



Red Kite Special Academy Newsletter

Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Families,

It's been a great last term with some amazing events and lots of lovely memories being made. I want to start my newsletter by first saying a huge congratulations to Suzy, who following a successful interview last week has been appointed as our new Deputy Head. I am really excited and looking forward to the new school year.

Secondary Summer Fayre

We had 35 families attend this event on Friday 3rd July, which was amazing! Our Secondary pupils did an amazing job making a variety of items to sell to families. We saw on sale some delicious treats and an amazing range of handmade gifts that the pupils worked hard to produce.

Talent Show

A note from Jason: What an incredible Talent Show we enjoyed!

The day began with our Secondary pupils taking to the stage to showcase their amazing talents. From impressive football skills and beautiful singing to energetic dancing and outstanding gymnastics, every pupil who performed did a fantastic job. It was wonderful to see the whole Secondary department supporting one another, creating such a positive and encouraging atmosphere.

In the afternoon, it was the turn of our Primary pupils to shine. They confidently stepped onto the stage in front of a packed hall, sharing their wonderful talents while entertaining their friends and teachers. We enjoyed a fantastic variety of performances, from class acts and a fun game of *What's My Name?* to a pupil astonishing the audience by putting their legs behind their head!

Days like these are so important, giving our pupils the opportunity to celebrate their unique talents, build confidence, and share the activities they love with the whole school community. We are incredibly proud of every pupil who took part and helped make the day such a memorable success.

Red Kite Festival Day

Our Red Kite Festival Day was rescheduled due to the hot weather and took place this week. We had an amazing day and lots of fun with a range of activities including bouncy castles, an inflatable obstacle course and music and dancing in the hall with DJ Jason! We also visited the **RK Ice Cream Parlour** during the day where we enjoyed choosing which flavour sauces and sprinkles to have on our ice cream. Our older pupils did brilliantly serving ice cream to the primary classes.

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Primary Residential

On Monday 13th July, 11 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils went on a residential to Dodford Farm near Birmingham.

We all had an absolutely amazing time playing in the park, feeding and petting all the animals: Guinea pigs, Rabbits, Horses, Goats and Pigs.

We also had so much fun in their soft play and splashing in the paddling pool!

The pupils who went were all so amazing – for some it was their first time away from home.

This was a fabulous experience for all and promoted confidence, independence and resilience. Well done to all the pupils and a big thank-you to Michelle, Adelle, Linda, Chloe, Nikki and Jossy who came along to support.

Leavers Prom

On Wednesday evening, we came together to celebrate and bid a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 11 and Year 13 leavers. It was a truly magical night filled with dancing, smiles, laughter, a few tears of happiness and pride, and heartfelt celebrations of each pupil's unique achievements. During the presentations, teachers shared personal, touching farewells, and presented each leaver with their certificates of achievement and a scroll.

Every single pupil looked spectacular – we saw shiny pearls, diamonds, satin, glitter, and highly polished shoes. For the staff, the absolute highlight was watching the pure joy on the pupils' faces as they walked down our special blue sparkly carpet, heads held high with pride. It was a true privilege to witness.

The party was set to finish at 7:00 PM, but the dance floor was far too lively to close! Thanks to Jason for popping on a few extra songs, we kept the dancing going just a little longer.

We hope our families and pupils enjoyed the evening as much as the Red Kite staff did—thank you for letting us share this unforgettable evening with you.

To our wonderful leavers: Reece, Harmony, Gabs, Jensen, Zack, Emily, Mason and Adam in Year 11, and to Fred, Reuben, Aimee, Chad, Alex and Harry in Year 13. You will be terribly missed around the school, but we wish you every success as you transition into your next stage of education or into adulthood. We are going to miss you all and hope you come back and visit us at our Leavers Coffee Mornings.

We are also saying goodbye to the following wonderful pupils too, Joey, Albie and Evelyn who are moving on to new schools. We wish you all well in your new setting and are going to miss you.

We also say goodbye to the following staff who are moving on to exciting new things

Adelle and Andrea who have been teachers with us for a number of years and Sally who has been both a teacher and part of our leadership team too.

We want to say a huge thank you for everything you have given to our Red Kite Family in your time with us. You will all be really missed and we wish you all success as you move onto new adventures.

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A note from Sally

To all Red Kite Families,

As we come to the end of the academic year, I would like to share that I will be leaving Red Kite to begin a new chapter in another educational setting.

