



## The Walnuts School

# THE WALNUTS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM

JULY 2018

Issue 45

### POINTS OF INTEREST:

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## HEADTEACHERS NEWS



At the end of the school year there is much for all the pupils and staff to be proud of. I am really excited of the prospect of leading the school forward for 2018/19. I would like to welcome Vic Courts, Amanda Farr and Moira Roskilly to the Governing Body for which we have a full membership. I look forward to seeing you all in the coming academic year.

Jonathan Budd - Interim Executive Headteacher

**I can't believe that we are at the end of another school year, my first term at The Walnuts has zoomed by!** It has been great to have a Summer Term where the sun has been shining, allowing the children to enjoy the glorious weather. This term has been action-packed with Whipsnade Zoo, Sports Day and Healthy Living week to name just a few of the exciting activities the children have been part of. It has been a pleasure to see how engaged the children have been and the new skills/experiences that they have encountered. Congratulations to Sarah Watts on the safe arrival of a baby boy named Noah who arrived a little earlier than expected, both are doing fine. This end of term sees us saying goodbye to our Year 14 students, I'd like to wish them luck in their new adventures. From the teaching staff we are also saying a sad goodbye to Tracy Scannell and Sean Scannell, Eleanor Attridge, Katie Plaster, Wayne Skinnell, Jack Gilbert, Claire Fairey and Cailey Hall. I'd like to thank them for their contribution to The Walnuts School and they will be greatly missed by all. To the teaching staff we welcome Matthew Sampson, Natasha Carlse, Kayleigh Moore and Samuel Steel, I am very much looking forward to working with them in the Autumn term. I am extremely pleased that my interim post has been extended for a further two terms, enabling me to stay at The Walnuts School for the next academic year. I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you next term.

Lisa Munro - Interim Head of School



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## PI NE GROUP



We have had another very busy term in Pine Group enjoying the better weather to explore our 'Out and About' theme. The highlight of the term has definitely been our trip to Whipsnade Zoo. The weather was perfect to make the most of the day and experience all Whipsnade had to offer. The most memorable parts of the day were seeing the giraffes, the train ride and eating our picnic lunch. We have also enjoyed other trips out to Winslow and Padbury Play Parks and Rushmere Park this term. This term we have also enjoyed taking part in our first Sports Day at The Walnuts School. We coped really well with transitioning from one activity to the next and enjoyed lots of jumping, running, climbing and other PE skills. We also joined in with Healthy Living week this term, enjoying practising our self-care skills with help from Sid Puppet! We also had great fun practising our jumping skills on the bouncy castle, which was a new experience for some of us. This year in Pine Group seems to have flown by. It has been so rewarding working with our parents to help settle the children in and seeing all the progress they have made. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer break. Tracy, Ali, Lauren, Amie, Wendy & Lauren.



## CEDAR GROUP



Cedar group have been busy this term enjoying our topic of Out and About. We have fantastic Monday afternoons, going out on the bus to Padbury Park, Dobbies to see the fish and Thrift Farm where we got to stroke the little Shetland ponies. In class we have been looking at Dear Zoo and finding out all about the different zoo animals. We really enjoyed Art week, particularly the Mad Hatter's Tea Party where we decorated biscuits and danced to music and loved the Big paint. Outside on the bike track we had great fun wheeling through the paint making patterns. For the Royal wedding we celebrated by having a tea party out on the bike track which was enjoyed by all. Healthy living week was full of

activities including Wake and Shake first thing in the morning which got us energised and ready for the day. Our favourite day during healthy living week was definitely going to Whipsnade Zoo where we saw lots of animals including the Giraffes being fed by the keepers. Following on from Healthy living week we participated in Sports day where we had a great time sack racing, target throwing, football skills as well as jumping on the trampoline. From Cedar group - Lindsay, Jenny, Michelle, Chantel, Chanon and Bhavna



## ASH GROUP



Ash group have had a busy term out and about. We have thoroughly enjoyed having lots of community based activities and have all enjoyed lots of new experiences. Ash group loved the trip to zoo with the penguins being a real favourite! Ash group have also enjoyed lots of 'special' weeks at school. Arts week was our favourite, offering the most sensory experience. All of the children participated in the paint party and although we got rather messy we all had good fun!

The children have explored our local community visiting various local parks which always make walking and road safety learning much easier with the reward of the park at the end! We wish everyone a lovely summer. Beccy, Debbie, Adrianne, Ari and Nikki.





## LAUREL GROUP



Laurel Group have had another very busy term. Our first topic was *'Castles and palaces'* and we used the castle theme to explore the story of Rapunzel. Laurel Group also learnt about George and the Dragon. In science we have looked at animals, to prepare for our trip to the zoo. The children had a lovely time at the zoo, although there were quite a few tired legs once we got back to the coach at the end of the day!

