



In the Spotlight

Summer 2026

Welcome to the summer edition of In the Spotlight, the Attain Academy Partnership's newsletter celebrating the fantastic cultural and creative achievements of our children across the trust.

As another successful school year comes to a close, it's the perfect opportunity to reflect on everything we've achieved. This term has certainly felt like summer, with plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures accompanying a busy timetable of outdoor learning, trips, sporting events and celebrations. From inspiring classroom projects to memorable performances, school trips and creative experiences, this year has been filled with opportunities for our pupils to shine. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, talent and creativity on display throughout the year.

The summer term has, as always, been especially busy, with a packed calendar of events, celebrations and exciting opportunities. One of the standout highlights has been our World Cup Art Competition, which once again showcased the incredible artistic talent across our schools.

Read on to discover some of the many highlights from across the trust, celebrate this year's competition winners and enjoy a look back at another fantastic year. We hope you enjoy this edition of In the Spotlight!

Lucy McCarthy
Attain Cultural Champion Lead



To celebrate the excitement of the 2026 World Cup, we invited pupils from across the trust to take part in our World Cup Art Competition. Children were encouraged to create a piece of artwork inspired by the tournament, using any artistic medium of their choice.

We have been delighted by the incredible response, with nearly 200 entries submitted from schools right across the trust. It has been wonderful to see pupils of all ages taking part and expressing their creativity through a wide range of artistic mediums, including painting, drawing, collage and sculpture.

The quality, imagination and enthusiasm shown in every piece have been fantastic, making the judging a real challenge. A huge thank you to all of our pupils for taking part, and to our trustees for giving their time to judge the competition and select our winners.

Take a look at some of the fantastic entries and our winning artwork below!

Winners



EYFS- Reception and Nursery

1st- Olivia Jeggo- de Vere



2nd-Joshua M- Gosfield

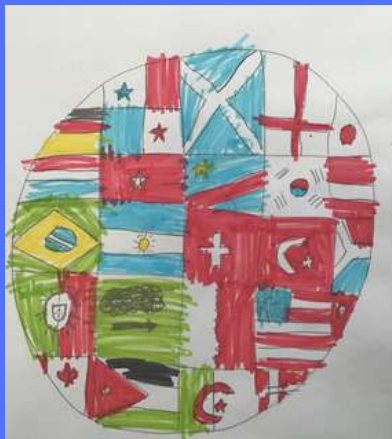


KS1- Year 1 and Year 1

1st- Antoni K- de Vere



2nd- Joshua Y- Elm Hall



LKS2- Year 3 and Year 4

1st- Aubrey C- Gosfield



2nd- Theodore A- Bocking



UKS2- Year 5 and Year 6

1st-Lexi G- Gosfield



2nd- Hailey K- Newlands Spring



World Cup Masterpieces



We are delighted to share a slideshow featuring the wonderful artwork submitted to our World Cup Art Competition. Scan the QR code to explore the entries and celebrate the creativity and talent of pupils from across the trust.





We have enjoyed a fantastic musical term at Bocking Primary School, with children taking part in a rich variety of musical experiences. Early in the term, our Year 3 pupils took part in the Wild Arts programme, enjoying a captivating performance of The Marriage of Figaro at Layer Marney Tower. For many, it was their first experience of live opera, making it a memorable introduction to professional performance.

In school, we were delighted to welcome the folk band Mishra, who performed for our Key Stage 2 pupils, introducing them to music inspired by cultures from around the world. Children were fascinated to hear a range of instruments, including the banjo, double bass, berimbau and balafon. This broadened their understanding of musical traditions from different cultures and gave them an opportunity to hear unfamiliar instruments live. Towards the end of the term, pupils from across the school showcased their incredible talents at our Summer Concert. Choir members, violinists, drummers, dancers and children performing monologues entertained parents with an hour-long celebration of the creativity and talent that makes Bocking so special. It was a pleasure to watch our pupils perform with such enthusiasm and particularly rewarding to see some of our quieter children shine on stage.



To bring the academic year to a memorable close, we hosted Playground Proms, where a talented string quartet treated the whole school to an inspiring live classical music performance. It was the perfect finale to a year filled with exciting opportunities. Alongside these musical experiences, creativity has continued to flourish through our art curriculum. In year 1, pupils explored digital art using iPads to create their own interpretations of works by Kandinsky and Matisse. Meanwhile, Year 2 children developed their sculpting skills by creating clay sculptures before bringing their imaginative creations to life with vibrant colour.



Another busy term at Cressing.

Year 5 and 6 put on a play of Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest. It was fantastic and liked by all parents and pupils. They did an amazing job with the singing, acting and dancing. Every child had their role to play.

We also took part in a Dance Workshop in which all pupils participated and again they learnt lots and participated enthusiastically.



In year 3 in art, the children have focused on painting and created beautiful rainforest pictures based on Rousseau's Tiger in a Tropical Storm. In year 4, they have been busy tie dying.