Having been part of Red Kite since the very beginning, it has been a privilege to watch the school grow and develop over the years. I have been incredibly fortunate to work alongside so many wonderful pupils and their families, supporting them throughout their journeys at Red Kite and for some, during their time at Kingsley School as well. I am truly grateful for the experiences, memories and relationships that have shaped my time here. It has been an honour to be part of such a special community.

Thank you for your kindness, support and the trust you have placed in me over the years. I wish every one of our pupils and their families continued happiness, success and fulfilment in the future.

With my very best wishes,

Sally

Class Highlights!

Meadows



Daisies

It has been an amazing year in Daisies, with the pupils making wonderful progress across the curriculum. We have especially enjoyed our sensory stories, linked to our Talk for Writing texts and the pupils have shown good anticipation for what is coming next as we have built upon them each week. We have all really enjoyed learning through songs in Maths and the pupils have all shown a developing sense of number and quantity through these songs - the favourite being the sea creature song.

Outside of the classroom, we have loved our visits to the sensory room, where we have been working on mindfulness and breathing activities - these have been very useful to take into other parts of our days when we are feeling anxious or overwhelmed.

Our end of year trip to Cheeky Monkees was amazing and we all had a brilliant time exploring the climbing and adventurous areas as well as the soft play and sensory areas. We need to say a huge thank you to Disco-bility who were also at Cheeky Monkees that day, and offered to pay for drinks and ice lollies for the staff and pupils on a very hot day!

Our other highlights include the magical experiences of meeting Santa and the Easter Bunny - our thanks go out to Alfe for his support in making this happen.

Caterpillars



Caterpillars started the year welcoming five new peers and a new member of staff. Once we were all settled, we found our routine working together and our relationships flourished across the class.

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We enjoyed our Christmas celebrations, including a visit from Santa himself. He even bought gifts for us!

We have read many stories together throughout the year and these stories have led us into some wonderful role-playing games; we have even built a castle in the classroom. Many of the stories that we shared together will stay with us for a long time. FEE, FI, FO, FUM, I smell the blood of an Englishman...

Heading into our summer term we have enjoyed many outdoor activities together, including waterplay, a fantastic water fight, bubble fun and lots of exploration. We also had a phenomenal time at Tigers soft play, joined by our friends from Ladybirds. We were all so proud the impeccable behaviour showing the public what a credit to Red Kite we are!

The time has come for me to make a change as all Caterpillars do. So, while the summer holidays tick away, I will be emerging from my cocoon and returning as a Butterfly. I couldn't be prouder of my Caterpillars and all we have achieved together this year.

Best of luck on the next step of your journey, Caterpillars!

Poppies



Poppies have had a super year, and every Poppy has been an absolute star! We are really proud of everyone with great improvements seen in their communication using IPADS, eyegazes, vocalisation and VOCA's. Their keenness towards engaging, self-care, communicating in learning and building relationships with staff and peers has been impeccable.

We experienced a Halloween sensory room, which was a bit spooky but lots of fun. We had a visit from Santa, and Alfe treated us to some fun with the Snow Machine and Bubble Machine. The children loved this magical experience as if it were real snow.

We enjoyed our trip to the local care homes. We have loved all our sensory play in theme lessons to explore hot/cold, Pets at Home and recently the beach. This term we had lots of fun 'being at the beach' and having lots of water play.

We enjoyed celebrating the Red Kite Festival too, and seeing so many colours and having everyone together was a lovely end to the year. We look forward to seeing what next year brings! Have a great Summer!

Ladybirds



The class has experienced some challenges and changes this year, but despite this, the children in Ladybirds continue to amaze us with their resilience and enthusiasm. As well as some amazing learning taking place, we have also seen lovely friendships begin to bloom between the pupils. There have also been fantastic improvements in the pupils' communication both verbally and using a range of AAC.

A highlight for us this year has been our recent trip to Tigers Soft Play with Caterpillars class. The children all transitioned well, behaved beautifully, and most importantly, had lots of fun!

Well done, Ladybirds, we are immensely proud of everything you have achieved this year.

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Cornflowers

Cornflowers have had a great year! We started off this year by building relationships with peers and staff. We've enjoyed many topics, especially 'The Tiger who Came to Tea' where we made a 'cornflower cafe' to serve each other food and drink. We have explored and tried lots of healthy food. Another topic we have enjoyed exploring is 'a day at the beach' where we had sensory stories as well as tuff tray activities to explore an edible beach!

