

Harris Primary Academies • Magazine

Issue 4 • Summer 2015

Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of our magazine for the pupils, parents and staff, governors and friends of the Harris Primary Academies.

We would like to thank you all for a fantastic year. It's evident from the huge range of activities that our schools have enjoyed that everyone has been very busy with lots of interesting days out, musical initiatives, sports tournaments – as well as a great deal of innovative classroom learning.

We should also give a round of applause to all the children who took their SATs in May. I know they worked very hard and we look forward to bringing you the results once they are published.

After such a busy and active year the summer break is well-deserved. I wish you and your children a happy and restful few weeks. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Sir Dan Moynihan
CEO of the Harris Federation



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Huge congratulations to the children, staff and governors at our Primary Academies who have recently been inspected by Ofsted. Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park was inspected before Christmas, and Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace, Harris Junior Academy Carshalton and Chobham Academy have all welcomed Ofsted inspectors this term. All four schools have made significant improvements and we are delighted with the results, which show how hard everyone has worked.



Carshalton



Harris Junior Academy Carshalton is celebrating after being rated 'Good' with 'Outstanding' features in its first Ofsted report as an Academy.

The school joined the Harris Federation in 2013, replacing Camden Junior School which was in 'Special Measures'.

Ofsted inspectors were particularly impressed with the 'Outstanding' leadership and management and behaviour and safety of pupils at the Academy.

Ofsted comments included:

- "The Principal provides inspirational leadership. He has developed a harmonious community to learn and work within."
- "Disadvantaged pupils make rapid progress and are narrowing gaps in attainment quickly."
- "Behaviour has improved dramatically since the academy opened, so that it is now outstanding."
- "Attendance has improved and is now above the national average."
- "Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the improvements they have seen since the academy opened."

Chobham



Chobham Academy has been judged to be 'Outstanding' in all categories following its first Ofsted inspection last month. The Harris Federation's

first all-through Academy opened in September 2013, serving families in and around East Village, Stratford. It is already highly oversubscribed and has grown at an unprecedented pace for a new school.

Ofsted comments included:

- "A larger proportion than nationally [of Key Stage 2 assessments] will make better than expected progress and achieve standards that are well above the average, especially in mathematics."
- "The highly effective leadership and management of the provision [for early learning] ensure that all children are well supported to extend their learning."
- "Teachers make excellent use of high quality resources and provide frequent opportunities for children to problem solve and apply their learning to practical activities."
- "Literacy and numeracy skills are promoted from the beginning in a way that is fun and meaningful."
- "Parents and children enjoy coming to the academy and are actively engaged in the learning process."

Crystal Palace



Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace has made rapid progress to be rated as a 'Good' school within two years of opening. The

Academy joined the Harris Federation in 2013, replacing Malcolm Primary School which was in 'Special Measures'.

Ofsted inspectors visited earlier this term and found it to be 'Good' overall and in each of the five individual categories they looked at: achievement, teaching, behaviour, leadership and early years education.

Ofsted comments included:

- "The Principal and other senior leaders have secured good improvements since the academy opened. The quality of teaching has improved. Pupils say that lessons are more interesting and that this has helped to improve their behaviour."
- "Teaching motivates and inspires pupils. It helps them develop the skills needed to succeed in later life."
- "The academy ensures that all groups of pupils do equally well. Disabled pupils or those who have special educational needs achieve well."
- "Pupils' positive attitudes in lessons contribute to their good learning. They feel safe and behave well. They are considerate, polite and well-mannered."
- "The academy works well with parents. Most are extremely supportive of the academy. They are particularly pleased with the care shown for their children."

Peckham Park



Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park was inspected by Ofsted at the end of the Autumn Term and was also judged to be 'Good' in all

areas. Ofsted recognised the significant improvements that have been made since the Academy opened, taking over from Peckham Park Primary School in 2011.

Ofsted comments included:

- "Pupils feel safe and are happy to come to school. They like their teachers and enjoy activities planned for them."
- "Pupils make good progress in all subjects across the academy. They do particularly well in writing. Disadvantaged pupils are supported well so they reach standards similar to others in school."
- "Standards in reading and writing by the end of Year 2 were significantly above national averages."
- "There are good relationships between teachers and pupils. Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour."
- "The most able pupils have opportunities to try harder work, for example, working with secondary school teachers and studying more demanding topic work."

News from your children's Academies

Harris Federation Primary Academies' Sports Day

The first ever Harris Federation Sports Day for the Primary Academies was held at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for Years 4, 5 and 6, to celebrate all the schools' achievements in sports.

