

Harris Primary Academies • Magazine

Issue 3 • Winter 2014



Welcome

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I want to say a huge thank you to all the pupils and staff at the Primary Academies for making it such a fantastic Autumn Term.

As well as working hard, it is clear that a lot of fun has been had both in and out of the classroom, demonstrated by the wide range of activities and events that have taken place. We should also give a big welcome to the new Primary Academies that opened in September and congratulate staff and pupils for settling in so quickly.

It has been a real pleasure to see all our Academies flourish this year as is evident from the superb SATs results, as well as the recent Coleraine Park Ofsted success. Congratulations all round for the hard work that has gone into achieving these excellent results.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful holiday and come back refreshed and ready for the new term and the New Year.

Best wishes for a happy 2015.

Sir Dan Moynihan
CEO of the Harris Federation

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Welcoming Six New Academies

With the opening of six new Primary Academies in September 2014, we grew from eleven schools to seventeen.

Five of these opened to meet the significant demand in their local communities for high quality primary places. They began with a Reception cohort and will grow by one year group each September until they reach full capacity. Harris Primary Academy Merton also joined us in September and we have really enjoyed getting to know pupils and staff at the school.

The new schools are:

- Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich
- Harris Primary Academy Haling Park
- Harris Primary Academy Mayflower
- Harris Primary Academy Merton
- Harris Primary Academy Shortlands
- Harris Academy Tottenham (All-Through)

A WARM WELCOME
TO THE PUPILS,
PARENTS AND
STAFF FROM THESE
ACADEMIES.

Our Primary
Academies are



BROMLEY



- 1 Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace
- 2 Harris Primary Academy Kent House
- 3 Harris Primary Academy Shortlands

MERTON



- 10 Harris Primary Academy Merton

CROYDON



- 4 Harris Primary Academy Benson
- 5 Harris Primary Academy Haling Park
- 6 Harris Primary Academy Kenley

SUTTON



- 11 Harris Junior Academy Carshalton

SOUTHWARK



- 12 Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich
- 13 Harris Primary Free School Peckham
- 14 Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

THURROCK



- 15 Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred
- 16 Harris Primary Academy Mayflower

HARINGEY



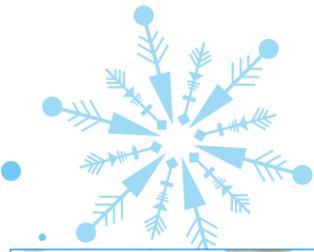
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NEWHAM



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Ofsted Success For Coleraine Park



Joanne Taylor, the Principal of the Academy, was called **'an inspirational leader'** by Ofsted.

She said:

"I am delighted that the relentless hard work and uncompromising drive of the staff team have been recognised."

"We have raised the bar for our Academy community and we are committed to the ongoing challenge of maintaining this level of excellence to fulfil our motto and achieve 'exceedingly, abundantly, above all we can think or imagine'."



After last summer's success with the superb Ofsted reports for Harris Primary Free School Peckham and Harris Primary Academies Chafford Hundred and Philip Lane, we are delighted to share the latest success of Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park.

The school was opened as an Academy in 2012 and, despite replacing a school that was in Special Measures, Ofsted has now judged it to be an 'Outstanding' school. The school was rated 'Outstanding' in each individual category: achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils, and leadership management.

Huge congratulations to all staff, pupils and governors for the excellent progress.

Ofsted Comments included:

- 'Pupils are proud of their Academy... they are polite, eager to learn and very friendly.'
- 'Pupils are taught extremely well in an atmosphere where all are valued... across the Academy, teachers make learning fun.'
- 'From very low starting points, pupils make rapid progress.'
- Pupils 'know what it is to try hard, persevere and show resilience.'
- 'Teachers are expert at planning challenging and interesting activities.'
- 'Leadership and management at all levels, including governance, are outstanding.'



News From Your Children's Academies

Bright Start At Shortlands



Harris Primary Academy Shortlands has had a wonderful start to its first year as a brand new Academy.



