

in sight

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 **Kingsbridge**
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM
KINGSBRIDGE EDUCATIONAL
TRUST'S SCHOOLS

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 Snow fun at Oakgrove Primary

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A message from Trust CEO Peter Barnes



I hope that everyone had the opportunity to recharge their batteries over the festive period and are excited to embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead in the spring term. If the number of awards, activities and achievements by KET schools during the last term are anything to go by, then I look forward to hearing all about the schools' successes and accomplishments in the coming months.

Oakgrove Secondary began the academic year as the top performing school in Milton Keynes, following the publication of the Department for Education's national performance tables. Huge congratulations to the students and staff. Pupils at the primary had an extremely busy term, with participation in various environmental projects and a visit to MK Innovates, where pupils experienced a unique elevated view of Centre:MK on a Niftilylift raised platform.

The Sunday Times ranked Monkston Primary 65th in England and 13th in the region in the 'Parent Power' top primary school tables. The aggregated average scale scores from the 2019 SATs results were published in the guide in December. A fantastic end to the term for all at Monkston.

Kents Hill Park School were inspected by Ofsted in October and were delighted to receive the news that they were rated as 'Good' overall and 'Good' across all five categories. It was the first-ever full inspection at the school, since it opened in 2018, and is testament to James and his team.

Staff from Middleton Primary braved the cold during the Christmas break to attend a ceremony at The Old Bus Station, where they were presented with an award from the Deputy Mayor. The 'Bikeability School 2022' accolade was in recognition of Middleton's 246 trainee riders who have participated in the scheme.

KET noticeboard is a new feature in this edition. The two-page spread has information, news and opportunities that I hope will be useful.

Please complete the questionnaire that was sent with the digital version of this edition of Insight. I look forward to hearing your views.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Peter Barnes | CEO

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Da Vinci class enjoyed a trip to the River Ouzel for the 'Fabulous Finish' to their Rivers & Coasts topic. The Parks Trust led the engaging session and pupils experienced in reality what they had been learning about in the classroom during the term.



Rivers & Coasts Fabulous Finish

As a 'Super Start' to their History of Medicine topic, Mandela Class were thrilled to welcome back Teaching Assistant Miss Goodenough, who is now a second year medical student. She explained the four pillars of medical ethics to the children and talked about the correct way to greet a patient.



Mandela Class welcomes back Miss Goodenough

'Gold' was achieved in both the 'Trampoline' and 'Double Mini-Trampoline' by one of Kents Hill Park's Year 6 pupils, when she competed in the **English Trampoline Championships** at Sheffield Arena. All at the school were extremely proud.



Year 6 pupil winning Gold

Gandhi Class enjoyed making their own sandwiches, inspired by the story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. They learnt how to prepare food safely and how to cut their sandwiches using the 'bridge' method.



Gandhi Class, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch

The class finished half term by painting seaside pictures in the style of John Dyer, which they then shared with their grown-ups at their Postcard Gallery.



Seaside pictures

Parks Class too invited in their special adults into school to help create mythical dragon eyes from clay.



Mythical dragon eye

Boat creations

Seacole Class were very lucky also to have their parents and carers join them for a science investigation. The children used different materials to create a boat large enough for their mascot Peter Rabbit to fit in. The boats were then tested to see if they floated or sank.

Seacole class drew an outline of one of their friends and worked together as a team to draw and label parts of the body and facial features. The models did a fantastic job of lying as still as statues.



Drawing & labelling body parts

The class also enjoyed a lovely autumnal walk discovering the vegetation and wildlife in Kents Hill Park.



Autumn walk

For the last imagination club of the term, pupils got into the Christmas spirit by decorating their very own Christmas bauble.



Imagination club

Potter Class treated their family and friends to an amazing performance of 'Christmas Counts'. The class impressed all with their confidence and with their acting and singing skills.



