The Blue Kite Academy Trust | Inspire | Early Intervention LIGHTHOUSE

Issue 3 – 2025-2026

BLUE KITE BULLETIN

Welcome to the third and final Bulletin of 2025-2026. With so much happening across **The Blue Kite Academy Trust**, we attempt to keep you informed via our numerous newsletters and updates. This Bulletin focuses, in the main, on projects which offer **Enrichment Opportunities for Children** across the Trust, and can be read alongside regular updates from HR, Education, Governance, Inspire and Lighthouse.

The enrichment activities, offered across the Trust, enable children to understand their place both within their own school communities and the wider communities of The Blue Kite Academy Trust, and the world beyond. Whilst bringing over 8000 children together is a challenge, we develop many opportunities which start within our schools and result in extensive Trust-wide experiences. Our wide range of enrichment opportunities provide children with experiences that extend beyond the everyday curriculum, helping them develop new skills, discover interests and build confidence. Enrichment activities encourage curiosity, creativity, problem-solving and collaboration, while supporting children's social, emotional and physical development.

By exposing children to a wide range of experiences, we aim to inspire a love of learning, promote resilience and help every child excel in a fun, engaging and inclusive environment. Many of these activities and events also offer pathways to excellence for talented children within our schools, across a variety of areas.

The Blue Kite Games 2026





Congratulations to all who took part in the Blue Kite Games 2026. Children, from all our schools with Year 5&6 pupils, competed for Gold, Silver and Bronze in this elite athletics competition and, with points for medals, schools competed for The Blue Kite Games Shield. *Robert le Kyng, who was the winner of the shield for the previous two years, came a very close second on this occasion, an impressive record!* However, this year, with an incredible number of individual wins, **Sutton Benger** was eventually crowned as the **Winner** for 2026. They will keep the shield for the coming year.



Click here to see the Instagram Video of the event.
https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZesdZ0HRxT/?scrlybrkr=a4c94431
You do not need an account to see it, just do not sign in or join & turn on sound..

A special thanks goes to our 500+ family spectators for their impeccable support and for following the guidance of our security teams, and of course, to the staff of Abbey Meads Community Primary for again providing so many marshals to make the event possible.

The Blue Kite Pupil Parliament Makes a Difference!

Thank you to the talented children who formed our Pupil Parliament for 2025-26 and represented their schools so well, both in their schools and as part of the Pupil Parliament meetings, and on our annual trip to the Houses of Parliament.
The Parliament has 52 pupil members, leading developments and change within their own schools through School Councils, or equivalent pupil committees, and coming together to try and make a change across Swindon, Wiltshire, and where possible across The World.
With this in mind, the parliament has a 'Chosen Charity' each year, alternating between a local charity one year and seeking for a more global influence the next.



The children were wonderful on their trip to
The Houses of Parliament and asked some very pertinent and challenging questions during their tour and workshops on democracy.

During the Pupil Parliament Annual End of Year Meeting at
The Council Chambers in Swindon, hosted by The Mayor, the children told us all about the amazing work going on in their schools. Each school spoke on their work and their charitable efforts to raise funds for this year's charity, Wiltshire Treehouse.

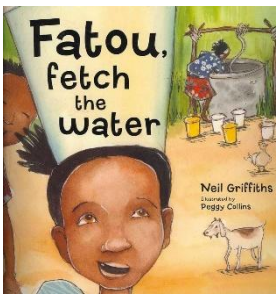


Next year, we return to a global influence and will be supporting ***Project Gambia,*** *a group of Nursery & Infant Schools in The Gambia.* [HOME | Project Gambia]



PROJECT GAMBIA

The children will receive an assembly on these schools and their location, as well as be treated to an interactive storytelling by author Neil Griffiths, as part of this project.



Work to improve lives within our schools, the Trust, the wider community and around the world, continues to allow our children to understand and appreciate their belonging and importance within local and global settings.
The work of the Pupil Parliament needs full commitment to our **Trust Values of Integrity, Quality, Care, Ambition and Creativity**, and requires the Key Drivers, which underpin these values, to work in harmony to achieve such excellent outcomes.



The Blue Kite Debate 2026

Congratulations to William Morris Primary School on winning this year's competition. Organised by last year's winners Wanborough Primary School, the event was the biggest yet, needing four separate semi-finals to decide upon the lineup for the final.

Our thanks go to the judges for the semi-finals this year, Lydia Saward (Local author), Gary Sumner (Wanborough SBC Councillor), Kate Claxton (Local author) & Matt Holland (Swindon Literature Festival).



The debates this year were very topical, often focusing on the dangers of Artificial Intelligence, the legal age for social media, Healthy Eating and the importance of Reading. We were treated to highly articulate and persuasive performances from all with, following closely contested semi-finals, Brook Field, Catherine Wayte, Tadpole Farm and William Morris progressing to the final.

As always, the standard of presentation and debate was exceptional and at times drew the audience in with well-constructed questions, humour or controversy.

