

# Tandridge Learning Trust

Trust Talk  
*Parent Edition*  
July 2023



Bletchingley Village  
Primary School & Nursery



Hamsey Green  
Primary School



Warlingham School  
& Sixth Form College



Tatsfield  
Primary School



WOODLEA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we approach the end of this academic year, we would like to share with you some highlights and accomplishments from across our schools, acknowledge some of the challenges we have faced this year and express our commitment to closer partnership working with all our families.

Throughout the year, our pupils have excelled academically, creatively and in terms of their personal development. As we await examination results, we would like to acknowledge the many achievements of our pupils across all our schools which are testament to their individual and collective hard work and determination, as well as to the unwavering support and encouragement they receive from our dedicated staff and from their families.

Whilst we have much to celebrate, we also recognise that the aftermath

of the pandemic continues to pose some challenges. The disruption caused by the extended periods of remote learning and the emotional impact on our pupils should not be underestimated. As we move forward, we remain committed to providing the necessary support and resources to help all our pupils bridge any gaps in their learning and address their emotional wellbeing. We are in the final stages of completing a new, purpose-built, sustainable space at Warlingham which will enable us to meet the most significant and urgent area of need for pupils from all our schools, our staff and our local community: supporting their mental health and wellbeing. We will write more about this in the next edition of this newsletter.

All staff in our schools are actively engaging with educational research, behaviour support strategies, and sharing best practices to ensure that we are delivering the most effective teaching and learning and pastoral care for our pupils. We remain committed to ensuring our pupils receive the highest quality education possible within a mutually

respectful and caring learning environment.

We extend our gratitude to so many parents and carers for their unwavering support throughout the year. Your trust, encouragement, and partnership have been instrumental in the success of our schools. However, we recognise that the enforced distance between school and families at the height of the pandemic has brought about some additional challenges for us. The strong, seamless partnership between school and home which is essential for the holistic development of our pupils, is not as strong as it was prior, and we must work together to restore this. We value the role of parents and carers as our primary allies in shaping the educational journey of each child. As we look to the year ahead, we are committed to fostering closer collaboration with families. We will enhance communication channels to keep you informed about your child's progress, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement. We welcome you into our schools, encourage you to actively engage with us, share your ideas, and

# Rebecca Plaskitt

participate fully in the school community. Together, we can create an enriching and supportive environment where all our children can thrive. We look forward to strengthening these ties in the coming year and building an even brighter future for our pupils.

This edition of Trust Talk is a celebration of all the activities which take place in our schools every day, enrichment activities that children will remember for years to come. We continue to offer support to parents through our articles about online safety and in addition, we hope to run further parent workshops next year. Please get in

touch by email on [Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk](mailto:Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk) if there is an area you would particularly like more information on and we will do our best to provide this.

At the end of this term, we say a sad farewell to Kevin Bellinger, Headteacher at Tatsfield Primary School. Kevin is our longest serving Headteacher, having devoted 22 years to Tatsfield families, and he will be hugely missed. On pages 4-7 of this newsletter, he reflects on the highlights of his teaching career and his time with the school. We extend a huge thank you from us all for his loyalty and commitment to the



school and to the Trust.

May we wish you all a wonderful summer break filled with happiness, relaxation and quality time with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming everyone back safely in September.

*Rebecca*

## HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!





*After 22 years at Tatsfield Primary School, Kevin Bellinger is leaving the school. We are very sorry to see him go and asked him to write something about his career and his memories of the school.*

After completing my degree in Mathematics and Education at St Mary's College Twickenham and with various placements in and around Feltham and Hounslow. I started my teaching career at Woodlands Junior School, in Tonbridge, Kent. It was a fabulous school, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there working with some outstanding teachers. I was teaching for a few years before the National Curriculum and before SATs and

Ofsted. In fact, there were no computers or photocopiers, just chalk boards and banding machines so it does seem like a long time ago. Education has changed considerably since then.

I went on to be a senior teacher and later an acting Deputy Head at a school in Hildenborough before being appointed as Deputy Headteacher at Tatsfield Primary School in September 2001.



# Bellinger, Headteacher

I mainly taught Year 5 and 6 and have some very fond memories of the classes I taught. I remember I ran a Victorian School Day with my class and converted the old school hall back into a classroom with stuffed animals, Victorian information posters, chalk boards and the cane! Mrs Agnew and Mrs Hancock made soup and bread for lunch.

