

Harris Primary Academies • Magazine

Issue 2 • Summer 2014



Welcome

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

We would like to thank you all for such a fantastic year: some of the highlights are in this magazine. May I draw your attention to the highly successful Ofsted inspections at Harris Primary Free School Peckham and our Primary Academies at Chafford Hundred, Coleraine Park and Philip Lane: these show the huge difference they are making to children's education.

A special thanks goes to the staff at our Academies, who in addition to teaching have organised dozens of trips, events and other successes. We would like to say a particular 'well done' to all the children who took their SATs in May. I know how hard they worked towards these and we look forward to bringing you the results once they are published.

Just as we are looking forward to many new Reception children joining in September, we will also see our Year 6s moving on to secondary school. I have no doubt that they are all well-prepared for the transition and able to thrive. We hope they will keep in touch and look forward to hearing how they progress in the next stage of their education.

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

Sir Dan Moynihan
CEO of the Harris Federation

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Ofsted Success

Huge congratulations to the staff, children and governors at Harris Primary Free School Peckham and Harris Primary Academies Chafford Hundred, Coleraine Park and Philip Lane.

All four of these schools have recently been inspected by Ofsted. We are delighted with the results, which show how successful the schools have been for their pupils.



Harris Primary Free School Peckham was the first to be inspected. It was judged to be Outstanding overall and in each individual category inspected by Ofsted: achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils, and leadership and management.

The Free School, which opened next door to Harris Secondary Academy in Peckham, has children in Reception and Year 1. It will continue to grow by one year group at a time until it reaches full capacity in 2018.

Ofsted comments included:

- " Pupils throughout the school learn exceptionally well and make rapid progress."
- " The curriculum is exceptionally well matched to the pupils' needs."
- " The behaviour of pupils is outstanding. Pupils look forward to coming to school."
- " All the parents and carers whose views were expressed... believed that their children were making better than expected progress and achieving well throughout the school."



Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred was next. The school, which opened as an Academy in 2012, was judged to be a Good school overall and in every individual category inspected. Ofsted recognised the significant improvements that have been made since the Academy opened, taking over from Chafford Hundred Primary School.

Ofsted comments included:

- " Pupils enjoy school, are enthusiastic about learning and feel very safe."
- " A significant proportion of teaching is outstanding."
- " Pupils display positive attitudes, particularly when work is challenging, and their enthusiasm for learning contributes strongly to their good progress."

" Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs are supported well and make progress that compares favourably with other schools."



Last but not least was Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane, which is in Tottenham. Although the Academy replaced a school that was in Special Measures, it has made fantastic progress – turn to page 7 to read about the recent national award it won. Ofsted judge it to be a 'Good' school with 'Outstanding' leadership and management.

Ofsted comments included:

- " Pupils enjoy their learning because their classrooms are exciting and inspiring places to be."
- " Pupils feel exceptionally safe and secure."
- " Leadership and management, including governance, are outstanding."
- " One pupil in Key Stage 2 said, 'The teacher tells me exactly what it is I've got to aim for. Then, I aim for it, and I do it.'"
- " One parent said, 'It is a privilege for my child to come here. They are safe, happy and love their lessons.'"
- " Disabled pupils and those who have special needs make outstanding progress from their different starting points."

Also...



Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park has also very recently been inspected by Ofsted. At the time of this magazine going to print we are waiting for the report to be published, but we are extremely pleased with the result. It reflects the huge improvements that have been made throughout the Academy since it opened and we look forward to updating parents with more information very soon.

New Schools For September

We would like to give a warm welcome to the new children, parents and staff joining us at our new schools opening in September.

In addition to one Academy which will replace a school that already exists, there are six brand new schools being created. These are opening to meet the significant demand in their local communities for high quality primary places. They will all open with a Reception cohort and grow by one year group each September until they are full capacity.

Their buildings include a former police station which is being converted into a new school and an old-people's home that closed a few years ago. These are being fully renovated so that all of our schools are bright, modern and welcoming places for children to be.

We have recruited an amazing set of leaders and teachers to run the new schools. Over the summer, they will be working hard on their plans for September so that the children joining have a happy and enjoyable start to school.

