working together with **purpose** and **empathy**. The success of this first **Kite Community Week** lays a strong foundation for what we hope will become a much-loved annual tradition.



Kite Community Week

Our business services teams also played a valuable role in supporting the week, sharing their expertise and lending a hand beyond their usual roles. They delivered a range of **practical** and **engaging** workshops, covering topics such as CV writing, budgeting, and how to get the most out of your digital camera - **offering useful life skills to community members**.

In addition, team members rolled up their sleeves to take part in landscaping and hedge-trimming projects in the local area, further strengthening our connection with the wider community and demonstrating **a hands-on commitment to making a positive difference**.

Our commitment to digital inclusion continues beyond Community Week, with fully refurbished laptops and iPads available for members of our Kite community to borrow - **free of charge**. This ongoing initiative ensures equitable access to technology and supports learning both in and out of the classroom.

The impact of this week has been inspiring—a powerful reminder of the **kindness, generosity,** and **shared purpose** that unite us. It's been a celebration not only of what we can achieve together, but of what it truly means to be part of a **stronger community**.



Our Kite Values

It is a pleasure to see our shared Kite values of **positivity, integrity, resilience, respect** and **aspiration** shining through in every aspect of academy life across the Trust. Whether in classrooms, corridors, or community events, these values are not just words on a page but principles that guide our every day choices and interactions. We are delighted to see the commitment of children and colleagues alike to embodying these values, and the impact they have on strengthening our '**one team**' ethos, making the Kite such a **positive** and **inspiring** community.

Positivity

We look for the good in everything and everyone
We share positivity with everyone around us
We face challenges with optimism and enthusiasm



Integrity

We take pride in being someone others can rely on
We are committed to doing the right thing
We foster trust through our words and actions



Resilience

We are flexible and willing to adapt to succeed
We embrace every challenge as an opportunity to learn and grow
We are always there to support and encourage one another



Respect

We treat everyone with dignity and kindness
We recognise and value the different identities, knowledge and experiences of one another
We actively speak out against discrimination



Aspiration

We are driven by our ambition to be the best
We work as one team to help one another achieve our goals
We are relentless in our pursuit of excellence and make every minute count





Our Kite Community Partners

Team Around the Trust

This year, we are pleased to be continuing our partnership with Team Around the Trust. Building on the valuable insights gathered from the recent parent survey, we will be tailoring our support more closely to the needs of our families, ensuring that the help we offer is both **targeted** and **meaningful**.



Kite turns 10!

This year marks the **10th anniversary** of The Kite Academy Trust - starting out as five local schools coming together in October 2015, we are now a thriving family of nine primary schools across Surrey and Hampshire.

Over recent years, the Trust has been focussed on driving improvement and raising standards with our shared vision at the heart of everything we do: **for every child to be happy and healthy; to contribute positively to their communities and achieve academic excellence**. In little over two years, we have seen the remarkable power and impact of our unique '**one team**' ethos; by working collaboratively as one team, **every child** in every academy within our Trust benefits from the collective strength, shared commitment and combined expertise of our entire team, ensuring that all of our children **receive an excellent education and an equal opportunity to thrive and succeed in life**.

We are driven by our unwavering commitment to building strong partnerships across our Kite community to enable us all to make a lasting, positive difference in the lives of our young people and the communities we serve. **We truly are stronger together.**