I also remember camping in tents



with my Year 5 class at Blacklands Farm. It rained so much that when we woke up we were sleeping in very wet mud. I still remember the children in socks squelching through the mud to the shower blocks and not one of them complained. I was so impressed with them!

I was appointed Headteacher in 2008 and took over the school just as they started digging for the new school building, but it took two years to complete and in that time I spent time shuttling between the two buildings. We were so delighted to have a new school building because the old one had many faults. The huts were nearly falling down, and we would have to put frozen peas on the thermostat in the main hall to bring the heating on in the winter as it was a bit temperamental!

I still cannot work out how we fitted all the children and parents into the old hall for class assemblies and Christmas Productions. It was always a tight squeeze. The Key Stage 2 production was always held in the village hall and we would transport all the props and



equipment including chairs and benches up the hill with the help of Mr Staveley and his van.

The PTA was always very active; Christmas Fairs were held in the hut that was the dining room and Summer Fairs and Fireworks took place on the school field.

We moved to the new building over the Easter holidays of 2010 and the staff were absolutely fantastic. They packed the school and unpacked over the holidays, so we were up and running when the term started.



Moving to the new school building felt like starting at a new school again but with the benefit of having the same staff and children.

The new building was officially opened in March 2011 by HRH, the Duke of Kent.

We set about making the new building our own and planted many trees shrubs and bushes. We have had some great successes both academically and in sporting events and competitions. Our orchestra

was great with many schools joining us from all over Tandridge for an orchestra day in the summer and the May music was always a favourite event of mine.

I always enjoyed the residential trips with the children and the infant nativities and Key Stage 2 productions will always remain as wonderful memories. I have so many good memories, even snow clearing!

I worked for many years as part of the steering group of the Tandridge Education Partnership (TEP) working with the Headteachers in 35 schools or so around Tandridge.

**Tandridge Learning Trust**

Helping to create Tandridge Learning Trust in 2017 with a few of the Headteachers from the TEP was another change that brought challenges and a new forward-looking direction for the school.

When COVID-19 came in 2020, we were ready for the challenge,

# Bellinger, Headteacher

and it is a time I will never forget. Though we had key worker children in school it was always very quiet, and a school is not a school without children, so when they returned it felt great.

We had a wonderful Ofsted in October 2021, and at the end of the year it felt time to hand over to someone else. I have so many

happy memories of teaching and the children I have worked with. I have bumped into many children who are now carpenters, plumbers, electricians, Vets, Doctors, architects, builders, soldiers, pilots, hairdressers, teachers, actors or owning their own businesses and I am sure many others are doing other things.

I have worked with some amazing people over the years, both parents and staff who are so dedicated and give so much to the school and the children. I have also met amazing children some of whom now have children of their own. Watching the development of every child who has come through my school or when I was teaching and has been in my class has been wonderful. Some have been a challenge and others have been a delight, but they are all individuals, and it has been a real privilege to have worked with them and their families and to be part of their lives - for that I am thankful. Teaching has been an amazing journey and I will miss it.

I wish the school and everyone associated with it every success for the future.

*Kevin Bellinger*

Rachel Jewitt, who officially takes up the position of Headteacher at Tatsfield in September 2023, has spent some time this term with Kevin, learning about the school. We will feature her in the next edition of this newsletter.





This was an afternoon designed to help staff to reflect, enjoy and relax and we wanted to ensure that the sessions we arranged would offer staff the chance to experience all three of these and more. We put the programme together based on input from staff. Each member of staff had been given the chance to book

places at three sessions across the afternoon. The sessions were intentionally varied and we hope offered opportunities to learn but also opportunities to stop the world, albeit only for 40 minutes!

For the first time, we offered gong sound therapy, craft therapy, hip hop dancing, guided meditation, LEGO masters, cookie baking along with many previous years' popular sessions such as Rock Choir and HR & chat. We also offered staff opportunities to take a walk with colleagues, attend a fun session on note taking, learn

about understanding the sugar rush, grief therapy, rock choir, and mindfulness. Every session offered something different.

We had over 300 attending and were delighted that so many of our staff seemed excited and looking forward to the afternoon ahead. We have also had the most amazing and positive feedback. A couple of sessions did not quite hit the mark, so we won't be repeating those. However, the vast majority exceeded expectations.

"Nice way to start the day and if you teach younger students great transferable craft." (Craft Therapy)

Many of our staff asked for more of some of the sessions!