The schools competed across several different events including the 80m Sprint, Turbo Javelin, Shot Put, Long Jump and the 4x100m Relay. Much fun was had by all those who came, with lots of excitement and cheering on of all those who were competing. Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park's steel pan band also performed to entertain the crowd. Pupils and staff alike enjoyed the opportunity to meet other schools from across London within the Federation.



Football Fridays at Chafford Hundred

To celebrate the opening of their new multi-sports surface, Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred initiated 'Football Fridays'.



As part of this football tournament, ten teams made up of Year 5 and 6 pupils represented different countries, and each country had a class to support them during their matches. The games were cheered on by the younger pupils who made t-shirts in the colours of their nominated country. The crowds around the pitch have been exceptional and the atmosphere has been fantastic. The big final will be held at the end of term, where the best two teams will play for the trophy and title.



Balanceability for Chobham

Pupils from Chobham Academy were given a fantastic opportunity to take part in a 'Balanceability Session' at the Lee Valley Velopark, where the London Olympics cycling events took place.



Last half term some pupils were invited to take part in fun practical activities, which gave them the opportunity to learn the basics of riding a bike. It was a bit tricky for the children initially but they soon mastered the skills to balance, and by the end of the session they didn't need any assistance at all!



In the Clink

Year 5 pupils at Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane kicked off their 'Ouch' topic with a trip to the famous Clink Prison Museum.



The Clink is one of the oldest prisons in Great Britain and got its name from the sound that the prisoners' chains made as they knocked together. The prison is so small that only 20 children can enter at a time. On the guided tour, the pupils learnt about the different types of torture that used to take place there – it's safe to say they were glad they were not a prisoner in Tudor times!



The Great Outdoors



Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace pupils in Year 5 embarked on an exciting outdoor camping expedition to Blackland Farm in Sussex.



In advance of the trip, the children worked hard to improve their collaboration and teambuilding skills, and completed useful qualifications in First Aid, Navigation and Leadership. These skills proved vital as the children endured and enjoyed a nine mile trek across the Sussex countryside with only maps and compasses to navigate them back to base! The children loved the outdoor sleeping – especially the evening campfire where they enjoyed hot chocolate, toasted marshmallows and lots of singing.

All Aboard for the Transport Museum

Harris Primary Academy Tottenham pupils took a trip to the Transport Museum to learn all about travel, maps and how to get to different places.



Pupils spent the day learning about different modes of transport through the ages and got to see lots of historical vehicles. The children loved their tour guide Charlie, who taught them about mapping, and they even solved a transport quiz to help Monty the Mole find his way home!

Official Opening at Merton

Harris Primary Academy Merton was officially opened by Lord Harris on 25th March 2015.



During the opening ceremony, Rich Korange from the school's additionally resourced provision (ARP) unit gave a speech about what being a pupil at the school meant to him. Lord Harris was so impressed that he invited Rich and his dad to watch an Arsenal match with him at the Emirates Stadium. They had an amazing evening, even meeting Arsène Wenger and being presented with a signed Arsenal shirt.

Playground Fun at Haling Park

The excitement was palpable at Harris Primary Academy Haling Park when Reception pupils watched their brand new climbing frame being installed.



This new addition to the playground has inspired everyone to incorporate the outdoors into their learning. Children at the school can now paint, grow plants, make hide-outs and read books in the sunshine – as well as challenging themselves on the new climbing frame. With the soft flooring, AstroTurf and the canopy, pupils are learning at all times during the school day.



Masters of Art at Peckham

Year 2 pupils at Harris Primary Free School Peckham were excited to work with creative experts from Peckham Platform, a local arts organisation.



As part of their development of writing skills and creativity, Year 2

read a selection of

books by Allan and Janet Ahlberg and explored the characters, settings, plots and use of dialogue. Peckham Platform then helped the children create their own fictional characters. The pupils loved illustrating their characters using watercolours, with the results displayed in an art exhibition so that they got to share and celebrate their art work with their families.



The Carshalton Chroniclers



In celebration of their newly refurbished and restocked library shortlisted for the 'Library Design Award', pupils at Harris Junior Academy Carshalton are becoming avid readers both in the library and at home.



The school has continued the literary theme by holding a Book Fair which raised nearly £2,000 and earned the school £1,000 worth of books in rewards. To

help raise money, teachers dressed up as their favourite book characters. Pupils have also created a school newspaper called The Carshalton Chronicle and a book featuring writing from each child in the school.

VE Day Celebrated in Vintage Style

Pupils at Harris Primary Academy Kenley went back in time to experience what school would have been like for children during WWII.