Our judges for the final were Kashif Nawaz (Service Director of Education SBC) and Justin Tomlinson (Local Businessman and former North Swindon MP), to whom we extend our gratitude for their time and care with such an important task. Despite their wealth of experience in the field of debating, they found it incredibly difficult one winner, but few could argue with their final decision - **William Morris**.

William Morris Primary

Many thanks to Wanborough and Mr Hitt for organising Debate 2026!

Watch out for information soon from William Morris for Debate 2027!

The Year 4 Maths Challenge 2026

This year saw the introduction of the Year 4 Maths Challenge and an opportunity for higher attaining mathematicians to have their time in the limelight. Working in their schools and across Teams, children from each school had to solve problems set by our Trust Leader of Education, Mr Knight. The children had to work as a team to solve two separate problems. The first was to design a children's playground based on the dimensions of equipment and the second was to create a sports tournament, restricted by time constraints and the need for fairness for all teams in terms of playing and rest time. Both were real problems, as we are often looking at the re-design of playground areas and we have to devise a playing schedule for our inaugural NFL Flag Festival next year.



With no actual definitive answer to either question, the children had to explain their reasoning. The feedback from the children was incredibly positive, and staff who supported them reported on how well the children rose to the challenge and worked together to solve these problems; providing a variety of solutions.

Quotes from the day were:

"The children were really positive about the session and the challenges and it certainly got them thinking! Would definitely be a really good addition to the annual calendar".

"We thought it was fun to work as a team and be responsible for doing things as a group. Sometimes Maths can be difficult, but it helps if it's fun! Thank you for the challenges - it helped us to know other children in the class better. Thanks very much, Bob and Mike. We had great fun."

Year 2 Outdoor Adventurous Activity 2026 - *Orienteering*

Another first for 2026 was the Year 2 Orienteering, which combined learning in many subject areas such as maths, English, geography and historical figures with personal and social development through outdoor adventurous activities within a PE setting.



As all of our schools audit themselves against the Youth Sport Trust Well-School measures, it was wonderful to see children's physical and mental well-being at the heart of this activity.

Our thanks on this occasion go to Mrs Wheeler from Greenmeadow for being such a capable host, and to 'Commando Joe's Enrichment' for their support, particularly Mike and Jack, the latter coming to run the day with Year 2 children from across our Trust.



The children had to work as teams to collect information, from tiles located all over the school site, and find solutions to puzzles and challenges.

All had so much fun that we have been asked to run the events again next year, and we will also expand the offer to three dates, with a Chippenham venue in 2027.

New for 2026-2027…the Opportunities just keep coming

Looking forward to the next academic year we have three brand new events and one returning after a short break.



The **Blue Kite Art Gallery** returns, with schools across the Trust producing work throughout the year before selecting a small number of pieces to join the Blue Kite Gallery, which will start its tour of Swindon and Wiltshire locations in June 2027. Inspired by artwork and artefacts within the Swindon and Chippenham Collections, children will use a variety of media and techniques to produce their artwork.



Next Christmas will see the introduction of **The Blue Kite Trust Carol Service** at Christ Church Swindon. Wednesday 9th December 2026 is booked for this and schools will collaborate each year to create our own version of a traditional Carol Service. Note the date in your diaries now!



2026-2027 sees the introduction of the **Blue Kite Poetry Slam**. Schools have the opportunity to hold their own competitions and/or year group approaches to the preliminary rounds, including poetry recital competitions, writing competitions or responses to year group curriculum activities. One child from KS1 and another from KS2, from each school, will progress to Poetry Writing and Performance Workshops, culminating in our inaugural Blue Kite Poetry Slam in March 2027.



Finally, as mentioned earlier in the Maths Challenge, we have our first ever **American Football Flag Festivals** in May 2027. Following the excellent advice from our Year 4 mathematicians, and the experience of running our test events this year, it is clear that, with so many schools taking part, these are likely to run over a series of days – *currently scheduled between 24-27th May 2027.*



Posters Designs

During one of the 'heat waves', when Blue Kite Schools were closed for two days, a number of children entered our poster competition.
The design had to celebrate all the extra opportunities that we have organised for our children across the Trust and/or the values we have across the Trust.
Well done to Samuel (Ferndale) and Beatrice (Ridgeway Farm) for taking the time to enter, creating these excellent posters and for being selected to be included in this Bulletin.



Record breaking Youth Sport Trust Training Event

In March this year The Blue Kite Academy Trust organised training for all Physical Education Leads, focusing on Pupil Voice and strategies for ensuring we hear the opinions of those children in our schools who are seldom heard.
The Youth Sport Trust led the training, and we welcomed PE Leads from all over Swindon and Wiltshire, as well as key people from parish councils and local government.



It was the best attended event of its kind, with over 40 delegates. We are very grateful to Even Swindon for hosting us and to Kevin, Ali and Rich from the YST for their excellent delivery of the programme.
The Trust continually develops its own strategy for extending the way we gather 'Pupil Voice', alongside our current school-based surveys, and will include the techniques and approaches from this training to do so.