Potter Class, Christmas Counts

There was tremendous support from Kents Hill Park's families for the MK Food Bank Reverse Advent Appeal.



MK Food Bank

During the autumn term, several visits and online discussions inspired pupils regarding their potential future careers and further study. Year 9 pupils attended the MK Innovate STEM Festival at the Centre:MK, where they engaged with companies and educational establishments. These included mobile elevated work platforms manufacturer, NiftyLift, The Open University and Business Management specialist, Queensbury Consulting.



STEM Festival

Niftylift also welcomed pupils to their premises, as part of the women in engineering programme and the National Literacy Trust led a webinar, entitled Women in Leadership, for Year 11.



Niftylift

In October, PE teacher Miss Browne represented Ireland in the EU Korfball Championship Qualifiers in the Czech city of Kolín. The team were overjoyed to qualify for the world games in Taipei next year. Miss Browne was Ireland's top scorer and named the coach's 'most valuable player'.



Miss Browne, EU Korfball

Using their creative skills, pupils produced 3D pumpkins and autumn wreaths, during a crafting session held in the library after school.



Autumn Crafting Session

Kents Hill Park all-through were delighted to have been rated as 'Good' across all five categories in the first-ever full Ofsted inspection of the school. To view the full report visit Kents Hill Park's website

Officially rated 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted



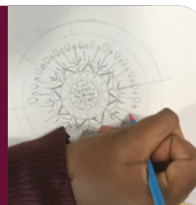
Ofsted 'Good'

Kents Hill Park's Heads of House were very impressed with their new House Honours board.



Heads of House Board

Year 9 practised their compass skills by creating Mandalas during a maths lesson.



Compass Skills

Thanks to a scheme by BookTrust, all Year 7 and 8 pupils chose a new book from 17 exciting titles. The charity, which is dedicated to get children reading, reaches out to millions of children across the UK with books, resources and support.



BookTrust scheme

Year 7 had a fantastic time at Cheerleading and Tumbling Club, when they visited First Class Athletics in Bradville. The team at the sports facility encouraged the pupils to get involved with the activities on offer.



Year 7 Cheerleading and Tumbling Club

Year 7 enjoyed learning and developing their key skills in Rugby during the autumn term. Staff were extremely impressed with their efforts and the talent on show.



Year 7 Rugby

Congratulations were in order last term, when one of Kents Hill Park's Year 10 pupils got the opportunity to play as Goalkeeper for England U16s Women's Football team. All at the school will continue to follow her outstanding progress.

England U16s Women's Football





Are you a member of staff with a Nursery or Reception aged child, who is due to start school in September 2023?

If so, do you know that if you wish to apply to your school and you meet the criteria, your child will be high priority. Please visit the Trust schools' websites for their admission arrangements and **Milton Keynes City Council** for more information on how to apply using the Citizens Portal. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2023 and national offer day is 17 April 2023.

Do you have a newsworthy event/story about the great work that is happening at your school?

If so, please provide as many details as you can, including:

- Who
- What
- Where
- Why
- When

A story is more likely to be published in the media if it is of public interest and that there is a good photograph to accompany it. Please always ensure that parents have given consent for the photograph to be used in the press and on digital media.

New Chief Financial Officer for the Trust

Kingsbridge Educational Trust were delighted to welcome Will Gordon to the team at the start of the Spring Term.

The new Chief Financial Officer, who joined with an excellent level of professional experience and expertise, will be a valuable asset to the Trust.





Pensions

Don't forget to register online to view your pension account, pension details and projections of your future benefits.

**Buckinghamshire Council -
Local Government Scheme
Teachers' Pensions**

Job Opportunities

If you, or anyone you know, would like to apply for one of the Trust vacancies that are currently being advertised, then you can view the further details of the roles on mynewterm on **KET's website**

Become A Governor

Would you, or anyone you know, like to improve the wellbeing of the lives of young people in Milton Keynes? Then why not volunteer your time and professional expertise and become a Kingsbridge Educational Trust School Governor.