Everyone at the Academy spent a day imagining what wartime Britain would have been like – including having to respond quickly to air raid sirens and waiting for the 'all-clear'! Children ate a special WWII lunch and enjoyed a 'street party' in the playground, where they listened to Churchill's wartime speeches and music from the period. The Academy also observed a two minute silence to remember those who died between 1939 and 1945.

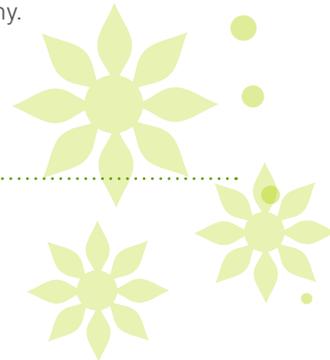


Handle with Care

Year 2 pupils from Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park took part in an exciting art project organised by Crown Fine Art.



As well as producing some amazing artwork of their own, pupils learnt how to package, handle and transport their pieces of art safely. Crown Fine Art, a local arts organisation, chose ten winning pieces of the children's art to display in their gallery. These budding artists will even receive a special award at an upcoming prize-giving ceremony.



Mad for Music!

Pupils from Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park showed off their musical talent to family and friends in special violin and guitar concerts.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who had been learning to play specialist musical instruments including the steel pans, violin and guitar treated audiences to a musical extravaganza this term. They gave outstanding performances which were the result of a lot of hard work and rehearsals – as well as natural talent!



INSPIRE-d learning at Kent House

Parents at Harris Primary Academy Kent House are being encouraged to get involved with their child's learning by attending INSPIRE workshops.



The workshops explain how subjects are taught and give parents top tips on how they can help with their child's learning at home. The children then join the session and work with their parents on a particular skill.

For example, when Nursery parents came into school to learn about early reading skills, they were surprised to be given what looked like a stick with some elastic bands wrapped round it. What they soon learnt during the workshop was that the stick was, in fact, a storytelling tool... objects and curiosities collected during a walk in the park could be attached to the stick and used to recount the adventure later.

Benson Bake-Off

Harris Primary Academy Benson held a spectacular Bake-Off this term to raise money for Comic Relief.



A good deal of hard work and baking went into the event and an amazing amount of cakes of all shapes, sizes and colours were brought in. Judges spent over an hour deliberating as choosing the final winners was an incredibly difficult process. Eventually they came to a decision and winners received a 'Star Baker' certificate and 1000 House Points for their team. The cake sale raised a grand total of £476 for Comic Relief and was a great way to get the whole school community together.



Going wild in East Dulwich

Children have welcomed some creepy, crawly visitors at Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich.



Giant African snails, ants, beetles, worms, caterpillars and butterflies have all found a home in the Reception class's very own nature reserve. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed building their own 'Bug Hotel' using old wooden pallets kindly donated by parents and twigs, bark, straw, old bricks and roof tiles brought in by staff and children. This hotel has housed ants, spiders and even the odd beetle! The children have also made their own wormeries out of water bottles, mud and sand.

Minibeast Detectives at Shortlands

Pupils at Harris Primary Academy Shortlands have been learning all about living and growing – seeing chicks hatch and tadpoles transform into frogs.



The children became 'minibeast detectives' this term and learnt how to classify a range of different living things as part of their Life-Cycles project. The highlight was seeing the school chicks hatch; pupils loved taking care of them and even kept journals to record their observations of the chicks' developments over time.

Pupils also enjoyed looking after their very own tadpoles, which were kindly given to the school by one of our families. The children were fascinated by how quickly these creatures turned into little frogs!



Bugs Alive!

Harris Primary Academy Mayflower held a special release ceremony to celebrate their caterpillars' transformation into beautiful butterflies.



Mayflower's curriculum theme for the last half term was Bugs Alive! As part of this, pupils took care of ants, worms and caterpillars. They enjoyed this so much that they continued their learning at home – writing worm diaries, and bringing in other minibeasts from their own gardens. To celebrate the end of the topic, parents were invited into the academy for a special ceremony to watch pupils release the butterflies into the wild and hear about everything they had learnt.

Meet The Team

The Harris Federation has a team of experts in Primary Education, all of whom are experienced teachers and headteachers. Their role is to support our Academies to provide exceptional education. We caught up with two of them and asked some questions – we hope you enjoy reading the answers!

Matt Britt

Executive Principal of Harris Primary Academies Mayflower and Chafford Hundred



Where did you grow up and what was your primary school like?

I grew up in Solihull, West Midlands. I attended St James the Great CE School in Hathaway Road and I loved it. I played football every day on the playground or field and can also remember being in a number of school plays. Once, in Year 5, I was chosen to be the Vicar of Eyam, the plague village in Derbyshire. Before the show, I was word perfect and then got really nervous on the day of the production and started delivering my sermon to an empty church as I had forgotten to wait for the “congregation” to arrive on stage! I think that’s where my desire to be on the stage disappeared!