Both posters below are hyperlinked – click on the poster to book a place.





Did you miss the latest Lighthouse Newsletter?

Some things to think about here for us all…

Early Intervention LIGHTHOUSE

LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

The Lighthouse Team

We have had a great year and we are pleased to have met and supported more families than ever before! We look forward to continuing our work with the Blue Kite Academy Trust schools and families in September. Keep an eye on our newsletters and Instagram page for updates on our Lighthouse events in the new academic year. Thank you to those who have worked with us this year and a huge thank you for the ongoing support we receive from our wonderful schools and families. We hope you have an enjoyable summer!

From,
The Lighthouse Team
(Helen, Siobain, Torz, Becky, Gayle, Jacqui, Dani and Matt)

Follow Us

For regular family life tips, links to useful posts and dates for your diary please follow our instagram page: @lighthouse_bluekitetrust

Summer Fun!

With the summer holidays fast approaching we wanted to give some ideas for fun and free activities you can do to fill some time. Follow our Instagram page below as we will share all the free events we spot going on around the area!

- Add some duplo or lego to a bath or paddling pool- they can wash it, build with it and cool down too!
- Draw around a selection of toys or items then hide them inside or outside for the child to find and match up
- Use a spray bottle or water squirters to knock paper cups down or aim at a magnatile target
- Get your child to create a 'Make-Believe Museum'- give them some random items and tell them to reimagine what they are and what they do (maybe a whisk could become a cloud fluffer, a spoon could become a mouse's spade!) They can add labels to them if they like and then give you a tour of all their artefacts!
- On some plain paper design a map of a fantasy land. What landmarks might they add? A mermaid lagoon, a cave of gold or a volcano perhaps!
- Invent a new sport using items you already have. Get the child to name it, write or scribe the rules and then have a few rounds and teach it to some friends as well
- Make some boats out of foil and adapt them until they can float on water. How many items can you add without sinking your creation?
- Get a set of kitchen scales and some of their smaller toys and figures. Can they record the weight of each one and then place them in order from lightest to heaviest? Maths and literacy skills are being practiced without them even realising!
- Let them be bored and find their own fun too- boredom often leads to creativity- we don't have to fill every minute of their day!

The Gift of Letting Children Try

Sometimes children can develop a sense of 'learned dependence', where they begin to believe that adults need to take over when something gets tricky, decisions need to be made or a problem needs to be solved. This often happens with the very best intentions. When we care about children, it is natural to want to help, protect, and remove discomfort. However, if adults regularly step in too quickly then children can miss valuable opportunities to discover what they are capable of.

Giving children age-appropriate responsibility helps them develop confidence, competence, and independence. Whether it is carrying out a small task, resolving a friendship difficulty, or persevering with a challenging activity, children build resilience by working through it, not by being rescued. Even little things like asking them to carry their own bag when your hands are full sends a message that they are capable!

Equally important is allowing children to experience managing difficult feelings such as frustration, disappointment or boredom. These emotions might feel hard but they are not harmful, they are opportunities to learn coping skills.

Kind support does not mean removing every obstacle. Instead, it means staying alongside children as they face challenges, helping them learn that they can cope, recover, and succeed for themselves.

What we Pay Attention To...

One of our most used catchphrases in Family Foundations (the Lighthouse course we run each term for parents and carers) is, 'what we pay attention to is what we get more of.' Children, like adults, thrive on connection and tend to repeat behaviours that get it, whether that is in a positive or negative way. If we give our attention only when rules and boundaries are being broken or pushed then we can accidently reinforce the negative behaviour because they learn that this is what gets noticed. To counteract this we can focus on paying attention to the behaviour we WOULD like to see again and 'catch them being good!' (another of our favourite phrases!) For some children, introducing a 'Starry Skies' chart, using some black card and some small star stickers, can be really helpful. The focus with Starry Skies is on being kind, considerate or helpful. Unlike a traditional sticker chart it is shared by the whole family and everyone in the home can give stickers to each other- including to the adults- for kindness shown. We don't record who got each star or have a target number to reach but instead, focus on filling the sky together as a family. By doing this the behaviours that we actively notice, and reinforce positively, are the ones which grow and become repeated!

Our Family of Schools … alphabetical hyperlinked logos

The Blue Kite Academy Trust

Abbey Meads Community Primary School

Badbury Park Primary

Batchcroft Infants' School

Brookfield School

Christian Malford Church of England Primary School

Colebrook Infant Academy

Covingham Park Primary School

Even Swindon School – Believe, achieve, inspire

Greenmeadow

Lawn Primary & Nursery School

Lethbridge – Est. 1891

Oaktree – Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Ruskin Junior School

St. Leonard's CE Primary Academy

St Peter's C of E Academy

Scaldy C.E. Primary School

Shortwood Walter Powell School

South Marston C of E School

Sutton Benger Primary School

Tadpole Farm CE Primary Academy

Wanborough Primary School

William Morris Primary

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