The school has had a jam-packed term with trips to the local church, a sock fashion show, bread-making, the Harvest festival – and even a visit from a tiger who came for tea. The two Reception classes have all settled well in their new building and have been enjoying all of the new toys and resources to support them with their learning. They have made excellent progress in only a matter of weeks.

Eco-friendly Haling Park



Harris Primary Academy Haling Park opened in South Croydon at the beginning of September to meet the demand for local places in the community.

Pupils and staff have settled well in their new eco-friendly building, which generates 30% of its power from solar panels on the roof of the school.

There are 60 children in the Reception year and the fact that there is a full cohort in the school's first year reflects the trust that parents have in the Harris Federation's track record.

Ready, Steady, Launch!



Harris Primary Academy Merton has recently introduced topic 'launch days' to the children.

Year 5 had a visit from some extra-terrestrial friends. The children went on a space walk around the school to learn about the lack of gravity in space and the effect that this has, as part of their interactive and exciting curriculum. As well as aliens, pupils have also had visits from Ancient Egyptians, skeletons and doctors during the Autumn Term.



Superheroes For Children In Need



Chobham Academy Primary Student Parliament elected their Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister following a pupil vote.

The Student Parliament took the lead in running the school's 2014 Children In Need Day, with a theme of superheroes, which raised £937 for the charity! They presented assemblies to the rest of the school and organised the cake sale (with amazing cakes made by parents and pupils) and other various stalls.



Meet The Mayor



The Pupil Learning Committee (PLC) at Harris Primary Academy Kent House is a group of elected representatives from each class that meet to discuss improving their school.



To help them understand more about democracy and how rules are made, Key Stage 2 members of the PLC visited the Houses of Parliament and had a tour of both chambers.

Pupils re-enacted a debate and met their local MP Jim Dowd. Key Stage 1 pupils had a similar experience when they visited Bromley Council Chambers, learnt about local politics and met the Mayor.

Learning About Slavery – Past And Present



Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park pupils have enjoyed a unique curriculum, learning about 'our heritage' and how it can link to today's injustice and tomorrow's remedy.

Year 6 learned all about the influence of William Wilberforce in his fight against slavery. They visited the Houses of Parliament and were addressed by their local MP David Lammy. Pupils learned about the injustice of illegal trafficking through drama and emotional poetry. They also supported charities like the A21 campaign to stand against trafficking.

News From Your Children's Academies

Reaching For The Stars



Pupils at Harris Primary Academy Kent House were rewarded for their good behaviour with a huge inflatable planetarium.

The science dome appeared in the school's gym and every class enjoyed an hour-long session in it. All year groups had an amazing time learning about space, the sky at night and the ancient civilisations that gave the constellations their names.

A visiting astronomer also taught pupils how to recognise the most famous stars. He explained how all the planets move around the sun, our nearest star, and how the night sky changes with the seasons.

Year 6 pupil Cairo said:

"It was great fun and very educational, I learnt what a black hole is – it's like a tornado in space, that sucks in any matter near it... black holes have so much gravity in them that nothing can escape – not even light!"



A shooting star in the planetarium, caught by pupils on their iPad.



Mayflower Mechanics



Pupils are becoming budding engineers at Harris Primary Academy Mayflower.

With a new garage, complete with a mechanic's workbench, tyre-fitting kit and receptionist desk, children have been busy arranging appointments and asking for help to work together to repair cars and bikes. The garage is part of a project to learn about the people who help us in our everyday lives. Pupils have enjoyed the first hand learning approach which is full of challenge, fun and excitement.

Mystery Ice Blocks



Reception pupils at Harris Academy Tottenham Primary got to grips with science with the help of some mystery ice blocks.



Inquiry-based learning is at the heart of the school's primary curriculum; encouraging children to ask their own questions and find the answers. With this in mind, pupils were faced with a block of ice with a mystery object frozen inside it.

As the ice began to melt, teachers encouraged the children's curiosity and questions, and finally the dinosaur inside became visible.

