

## This issue

Headteacher update	1
Stiperstones Adventure	2
Creative Day	4
Shrewsbury Castle	5
Woodland Walk	7
Coronation Activities	9
Cardingmill Valley	11
Arbor Parent Portal	13
Class Dojo	13
Build Update	14
Summer Update	15

## Information Station

- Summer half term break**—School Closed from Monday 5th June to Friday 16th June. We will re-open to pupils on Monday 19th June.
- Term dates** for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are available here: <https://thekeystoneacademy.org/school-holiday-dates/>
- Uniform** either contact the school office by email or phone for more information, or orders can be made online at: [www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk](http://www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk)
- School Meals**—Did you know that you can now pay for your child's dinner money on the Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App?
- New menu**—the meals menu will change after half term—the new menu is now live on our school website.



# THE KEYSTONE ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER ISSUE 8

June 2023

Welcome to our 8th newsletter!

As we reach our mid-point of the Summer term, it is a pleasure to be able to share with you many of the enrichment activities that the young people of Keystone have experienced over recent weeks. Our staff have planned and organised a wide variety of trips to enhance the learning that takes place in school. I am a strong believer that activities in the community and outside of the classroom are incredibly valuable in how they enrich learning experiences, inspire curiosity and enthuse and delight everyone involved. I hope you enjoy looking at the photos and reading about them.

Several of our Year 6 pupils completed their SATs at the beginning of May. We were all so proud of them, as despite some anxieties, all pupils went home with a smile on their faces, proud of their achievements.

This half term has also been busy as we have carried out a lot of interviews for new teachers to join us from September. Several of our classes (Burton's, Tajiri's, Einstein's, Turing's) were involved in the interview process, as each candidate was observed teaching a lesson. The students provided the interview panel with some valuable insights and feedback, playing an important role in the whole process. After a full week of interviews, we have successfully recruited 5 teachers for a variety of subjects: Maths, English, PE, PE & Science, Design Technology. Further information about them will be included in our next newsletter. Our recruitment process will continue into next half term, as we look to develop our team further with a variety of other roles.

I will be sending out further communication separately to this newsletter about plans we have for transition days for September's Year 7's, which will of course include our current Year 6's.

From September, we will be introducing some changes to the school day, to allow us to facilitate staggered start and end times to the day. I will be communicating separately about this in the near future.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful half term and we will look forward to seeing pupils back in school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Best wishes,

Ali Bellaby

## Stiperstones Adventure

On our last day of the spring term we took a large group of the students over to Stiperstones for the day. We had a memorable adventure where the children embraced the joys of exploring a new environment and the sensory stimulation that the outdoors offers. Some students worked with staff to complete some basic map reading whilst others identified different lichens and plant species that grew in the area. Mid-way through the walk we had a lively game of 'Floor is lava' where students hopped from rock to rock across the course. We headed over to the Devil's Chair where we stopped for hot dogs before returning to the coach, capping off a fantastic day of discovery and delight.









# CREATIVE DAY

Students who chose not to visit Stiperstones participated in a more creative day on site with our Art Teacher Mrs Foster, assisted by Miss Dawson and Miss Downes.

Students had the opportunity to paint individual artworks early in the morning, followed by a session of Virtual Reality gaming. After break students created a large-scale piece of artwork with our school name using spray paints and acrylic pouring paints. At lunchtime, we made our own sandwiches together and ended the day with a MarioKart tournament and a school wide easter egg hunt. Fun was had by all. Staff and students are still finding chocolate eggs in the strangest of places...



## OUR VISIT TO SHREWSBURY CASTLE

The Turing and Tesla classes visited Shrewsbury Castle at the end of April with the Mayor of Shrewsbury (AKA Miss Roberts) just before she ended her Mayoral year in May. We were greeted by Sally who served us beautiful biscuits and drinks before we had a very informative walk around the museum. We all enjoyed looking at the many historical artefacts from the Shropshire army regiment. With a stroll around the gardens, then up on to the castle ramparts to Laura's Tower, it was a lovely visit for us all.









## Woodland Community Walk in Monkmoor

As part of our work on habitats and our community, the Darwin class visited Monkmoor Community Woodland. We enjoyed exploring the different paths and looking for different woodland items. We had our own checklists which we used to try and find lots of different items, and some of us managed to find all of them! A highlight of our trip was enjoying a hot chocolate and some biscuits on a picnic bench. We all had a wonderful morning out. Well done, Darwins.









# Coronation activities



The day before the coronation of King Charles III, we focused our assembly and enrichment activities on the community engagement aspect of King Charles's charitable work, which was promoted during the coronation itself. Students had the opportunity to go out into the community to carry out a litter pick in preparation for any community activities over the weekend and just generally as an opportunity to give something back to our neighbourhood. We were lucky enough to avoid the thunderstorms and enjoyed a walk in glorious sunshine. Students and staff had a great time walking through the local roads, being complemented by passing members of the public and creating games to compete to collect the most rubbish. We collected 10 full bin bags!

Those students who chose to remain on school site explored how to promote recycling within our school. This was an opportunity to introduce paper recycling bins around the school which are now in use in all classrooms.









## Cardingmill Valley trip

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the Tajiri Class visited Cardingmill Valley to study the natural beauty of the Longmynd hills. The class spent time looking for a hidden tunnel located on the map just past the waterfall. We spent time reading maps, following the paths and working together as a team to cross the stream located at the bottom of Cardingmill Valley. The class enjoyed their trip and spent their lunch sat next to the reservoir and they had fun eating their ice cream from the Café too!









## Arbor Parent Portal / App



All parents/carers should now have received a log in for the Arbor Parent Portal/App. This will be used for sending messages and for parents/carers to make payments for school meals. We will soon be introducing information about trips and consents via the portal too, so please ensure you can log in. For those who have been using it, the feedback has been positive.

For quick access, the app can be downloaded to your mobile device. If you haven't received your login details or would like more information, please contact the school office.

### Class Dojo and end of term rewards

This term we have introduced Class Dojo in school, which is being used to shine a spotlight on the positive learning behaviours and attitudes of our pupils. Dojo is an online platform that enables us to reward students throughout the day for all of the positives that they display from completing excellent work being kind, working as a team, and making positive choices. We also reward daily and weekly attendance. Parents/carers will shortly be sent a code to create an account which will provide you with access to our child's points and as well as their class and the whole school story.

Class Dojo also links to our weekly rewards assemblies where students are given entries into our weekly prize draw. Students receive entries for being in the top 10 for Dojo points, having 100% weekly attendance, receiving special mentions from staff, and for being nominated star of the week for their class (there is no limit to the number of entries a student can achieve). Each week three lucky winners will receive a £5 love to shop voucher.

Building on this, we have introduced an end of term rewards system that is based on:

Dojo points (positive attitudes and behaviour for learning) and  
good or improving attendance

This term we have 3 rewards activities available (Gold, Silver and Bronze). The top 25 Dojo point scorers, combined with good or improving attendance, will have first choice of activities on offer. Following that, in points order, the pupils throughout the school will be able to choose their activities from what is still available.

The options are:

<b>GOLD</b>	Trip to Drayton Manor theme park	Max 25 places available
<b>SILVER</b>	Bowling and lunch	10 places available
<b>BRONZE</b>	Project Day in school	10-15 places available

Further information will be sent to families after the half term break.



## Build update

Our new school is very quickly progressing. Externally it has rapidly grown with the structure and layout now present. Internally, the classrooms and social areas are taking shape. We have added a storyboard to our website to support the children with the transition to the Bowbrook site.