The new schools are:



Harris Primary Academy
Beckenham

Harris Primary Academy Beckenham and Harris Primary Academy Shortlands, both in Bromley



Harris Primary Academy
Shortlands



Harris Primary Academy
East Dulwich

Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich



Harris Primary Academy
Haling Park

Harris Primary Academy Haling Park, a brand new Academy which we were asked to open by Croydon Council after a competitive process



Harris Primary Academy
Mayflower

Harris Primary Academy Mayflower, which will be in Thurrock



Harris Primary Academy
Merton

Harris Primary Academy Merton



Harris Academy
Tottenham

Harris Academy Tottenham – a new all-through school which children will join in Reception and be able to stay at until they go to university



News From Your Children's Academies

After a busy and successful few months, there is lots of news to share with you. Thank you to the children and staff at our Primary Academies for all their hard work this year.

'Jimmy Coats' Author Visits Carshalton



Joe Craig, author of the popular Jimmy Coats series of books visited pupils at Harris Junior Academy Carshalton, as part of book week.

He spoke to the whole school about what makes a good story and even played the piano and sang for the children.

After the visit, he took to Twitter to say: 'That was one of the loveliest school visits. Happy, juicy faces and a warm welcome from staff and the kids. Thank you, Harris Junior Academy.'

Olympic Park Honey



Chobham Academy, an all-through school, opened last September in East Village which is the area that was first used for the London Olympics.



Young beekeepers Kitty, Anna, Daniel, Sabina and Louis

Having enjoyed the honey produced by the bees of Reverend Jeremy Fraser, who is a governor at Chobham, the school decided to host three hives of its own. The bees have settled in well and, although they are next to a sports pitch, both footballers and bees have turned out to be good neighbours!

Children in Year 5, including Anna and Sabina, are helping to tend the bees and the

school has already collected its own honey. Anna says: 'the experience was really amazing. I can't believe I got to hold bees in my hands!' 'It was great fun. I even got to meet the Queen bee', adds Sabina.

Thank you to Reverend Fraser for helping to lead the project.

Kenley Children Look After 100 Baby Trout!



At Harris Primary Academy Kenley, pupils looked after 100 baby trout as they hatched and grew. This was part of a Wandle Trust project to boost the number of brown trout in the Bourne River, which borders the Academy.

As you can see in the picture, after many weeks of nurturing, the children set off with the trout securely contained in a plastic bag and bucket. They were greatly excited to be asked if they would like to dress up in waders so they could climb into the river and release the trout themselves. Afterwards, they met the Deputy Mayor of Merton who congratulated them on their project.

Raising Money For Sport Relief



Back in March, many of the Harris Academies hosted events for Sport Relief which raises money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and the world's poorest countries.

At Harris Primary Academy Benson, there was an alternative sports day with each class planning and leading a 'silly sporting' event. As well as a 'Carrying Water On Your Head Relay' other events included a 'Jelly and Spoon Race' and a 'Dress Up Race'.

The whole school participated and parents came to join in the fun – well done for raising £450 for charity.

Learning About D-Day In France



Just a week after the Queen, leaders from all over the world and hundreds of veterans gathered at Bayeux to remember the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landing, Year 6 at Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace visited too.

During their five days in Normandy, they visited the Bayeux Tapestry as well as the Normandy Landing beaches and Mont-Saint-Michel.

Ms Aliko Constantopoulou, Principal of the Academy says: "All of the children showed amazing respect in this awe inspiring setting. At the British cemetery the children placed a rose each on a grave. We were approached by an elderly couple in tears who were so touched by what our pupils were doing.

"We also had lots of fun. We swam on Omaha Beach and bought tacky souvenirs for our families. We also enjoyed a lot of baguettes!"