This was an exciting investigation with plenty of opportunity for talk, which was particularly beneficial for pupils who do not speak English as a first language.

Science Crazy!



Year 4 pupils at Harris Primary Academy Chafford Hundred went science crazy to learn about experiments.

Children got fully involved and dressed up as famous scientist Albert Einstein to tackle their lessons. Pupils had discussions about what makes a fair test and how to record science investigations. They also experimented with changing states of materials, for example creating butter from milk. Teachers and pupils have all enjoyed their exciting curriculum, and are looking forward to more fun science classes next term.



Lord Winston Visits Philip Lane



Harris Primary Academy Philip Lane has had an explosive start to science this term, with a visit from Lord Winston to launch the new science curriculum.

Pupils at the school have continued to explore science, with a Natural History Museum trip to explore the fossil collections and the Key Stage 2 Science Golden Club where the children carry out practical experiments. Several Year 5 pupils also attended the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Primary Enrichment Project and participated in fun workshops on topics like Robotics and Astronomy.

Bright Sparks



Pupils are becoming budding engineers at Harris Primary Academy Mayflower.

With a new garage, complete with a mechanic's workbench, tyre-fitting kit and receptionist desk, children have been busy arranging appointments and asking for help to work together to repair cars and bikes. The garage is part of a project to learn about the people who help us in our everyday lives. Pupils have enjoyed the first hand learning approach which is full of challenge, fun and excitement.

Bright Sparks

Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park pupils have been learning all about electricity.



Pupils discussed where electricity is used in the world and why it is important, and were taught to use lamps, batteries, wires and crocodile clips to create a flow of electricity. They are now looking forward to applying these skills in designing and making toys for Christmas.

They worked collaboratively to make health and safety posters about using electricity, which were given to younger pupils at the Academy. The budding scientists also used rich scientific vocabulary to show their knowledge and understanding of the topic.

News From Your Children's Academies

A Midsummer Night's Dream In Bromley



Year 5 pupils at Harris Primary Academy Crystal Palace performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at The Churchill Theatre in Bromley, as part of the Shakespeare Schools' Festival.

The pupils all worked hard, and despite a few dropped lines, they delivered a very polished performance. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially having their own special dressing room, and they collaborated well with the rest of the schools in the festival, many of which were secondaries.

Kenley Choir Hits The High Notes



The Junior Choir at Harris Primary Academy Kenley was invited to perform for all the primary and secondary Harris teachers.

A highlight of the evening was the choir's performance of 'Revolted Children' from Matilda. It was an amazing experience and a memory that the pupils and staff will treasure. The choir is looking forward to giving many more performances in the New Year.

Diwali Celebrations At Chobham



The school had a 'question of the week' based on Diwali and the children prepared some superb research projects about the festival. It was a fabulous end to the first half term and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Pupils at Chobham Academy celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light, with many of the children and teachers dressed in traditional Diwali dress or other colourful clothing.

Free School Peckham Dough Gym



The children from Harris Primary Free School Peckham have quite literally sprung into the school year.

Each afternoon the Reception group can be found bouncing into the school hall for their daily 'Dough Gym' intervention. The children relish the opportunity to shake off excess energy and play with a glittery ball of play dough the size of their heads. As well as being fun, 'Dough Gym' incorporates fine and gross motor movements, which strengthen the children's cores as well as their shoulder, elbow and wrist pivots. Its goal is to ensure each child is given the best possible start to their mark making and early writing opportunities.

Drumming Up Success



Pupils from Harris Primary Academy Benson and Harris Junior Academy Carshalton had a visit from Jeff Rich, world famous drummer from Status Quo, who performed with the band for 16 years touring, recording and rocking all over the world.

He offered first hand insight into the music industry by explaining the history of the drum; how it developed from Africa right through to the modern snare drum. Jeff demonstrated the versatility of the drum kit with some memorable pieces of music and children were invited up to play different drums and a variety of musical instruments, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

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The Great War Comes To Life At Mayflower And Chafford Hundred



In September, the new curriculum was officially launched with pupils from Harris Primary Academies Mayflower and Chafford Hundred coming to school in costume to commemorate the start of the First World War in 1914.