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I enjoyed my secondary school days but it was quite a tough experience and I remember there was a lot of bullying and discipline could be very severe. This stuck in my mind as I saw and felt the effects quite often, so I wanted the school I worked in and created to be a very different place. As a result I have always tried to ensure the schools nurture and inspire all pupils.

What is your role with the Harris Primary Academies?

I am Executive Principal of Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred and Harris Primary Academy Mayflower. I am very fortunate to have a great Principal at each Academy which allows me the capacity to perform an exciting, strategic role.

What has been the best moment of the school year for you?

I loved taking my Year 5 pupils from HPACH on their first ever week long residential trip to Treginnis Farm in Wales. The children milked goats, fed and checked on sheep and pigs, groomed horses and even saw lambs being born. At HPAMA my favourite moments have been seeing continuously good and outstanding achievement and progress.

Kate Magliocco

Executive Principal of Harris Primary Academies Benson, Kenley and Haling Park



Where did you grow up and what was your primary school like?

I went to a primary school in Croydon, which is still there today. My best memories are of the large field and playing in the sunshine.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I decided to become a teacher whilst I was at Sixth Form. We had to volunteer one afternoon a week, and I chose to go to a local primary school. I grew to really enjoy my time there, especially with the younger year groups, and decided that a job which would make a difference to generations of children would be challenging and rewarding!

What is your role with the Harris Primary Academies?

I am an Executive Principal for three Academies in Croydon. They are all quite different to each other but all are lovely places to be.

What has been the best moment of the school year for you?

With three Academies, it would be hard to pick just one. At Harris Kenley, seeing the growth in confidence of our amazing choir has been a high point. At Harris Haling Park, the joy on the children’s faces when their climbing equipment in the playground was completed was fantastic. At Harris Benson, I love to see the pride on the children’s faces when they share their learning in our celebration assemblies with the parents. I’m immensely proud of each Academy and of every member of staff – they make the difference every day.

Holiday Reading

We have included some suggestions that we hope you and your sons and daughters find helpful when choosing books at home, at your library or in shops.

Children will be at varying stages of reading ability and they will also have different likes and dislikes so we have tried to include books which have proved to be popular choices.

In order to encourage children's reading we have put together a few tips to help them get the most out of the experience and, most importantly, help them to enjoy reading!

- **Set aside some time**

Find somewhere quiet without any distractions – turn off the TV/radio/computer.

- **Ask your child to choose a book**

Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters, so they are more likely to engage with the book.

- **Encourage your child to talk about the book**

Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.

- **And lastly and above all – make it fun!**

It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices, children love this!

The reading charity Booktrust has helpfully published a list of the 100 best children's books and you can find the full list on their website: www.booktrust.org.uk.

Below is a selection that you can read with or to your children. The age ranges are there for guidance, but you might find that some of the suggestions also meet the interests of older or younger children.

For 3-5 year olds

***Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy* by Lynley Dodd**

This hilarious rhyming story follows Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy, as he sets off for a walk in town, followed by a whole host of canine friends. Then they meet the toughest tom cat in town, Scarface Claw...

***Gorilla* by Anthony Browne**

Hannah's favourite animals in the whole world are gorillas; she reads about them and watches programmes about them, but all she really wants to do is see a gorilla in real life. Hannah's dad is always too busy to take her to the zoo, so on her birthday Hannah decides to ask for a gorilla of her own.

***Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers**

Once there was a sad, lonely penguin who appeared at the door of a young boy. The boy decided he must be lost, so he set off to find his home. Then he read that penguins were from the South Pole, and decided to help him get back there and together they set out across the sea.

For 6-8 year olds

***Mr Magnolia* by Quentin Blake**

Mr Magnolia has many things, such as an old trumpet that goes roo-ty-toot, some very fat owls learning to hoot, a big purple dinosaur who's a magnificent brute, two sisters who play the flute, and even a swimming pool. But, he still only has one boot. Then one day a mysterious parcel arrives...

***The Queen's Nose* by Dick King-Smith**

Harmony's Uncle Ginger sends her on a treasure trail which ends in finding a 50p piece. But this is no ordinary coin. In fact, when you rub the queen's nose, your wishes will be answered.

***Asterix the Gaul* by René Goscinny**

In a tiny corner of Brittany, one small village of indomitable Gauls hold out against the almighty, all-conquering Romans. The Gauls are mighty fighters, but none more so than Asterix, a dauntless and cunning warrior who gets his tremendous strength from drinking a magic potion.