"Brilliant session. Fun, energetic and time flew by. Would love to do more singing for fun with Mark." (Rock Choir)

"Very good session, felt very relaxed at the end and has inspired me to find out more about meditation." (Guided Meditation)

# noon and Gong Baths!

Several sessions were facilitated by members of staff and we are very grateful to them for all their hard work and commitment. We could not have offered such a range of sessions without these people. Thank you all so much! You are stars.

One of the clear winners for the afternoon was Gong Sound Therapy. "Brilliant - so relaxing - please can we do this activity every week!!!" As a result, we have been in touch with Sue Greenwood, the facilitator, who will be offering a Gong Bath on a regular basis at Hamsey Green Primary School, open to all.

For those unfamiliar with Gong Baths, you are bathed in sound - not water - and they are very relaxing. You lie on a yoga mat with a pillow and cosy blanket as you listen to the soothing sounds of Gongs, Himalayan Bowls and Crystal Bowls. During the session you will be immersed in a landscape of enchanting sounds, which will nourish your system as you enter a sustained, deep state of meditative relaxation.



Gong Sound Therapy can:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve sleep and energy levels
- Help you to feel positive with a sense of wellbeing

We have initially scheduled three sessions, from 5pm to 6pm on the following dates:

Monday 11 September 2023

Monday 25 September 2023

Monday 9 October 2023

The sessions will be open to the general public - all are welcome. The cost per session is £20 and can be booked via Sue Greenwood, who runs the sessions, and has had extensive Sound Therapy training.

Full details are available on Sue's website ([www.gongsound.co.uk](http://www.gongsound.co.uk)) - [click here](#) for event information.

Sue can be contacted by email at [sue@gongsound.co.uk](mailto:sue@gongsound.co.uk) or by phone on 07803 015578.





On Saturday 13th May, Warlingham staff met the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award students in East Grinstead so they could complete their Final Expedition in the Ashdown Forest.

Half of the group started on the East Grinstead route, while the other half started with the Forest route. They were very lucky with the weather as the sun shone for the whole weekend! The students





“We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope to take part in Silver DofE next year.”

Ben F and Group 8, Year 9 Students

did brilliantly, navigating their way as a group and showed fantastic commitment. They made it back to Blacklands Farm where everyone was camping for the night, set up their tents and started cooking dinner on the Trangia. They were a lot more confident with their tent

pitching skills after the practice weekend in April!

On the second day, the groups were up and raring to go, so they set off on their second route for the weekend. Again, the weather was kind and the students did really well

to make it to the final checkpoint and go home. The students did fantastically well on both the practice and the final weekend, and the school is looking forward to seeing all of them completing the Silver Award next year.



“It was all going great until we came across a field of cows! We had to go through it and we were scared but it was OK in the end and we made it through!”

Honey M, Year 9 Student



Last year, Hamsey Green Primary School was very lucky to win a bid to have a new heating system put in, to replace their antiquated system. The downside to this was that the

work took six months to complete, during which time the library was converted into a make-shift classroom. By the time the work had finished in January 2023, the



# es new library!



library was unrecognisable. So, the decision was taken to design a new space that would entice the children in - to build their love of reading and to provide a tranquil space where they could chill with a book.

Over the last five months, the premises team has been extremely busy, completely transforming the space into an enchanted forest made from reclaimed wood, pallets

and upcycled resources such as wire and plastics. The amazing PTA has supported the furnishing of the library with beanbags, cushions and a cosy arm chair! This is in keeping with the children's wishes to be Eco friendly. The team have created specialised sections, such as the Geography section, set under an erupting volcano (it is amazing what can be done with fairy lights!) a working drawbridge on an ancient

castle in the History section, jungle canopies and a twinkly starry sky.

All children at Hamsey Green Primary School have library time weekly which they love. Bailey, their school dog, also reads stories to the children in the library as a reward. It is definitely the place to be!

We hope that the children's (and adult's) love of reading is one that will last them for life.



Woodlea has had two residential trips this year. Year 4 went to Carroty Wood for two nights and Year 6 went to the Isle of White for four nights. Both groups had a fantastic time. All the children attended from both classes. For some of the children, these trips have been a significant milestone as with COVID-19, events like these have not happened for a while.

Many of the Year 4 children mentioned that the challenges at Carroty Wood represented some

of their greatest achievements this year. In his annual report, William C has said "My biggest achievement at school was overcoming my fear of heights at Carroty Wood." Callum G said the same thing. Lara C talked about being able to climb the full nine metres on the rock climbing wall.