Children came to school dressed as soldiers, nurses, school children and police officers from the period of the Great War. It was a fantastic way to celebrate a week of interactive learning and an inspirational launch of the new curriculum.

Key Stage 2 Results 2014

Congratulations to pupils at the nine Primary Academies who took their Key Stage 2 SATs exams in May this year. The results show strong improvement from 2013, so thank you to all who were involved for your hard work.

The proportion of children at Harris Academies achieving at least a Level 4 in reading, writing and maths is now higher than the national average for the first time – a real achievement given the challenging starting points of most of our schools.

Reading, writing and maths

Harris	National Average All schools	Average Sponsored academies*
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Level 4+ in all three

81% **79%** **62%**

Level 5+ in all three

19% **24%** **10%**

Reading

Harris	National Average All schools	Average Sponsored academies*
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Level 4+

88% **89%** **75%**

Level 5+

38% **50%** **28%**

2 levels of progress

90% **91%** **83%**

Grammar, punctuation and spelling

Harris	National Average All schools	Average Sponsored academies*
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Level 4+

74% **76%** **59%**

Level 5+

50% **52%** **32%**

Where individual results are not quite at the national average, they are very close to it, and we are making very good progress towards that target. Our primary results show that we are outperforming the averages for sponsored Academies in every measure.

One of the most important factors in a good school is the progress children are able to make through excellent teaching. The proportion of children making the expected progress at Harris Primary Academies is extremely high – 95% in writing, 90% in reading and 93% in maths.

Sir Dan Moynihan, CEO of the Harris Federation writes: "These excellent results are a reflection of the hard work put in by staff, parents and most importantly our pupils. The exceptional support provided by the Primary Team has ensured high quality teaching across all our Primary Academies. We are delighted with the progress that has been made so far, and look forward to next year's success."

Writing

Harris	National Average All schools	Average Sponsored academies*
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Level 4+

88% **85%** **74%**

Level 5+

30% **33%** **18%**

2 levels of progress

95% **93%** **88%**

Maths

Harris	National Average All schools	Average Sponsored academies*
--------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

Level 4+

89% **86%** **76%**

Level 5+

43% **42%** **26%**

2 levels of progress

93% **89%** **84%**

Meet The Team



Katherine Walker

Primary Advisory Teacher for SEN & Safeguarding

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

I grew up in Cardiff and went to the local primary school in my village. I remember having my own desk with a sloping lid that I lifted up to hide behind when I wanted to talk to my friends. I really thought the teachers couldn't see me!

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I studied English and art at university and later became an Education Officer at the National Gallery in London. My job involved taking schoolchildren round the gallery to look at paintings related to their school topic, encouraging them to look carefully at the paintings to see things they hadn't noticed before. Doing this job made me realise how great children were and how original their thoughts could be, and this helped me decide to become a teacher.

What is your role with the Harris Primary Academies?

I visit the Primary Academies to see how the children who need a bit of extra support with their education are getting on. I also help teachers and staff to support children who are living in difficult circumstances or have other difficulties to overcome.

What have you enjoyed most about your role so far?

Visiting the schools and meeting the happy, enthusiastic children who are so polite and welcoming.



Anne-Marie Strachan

Principal of Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

Where did you grow up?

I was raised in South East London with my parents, twin brother and three older sisters.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

From an early age I always wanted to study education or medicine. My love for children and passion to impart learning that makes a difference in our society led me to choose teaching as my preferred career. I studied in Oxford but returned to my roots to teach in inner city London.

What is your role with the Harris Primary Academies?

I am currently the Principal of Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park.

What was the best moment for you of the Autumn Term?

Recently we received a surprise visit from Lord Harris and Sir Dan Moynihan. It was a delight to share with them the vibrant learning ethos within the Academy. Pupils were excited to receive their special guests and are proud to be a part of the Harris Family.