Humanities Day

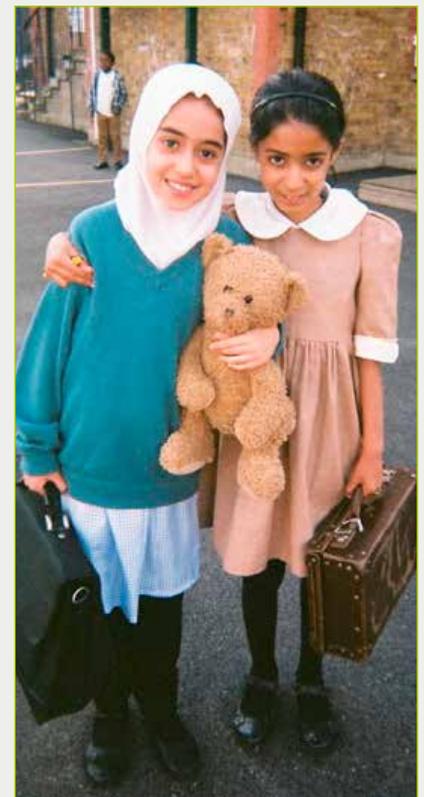
Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park has held its first ever Humanities Day.



Every single child and staff member dressed up to suit their year group topics: the school was overrun with Ancient

Greeks in tunics, Anglo Saxons in mantles, World War Two soldiers and air-raid wardens, pirates, doctors, nurses and bobbies on the beat.

Each class had a full itinerary of learning which included role-play, cross-curricular maths, and arts and crafts. While the Anglo Saxons in Year 3 learned about weapons, treasure and battle plans, the Greeks in Year 5 uncovered the mathematical truths of Pythagoras. African mosaics depicting the life of Nelson Mandela were assembled in Year 6 and puppets of policemen, firemen and ambulance drivers were made in Reception classes.



News From Your Children's Academies

Visiting Parliament



A group of Key Stage 2 pupils from Harris Primary Kent House spent a great day at the Houses of Parliament, where they began to learn about how democracy works in the UK.

After visiting the House of Lords, pupils sat in on a debate by MPs in the House of Commons. The group then went under a tunnel to Portcullis House which is where many MPs have offices. Pupils staged their own debate and passed a law at the end.

Afterwards, Jim Dowd (the Academy's MP) came to meet the pupils and talk to them.

The Academy has already booked its return trip to Parliament for next year and is looking forward to it.

Proms In The Playground

Harris Primary Free School Peckham invited a full size symphony orchestra to join them in their 'Proms in the Playground' celebrations.



In the lead up to the event, they invited local musicians into school to give talks to the children and demonstrate a range of woodwind, brass and string instruments. The children looked at how these instruments make and vary sound.

There was a wonderful turnout of parents and carers who came with their picnics and in their finest promenading outfits. The orchestra performed Mozart, Britten and Adams. From the first note, the children were enthralled. Many of them spent the entire concert oblivious to their peers, playing their own imaginary instruments or conducting in time with the music.

The school now has an extremely enthusiastic group of children who are inspired to play an instrument and it is looking forward to building its own first orchestra during the next academic year.

Federation Cricket Competition



In June, Harris Primary Academy Kent House hosted a cricket competition for all the other Primary Academies in the Federation.

Thank you to Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred's Kieran Thiagarajan, captain of the winning team for writing this account of the day.

"Friday 13th June turned out to be a lucky day for the Year 5 and 6 cricket team.

The team set off at 7.45 a.m. to travel to Harris Academy Kent House in Penge, South East London, to participate in the Harris Primary Academies Kwik Cricket Competition.

It was a round robin tournament which meant we played all the Harris Primaries who entered. The team played superbly all day, having to contend with some very grassy pitches! Our batting was excellent, with some great running between the wickets, and each player bowled brilliantly, adapting extremely well to the different types of pitches. All players fielded fantastically taking some tricky catches and the team were encouraging each other non-stop.

The winners of the competition were decided by the most runs accumulated during the whole tournament. The presentation at the end was tense and there were only 8 runs between the top two teams, with the victorious team scoring 718 runs altogether."

Congratulations to the winning team, made up of Kieran (Captain), Oscar (Vice Captain), Tate, Jay, Jai, Rafay, Raees, Jimmy and Peter on such a wonderful feat.



Football Success



The Year 6 football team at Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane has been ranked in the top 6 of 160 schools, after winning the Premier League sponsored competition in Haringey.

Success at this event meant the team travelled to Tottenham Hotspur's training ground to play against the best schools from Enfield and Waltham Forest. The standard of competition was incredibly high but the Philip Lane team gave a great account of themselves.