This half-term our topic **has been 'Water'**. Laurel Group particularly enjoyed learning about animals that

live in the sea. The children also looked at Incy Wincy Spider and they all had a go at flushing a spider out of a drainpipe!

The Laurel Group team would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful Summer break.



## HOLLY GROUP

It has been a wonderful Summer Term for the children in Holly Group. We thoroughly enjoyed our sunny Forest school visits to Slated Row School as well as our weekly trips on the bus, exploring our locality. A highlight of this term would have to be our Healthy Living Week; we enjoyed badminton, football with the MK Dons as well as a morning wake and shake - **as you can see everyone joined in for 'oops upside your head'!** Another element of Healthy Living Week included our smoothie making which was a real hit for some of our children who pushed their sensory boundaries by licking and exploring the fruit!



A wonderful experience for us was our visit to Whipsnade Zoo. The children walked fantastically around the zoo and showed real interest in the large animals - a lovely day was had by all.

This term Holly Group have made wonderful memories, ones we will treasure as we take the next step on our Walnuts journey.



## CYPRESS GROUP



Cypress group have had a wonderful summer term. We have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather and enjoying some outdoor learning. **Forest schools has been greatly enjoyed by everyone. The children's** favourite day was when we did a bug hunt, looking under rocks, leaves and logs and finding some fascinating bugs. Some of us were able to look at their features and identify them using a bug book.

The Whipsnade trip was definitely the highlight of this term. Cypress group walked beautifully around the zoo and we got to see so many animals. We all enjoyed looking at the colourful butterflies and the gorillas drinking from the water, but our favourite part was the train ride when we even saw a baby elephant!

Cypress group engaged really well with Healthy Living week, and absolutely loved having a go at playing some badminton. We also tried really hard to learn some new skills in football when MK Dons came to visit, and we have been practising them in P.E. ever since.

We wish you all a lovely summer break and the best of luck to the pupils in their new classes. Ruth and the Cypress team.





## SYCAMORE GROUP



During the Castles topic, Sycamore Group enjoyed role playing the Story of St George and the Dragon, building castle and dragon models and making medieval weapons such as trebuchets. They worked really hard on their class targets of being kind, sharing and taking turns, and had plenty of lemonade fountains to celebrate earning their class smiles! This half-term our topic is Water and we have discovered just how much Sycamore love water! They made some junk model boats and enjoyed floating them in the water tray, and have used every opportunity to play in the water tray, getting very wet and loving it! They have also enjoyed leaning about the author Oliver Jeffers and reading several of his story books. One of the many highlights of the term was Healthy Living Week, and apart from all the badminton, bouncy castles and dancing that went on, it was wonderful

to see the children exploring and tasting lots of different fruits in their fruit smoothies.

As this busy year comes to an end, many of Sycamore Group are preparing to transition to Middle School. They should all be very proud of what they achieved in Lower School, and we and know they will continue to do well as they move up the school. We wish them, and you, a safe and happy summer break. *The Sycamore Team, Claire, Jo, Wendy, Linda, John, Angela, Vinnette & Emma.*



## CHERRY GROUP



Hello from Cherry Group! It has been a very busy term for us all in Cherry group and as usual we seem to have crammed a lot in. In the first half term our topic was **'Countries'** and the class really enjoyed finding out about other cultures and life styles. We had great fun exploring Poland, France and Africa. One of the highlights was trying food from Poland and France and we all had our favourites from Polish crisps to French croissants and pain au chocolate. We had a chance to explore a variety of art activities too, including painting in the style of Monet and creating a Pointillism style Eifel Tower picture. In Multi-cultural week we had the opportunity to try African dance and Cherry class showed that they had great rhythm! The class have also spent a lot of valuable time learning about



emotions and feelings in our PSHE lessons and have worked hard to recognise happy and sad. In maths we have had fun with shapes, number and measuring and in literacy we have continued to follow Jolly phonics. We had a lovely book week and focused on reading lots of short stories which were brought to life by some sensory story telling. We also looked at a variety of books to help us learn about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. The children have created some amazing Dragon masks and also used props to act out and tell the story of the Chinese Zodiac - it was lovely to see them so involved. While all this has been going on we have still found time for swimming and Forest school. We hope you all have a well-deserved rest over the Easter Break and are looking forward to what next term brings. Best wishes from The Cherry Group Team.