Cornflowers have particularly enjoyed **Celebrating Difference Day** where we joined other classes for lots of different activities, seeing the chicks and some of us were brave enough to hold them! We also enjoyed the talent show where we took part as a class in dancing, signing and singing. In the hot weather we have had lots of water play and made ice lollies. Throughout the year we have had many big picture treats where we watched films, had lots of snacks and joined other classes for lots of fun together.

We were lucky enough to have four cornflowers go on the residential to Dodford Farm. They had lots of fun seeing and feeding animals, swimming and playing in the park! The rest of the cornflowers enjoyed the RK Festival Day where we played on bouncy castles, ate ice cream and did lots of dancing! We are now ending the year with lots of great activities including transitions and having a big picture treat!

I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday! We cannot wait to welcome you all back!



Butterflies

Another wonderful year in Butterflies! We have had so many exciting and amazing times this year. I have particularly enjoyed watching all the pupils grow and flourish in many different areas. It is fantastic to witness the way they have developed with their communication and interactions with adults and each other. This was seen many times through role play activities, we had a Pet Shop and a Garden centre.

Throughout the year, we have enjoyed different theme days and some special appearances Santa Claus and The Easter Bunny. It was truly heartwarming to see everyone get so excited when they visited the class and school. It was great to hear, 'Wow, I can't believe it!' which summed up their excitement.

A major focus for us was to develop individual and group interactions within the class and being able to engage in lessons and other fun activities around school. Recently we had the most wonderful Talent Show ever! Nearly all the class were noted to have taken part in some form or other with some singing and some dancing. The fact that the pupils all had smiles on their faces and said, 'it was the best day of their life!' was enough to know that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. For me, I feel genuinely grateful to have had the opportunity to share their journey and watch them grow into more confident learners. I know they will continue to thrive as they continue their journey throughout school.

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Woods

Snowdrops



A highlight of the year for Snowdrops was definitely our Residential Trip to Dodford Farm. The pupils really enjoyed the freedom to play in the farm park and soft play, and made friends across the different classes that attended. A lot of them were a little resistant to feeding the bigger animals at first and it was amazing to see the pupils be brave and give it a go. They loved the paddling pool and they were all so helpful and kind to each other over the two days. I was really proud of them.

Fieldmice



As another school year comes to an end it is amazing to reflect on everything we have achieved together in Fieldmice. Looking back, it is incredible to think about all of the fun we have shared, the progress we have made, and the many special memories that together, we have created along the way.

We started the year as a brand new class and a new team, but it wasn't long before we became our own little Fieldmice family. Throughout the year it has been lovely to watch the pupils grow in confidence, progress in their communication, develop beautiful friendships, and just fully embrace every opportunity. All pupils have shown enthusiasm and determination when accessing their learning and they have enjoyed a range of experiences in school but also accessing the local community. We visited the charity shop to buy new toys for Fieldmice using our money we made from the Easter Fayre, our Year 9 residential to Butlins, where pupils embraced new challenges, and visited a new place, and some of us also went to the Cube to watch a performance.

Every single day the pupils have made us smile, made us incredibly proud and reminded us why we do this job. From all of our Fieldmice Team, thank you to all of our pupils and families for such a joyous year.

We hope everyone has a beautiful and restful summer making lots of memories.

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs – What a whirlwind of a year!

It has been a wonderfully busy and rewarding year for Hedgehogs!

We enjoyed venturing into the community to sing at care homes during the Christmas period and visiting the public library as part of our independence lessons.

The children explored a wide range of careers, from makeup artists to chefs, and used their creativity to produce items for the school fayres. They also enjoyed making a variety of delicious foods, including fruit crumbles, cakes and biscuits—it's safe to say Hedgehogs love their food and making it! They even opened a Hedgehog café and invited another class to come and experience it.

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We are incredibly proud of how the children have embraced new experiences, tried unfamiliar foods, confidently stepped outside their comfort zones and engaged in their learning.

A particular highlight of the year was our Italy topic, where the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring pizza, gelato and learning fascinating facts.

The progress made by every Hedgehog has been truly remarkable. Reflecting on where we began, it is wonderful to see just how much each child has achieved.

What a fantastic year it has been!