When Headteacher, Mrs Gambier, popped down to visit the children on their residential, it was obvious they were having a fantastic time and they were keen to tell her all about

## g their residential trips



the different things they did. For many, just being away from home is a significant achievement.

Mrs Gambier led the Year 6 trip to the Isle of Wight and enjoyed seeing first-hand how the children challenged themselves and overcame their fears. Every single child did something which was out

of their comfort zone. She was very impressed with how supportive the children were of each other. Whatever height their classmates climbed to, or however many arrows they got in a target, they congratulated each other. When their classmates were upset, they all rallied round.



It is seeing these things that make the staff, who give up their time to go with the children, proud. The staff who accompanied these two trips were: Mr Cole, Mrs King, Miss Lucas, Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Gambier.



During this edition of Trust Talk, we are focussing on YouTube in our online safety feature.

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform. It's difficult to overstate YouTube's role in our cultural ecosystem. More than 500 hours of content are uploaded onto the platform every minute! And the channel has over 2 billion monthly active users - that's nearly a quarter of the world's population.

According to InternetMatters.org, 89% of children watch their favourite TV shows via YouTube. Andy Robertson is a freelance family technology expert for the BBC and recently wrote the Taming Gaming book for parents. He has written an article called, 'YouTube:

## TAKE NOTE!

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children may find these entertaining and might want to try them out. The painful 'salt and ice' challenge, which can cause injuries very quickly is just one of many such examples.

Tips and tricks to keep your children entertained and safe, which you can access on InternetMatters.org, by [clicking here](#). The article also includes a video that explains how to set parental controls on YouTube. You can watch the video from their site, or click the video image on the bottom.

Childnet's blog on 'A parent's guide to YouTube Restricted Mode' explores the safety feature 'Restricted Mode' on YouTube; looking at how it works and some things to be aware of when using it. You can read the blog by [clicking here](#).

NSPCC focuses on 'Six features to help keep your child safe on YouTube'. It also includes information on YouTube Kids - a separate app and website created by YouTube that offers more filters and restrictions to help stop children

coming across inappropriate content. [Click here](#) for information.

YouTube itself says it's always looking at ways to create an appropriate environment for family content on YouTube, and invests heavily in the policies, technology and teams that help to provide children and families with the best protection possible. More information from them can be found on how they try to keep children safe on their website - [click here](#).

Lastly, National Online Safety produces a YouTube guide for parents and carers. In the guide -



# Parents: YouTube

which you can access by clicking the image on the right - you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as accessing age-inappropriate content, participating in potentially harmful challenges, connecting with strangers, and scammers impersonating YouTubers.

We would like to remind you that we regularly share the National Online Safety guides on our social media feeds so be sure to follow us:



<https://www.facebook.com/TandridgeLearningTrust/>



<https://twitter.com/TandLearnTrust>

If there is a subject in particular that you would welcome more information on, please do let us know by emailing us: [Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk](mailto:Info@TandridgeLearningTrust.co.uk).



## TAKE NOTE!

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to log in with an account with a verified age of 18) but children can still view inappropriate material, including profanity and violence, which they might find upsetting.

## Trips to Blacklands Farm

Only a week after the Easter break, the Kestrels (Year 4) went away on their first residential trip to Blacklands Farm. By day, the children were kept busy crawling through tunnels, navigating the low ropes course and carrying out team building activities. The rain did not deter them, they took shelter and played parachute games. By night, they had a paper aeroplane competition followed by a talent show and steaming mugs of hot chocolate which were very popular before bed!

Everyone had a great time, and we are sure they are looking forward to going again for a longer trip next year.

On Tuesday 25th April it was the Owls (Year 5) who headed to Blacklands Farm for their four-day residential visit. They were kept busy with, among other things; zip



wiring, kayaking, hiking, abseiling, crate challenges, Leap of Faith, orienteering and night hikes, as well as a wonderful talent show put on by the children.

Well done everyone and especially the children who threw themselves into everything the trip had to offer. The school is already booking for next year!





A great big thank you goes to Mrs Dalglish for all the wonderful food and to all the staff who stayed overnight with the children, along with all the other adults who helped to make the trip such a great success.