National Award For Pupil Progress



Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane has won an award because of how well its children learn and develop.

The Academy is in the top 20% of primary schools nationally for academic progress made by pupils between the ages of 7 and 11.

SSAT, the national schools' membership organisation for improvement and collaboration, presented the award in May.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT, said: "Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving outcomes for their pupils. There is so much good practice that this school could share."



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 their answers!

Ann Berger Director of Primary Education



The new Director of Primary Education at the Federation is Ann Berger. Ann's career has included being a Headteacher and senior leader in the primary, secondary and special sectors. As well as working for Ofsted and the Department for Education, Ann was responsible for the development of the London Primary Challenge Programme which is widely credited with transforming some of the capital's most challenging schools.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in St Georges Hospital, Hyde Park and grew up in North London until I was 8. We moved to Birmingham but I have never lost the desire to return to London. I was lucky enough to do this 10 years ago having spent most of my teaching career in the West Country.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

While I was at university I had an unusual opportunity. I had always been a good swimmer and took my swimming teaching qualification. I was approached by a neighbour to teach an 8 year old girl with cerebral palsy. She was desperate to learn to swim, but I didn't know whether she would have enough control to be successful. We persevered together and I will always remember awarding her the 10 metre badge.

I realised the power and importance of good teaching and resolved to commit myself to education.

Why have you joined the Harris Federation?

The Federation will be supporting 18 primary schools in September, some of which have faced the most difficult circumstances. Ensuring all the pupils in our schools are successful and happy is at the heart of all decision making. The children come first. This is embedded in the values and aims of the Federation. This term, it has been a great privilege to take up the reigns of the Harris Primary Academies and to build on the strong legacy of the last two years.

Mel Rose Executive Principal



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

I grew up in Nottinghamshire and still feel at home whenever I roam through forests. I'm fortunate to live near Epping Forest now and still get a thrill from being amongst nature, whether it's dodging one of the many deer or staring in wonder at a stag beetle in flight.

My primary school was Wynndale Drive First School. We had an inspirational Headteacher and it was her that encouraged me to join the 'Cantamus' choir, which led me ultimately to train as an opera singer.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

My parents decided they wouldn't support me to go to university, but I went anyway...

I explained to the very kind bursar in my halls of residence that I had not a penny to my name and she agreed to give me free board in return for doing the washing up after all 200 students in the halls, which I did for 3 years (helped every night by many wonderful friends!). However, after I finished my music degree I was encouraged by my tutor to apply for a PGCE. As I could finally receive funding for this I thought I may as well give it a go!

The first time I stepped in front of a class I realised this was what I wanted to do!

What is your role with the Harris Primary Academies?

I am an Executive Principal and work with our schools to support them to provide the best possible education for children.

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

Seeing the many achievements of the children is always a joy, as well as the pride exuding from teachers and parents.

Summer Holidays...

Ideas For Days Out

With the summer holidays starting soon, we know lots of you will be thinking about how to keep your sons and daughters entertained.

Here are some ideas for museums and attractions that children of all ages can enjoy...

The Horniman Museum

The Horniman Museum is in South East London's Forest Hill. Set in 16 acres of gardens with views across London, there is plenty for children and adults to see and do. Highlights include an aquarium and a Music Gallery with over 1,300 instruments and the opportunity for visitors to make some music of their own.

Don't miss the Animal Walk which is home to alpacas, goats, sheep, guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens and more! Most of the museum is free of charge and visitors are welcome either to eat at the museum or to bring a picnic with them to eat in the gardens.

Find out more on www.horniman.ac.uk or by calling 020 8699 1872.

Queen Elizabeth Park

Over in East London, why not visit the Queen Elizabeth Park – recently opened having been transformed since hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is the largest new park to open in London for a century.

There is plenty for families to see and do including the Tumbling Bay playground which has rock pools, sand pits, treehouses and wobbly bridges. You can also take a cycle around the mountain bike course, book to swim in the aquatics centre or just take a walk to look at the 4,300 new trees that have been planted.

Find out more at www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk.