## ROWAN GROUP



Rowan has focused on two stories for Literacy, Noisy Jungle and Noisy Zoo. The children enjoyed looking at different animals and recognising the animal sounds. The highlight of both books was the school trip to Whipsnade. We all enjoyed seeing the wild animals from the train at the zoo. This term our first topic was Reflections, we all enjoyed looking at reflective objects and used mirrors to identify our facial features and made funny facial expressions. We then looked at shadows, we used different lights in the classroom to create shadows and we also explored our own shadows outside in the sunshine. Rowan class really enjoyed Healthy Living week, we practiced our ball skills with MK Dons, enjoyed using the bikes in the ball court and loved relaxing in the sensory room. Sports day was great we liked all the activities especially the football and basketball. From everyone in Rowan, we hope you a good summer holidays.





## HAZEL GROUP



It has been another great term in Hazel Group. Our topics have been Dinosaurs, Muscles and Bones, Vikings and Shadows. The children have really enjoyed learning about dinosaurs. We learnt all about carnivores and herbivores, learnt how to match fossils to the dinosaurs they came from and thoroughly enjoyed the dinosaur day we had. This term we also celebrated healthy living week. The children took part in lots of healthy cooking activities as well as different sporting activities throughout the week, including sports day! They tried wrestling, bike riding, football, making pasta and guacamole. We also enjoyed our trip to the zoo and loved getting to see the animals out enjoying the sunshine especially the giraffes. Hope you all have an enjoyable summer, see you in September!



## OAK GROUP

Oak group have had a busy and exciting term this summer. We have been out on several trips to Thomley Hall, Whipnade Zoo,



Gullivers Land and McDonalds. We have continued on with our learning, finding out about the Vikings, learning about shadows and reflections. We have enjoyed spending



time together and being friends. Happy Summer everyone.

## MAPLE GROUP

**This term has been Maple's favourite; learning about the different** types of dinosaurs, when they lived and what they were like. We have loved looking for fossils and the boys especially enjoyed when the dinosaurs came to visit. Maple class had lots of fun joining in with Arts week and Healthy Living week; we all took part in a range of activities including health cooking, going on the bikes and a dance class. We enjoyed our trip to the Zoo; it was fun meeting different animals. Our favourites were the tigers and the flamingos. We had lots of fun getting splashed at the sea lions show. This term we have been lucky to be able to participate in Rebound therapy and Rhythmic movement. The boys have been fantastic at participating and have been making Viking themed movements; working together to row the boat and call out to shore. It has been wonderful teaching and getting to know the boys this year. Have a wonderful summer holiday. Georgie, Lydia, Gwen, Coral, Sarah and Liam.



## CHESTNUT GROUP



Hi all, Chestnut group have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs in the first part of our summer term. We enjoyed digging out fossils and made some delicious dinosaur short bread biscuits. We also enjoyed the group meeting where we saw a huge T-Rex! We also got to touch the little baby one, still in its shell.

In class we learnt some dinosaur names and used descriptive words to describe them such as fast and slow, long and short, good and fierce.

We then moved on to shadows and reflections. We have been playing guessing games as to which animals we can see when looking at their shadows. We enjoyed reading *The Foggy Foggy Forrest* and the children were able to identify some main characters such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We hope you have a fantastic summer holiday! Sadia and the Chestnut team.



## WILLOW GROUP



Willow class have done really well this term and have worked hard in the hot weather. Our learning focus has been on animals, road safety and hygiene.

In Literacy, we started the term with learning about key words; we looked at key words that describe and key words that are nouns. We used adjectives to describe objects such as the spotty cup or a big tree. All children were able to join in at circle times when asked a question. We then moved on to sequencing a story. We have been reading **'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'**, sequencing pictures or sentences to make the correct order of the story.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about prepositions and have learnt to place different objects in different positions. We have continued to work on number recognition up to 100.

In Science, we are learning about animals. We have started with learning the names of the mothers and young animals and have looked at zoo animals, farm animals and pets.

We are learning about the life cycle of a frog. We have been looking at videos of the

**different stages in a frog's .**

In PSHE, we have been learning about road safety, practicing a routine for safe crossing. The children have worked really hard with this when out in the community.

Willow group have enjoyed a couple trips this term, we went to Whipsnade Zoo and saw a range of animals, we enjoyed playing in the park and riding on the train.

We also went to Mead Open Farm where we saw a lot of farm animals and were able to stroke some animals and feed the cows, sheep and goats. We played in the park, on the balloon trampolines, in the sand pit and in the soft play area. We also had a ride on the tractor. Well done Willow Group.



## BIRCH GROUP

Birch Group has been out and about on Monday mornings. After registration and a brief discussion the class heads out to the shops. Along the way they like to catch up with news about the weekend and we have been joined by our Speech and Language therapist, Stephanie Ruppell, who has been using these weekly outings to support the pupils. Once at the supermarket we have been choosing ingredients for the afternoon Food and Technology lesson and learning about the way to assess the best price for a product. Once the shopping has been completed and paid for we head straight for the café where each pupil has an opportunity to purchase a snack and a drink. They are responsible for choosing these and making sure they have enough money. Birch Group has noticeably developed their confidence as a result and the café has been a great place to engage in deeper conversations in a different setting. A big thank you to all the parents that supported the café visits through weekly donations for the snacks and **drinks, it wouldn't have been possible without these. Whilst the literacy and numeracy has been differentiated there are some** things that we focus on collectively. Our reading and listening recently has been about ghost stories and we have been enjoying the production of our own stories.