### Visit to Wakehurst Place

Woodpecker Class (Year 3) spent a fantastic day at Wakehurst on

Tuesday 20th June. First, they worked in groups to create some ephemeral art using natural materials. Next, they focussed on the 'story of a sunflower', investigating the lifecycle of a sunflower to observe the differences. They used hand lenses to look closely and rulers to measure the length of roots and overall height. They also used powerful

microscopes to look at different parts of flowering plants. After lunch, they explored the stunning grounds, learning about different trees and plants and spotted pollinators.

Thank you to Mrs Crocker, Mr Henderson, Mrs Wheeldon, Mrs Ekoku and Mr Lucas who accompanied them on the trip.

### Celebrating Surrey Healthy Schools

We are very pleased to announce that Tatsfield has been recognised for adopting a Surrey Healthy Schools Approach to wellbeing, health, and achievement again this year. This award is not easy to achieve or retain and requires a lot of effort and hard work to meet all of the requirements. It is gratifying to see Tatsfield recognised as the great school that it is.

Well done to everyone for helping Tatsfield to achieve this award again, and a particular thanks to Mrs Knock for her work in securing it.

If you'd like to read more about Celebrating Surrey Health Schools, please [click here](#).



The whole school community had a fantastic time celebrating the King's coronation! The afternoon started with a picnic lunch on the field with all the children's families. Staff, pupils and their families enjoyed the sunshine and all that the children and staff had organised.

A lot of preparation had gone in to the event and children's



learning was focussed on the King's coronation in the lead up to it. Each class used their art skills of printing, collage, 3D sculpture and more to create a class piece for the 'big art gallery'. They also used their DT skills to cook some delicious treats!

Everyone showed off their maypole dancing, which they had been working very hard on in PE, and it was lovely to see the return of this Summer tradition. They then

listened to every class perform a song - they all sounded amazing and the songs were chosen from the King's official coronation playlist.

They rounded off the afternoon with a whole school performance of 'Defender of Us All' - a song written by the Princess of Wales' former piano teacher specifically for the King's coronation.

It was certainly a celebration to remember and enjoyed by all!



# g the King's Coronation!



We firmly believe in enabling access to high quality professional learning opportunities and career development for all staff. As part of this endeavour, Paul Foster, Headteacher of Warlingham, has developed an 8-session twilight (after school) programme designed for senior leaders in primary and secondary schools who wish to develop their leadership in role or for career progression as a senior leader.

Our Senior Leadership Development Programme has been designed to provide participants with a balance of practical and reflective tools and aims to:

- Build and develop a senior leadership skillset
- Support managing workload and wellbeing as a senior leader
- Provide opportunities for coaching and development for career progression



The first five sessions were delivered over the Spring Term and Summer Term with time between sessions for action and reflection in support of participants' ongoing development. The sessions included:

- Vision, values and communication as a senior leader
- Problem-solving and decision-making in senior leadership
- Managing school resources and financial decision-making
- Time management, prioritisation and managing pressure
- Change management, delegation and securing accountability

The course will conclude during the Autumn Term, with the following three sessions:

- Self-care and managing wellbeing
- Presentation of learning and review of impact
- Presenting yourself for successful promotion

We believe that this course represents *innovative training*, that will help us to develop *inspiring leadership skills* which in turn will help all our staff to deliver *excellent teaching*.

Excellent Teaching  
Inspiring Leadership  
Innovative Training

# Ages 4-14

Sports multi-skills

## camp 4 champs

Book NOW!

[camp4champs.co.uk](http://camp4champs.co.uk)

# School Holiday

## Sports & Activity Camp



Camp 4 Champs provides an active environment where children can experience fun, make friends and develop new skills. Their excellent staff can help children understand the power of sport, without the pressure of competition. The activities are inclusive to all abilities so everyone can achieve and have fun.

The sports and activity camps are open to children from 4-14 years old and run from 9am-4pm, (with extended hours available, 8am-6pm). There are camps

running during the summer break at Warlingham School & Sixth Form College from Monday 24th July to Friday 25th August 2023. Children can take part in a variety of activities, including: swimming, nerf wars, arts and crafts, cookery, and various sports, so will have lots of fun!

### Camp Prices

Single Day £36

Full Week £165

Early / Extended Camp £7

To book, [click here](#).



### Funding

Camp 4 Champs has secured funding for this summer camp for those parents/carers eligible for benefits-based Free School Meals (FSM's) including the provision of lunch. If you are eligible to book a FREE place, you will receive an email from your child's/children's school with a unique code.

# Tandridge Learning Trust



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