Parliament Hill Lido

Choose a sunny day to take your children to swim in the open air at the world famous Parliament Hill Lido, a 60 x 27 metre open air pool at the southern tip of North West London's Hampstead Heath. If you are feeling energetic, you could also take a walk up Parliament Hill which has a view across London or wander over to the nearby Golders Hill Park which even has a small zoo with lemurs, alpacas and tropical birds.

The zoo at Golders Hill Park is free of charge but for Lido prices and opening times, call 020 7485 3873.

Holiday Reading

We hope that you and your sons and daughters find these ideas helpful when choosing books at home, at your library or in shops.

While children are at different stages of reading and have varying likes and dislikes, we have tried to choose books that are popular choices.

We think it is really important that children are given support to understand what they are reading. You can help them with this by:

- Talking about characters' feelings
- Asking what they think will happen next
- Discussing what they would do in a certain situation
- Looking up unknown words in a dictionary

The reading charity Booktrust has helpfully published a list of the 100 best children's books. The full list is on their website (www.booktrust.org.uk) but here is a selection of our favourites that you can read with or to your children. We have suggested age ranges for different books as a guide for you, but some of the ideas may also meet the interests of older or younger children.

For 3 – 5 year olds:

- **Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet & Allan Ahlberg:** This classic book from author and illustrator team Janet and Allan Ahlberg is a real favourite with families.
- **Would You Rather? By John Burningham:** Would you rather drink snail squash or eat mashed worms? Help a witch make stew? Tickle a monkey? Or maybe – if you could really be anyone or do anything in the world – would you rather just be...you?
- **I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato, a Charlie and Lola book by Lauren Child:** Patient older brother Charlie cleverly tricks his younger sister, Lola – an extremely fussy eater – into eating all her least favourite foods.
- **The Elephant and the Bad Baby by Elfrida Vipont:** One day, an elephant offers a baby a ride through the town, and they set off on a great adventure. But when the elephant finds out that the baby has forgotten his manners, the adventure comes to an abrupt end.

For 6 – 8 year olds:

- **Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown:** Stanley Lambchop wakes up one morning to find a notice-board has dropped on him in the night, leaving him happy and healthy, but only half an inch thick.
- **The BFG by Roald Dahl:** The BFG stands for Big Friendly Giant, who unexpectedly spirits a little girl named Sophie out of bed, and into the land of the child-eating giants.
- **Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman & Caroline Binch:** This classic story clearly communicates an inspiring message that anything is possible.
- **Finn Family Moomintroll by Tove Jansson:** Moomintroll is cheerful and chubby and lives in the magical Moominvalley with his mother, Moominmamma, his father, Moominpappa and all of their friends.

For 9 – 11 year olds:

- **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken:** There are wolves outside the walls of Willoughby Chase, but for cousins Bonnie and Sylvia, the real danger lies inside.
- **Carrie's War by Nina Bawden:** During World War II, Carrie and her younger brother Nick are evacuated to Wales and billeted with the fierce old Mr Evans and his mousy sister, Louise.
- **Flour Babies by Anne Fine:** As part of a Child Development project, each boy in Class 4C is given a 'flour baby', a sack of flour which must be looked after for three weeks, ensuring it does not get lost or dirty.
- **The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson:** Tracy lives in a children's home but constantly hopes that her absent, glamorous mum will come and take her away.

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

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

This competition is for children who this year have been in any group up to and including Year 2.

Child's name

Academy

Class

There are 13 summer-themed 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 13 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:

- Summer
- Beach
- Holiday
- Football
- Lolly
- Sunny
- Sea
- Park
- Slide
- Sand
- Towel
- Swings
- Tree

Summer Competitions

Word Search 2

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

This competition is for children who have this year been in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Child's name

Academy

Class

There are 15 summer-themed 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 15 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:

- Summer
- Sunshine
- Sandcastle
- Beach
- Seaside
- Holiday
- Swimming
- Suncream
- Football
- Icecream
- Barbeque
- Picnics
- Sandals
- Strawberries
- Camping

Poetry

Ask your son or daughter to write a summer-themed poem. The poem might be about something they have done over the holidays or about summer more generally.

They should bring in their poem during the first week back and hand it to their Class Teacher.

Our Judging Panel will choose a winner in each Year group.