In year 3 the children also enjoyed looking at rhythm using the djembe drum, exploring quavers, crochets and semiquavers and minims.

Our school choir have been singing songs from Matilda which they are going to show to the school and parents whilst Rock Steady are also rehearsing for their performances. Class R will be putting on a show of Jack and the Beanstalk next week so we are also looking forward to this.





As another exciting half term comes to a close, we are delighted to celebrate some of the fantastic creative and enrichment opportunities our children have enjoyed.

Year 6 Production

Our Year 6 pupils have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their production of *Wind in the Willows*. Alongside rehearsing their performances, they have shown amazing creativity by designing and making an impressive range of props and scenery, including cars, caravans, trains, trees, bushes and even sandwiches! We can't wait to see all of their hard work come together on stage.



Choir Performance at Gosfield Fete

Led by Mrs Bower, our school choir delivered a wonderful performance at the Gosfield Fete. The children dedicated many weeks to rehearsing, refining their songs and building their confidence. They were incredibly proud to share their talents with such a fantastic audience and it was wonderful to see so many people supporting their performance.



Sports Day & Colour Run

Following an action-packed Sports Day, where children competed enthusiastically in team events to earn points for their houses, our FROGS organised a spectacular Colour Run. This vibrant and creative event was filled with fun, laughter and colour, providing a memorable way to celebrate teamwork, determination and community spirit.



Year 4 & 5 Greek Sculpture

Year 4 and 5 have been developing their sculpting skills by creating Greek-inspired busts. They explored traditional techniques including shaping, carving, adding texture and refining details, while learning how artists use proportion and facial features to create expressive sculptures.



Essex Food & Farming Day

Classes 4 and 5 enjoyed an inspiring visit to Essex Food and Farming at Writtle College. They explored agriculture, animal welfare, healthy eating and food production, discovered how vegetables are grown, watched wool being spun into yarn, sampled local produce and learned from community organisations including the police and fire service. A highlight of the day was visiting the fields to see crops growing and gaining a deeper understanding of where our food comes from!

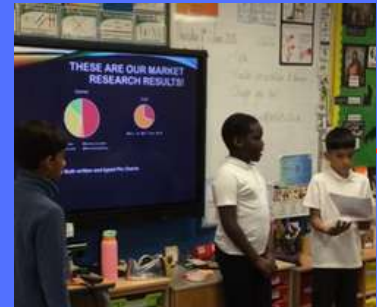
We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, creativity and resilience our children continue to demonstrate. Thank you to our staff, families and volunteers who help make these enriching opportunities possible.



We're excited to share some fantastic cultural highlights from Elm Hall this term! Collaborative art has been a real focus across the school this term, with many year groups working together to create inspiring pieces that celebrate creativity, teamwork and self-expression. Year 1 brought the ocean to life with a vibrant whole-class mixed media Under the Sea artwork, while Year 3 travelled back in time by creating Stone Age-inspired artwork. This term Year 5 proudly exhibited their work to parents, confidently using their oracy skills to discuss and explain their creative process. Learning has been brought to life through memorable experiences.



Year 2 stepped back in time during their History Off the Page day, taking part in hands-on activities and role play to deepen their understanding of the Great Fire of London. Year 6 have demonstrated fantastic teamwork, creativity and communication during their Dragon's Den project, developing business ideas, delivering persuasive pitches and working together to create stalls for the school fete, which they will proudly showcase next week.



Our Elm Hall Attitude Day was another fantastic celebration of culture, with mixed-age classes exploring different countries through geography, sport, dance and traditions before coming together for a colourful parade to showcase everything they had learnt. Throughout the day, children embraced the World Cup theme while applying the Elm Hall Attitudes, demonstrating collaboration, respect and believing as they learnt about different countries from around the world.



We also welcomed Oracy for Schools to deliver engaging workshops where pupils developed their speaking and listening skills through storytelling, role play and imaginative activities. Year 5 then represented the school brilliantly in a trust oracy competition.

Music has also been a highlight this term. Elm Hall's choir proudly took part in the Witham Music Festival on Monday 6th July. This year's theme was Colours, and the choir performed Firework by Katy Perry and True Colours by Cyndi Lauper. The children sang beautifully on the stage at Maltings Academy, delighting the audience with their confidence, enthusiasm and wonderful smiles. Their colourful pom-poms added a fantastic visual touch, perfectly complementing their lively performance.



Year R have continued their Sun, Sea and Sand topic by exploring the stories The Little Mermaid and The Rainbow Fish. The children used their creativity to design and create their own sea witches before writing sentences to describe them. After reading The Rainbow Fish, they drew imaginative sea creatures that the Rainbow Fish might meet on his next underwater adventure.

Year 2 enjoyed a Dance Day at school, which was a huge success! The children had a fantastic time learning new routines, expressing themselves through movement, and working together. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, confidence and joy throughout the day. In Music, they have been learning to read musical notation and applying this knowledge by playing the glockenspiel.