We have looked at South Korean ghost stories in particular and how their ghosts differ from the western ideas. One session a week we have given over to discussion on topics that are more philosophical and as a result we have had some very deep conversations ranging from the age of dinosaurs to life after death. Our humanities topic this half term is Changing Britain. We have been treated on Wednesday afternoons by our visit to the Milton Keynes Art Centre to be taught by renowned weaver Felicity Irons of Rush Matters. Each member of the class was able to develop their weaving ability with some actually producing a bag.

During the afternoons and on a Friday we have been encouraging a healthy lifestyle by looking at nutrition and being more active. We have made good use of the gym where we have played five-a-side football; the ball court using the **bicycles and going to Wolverton Swimming Pool. Our Friday afternoons have included disco's, board games and playing** the Wii. This has been a term full of activities such as the Alice in Wonderland Art week, Sports Day and Healthy Living Week. After such an active term all of the Birch team hope that you and your family will have a great summer.



## REDWOOD GROUP

This term our theme was Shadows and reflections. We have been expanding our knowledge about different sources of light including the Sun. We have been practising our vocabulary based on the book: *The Foggy, Foggy Forest* by Nick Sharratt. Many new words related to the topic were introduced in Literacy. In Numeracy, we continued to work on number - counting, sequencing and ordering. In ICT, we have been using cameras to take pictures of ourselves and expanding our knowledge about various technology devices. Redwood has been learning about the importance of personal hygiene and tooth care. In PSHE we have been learning about feelings and emotions and different ways of dealing with them. Redwood group took part in Sports Day and Healthy living Week. We would like to take this opportunity **and thank all Redwood's parents for your help and support throughout the whole academic year** and wish you really sunny and hot summer break. Magda and the Redwood Team



## POPLAR GROUP



Since Easter, Poplar have been enjoying a number of extra curricular activities, which were both fun for the pupils but also helped them to experience new things. Each week they take it in turns to go to the Library in Stony Stratford where they can either sit and look at books or colour, and occasionally bring a book back to school. We have studied different Countries in Asia learning about all the traditions, housing and animal life linked

to that country and produced some beautiful art work by painting their names in Chinese. Healthy Living Week, Dinosaur Day, Sports Day, Arts Week, Whipsnade Zoo and the Pentathlon Experience for some of the students in Poplar, have been hugely exciting and of beneficial learning for our very lucky students. Hope you all have a lovely summer holiday. Poplar Team.



## BEECH GROUP



This term Beech class have been learning about sizes, dinosaurs and healthy living. The children of the class have enjoyed sensory boxes, stories and art tasks all about dinosaurs! A firm favourite with pupils and staff was the volcano made with cola, Mentos and a decorated volcano.

The pupils of Beech have stayed cool in the warm weather. Some have opted to splash in the sprinklers, enjoy some indoor water play, or find a shady spot to sit with staff on the new artificial grass in the sensory garden.

The children have also continued learning about sharing through afternoon snack using the popcorn maker. The boys take turns to setup the popcorn maker, measure the kernels, and share bowls out to their peers.

Some of the children from Beech took part in sports day, really showing that the PE sessions are paying off!

A very special mention for Ridhwan, who really gave it

his all especially on the sensory circuit. The children have also been learning about healthy food options and the importance of personal hygiene.

As we come to the end of term, I would like to wish all of the children of Beech class the best of luck in the coming academic year.



## UPPER 1

This term in Upper 1, we worked on developing our self-awareness: all about me. The focus was on identifying ourselves in photos, knowing our names, being aware of our gender and knowing and knowing what we like and dislike. In humanities, we explored Milton Keynes to learn about different parks, leisure places and iconic building to understand and know our local area. As part of exploring Milton Keynes, we enjoyed a day out at Pirate Golf. Have a nice summer everyone.



## UPPER 2

This term Upper 2 have enjoyed spending time out and about in the community; we have continued with our weekly shopping and swimming trips but have also had the opportunity to visit different outdoor spaces to practice our team building and turn taking activities. Our speech and language sessions have focused on peer interaction and everyone has enjoyed playing games as part of a pair or small group.

**Our topics this term have been 'Building Things' and 'Moving on'. We also focused on** comprehension and language skills as well as forming SVAO sentences about photos of us participating in different activities in English. In Maths we worked on capacity, weight, shape and have continued to develop our understanding of number. We have continued to access a range of computing opportunities including interactive games to help us develop

our mouse control.