For more information regarding KET's Governance structure, please visit the **Trust's website**. To register your interest, contact the Governance team at **enquiries@ket.education**

National Professional Qualifications

The next tranche of fully funded qualifications start in March 2023.

For more information on the courses available and on how to apply, please visit the **MK:NPQ website** or email **MKNPQ@oakgrove.school**

Questionnaire

The Trust is carrying out a survey to collect information and feedback on *Insight* magazine. All staff were emailed a link along with a digital version of this edition.

The questionnaire will take one minute to complete and contributions will be used to measure the impact of the magazine and to develop future editions.

Back To School Advice

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reminded schools that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels. This includes flu, Covid-19 and scarlet fever.

More information and useful links can be found on the agency's **news release**.

Broughton firefighters visited Middleton Primary in a fire engine, which brought to life Foundation's topic 'People Who Help Us'. Afterwards, many of the children said they would like to be a firefighter when they are older.



Middleton teamed up with other primary and secondary schools to plant 500 trees at Middleton Wood Meadow. Pupils are looking forward to seeing them grow and change the local landscape.



Parks Trust, Middleton Wood Meadow

Pupils were so supportive of each other when they competed at the MK District Cross Country Championships. The whole team prepared well and their dedication paid off, some even improved their position by 20-30 places on the previous year. There were several medals awarded and a selection of pupils will now train with the rest of the Milton Keynes squad towards the National Schools event. For the children who did not participate at MK Bowl, Middleton held their very own Years 3/4 and 5/6 cross country event.

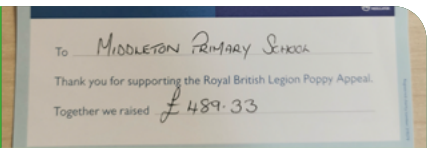


MK District Cross Country Championships

Middleton was presented with the **School Games Mark Platinum** for 2021/22 - 2022/23 in September. This came after four consecutive years of the school being awarded the Gold Mark. The key criteria for the accolade was based on participation; competition; workforce and clubs.



An amazing £489.33 was raised for the Poppy Appeal.



Poppy Appeal

Middleton Primary was awarded 'Top Bikeability School 2022' by Milton Keynes Deputy Mayor in recognition of its 246 trainee riders that participated in the scheme.

Middleton pupils competed in numerous tournaments, festivals and matches over the autumn term. The netball team took part in tournaments at Shenley Brook End and Hazeley schools, Year 4 participated in a basketball festival, also at Shenley Brook End School, and a group of Key Stage 2 pupils travelled to Thornton College for a cross country run.



Netball tournament at Shenley Brook End School

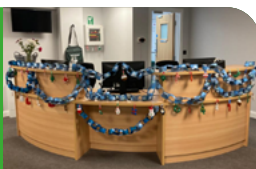


Knife Angel

In December, Year 6 visited Stadium:MK to view the 27ft 'Knife Angel'. The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression was created at the British Ironwork Centre by sculptor Alfie Bradley to highlight the impact that knife crime has on people, families and communities. Pupils also attended a workshop on knife crime and got the opportunity to tour the football stadium.

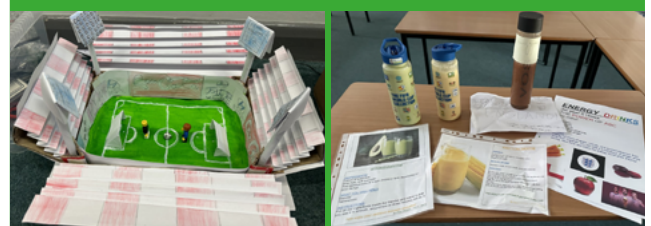
Two girls football teams thoroughly enjoyed a festival at Kents Hill Park and, despite the cold weather, both teams won all of their games, except when one Middleton team lost to the other.