International Day Celebrations



Parents at several schools got involved in International Day festivities, dressing up and making food that reflected their own cultures.

At Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park, pupils performed dances, drama, poetry and songs all linked to the rich heritage they learned about. Somalian, Turkish, Caribbean, West African and European parents came together dressed in a rainbow of bright and beautiful cultural costumes to provide a bountiful harvest of food from over 30 different cultures.

One parent described the evening as "the best event that this Academy has done for 10 years! It was just perfect!"

Harris Primary Free School Peckham also organised an exciting International Evening in October. The audience was entertained by pupils both from the primary school and the local Harris secondary, Harris Academy Peckham, the highlight of the evening being some of the primary pupils performing a Bolivian dance routine. Parents, carers, pupils and staff were treated to a feast of food from around the world, kindly donated by parents and staff.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



At Harris Primary Academy Shortlands, the parents have been fully involved and have already been into school for a curriculum meeting and open mornings, as well as raising

money at the Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care.



Carshalton PTA News



Harris Junior Academy Carshalton's hard working and dedicated PTA has staged a number of events

to bring the local community together including a summer fair, quiz nights, a family zumba event and a reptile evening.

The PTA has contributed funds towards a wide range of playground equipment and they are currently fundraising for computer tablets to be used in the classroom. Parents at the school's recent Inclusion Coffee Morning were asked to sum up the way they felt about the school in three words. They thought the school was supportive, approachable, safe, friendly, happy and understanding.

Playground Project At East Dulwich



As a brand new school, pupils at Harris Primary Academy East

Dulwich were asked for their ideas and suggestions of what they would like to have in their play space. A parent community group was set up and tasked to use their skills and expertise to develop the playground.



Parent Ruth Campbell volunteered as project manager for the scheme.

Some Of Your Quotes...

Here are a few of the comments you have given us over the Autumn Term. Thank you for all your positive feedback.



"This Academy has transformed since my son started four years ago. It is the best Academy and my son will stay with Harris until he goes to university."

Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park



"Just a quick 'thank you' from my husband and I for such an excellent start to the year for our child. She has learnt so many things in one week alone! She has come home excited about so many things; including World War One activities and the new art class. A huge thank you to the teacher who has immediately captured our child's imagination, respect, trust and confidence."

Harris Primary Academy Mayflower



"The team have provided a fantastic and safe school for the children and it is a pleasure to watch them all run into school in the mornings, all keen to learn and keen to see their teachers and friends. Most importantly it's overwhelming when my own daughter comes out of school and tells me what she has learnt and done during the day, she has already come so far and she has only been there for one term!"

Harris Primary Academy Shortlands



"We are thrilled with our choice and our son has had a very happy and stress-free introduction to school life. The staff ratio is amazing and we are very impressed with the head teacher so far, who has been really keen to get parents involved with developing the school. As the school is brand new there is a very special sense of community already which has been lovely."

Harris Primary Academy East Dulwich

Christmas Competitions

We've got two great competitions for your children to complete during the school holidays, with some excellent prizes on offer. We'll announce the winners during January and publish their names in the next edition of this newsletter.

K	A	E
S	O	N
L	F	W

Word Finder

Find the 9 letter word in the letter mix. How many words can you find in the letter mix using the letter 'O' in every word. Letters can only be used once in each word.

Send your complete word list, with your name on it, to your school office. A winner from each year group will receive a £10 book voucher.

Writing Competition

Ask your son or daughter to describe in 100 words what they would do if they were Prime Minister for a day.

They should bring in their entry in January and hand it to their Class Teacher.

Our judging Panel will choose a winner in each year group and we will publish a selection of the best entries on our website.

And Finally, Some Christmas Maths Cheer...

1. When do giraffes have 8 feet?
2. How many eggs can you put in an empty basket?
3. What is 8 divided in two parts?

Summer Competition Winners

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

1. Brooke 3S – Harris Junior Academy Carshalton
2. Nicole 6W – Harris Junior Academy Carshalton
3. Aimee 6W – Harris Junior Academy Carshalton