As part of our **'Building Things'** topic we have made our own model houses and looked at the items that go into each different room. We also had

**great fun participating in all of the 'Arts Week' activities;** you can see the Mad Hatter hats we made during this themed week. Thank you for all your continued support this term. Have a lovely Summer break! The Upper 2 Team.



## UPPER 3

As we come to the end of the school year it is really enjoyable to look back at all the wonderful things we have experienced and the good progress all the pupils have made since September. This last term has been very exciting with lots of extra activities. We have been visiting the Caldecotte Experience where we have taken part in caving, sailing, rafting, canoeing and climbing. These sessions have been made more enjoyable as every visit has been on a sunny day. The class have enjoyed working towards their

AQA unit awards and have shopped and cooked for healthy meals. One group experienced some gym sessions and another took part in some games of ten pin bowling. As part of our history project learning about castles we visited the ruins of Berkhamsted Castle. We used public transport and walked, got a bus and caught the train. Once again we were extremely lucky with the weather and it was a glorious day. The pupils worked well on their timetabling and budgeting skills to be fully involved in planning the trip. Upper 3 really enjoyed our recent Healthy Living week where they took part in a healthy food lesson and football activities with coaches from the MK Dons. We have been using the World Cup as a focus for our Geography learning. The pupils have been learning football skills in PE lessons. We were also lucky enough to take part in an Arts workshop with a visiting artist. We dressed up, danced and produced some pictures of our journey using paints and canvas.

All of us in Upper 3 hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.



## UPPER 4



The pupils in Upper 4 have been looking at the history of the World Cup and recording the match scores each morning. The pupils have made such good progress with communication and sharing skills that they now take turns to be the morning newsreader, sports news reader, weather reader and even introducing the business news. We have looked at the problems with plastic and our planet and helped to pick up litter in our local community. We have begun to do a weekly shop and café trip to practice our community and life skills. We enjoyed participating in a series of weaving workshops at the local Arts Centre and during healthy living week, we all enjoyed a variety of

different workshops including badminton and football skills with MK Dons as well as sports day and a bouncy castle. The pupils in Upper 4 have all had a fantastic year and worked hard to develop their confidence, self-esteem and communication. They all deserve a well-earned break over the summer. We wish you a lovely sunny summer break, from Katie, Claire, Annette, Wayne and Jenny.



## UPPER 5



**In Maths this term Upper 5 have been working on 'Measure and Capacity' and 'Data Handling'. The students have been identifying volume, height, weight and length. In the 'Data Handling' topic, the students have been interpreting data and recording their own data using pictograms, bar charts and line graphs. In English the students have been working on persuasive writing. They have been practicing writing questions and have written and structured letters. The students have been studying the key features of adverts, in particular, holiday adverts. They have designed their own holiday adverts using powerful adjectives and including the key features that they have identified. The students incorporated ICT into this project in order to complete research and have used the programme Publisher to create brochures. In our Science lessons last half term the topic was 'Forces'. The focus was to identify forces such as 'Push and Pull' and 'Gravity'. The pupils identified where we use these forces are used and how they work. This half term in Science the students have been**

**studying 'The Human Body'. They have identified the body's organs and have also identified the bones of the skeleton. Upper 5 enjoyed Arts Week and Healthy Living week this term. They completed lots of activities including graffiti, Morris Dancing as well as they a football session with the MK Dons. The boys in Upper 5 have been continuing trips out in the community. The focus this term has been linked to our PSHE topic where the boys have been identifying reasons why we should not drop litter. We have been visiting local parks to identify any litter that has been dropped. The boys have enjoyed our visits to the various parks and in order to help the local community they have spent some of the visits picking up the dropped litter that we find.**

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. We wish you a lovely summer break. Jamie and the Upper 5 team



## UPPER 6

**It's been another busy term in Upper 6. Our Enterprise projects have continued to be successful and have allowed the students to develop a range of work and communication skills.**

Garden Planet grew a range of plants including tomatoes and busy lizzies. We had a successful plant sale where we made over £50. The students interacted well with customers, communicating effectively, taking money and giving change. They have also been working at the allotments over at Hazeley School preparing them for the next growing season, as well as **planting up raised flower beds in the car park. I have been consistently impressed with the students' hard work and positive attitudes to all the activities we have undertaken. The students who are part of Food Heaven have continued their weekly delivery service and have also expanded the business, providing cake for Governors' meetings and catering for a Friends of Walnuts event. Their hard work has earned the business nearly £400 this year which we can reinvest in Enterprise projects next year. Harry and David will be leaving to go to MK College this year and we wish them both all the best for the future. I too am leaving the Walnuts at the end of this term. It has been a real pleasure to work with the class this year and I wish them all the best for their future at Walnuts and beyond.**



## PENTATHLON EVENT



Some pupils from Oak and Poplar represented The Walnuts School at a Pentathlon. A selection of sporting events aimed at children with disabilities. All the pupils were magnificent and The Walnuts School came second winning a trophy, certificates and a silver medal! Well done to Oluchi Ukwuoma, Panashe Mbirmi, Christopher Bowyer, Kory-Lee Smith, Ben Goseltine and Adam Bennett.



