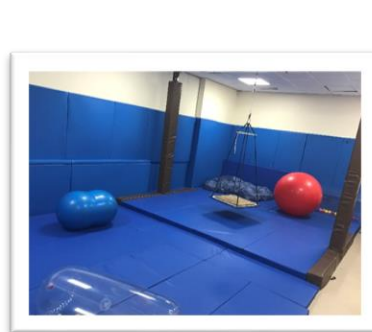


Dear Families,

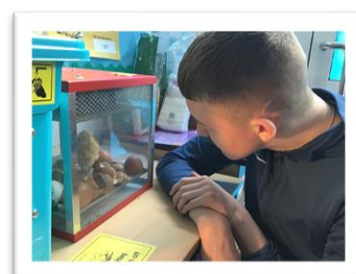
What a busy half-term we have had with lots of exciting events in school and new things to look forward to. Firstly, over February half-term, we started an Eco build project to build a further two classrooms. This has moved on really quickly, with a completion date of May the 19th. Two classes from the main site will move into the new classrooms and then we will start building work on two classrooms to provide KTS with an assessment nursery provision from September, although this work may not be completed until later in the autumn term.



Also, we have completed work on an upgrade to the sensory integration room and the new lightroom funded by the money raised by Forever 12 – thank you so much to everyone who raised money and made donations.



KTS was a bit noisier when we returned from half term break with our topic 'Beat Bang Boogie'. Pupils explored different instruments and even made some of their own! However, the highlight of the half-term seemed to be the eggs we received from 'Living Eggs'. Emma and U2 did an amazing job of caring for whilst the eggs hatched into our very own chicks. We were told that it was unusual that all 10 had hatched and the class were complimented on how they had been so well cared for. Everyone enjoyed visiting and holding the chicks, if they wanted to. They were definitely good for headteacher wellbeing and I'm really missing having a chat with them each morning!



You may have noticed that our school mission statement along the bottom of the page and school values at the top of the page have changed slightly. Strong values and a clear vision should run through everything we do. Whilst we had these in place, the previous vision and values did not encompass everything we felt we were currently doing as a school. We recognised they needed revising to ensure our vision and values, were not only clear, but also really reflected and represented what we are as a school and our ethos. We have worked with the governing body, staff and school council to update them.

World Book Day was celebrated across school where some pupils dressed as characters from their favourite books. Due to this year's event falling on a pathway day the pupils at High Hills had the opportunity to bring in an item that represented their favourite character. In addition to the opportunity to dress up, classes also decorated their doors to reflect a book chosen by the class. There were some incredible examples and doors were entered into a competition.

As part of the students Preparing for Adulthood education, we had the Fire Brigade visit with a fire engine. All the pupils loved exploring the different equipment on the engine and having a go with the hose. We have just had an amazing careers day organised by Sam. Our secondary age pupils were able to meet with some of the college and day services which will be available to them when they leave KTS. They engaged with activities such as meeting a Shetland pony, goats, owls and guinea pigs! Everyone has had a brilliant time, thanks to the providers for visiting KTS.

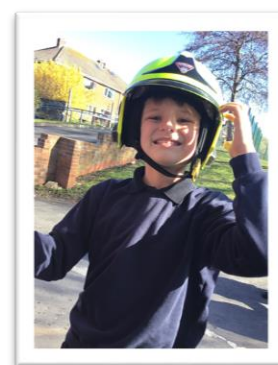
We were very proud this term to have one of our leavers, Emily from U10, attend an awards ceremony at Kirkleatham museum. Emily was nominated for the Inspiring Young Woman award as part of the Inspirational Women of Redcar and Cleveland, which she won. Emily was then invited onto Zetland FM for a radio interview, and off the back of that to BBC Tees.

It has been great for the teachers to meet with you in the parents evening sessions either online or face to face. We have also valued your feedback through the parent/carer, pupil and staff surveys and will listen to your views and suggestions.

Thank you to all of the families who supported our Comic Relief fundraising, we raised £214.32. KTS Friends held the first Easter Bingo event since before Covid, it has always been a popular evening and was once again well attended. Thanks once again to those who supported in any way, we raised an amazing £708.00!

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you and goodbye to Linda Stevenson. Linda has been a teaching assistant at KTS since 1998, spending 25 years supporting the pupils and families at KTS. For many years Linda was part of the KTS Friends Association, organising events such as school discos, Easter bingo, pantomimes and fashion shows. We will all miss Linda very much but think she might find it difficult to stay away! Remember you can also follow all of the fun and learning at KTS on our Facebook page. Have a lovely Easter break and we will see you all in the summer term.

Sarah



Other Information

Our Topic next half term is Healthy Lifestyles

Week beginning 22nd May – Healthy Schools Week

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May – Additional Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation – School will be closed

Thursday May 18th KTS Friends are organising KTS Variety Show on at 6pm – more information to follow about tickets

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In order to adhere to DBS regulations, can all parents please ensure they report to reception when visiting any of the school buildings.

SAFEGUARDING

KTS Academy is committed to the safeguarding of its pupils.

For your information the **Designated Safeguarding Lead is Sarah Gunn. Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Alexis Gardner.**

The school **Governor for Safeguarding is Maggie Hadland.**