For 9-11 year olds

***The Adventures of Tintin* by Hergé**

Resourceful junior reporter Tintin embarks on a series of exciting international adventures, accompanied by his faithful dog Snowy, and his friends Captain Haddock, the disaster-prone Thomson twins, and the inventor Professor Calculus.

***Stig of the Dump* by Clive King**

Barney is a solitary little boy who often wanders off by himself in the countryside. Exploring an old chalk pit, he finds himself in a cave where he meets a strange boy who wears a rabbit skin and speaks in grunts.

***Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson**

This satisfyingly old-fashioned story is set in the early 1900s. Orphan Maia is thrilled to learn she is to live with relatives in South America. She cannot wait to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the Amazon.

Summer Competitions

We've got three great competitions for your children to complete over the summer holidays, with prizes on offer. We'll announce the winners in the Autumn Term, with each winner getting a £10 book token.

Word Search 1

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | R | R | I | S | V |
| O | B | E | R | T | W | W |
| L | T | S | Y | S | I | T |
| I | W | T | E | A | M | M |
| D | S | A | C | I | B | J |
| A | X | L | P | L | A | Y |
| Y | O | U | F | P | O | K |

This competition is for children in Years 1 and 2.

Child's name:

Academy:

Class:

There are nine words hidden inside this grid. The words are horizontal and vertical.

You should ask your child to mark each word they find. If they find all nine words, they should hand their completed word search to their Class Teacher during the first week of the Autumn Term.

We will put all the names in a hat and the first five lucky names drawn out will be winners.

The words are:

- Harris
- Swim
- Play
- Rest
- Sit
- Holiday
- Team
- Sail
- You

Word Search 2

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | X | R | C | H | A | R | R | I | S |
| A | S | U | F | E | C | T | B | C | L |
| U | G | N | I | Y | J | L | N | E | L |
| G | H | M | V | T | F | K | M | C | J |
| H | O | L | I | D | A | Y | V | R | M |
| T | D | U | S | R | M | J | C | E | B |
| E | T | I | I | E | I | H | Z | A | G |
| R | E | S | T | W | L | G | X | M | S |
| B | R | E | S | Q | Y | F | E | D | W |
| P | L | A | Y | A | S | D | F | S | Q |

This competition is for children in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Child's name:

Academy:

Class:

There are 10 words hidden inside this grid. The words are horizontal and vertical.

You should ask your child to mark each word they find. If they find all 10 words, they should hand their completed word search to their Class Teacher during the first week of the Autumn Term.

We will put all the names in a hat and the first five lucky names drawn out will be winners.

- Harris
- Sea
- Visit
- Holiday
- Rest
- Run
- Laughter
- Family
- Play
- Ice Cream

Writing Competition

Ask your son or daughter to write a short story about how their favourite book character would spend their summer holidays.

They should bring in their story during the first week back in the Autumn Term and hand it to their Class Teacher. Our judging panel will choose a winner in each Year Group.

Christmas Competition Winners

We have received two correct Word Search Competition forms from the Christmas Newsletter. Each child will receive a £10 book voucher.

Naba: Harris Primary Academy Kent House

Jonathan: Harris Primary Academy Kent House

Ideas for Days Out during the Summer Holiday

As the summer holidays approach we know many of you will be thinking about what fun and games you can find to entertain your children over the coming weeks. Here are some suggestions for days out which children of all ages will enjoy:

Museum of Childhood

Situated in East London's Bethnal Green, the Museum of Childhood has lots of activities and fun days for families over the summer holidays. During Fun Fridays there are free activities for all age groups, including kite-flying, dance, storytelling and drama workshops. There are also several exhibitions running throughout the summer and families are welcome to eat at the museum or bring their own picnic to eat in the family room or in the grounds.

Find out more at:

www.vam.ac.uk/moh/home

or by calling: 020 8983 5200

Deen City Farm

In South London there is an opportunity to meet Poppy the cow, Edna the owl and Ed the ferret, as well as a host of other animals. This city farm is fully geared up to entertain children of all ages, with pony rides, craft activities and small animal petting. While you are there you could also visit the nearby Morden Hall Park, owned by the National Trust, which runs activities for families throughout the summer holiday:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park.

Find out more about the farm at:

www.deencityfarm.co.uk

or call: 020 8543 5300

Clissold House and Park

For a sunny day's entertainment, Clissold Park in Hackney has a range of activities to keep children entertained including a butterfly dome, an aviary, paddling pool and table tennis, as well as river walks and a children's adventure playground.

For more information about events during the summer visit their website:

www.hackney.gov.uk/clissold-park