Year 6 designed and produced Christmas decorations for Willen Hospice. The children worked incredibly hard to bring some festive cheer to patients, staff and visitors.



Willen Hospice

Pupils created products using their knowledge and skills in textiles, construction and food and nutrition to celebrate the World Cup in The Great Middleton Make Off. A fantastic effort from all.



The Great Middleton Make Off

The Great Big Green Week brought together several of the Trust's primary schools in a joint project with All Saints Church in Milton Keynes village. The theme was 'rainforests' and the children's creations were displayed in the church in October. Expanding on the children's knowledge of rainforests further, exotic creatures such as snakes, spiders and snails were just some of the creatures that pupils were excited to get up close to as part of their learning.



The Big Green Week winner

The news that **The Sunday Times** ranked Monkston Primary 65th in England and 13th in the region, in the 'Parent Power' top primary school tables, added to the festive celebrations at the school in December. The aggregated average scale scores from the 2019 SATs results, were achieved by Monkston pupils in reading, grammar and maths.

Year 5 participated in Bikeability, learning how to safely ride on the roads in Monkston and had fun learning about seasonal ingredients and cooking their own savoury dishes.



Bikeability



Year 5 cooking savoury dishes

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed listening to Cressida Cowell, author of 'How to Train your Dragon' at Oakgrove School. She was very inspiring and pupils were treated to a sneak peak of her new book 'Which Way to Anywhere'.



Cressida Cowell visit

Reading drop in events for parents started again in September, so that parents got the opportunity to read with their children in the classroom. In the same month, the annual **Phonics and Early Reading** event took place. Families were informed about how the school delivers phonics and how parents can support children at home with reading.

In October, Miss Chambers ran 26 miles in the London Marathon in memory of Miss Lomas. There were some very generous donations and at the end of the Autumn Term a fantastic £1565 had been raised for Willen Hospice. There's still time to donate at **Just Giving**.

Monkston now has its first **Eco-School Council**. The Council got to work straight away to decide their aims, as well as looking at the re-design of the school's rear garden area and considering how to encourage wildlife through planting herbs, building bird feeders and creating their own compost for planting.



Eco-School Council

Leftover spring bulbs were brought into school so that the Eco-School Council could plant a commemorative garden dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II.

Monkston had a fruitful Harvest collection, with contributions of items, such as canned fish, long life milk and tinned vegetables. The groceries were then donated to the Food Bank for their Reverse Advent Appeal.



Harvest Collection

A Monkston pupil, who finished in the top 10 at the MK District Cross Country Championships has been invited to run for MK at the National School's Cross Country Championships. All runners took part enthusiastically and showed great resilience in finishing the race.



Cross Country

Year 2 had an enjoyable afternoon and evening performing 'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World'.



'Eddie the Penguin Saves the World'

In December, festivities included nativities, a fayre, school discos and Christmas Jumper Day.



EYFS nativity

A talented group from Years 5 and 6 visited Middleton Primary for a competitive game of basketball. The children did an incredible job representing Oakgrove and played with courage and determination throughout. The very close game ended in a draw 12-12.



Year 5 & 6 Basketball

As an all-through school, all of the primary's French lessons are taught by a specialist French teacher from the secondary. Year 3 children had a fun time playing Simon Says to learn the French names for different animals.



Oakgrove Primary teamed up with The Parks Trust to plant around 500 trees to create a new area of woodland at Middleton Wood Meadow with the help of other schools both from the Trust and in other areas of Milton Keynes.



Planting trees with The Parks Trust

Foundation classes had a brilliant visit to watch a production of 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' at Milton Keynes Theatre. For most of the children, it was their first time travelling on a coach and seeing a live play at a theatre.



The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Members of Oakgrove's choir visited **Burlington Hall Retirement Home** in December to share some Christmas songs and carols with the residents. They received a lovely welcome and enjoyed the refreshments at the end of their performance.