Foxes



Foxes this year have had lots of amazing experiences inside and out of school. Pupils have made so much progress academically and socially. Foxes have shown independence at McDonalds, Beefeater, Sealife, Tesco and London. Foxes have strengthened their relationships in class throughout the year. The highlight of the year in Foxes has to be rounding off the year by visiting London to go to Bubble Planet and Pizza Express. Foxes also showed that they can be adaptable when plans change and should be very proud of this. Well done to the Foxes!

Badgers



What an incredible year it has been in Badgers! Looking back, I feel so proud of everything the children have achieved. Every child has made amazing progress, not only in their learning but also in their confidence, independence, communication, and resilience. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and celebrate each of their successes.

One of our greatest achievements this year has been developing our learning beyond the classroom. From Term 4, the children have enjoyed weekly visits to Tesco, where they have built confidence in the community, practised important life skills, and developed their communication and social interaction. These trips quickly became a highlight of the week, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children have grown through these real-life experiences.

Another unforgettable moment was our trip to Hamerton Zoo in Term 5. This was a huge milestone for the class and a massive success. The children embraced the day with excitement and curiosity, demonstrated fantastic behaviour, and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the animals whilst taking part in a memorable learning experience. Their enthusiasm and confidence throughout the visit made us all incredibly proud.

It has been a truly special year in Badgers, filled with laughter, learning, and so many achievements. I am immensely proud of every single child and all that they have accomplished. They have shown determination, kindness, and a willingness to challenge themselves, and I cannot wait to see what they achieve next.

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Bears



Wow, what a fantastic year Bears class has had, with so many highlights and successes it is hard to narrow it down but here are a few:

Bears have worked so hard on their travel skills, getting into the community. The class have done fantastic building up to weekly trips to Tesco, following shopping lists, scanning and paying for their items. During this we have also been practising our directional language, and understanding of the Corby community.

Bears have particularly built fantastic relationships with each other, a huge standout. Many of them were new to one another this year, and they've used taught skills to engage and interact, share spaces and social opportunities through school.

Other things Bears have enjoyed include a successful visit to Ospreys ice cream parlour, weekly cooking lessons to develop pupils' skills in making their own food independently, with a focus on their own likes and dislikes. The class always enjoy making items to sell at the fayres, as well as performances in school with the pantomime, talent show and Christmas sing-along.

I am so, so proud of everything the class has achieved this year; their engagement and determination has been brilliant, and I cannot wait to see what we can achieve next year.

Owls



What a wonderful year we have had in Owls with many pupils taking their first ever assessments in both Maths ELC, and English Step-Up Awards, amazing! Pupils have also had the opportunity to develop their skills in the World of Work, where their many Enterprise projects have accumulated over £100 profit throughout the year! Pupils have also had the chance to work across the school with internal work experience, which has been hugely successful, leading to teachers and staff requesting Owls continue for an extended period.

A highlight in the year for the class was during PE, where the class were asked to complete a team building activity where they all had to use positive communication, teamwork and were able to all pull together to achieve their goal. This shows how so many pupils in Owls have overcome anxieties and fears with some pupils not wanting to attend PE at the beginning of the year, to now being able to work as a class to be successful.

Every pupil has achieved some things either personally or academically this year and they should all be very proud of themselves!

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The Lookout

Kestrels



I can't believe it is the end of the academic year already when September didn't seem that long ago! I am endlessly proud of the Kestrels and everything we have managed to fit in this academic year! The class has become so confident in accessing the community in a range of different places and it is the most joyous thing to look around me and see a group of teenagers spending time with their friends and being at ease in their surroundings. A lot of work has to go into making this happen so successfully so thank you to my team, Claire and those who have supported us! Thank you most of all to Marcio, without whom we would not have gotten far this year!

We have had another wonderful class performance this year and there was such great energy in the hall and I hope you enjoyed it as much as your young people loved practising it! I already have an idea for next year!

It is time for four of the Kestrels to start the next chapter of their lives and whilst we have had lots of time to prepare for this, it will be an emotional goodbye for me and the team! I wish you all the happiness, success, fun, new friends, places and opportunities in whatever happens next for you!

Everyone has worked so hard across lessons this year, and motivation has been very high. I hope those returning to me in September are just as eager and those starting somewhere new take their enthusiasm too! Have a lovely and restful summer, everyone!

Falcons



The Falcons class has been amazing this year. Our class is a welcoming, supportive, and friendly environment where every member of the class feels valued and happy.