## SIXTH FORM



Students have been working really hard over the last term working on their OCR accreditation.

We also had the opportunity to go to Caldecotte Lake staying one night in the yurt. The students completed a variety of activities including abseiling, building a camp fire and also going on the speed boat. You will be pleased to hear that we did manage to get some sleep! The students excelled all expectation and staff were proud to be a part of the experience.

Students continue to work on life skills and visiting different places in the community. They are now choosing which shops we visit and if we go into town or not.

During art we have been looking at junk and making different models to make a wall display. This year sees three students leave Sixth Form Two Dominic, Abbie are going to No Limits and Dylan has moved to a residential provision in Lincoln. Have a good Summer from Jacqui Kelly and the team.



In Post 16 this year individual students have had a variety of opportunities to develop a greater understanding of the world around them. Reflecting back over the school year students have explored their individual experiences and celebrated their progress. A variety of new environments and opportunities have helped to shape a more mature outlook to their learning. The students in Sixth Form 1 wanted to share their own thoughts and reflections on their achievements and future plans.

Throughout the year I feel I have gotten gradually more confident than before when I started in 6<sup>th</sup> Form. I have personally enjoyed being more independent out in the community as it has helped me achieve a boost in my self-esteem. "To those coming to 6<sup>th</sup> Form next year I look forward to seeing you there. " Enjoy the summer". Sam Brinklow Evans.

## SIXTH FORM Continued...

My second year of Post 16 has been a great experience for me and I became more capable to do more educational work independently. I have enjoyed going into the community out and about without any problems occurring. Whilst being in post 16, I was offered a part time job at Tesa with suitable dates and times. Meaning I can work at Tesa and return to post 16 for lunch! This made me more confident with a real interview experience and mostly the experience of working there and interacting with the team at Tesa. New people coming to post 16 this year I wish them well and most importantly I am thankful for my teacher, Della and teacher assistants who got me this far and helped me with educational needs and independency. **"Have a great Summer"** Jack Lewis

**Now that I'm done with 6<sup>th</sup> form**, I will be moving on to MK College and their New Horizons course. I will retake my Maths and English GCSE, in hopes of improving my grades and after that I will move on to a main stream course. I want to say goodbye to everyone who remembers me and thank my teachers from the past years. I came to the school about 8 years ago with no hope for the future and no skills, now I have both. I hope things go just as well for the other students of Walnuts school. **"Goodbye"**- Harry Nash.

During my second year in 6<sup>th</sup> Form I have taken part in a variety of subjects and learnt some great new skills. I have enjoyed doing different work experience placements at the RSPCA shop and the kitchen which I will really miss. Going to Milton Keynes College has really helped me to prepare to move there in September and it has been nice meeting new people and seeing previous students there from The Walnuts. I want to thank everyone that has worked with me over the years, **"Goodbye"** from Abbie Barnes.

I have had a good year in 6<sup>th</sup> Form; I enjoy doing shopping and making my lunch every day. I have been to Tesa to do work experience and taken part in enrichment every term. I am looking forward to another year in 6<sup>th</sup> Form. Jason Smiles.

**When I started at Post 16 I didn't like interacting with the public and others but now I feel more confident with the public and in the community. I am now ready to go to college with all these new skills I've learnt such as working comfortably with different people and being socially active.** *"Thank you to the staff who helped me over the years to be the person I am now and I won't forget you".* Matthew Roffe

I've had a lovely first year in post 16. I have been doing painting and decorating, going to see Ken at the allotment, going to see Tracey at the R.S.P.C.A shop and going to do work experience at Tesa. I have been doing lots of travel training, using the community, making jar gardens and doing life skills. I am looking forward to next year. I am going to miss my friends who are leaving this year. I am also going to look forward to meeting the new students in September and helping them settle into 6<sup>th</sup> Form. **"Have a great Summer"**- Jake Biddle

In sixth form this year I have been enjoying Math, English Diary planning and going out in the community. I am looking forward to seeing my old friends join me next year in six form. **"See you all soon, enjoy the summer".**— Dean Prescott.

It has been an enjoyable year empowering the students and experiencing their achievements with them.

We all wish our leavers every success for the future and look forward to welcoming students back to Post 16 in September. Hope you all have a fantastic summer.

