

## NEWSLETTER, May 2019



I am enjoying being back at school, reacquainting myself with 'old' learners as well as meeting new ones for the first time. Firstly, for anyone not yet aware, Jenny had a baby girl at the end of March, slightly earlier than expected, and both mum and baby are doing extremely well (and even managed to join us for the recent Ofsted Inspection!). I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her and her partner many congratulations. Jenny is still planning to return to school at the end of this term.

We were delighted to receive news that our latest Ofsted rating remains 'Good' and the Inspectors positively highlighted the direction the school is heading, commenting particularly on the 'golden thread' that runs through the school's work. Thank you to all who contributed to the online questionnaire, as well as parent/carer and learner informal meetings with the Inspectors. All feedback will be very helpful for the school's future development.

As always, the Summer Term has got off to a busy start. We have competed in some sporting activities, one of which, table cricket, is a new sport for Kennel Lane. See the article below for more details.

May I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Half Term and look forward to welcoming learners back to school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Kind regards

**Andrea de Bunsen**  
**Acting Headteacher**

### Table Cricket Tournament

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, selected Kennel Lane School learners competed at table cricket against three other special schools, Addington, Brookfields and The Avenue. Our team played three games and won two of them resulting in winning the Berkshire County trophy, which should put the school forward to the next round.



Learners participated fairly and with great sportsmanship whilst remembering the rules and waiting patiently for their turn. They returned to school triumphant, proud of their victory and with a shiny medal and certificate each.



Well done to the team - Freya, Liam, Daniel, Jack, Christopher, Rebecca and Ethan, and thank you to Suyash who provided valuable moral support!

Following this, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, we returned to take part in the semi-final at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, home of the Paralympics. There were 7 other special schools from the South East and again, we competed fairly, with dignity and were supportive of the other teams. Kennel Lane School came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 7 so not a bad result at all. Well done team! We still have our trophy from our first win and hope to compete again next year.

### Friends of Kennel Lane School update

A very big **thank you!** to Morgan's (Sapphire) Grandma who, for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, asked for donations to the FOKLS instead of presents and raised a fantastic £260! Happy Birthday! ©

## Cricketing Skills Masterclass



On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Ash Class went to Purley on Thames Cricket Club to hone their cricket skills. The sun shone brightly and they had a great time testing out the batting, catching and bowling stations to improve their skills.

Before the day ended they had a friendly match against Addington School which everyone enjoyed. A fun day for all!

## Team Building at The Wayz



BRACKNELL

Learners across Key Stage 4 and 5 enjoyed a morning of team-building activities with Fusion from The Wayz. They learnt the importance of good communication and working together whilst playing a range of games and participating in discussions.

The Wayz host a number of youth club activities for young people with SEN. For more information please contact [Gareth.Mepham@berkshireyouth.co.uk](mailto:Gareth.Mepham@berkshireyouth.co.uk)

## Primary and Woodland Hub “All Join In”

Parents and carers from Primary and the Woodlands Hub joined us for the afternoon on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. After meeting in the hall for tea, coffee and cold drinks served by the sixth form Enterprise group, everyone participated with a variety of planting and growing activities including making miniature gardens, exploring compost to find hidden objects and planting marigolds. A good time was had by all!



## Sapphire Bug Hunt

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Sapphire class went to Peacock Meadows on Rock Bug Hunt. The Year 6 class at Jennetts Park painted rocks as bugs and hid them in the field for us to hunt. We had a fantastic time and even found a few real bees and butterflies.

## School Gateway



If you haven't already done so and have an Android or iPhone, please download this free app for the 'School Comms' service. This saves us the cost of a text when we need to communicate urgent news or information to you.

## Governor Update from Peter Floyd, Chair of Governors

Following the OFSTED inspection and the excellent result, which you will have already seen full details of, I just want to add some congratulations and thanks.

Firstly, congratulations and thanks to everyone involved with the school – the result and comments made by the Inspectors reflect not just a lot of hard work and commitment but also a consistency of approach aimed at achieving the very best outcomes for our learners. We can all be very proud of this.

Secondly, thank you to all parents, carers and staff who completed the surveys and for the overwhelming vote of confidence given to the school – there were also some comments for further improvement and these will be reviewed and acted on as appropriate.

Which leads nicely onto my next question.... Have you ever thought about becoming a Parent Governor at Kennel Lane? Are you concerned that you might not have the skills required? Do you think it might require too much of a time commitment? Are you unsure about what it might entail? Parents know far more about the school in particular, and education in general, than they sometimes realise so it might not be as daunting as you think.

Why not contact, Bev Mitchell-Wright to arrange an informal chat over a cup of coffee when she would be able to explain a bit more about what being a Parent Governor entails? Bev is a Parent Governor herself so will be able to give you her perspective of what it's like. There is no obligation on your part but it might just help you to decide if it is something you might like to do. Contact the School Office with your details and Bev will give you a call.

### E-Safety Update

Please visit our school website for the latest factsheet on using YouTube and similar apps safely with your young people. If you require further support or help with this please contact the school Safeguarding Team via the School Office.

### Legacy Allstars Cheerleading

We have been asked to pass on information on the Legacy Allstars who run cheerleading sessions at Easthampstead Park School for additional needs young people. Courses run from February to November on the last Tuesday of each month, from 6pm – 7pm and cost £3 per session (carer free).



Please visit <https://www.legacyallstars.co.uk/shining-legends/> for more information.

### Staff News

A very warm welcome back to Jo Roclowski (Assistant Head, Secondary) who has returned from maternity leave.

### Dates for the Diary



<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	End of Half Term	3.00pm
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	Back to school	8.50am
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	Parent and Carer Workshop – EYFS Attainment	2.00pm – 2.45pm
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	FOKLS Summer Fun Day	10.00am – 2.00pm
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Parent and Carer Meet the Tutor Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm – 2.30pm
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers Prom – details to follow	7.00pm – 9.30pm
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Leavers' Awards and Achievement Ceremony followed by End of Year Disco	Starting at 9.30am
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of Term	1.00pm (for learners)