



Trust Newsletter - Autumn 2025

Partnership - Building Strong Communities

Following the success of last year's Trust-wide INSET conference, which focused on disadvantaged and under-served children, this year we developed a different approach to our Trust-wide INSET, with our focus being Partnership.

The feedback we received from staff from last year was that they enjoyed the conference and wanted to spend more time in their relevant groups to extend those professional conversations further. Year groups (or admin/nursery/premises teams) met, working on tangible ways that we can work together as a Trust. Our mission is built on the power of partnership, and this day was an opportunity to put that value into practice.

Mark Rivers, our Director of Education/Deputy CEO noted to the staff teams

"It was wonderful to see over 300 colleagues connecting in person... across seven different sites towards a shared goal. It was great to hear that the atmosphere in each venue was buzzing with collaboration, curiosity, and a genuine sense of togetherness...."

The success of the hybrid sessions and the lively cross-school discussions really brought our Trust vision to life.

Feedback so far has been incredibly encouraging, with many colleagues commenting on how valuable it was to connect beyond their own school teams and to contribute to a unified approach to writing. The insights and examples shared will now feed directly into the next stage of our 'Growing Great Writers' Trust progression development.

Thank you once again for your energy, flexibility, and commitment to making the day such a success. It truly reflected what it means to build stronger communities, not just for our pupils, but for all of us working together across the Trust.



Highlights from our schools

Baldwins Hill

The Year 6 children had a fantastic time at Windmill Hill PGL! Below is an excerpt from a wonderful poem by Mrs Osborne about their experiences:

We packed our bags and waved goodbye,

*From Baldwins Hill with spirits high
Windmill Hill was calling loud,
To PGL - we will make you proud!*

*...So here's to memories, bold and bright,
Of Windmill Hill and every night.
We laughed, we played, we faced our fears,
A trip to treasure through the years."*



Blackwell

There was outdoor learning at Blackwell, where Year 5 children were excited to be back in their woodland classroom!

The lesson begun with the game 'Grassy Bridge', which focuses on the children using their knowledge of the animal kingdom to play the game. Then around the fire circle, the children use their senses to identify the birds they could hear. The lesson ended with an eco warrior theme, as the children used a metal detector to collect in any rubbish that has gathered over the summer, or buried rubbish from under the ground. They were able to find about 20 items of rubbish. Well Done Cedar!



Burstow



Burstow have new diverse houses! The school has recently introduced its brand-new House names, chosen through a whole-school vote involving children and families.

The children have been learning more about each of these role models, with new displays appearing around the school to celebrate their stories and achievements and parents have shared how meaningful and representative the Houses are.

The new Houses have already become an exciting and positive part of life at Burstow, helping children to see how the school values can be lived out through real people who inspire us all.

Halsford Park

Halsford Park children were asked to bring in tins and packets of food and household items for two charities they have been supporting over the past few years, which are East Grinstead Foodbank and Crawley Open house. The donations literally poured in for the Harvest table with children showing such compassion and responsibility for their school and the wider community.



Hatchlands

Hatchlands hosted a YMCA Disabilities Service Coffee morning, with parents attending across all year groups. It was a successful community event and the feedback from parents was that it had been a great opportunity to meet people with similar experiences, and was a good environment in which to talk, along with feeling heard and supported.

LEAPS

Children at LEAPS Nursery took part in Remembrance Day 2025 “In memory of the brave men and women who served and sacrificed. For those who gave their lives, so we could live ours”



North Downs

North Downs welcomed Mrs Budd to their 'Future Fridays' assembly (these are where guests/visitors come along to talk about their careers and how what they learnt at school helped them in their adult life).

Mrs Budd is a local farmer, and visited the school, hot off the press of featuring on the BBC and presented a brilliant assembly about life as a cattle farmer.

The assembly also linked to British farming week.



Sandcross

Children from Sandcross joined the nation in marking the two-minutes silence for Remembrance Sunday. They visited St Luke's Church, where they were joined by Reigate Park Church. The Head Boys and Head Girls laid a wreath on behalf of the school. It was lovely to see the children in their various uniforms, marking the day with such respect and reflection.



Celebrating our open days

Our schools have also started building partnerships with potential new parents, opening their doors to prospective parents for a series of Open Days for new Reception children (2026).

It has been wonderful to hear the positive feedback and to hear how eloquently the tour guides spoke about their schools, allowing new parents to hear first-hand what amazing places they are to learn and thrive. The schools have received some lovely feedback from visiting parents –

At Blackwell, parents said “We were delighted to attend the open day at Blackwell School yesterday. The children did a wonderful job of showing us around, and it was lovely to see how confident and proud they are of the school... Thank you very much for your time and for such an informative visit.”

Parents visiting Baldwins Hill commented on the lovely feel they had when they first entered the school with one parent commenting on a really special moment, where one pupil had gone up directly to talk to their child who had been a little nervous.

One of Hatchlands prospective parents emailed in to say “Firstly, thank you for taking the time for introducing us to Hatchlands Primary School this morning. The school has a lovely feel to it. I wanted to drop you a note to let you know what a fantastic job your Year 6 student (M) did on his tour.... He is an absolute credit to your school and you could see his passion for the school... Please pass our thanks on!!”

Burstow’s visitors commented on the positive atmosphere, the inclusive feel of the school, and the ambassadors’ passion for promoting all that makes Burstow special.

Halsford Park received an email “My wife and I had our school tour today which was led by W and A. We just wanted to highlight how fantastic they both were...They’re clearly are very proud of being at Halsford Park and they were a testament to the school...This was our third and final school tour and it was the most comprehensive tour we’ve had so far, and our last one was led by a headteacher!”

Thank you to everyone involved in showcasing our communities!

Stay Connected

Don't forget to follow the Trust and our schools on Facebook, Instagram and Linked In!

Quick links to all our school websites are below....

<https://baldwinshillprimaryschool.co.uk>

<https://www.blackwellprimaryschool.co.uk>

<https://www.burstowschool.org>

<https://www.halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk>

<https://www.hatchlandsprimary.co.uk>

<https://www.leapsnursery.co.uk>

<https://www.northdowns.surrey.sch.uk>

<https://www.sandcross.surrey.sch.uk>



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