Year 6 pupils spent a fantastic morning at MK Innovates exploring various STEM activities. They particularly enjoyed viewing microbes under digital microscopes with Anglian Water, problem-solved with The Open University and had the opportunity to see Centre:MK from on high in one of Niftylift's mobile elevated work platforms.



MK Innovates

Pupils made a promise about how they are going to improve the local environment and put it in the school's Forest of Promises, as part of the national Great Big Green Week. They also produced fantastic tree themed art and craft projects, that were displayed in All Saints Church's free Harvest exhibition in October, alongside Monkston and Middleton Primary Schools.



The Great Big Green Week

It was a bumper harvest when Oakgrove's families generously filled a van full with donations for MK Food Bank. Reverend Matt from All Saints Church in MK Village also helped the children celebrate the Harvest Festival when he led the Key Stage assemblies.



Harvest donations

Remembrance Day was marked with a two-minute silence. Pupils who attended school in their scouting and guiding uniforms were photographed next to the giant poppy painted on the school field. Some of Oakgrove's children also took part in Remembrance Sunday parades.



Remembrance Day

It was a fun end to the term with the snow adding a Christmassy feel. The children thoroughly enjoyed being outdoors building snowmen.



Oakgrove School was officially ranked as the top performing school in Milton Keynes according to the national performance tables, released by the Department for Education in September. The data showed that Oakgrove achieved the highest GCSE Progress 8 and Attainment 8 scores.

The school's annual Young Musician of the Year competition was a huge success. There were two categories, one for Juniors (Grade 2-3) and one for Seniors (Grade 4+). Entrants included singers and musicians who impressed the audience with their talents by playing instruments such as the keyboard, flute and electric guitar. Every single participant did themselves and the school proud.



Young Musician of the Year - Juniors

Young Musician of the Year - Seniors

Research, that was conducted by English, Media and Film Studies Teacher, Mrs Chudasama and the Children's Research Centre, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies at the Open University, has now been published by Taylor and Francis Online. The article entitled "We can make our words powerful": students' perspectives about using Talk Factory, a classroom technology to support exploratory talk' features Oakgrove's pupils' views in the research. The article is free to access via Open University or from Mrs Chudasama.

A remarkable Year 12 pupil, who now lives in Milton Keynes as part of the Homes for Ukrainians scheme, joined Oakgrove's Sixth Form in September. Shortly after her arrival, she worked with a sponsor to establish a charity and in her role in communications she helps fellow Ukrainians, who want to find a safe place to stay and to apply for visas. For two hours a day, on average, and in addition to her studies, she and her sponsor help match Ukrainians with other potential sponsors.

To find out more, visit the website Homes for Ukraine. See also the BBC Ukrainecast episode regarding a refugee they have helped.



Brooklands based craft and gift shop, Shrimp and Doodle, kindly donated another 1,000 ShrimPy Card badges to Year 7, 12 and 13 pupils. The badges are worn by students and staff at Oakgrove to promote period equality. Feedback from parents has been extremely positive and the confidence in pupils to visit the shop and ask for free period products has grown.



Badges made by Shrimp & Doodle

The Oakgrove Christmas Concert was held in December. The audience was entertained with the Oakgrove singers, the senior orchestra and the primary school choir and junior orchestra. Also in the same month, there were some fantastic performances at the Christmas Cabaret.

In October, the first-ever Lawfest was held at Oakgrove School. Students from 11 Milton Keynes' schools were invited to hear from experts in Law about the many varied career opportunities available in the legal profession. Hosted jointly by Oakgrove and the University of Buckingham, the aim was to empower pupils from all backgrounds to realise their potential and to consider the different pathways in pursuing their ambitions in the Law industry.

Lawfest



At a worktree event in October, pupils had the opportunity to meet with professionals from a variety of occupations, some that they didn't even know existed. It helped pupils with their future aspirations, be it in work or further study.



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