Throughout the year, the pupils have worked incredibly hard and successfully completed three AQA units in Maths and English, alongside additional learning through their Options curriculum. They should all be very proud of their achievements and the progress they have made.

One of the highlights of the year was launching the Falcons garden project. With generous support from parents and sponsors, the pupils transformed the garden into a beautiful space, growing delicious fruit and a variety of colourful decorative plants. They took great pride in caring for their garden and watching it flourish.

The class also enjoyed many memorable educational visits, including trips to Fermyn Woods, the boating lakes, and several cafés and restaurants, where they developed their independence, social skills, and confidence within the community.

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It has been an absolute pleasure to teach the Falcons class this year. I am incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and the kindness, resilience, and enthusiasm they have shown throughout the year. I wish every pupil the very best for the future and know they will continue to achieve great things.

Ospreys



Our top highlights in Ospreys must be our trips out into the community, the work experience for our leavers, cooking lessons and hosting our very own Ice Cream Parlour!

We have been well supported by Claire and Beth who have organised our trips out into the Community. Ospreys have visited many places such as Wicksteed Park, an Ice Cream Parlour, Local Parks, Cafes, Cinema and Shops.

Our leavers have had the opportunity to explore work experience placements such as the Library and the Cancer research shop, this is great exposure for our young people to learn new skills and build confidence.

We turned the RK Café into our very own Ice Cream Parlour and served lots of customers at the Summer Fayre and we also had a visit from Bears class which was a lovely opportunity for the young people to experience an Ice Cream Parlour.

Cooking! We love cooking (and eating) in Ospreys, and I have been so impressed with the development of everyone's confidence in the kitchen, whether this be, developing culinary skills, tasting and touching foods, expanding their current diets, independence, and generally building a good connection with food!

Free School Meals

We have recently shared with you information about changes the Government is making for families who may be eligible for FSM/PP at the start of the New School Year, September 2026.

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 school year, all children whose families receive Universal Credit, and who attend maintained schools, academies, or free schools, will be able to get a free school meal.

Families who want to check if they are eligible, and apply for September 2026 under the new guidance. This came into force on 1st July 2026.

If your child goes to a school in **North Northamptonshire**, please apply using the Parent Portal: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parent-portal>

If you require any further information or help please pop into the school office.

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Family Picnic

Unfortunately our Red Kite Friends and Family annual Family Picnic on **Wednesday 12th August** isn't able to go ahead due to contractors being on site to carry out essential building work over the summer. Apologies for this.

Safeguarding during the summer holidays

During the school holidays, the safeguarding team only monitors their email address occasionally.

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. For other serious or urgent issues, contact MASH directly on 0300 1267000 rather than waiting for a reply.

Children and young people can contact Childline free and confidentially on 0800 1111.

Parents and carers can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

If a child or young person is struggling with their mental health, they can text YM to 85258 for free, 24/7 crisis support.

Parents needing advice can also contact the YoungMinds Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544.

That leaves me to finally wish everyone an amazing summer break.

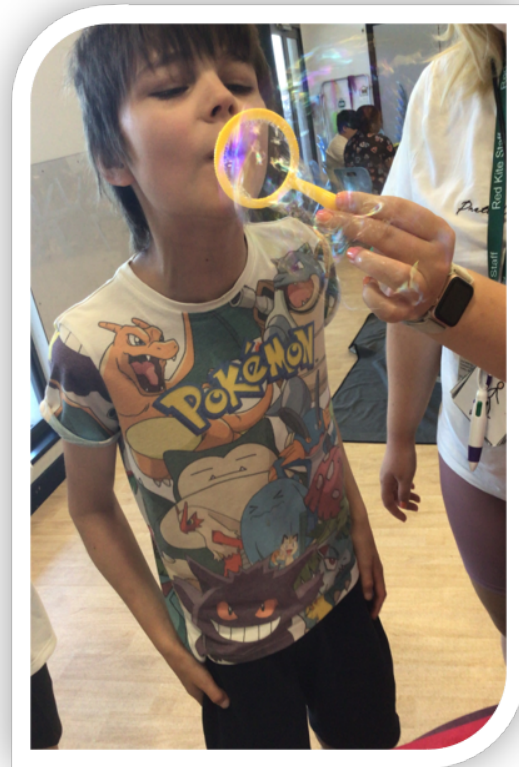
We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to the new academic year on **Friday 4th September**.

Warmest wishes

Karen

Karen Smith

Headteacher



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