Year 3 have enjoyed completing their rainforest collages, learning to play the recorder in Music, and creating posters in Computing.

Year 4 took part in an Indian dance workshop, where they learned about the styles, traditions and cultural significance of Indian dance. They also participated in a Dance Around the World workshop, exploring dance styles and traditions from a range of countries and cultures.

In Art, the children have been exploring photography and surrealism and are now combining these techniques and ideas to create their own imaginative surrealist photographic artworks.



Year 5 have successfully completed their Enterprise Project, creating, advertising and selling their products to raise £200 towards a school trip. They also took part in a range of enriching workshops and activities, including sessions on autism, ADHD, road safety and first aid, and have enjoyed beginning Reading Buddies with Year 1 pupils. The children also participated in the KNex Rocket Challenge, with their winning design progressing to the regional competition. To round off the term, some pupils will represent the school at District Sports, while the class will perform for their parents.

Year 6 have had a fantastic end to the year! They impressed everyone by learning their lines and performing brilliantly alongside Year 5 in A Hint of Snow White. In Art, they visited Heddingham Castle to explore mood and camera angles through photography, showing great creativity as they captured the perfect shots. They also completed an Indian dance unit by learning a beautiful classical dance from southern India to Ed Sheeran's Sapphire. To finish the year, they enjoyed a visit to the Natural History Museum, where they took part in a hands-on fossil workshop and explored the fascinating exhibits.



We are loving the summer vibes at Newlands Spring and as ever have been very busy whilst enjoying some lovely sunny days. It has also been a fantastic term for OPAL (outdoor play and learning). Our School Council took on some brilliant work planting on the field,

helping to enhance our outdoor environment for everyone to enjoy. Alongside this, the children have been making the most of loose parts during playtime, leading to some truly imaginative and creative play! Gym trail also took to the field for a series of obstacle courses. It's been great to see such enthusiasm, teamwork, and innovation

across the school

The field has been alive with creativity and imagination. The use of loose parts has encouraged pupils to collaborate, problem solve, and invent their own games and scenarios. It is fantastic to see such engagement, teamwork, and joy in their play.



During Wellbeing week the children learnt the importance of how fitness is important in supporting our wellbeing. The children were lucky to take part in a fitness workshop from Kidzfit which was lots of fun and included important learning about our physical wellbeing. In addition to this workshop, we were lucky to have a visit from the drama company West End in Schools. Each class took part in an emotional wellbeing workshop which helped them learn about their emotions through drama. During Wellbeing week the children learnt the importance of how fitness is important in supporting our wellbeing. The children were lucky to take part in a fitness workshop from Kidzfit which was lots of fun and included important learning about our physical wellbeing. In addition to this workshop, we were lucky to have a visit from the drama company West End in Schools. Each class took part in an emotional wellbeing workshop which helped them learn about their emotions

through drama.



More recently, the choir took part in the Junior Music Festival at Chelmsford Theatre alongside six other schools, with a total of 210 children performing. After a full day of rehearsals, they returned in fine voice for the evening concert, and we couldn't have been any prouder of them. They sang their hearts out with such joy and enthusiasm and represented the school superbly!



This week we were treated to a live performance from our guitar students in assembly. It was lovely to see the hard work, confidence and progress they have made since their last performance. We are looking forward to our other music performances this term.



Before the end of term, we still have an author visit from Ian Eagleton to look forward to, as well as the highly anticipated Year 6 production 'Gigglebox'. Then we will all enjoy a well-earned rest for the summer!



This term has been an exciting and inspiring one at Rayne Primary and Nursery School, with children across the school showcasing their talents in the arts.

Our Year 6 pupils have been working incredibly hard preparing for their end-of-year production, Ye Haw! Alongside Year 5, they have rehearsed lines, learnt songs, and perfected choreography to bring the performance to life. Behind the scenes, pupils have also taken on important production roles, including sound engineering and prop making, demonstrating excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills.

Art has flourished throughout the school this term, with each year group exploring a range of exciting techniques and artists. Year 2 investigated different printing methods, using rollers, polystyrene and pressed plants to create vibrant underwater scenes inspired by the Great Barrier Reef. Year 5 produced beautiful batik silk prints, experimenting with colour and pattern to create stunning finished pieces.

Watercolour painting has also been a focus across several classes.



Year 4 used watercolours to depict the icy landscapes of Antarctica, linking their artwork to their geography learning. Other classes studied the vibrant artwork of Romero Britto, learning about the distinctive features of his style before creating their own rainforest-inspired designs based on the landscapes of Brazil.

We are incredibly proud of the creativity, enthusiasm and artistic skills our pupils have demonstrated this term. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explored new techniques, developed their knowledge of influential artists, and produced work that reflects their imagination, effort and growing artistic abilities.