Della and the Sixth Form team.



# OTHER INFORMATION

## THE THERAPY TEAM

The therapy team regularly provide training to classroom staff. This term we put on a short course for all teachers and interested TAs to refresh their understanding of Colourful Semantics and how it can be used support language development in the classroom. It also gave us an opportunity to share changes from SCERTS about the way symbols are introduced to children and the importance of helping children to learn and use people's names. We will be putting on parent training courses in the new academic year to share these changes with you. Please look out for training dates coming soon.

We are really lucky to have welcomed Lucy McGregor to the team this term. Lucy is working full time across the two sites as an Assistant Therapy Practitioner delivering interventions under the guidance of the therapists. She has extensive experience as a TA at the Walnuts, has a keen interest in therapies and will be a great asset to our team.

Regretfully, we have had to say goodbye to Helen Davy (Lead Therapist) who was offered an exciting opportunity to set up a therapy service in another special school. Helen has asked us to pass on her best wishes to all the families at the Walnuts School.

As always, we welcome you to get in contact with us if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful summer!

The Therapy Team

## *The Alternative Therapies Team*



The Alternative Therapies Team are now in their fourth year of interventions.

We have introduced a bespoke play therapy group and autism movement therapy group, which has been well received by pupils and staff. We intend to extend this to more pupils within the school.

We hope to continue more group session alongside 1:1 support in the next academic year. These interventions will address issues relating to the emotional health and well-being of the students.



## FRIENDS OF WALNUTS—FOWS-YOUR PTA

It has been a quiet term with the Friends of Walnuts this summer but we have had **two events that were well attended**. Our 'meet the new Head teachers' event that we held at the main site in May, was a great chance for parents to meet both Lisa and Jonathan and ask any questions.

We had delicious refreshments supplied by 'Food Heaven' an enterprise business run entirely by some of our pupils in Upper 6 so it was a good chance to showcase our pupils too. Big thanks to Food Heaven.



FOOD HEAVEN



Our second event was of course the summer disco which raised over £97. Despite the heat there was a good turnout of families and young people and a great time was had by all. Big thanks to Siobhan, Georgie, Sandra, Kim, Olivia and Olga for helping to run this event and also a big thank you to all our parents and carers who made sure the young people had such a good time.

We hope to have some new fundraising ideas for next year and will keep you posted. In the meantime best wishes and I hope you all have a good summer break. Karen Salamon—Chair of FOWs.

## MILTON KEYNES LOCAL OFFER

All Local Authorities have created a Local Offer to provide both national and local information on special educational needs and disability to support young people and their parents and carers. To find out more information please follow the link:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/send-local-offer>

They also have their own Facebook page, so you can always know events that are happening in Milton Keynes. <http://www.facebook.com/mksend>



## LANDING DESIGNS—SIGNS FROM AMAZON.CO.UK

There is a company called Landing Designs on Amazon.co.uk, which has useful signs for vehicles, some of them below. They are priced around £2.50. The link is:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Landing-Designs/pages/11229832031>



## PARENT AND CARER ALLIANCE

### Tell us what you think about Home Care Services

Do you receive a direct payment to access home care services?

Our parent reps were part of a group which reviewed the new contract applications for home care agencies. These agencies have been operating for a while now and we would

**like to hear from you about how it's going.**

Please email us at [pacamk@gmail.com](mailto:pacamk@gmail.com) or phone 01908 257828 / 07852526057 and we shall pass your comments on to the commissioners who monitor the contracts.

Kind regards, PACA #yourvoicecounts



# PLEASE REMEMBER



# THIS IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Absolutely no form of nuts are to be brought onto the school premises - including coconut and any products containing coconut (e.g. sun cream) and any food items containing traces of nuts.

The allergy is airborne, extremely severe and life threatening.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE — IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL OR NOT ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL

School makes a lot of additional demands upon your child. If they are not well, they are unable to cope with the demands of a school day which can delay them getting better. In fairness to other children and staff, please keep your child at home if you suspect they are unwell.



Children with diarrhoea and/or sickness are asked to stay at home for 48 hours to help them get better and prevent the spread of the infection. This is in line with Local Authority guidelines.

*If your child has to miss school through illness/medical appointment / other reason, please let the school know as soon as possible with the reason that your child is absent by contacting the site that they are based at — Lower School on 01908 646119, Main Site 01908 563885, Sixth Form 01908 379208. If the school is not informed, you will receive a phone-call/text asking you to contact us and inform us of the reason of absence. We will continue to try to contact you to obtain the reason of the absence of the pupil, if no response, your home may be visited or police contacted. So please remember to contact us first.*

If your child has transport it is your responsibility to phone and cancel the transport arrangements for the duration of the absence.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE—FEEDBACK 2018

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return our questionnaires. 45 responses were received out of a possible 173 families, which is 15 less than last year.

The percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with these statements:-

	Agree or strongly agree 2017	Agree or strongly agree 2018
My child is happy at school	98%	100%
The school keeps my child safe	100%	100%
I receive valuable information from the school about my <b>son/daughter's progress</b>	100%	98%
My child is making good progress in learning	98%	95%
The teaching is good at this school	100%	98%
<b>The school helps me to support my child's learning and gives me a greater understanding of autism</b>	97%	98%
The school helps my child to have a healthy life style	98%	100%
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future	95%	100%
<b>The school meets my child's particular needs</b>	95%	100%
I am satisfied with the therapy my child receives at school	93%	100%
The school manages the stress and behaviour of the children effectively	98%	100%
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	98%	100%
The school is led and managed effectively	98%	100%
<b>Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school</b>	98%	100%

We would like to thank all those who responded with such positive comments, and also those who made suggestions about how we could improve. We have been discussing these ideas in the School Leadership Team, and have already started to make changes.

You said:

**You would like more information about your child's progress, for example through monthly meetings or more photos in the home-school diary.**

Our response

We are currently reviewing our assessment process, and improving the way we pass on information to parents is a high priority.

You said:

You would like more information and training on the approaches and methods we use to teach at The Walnuts/support in engaging your child at home/help with sleep routines.

Our response

Our Parent Programme next year will include sessions on promoting good sleep routines, Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Supports (SCERTS), colourful semantics, developing shared attention and Numicon. We are currently working on the Parent Programme for next term, and it will be sent home in September. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any more ideas.

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

You said:

You would like more information about what is happening at school, perhaps in the form of a weekly blog or updates.

Our response

This year we have used Twitter to keep parents informed about special events in the week ahead, along with email, letters home and text reminders. We will also be sending home a list of events planned for the next academic year in September, which we hope will help with forward diary planning. We are looking into the possibility of a weekly or monthly update for parents on our website, and will keep you posted.

You said:

You would like to see more sports, art and music in school.

Our response

This year we have taken part in more inter-school sports events such as the Primary Panathlon, as well as joining in with the Football Challenge in aid of Unicef. We held another exciting Arts Week this year, as well as an exhibition in the City Centre. All children continue to receive weekly music lessons, and the Christmas concerts were very much enjoyed by all who attended! We hope to build on this momentum next year.

You said:

You would like a Parent Support Group.

Our response

I will be writing to parents next term about forming a group.

You said:

It would be nice if all the pupils in the Upper School could be on the same site/we offered A level and NVO qualifications..

Our response

We are looking into the possibility of creating more space at Hazeley, and in the long term we hope to accommodate more sixth form students on site. We regularly review our offer to students, and the range of **qualifications they can access. This will always be dependent on students' capabilities and interests,**

You said:

It would be good to have more time to prepare children moving at the end of the year.

Our response

Some factors are beyond our control, but where possible we try to strike a balance between preparing for the transition, and minimising time to worry about changes ahead. This may vary for different pupils, and **some will need individual plans. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any particular concerns.**

Thank you again for all your support this year. Hope you have a lovely summer break!

Kim Harman

Assistant Headteacher



# OTHER INFORMATION



## THE WALNUTS SCHOOL SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2018/2019

	<u>Open on the</u> <u>Morning of</u>	<u>Closed on the</u> <u>Afternoon of</u>
<u>Autumn Term 2018</u>		
Staff return	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	
Pupils return	<u>Wednesday 5th September</u>	
Pupils finish		<u>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October</u>
Staff finish		Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October
All return	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December
<u>Spring Term 2019</u>		
All return	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Staff return	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
Pupils return	<u>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February</u>	
Pupils finish		<u>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April</u>
Staff finish		Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April
<u>Summer Term 2019</u>		
All return	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
All return	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July

Please note the above return dates and finish dates for pupils

### Training Days 2018-2019

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 201

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Bank Holiday - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (May Day)

### MEET THE TEACHER

**THURSDAY 26th SEPT**

*Times TBC by Teachers*

### PARENTS EVENING

### AUTUMN TERM DATE

**THURSDAY 18th OCT 3.30pm-8pm**



Special Education Needs and Disability  
Information, Advice and Support  
Service



For advice and/or support, please contact:

Advice Line: 01908 254518

Email: [mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Web: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mksendias](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mksendias)

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DATES—2018

Held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

#### AUTUMN TERM

Monday 10th Sept - Wednesday 24th October

Monday 5th Nov - Wednesday 12th December

PUPILS RETURN TO  
SCHOOL AFTER THE  
SUMMER BREAK ON:

**WEDNESDAY 5th  
SEPTEMBER**

