MHS Reigate



Michelle Catterson
Executive Headteacher
Moon Hall Schools Educational Trust

Our reading journey from here to there



Hogwarts



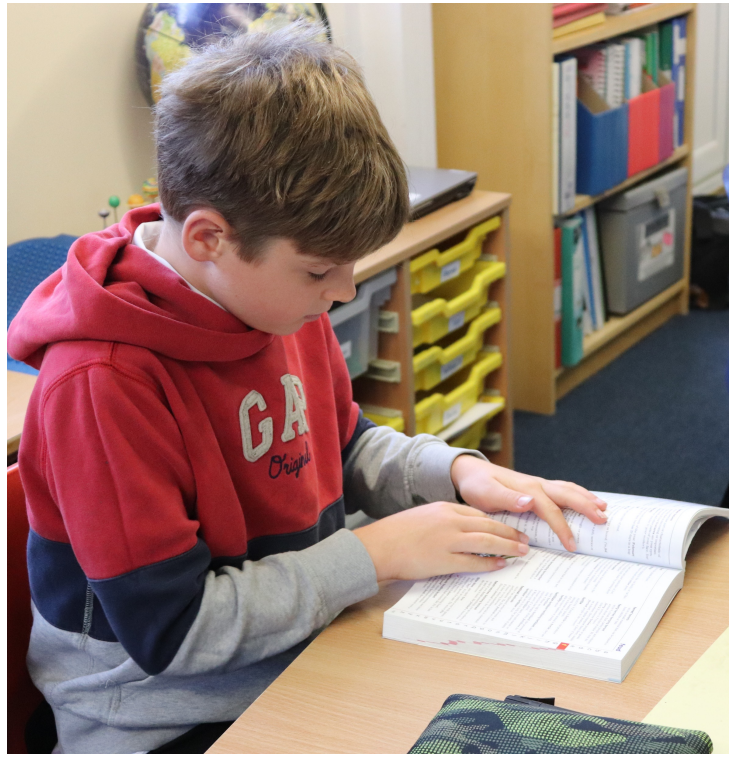
Where we started





The curriculum







Where we are now











Where we are now

- Reading baseline assessments and tracking
- School displays
- Regular item in bulletin
- Reading competitions



Dorking Advertiser

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

LOCAL NEWS ALL DAY EVERY DAY SURREYLIVE.NEWS

World Cup wallchart

THEATRE CELEBRATES ITS 50TH YEAR

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RUGBY WO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

News

Ria and Lily with Buzz at Moon Hall School and, left, headteacher Michelle Catterson

PHOTOS: DARREN PEPE

Thomas, Luca and Winston at Moon Hall School

Dyslexic pupils benefit from canine companion

HEADTEACHER'S PET FOLLOWS HIS OWN TIMETABLE TO HELP CHILDREN

By CHRISTY O'BRIEN

SMALL class sizes, a different approach to teaching and even a dog are just some of the ways a Reigate school is turning around the academic results of children with dyslexia.

Moon Hall, in Flanchford Road, has been taking part in a parliamentary study with an aim of improving the lives of young people. Techniques used by the school have led to the its best ever GCSE results, with an 86 per cent pass rate in English for pupils in the school.

Headteacher Michelle Catterson, who was asked to contribute to the British Dyslexia Association's parliamentary report, said the techniques

rocket science". "It's what every single school in the country should be doing. We have small class sizes, our maximum class size is 12 but very rarely does it ever get to that point, so you're looking at an average class size of about eight" she said.

"It means we don't need to stand in front of a classroom and impart lots of information to the pupils. It's more of a lecture environment where the pupils can interject, stop the lesson and ask for clarification." Specialist qualifications for English teachers and a strong Special Educational Needs (SEN) department are other reasons why the school has seen the impressive exam results, but the most eye-catching policy is the use of Buzz the dog, Mrs Catterson's pet, to help children relax during lessons.

"It is well researched the positive impact that animals can have on relieving anxiety and stress for pupils.

"He follows his own little timetable around the school. He sits on the pupils feet and relaxes the pupils and calms them down. He also goes to the junior school and the pupils in the junior school will read to him."

Mrs Catterson says this no longer makes the pupils feel they're being watched or feel they will be corrected on how to say certain words which helps builds their confidence in learning to read out loud.

Fees for the school are not cheap, reaching £7,825 per academic year, but with a third of pupils funded by local authorities and a bursary system in place the school does not feel they are excluding anyone from the opportunity of attending, and called on government to create more schools like them.

"What we're keen to say is that there should be more schools like us. We shouldn't be unique and being one of the few dyslexic schools in the country. The government should be doing more to invest in children with dyslexia," said governor Jonathan Swain.

By giving a wider range of options to study to dyslexic youngsters, Mrs Catterson says they can show they are as or if not more capable than those who are not dyslexic.

"For many years there has been a stigma attached to being dyslectic. In school those kids would often be bottom set or 'unintelligent' within the cohort. Now we have demonstrated that's not the case.

"These children who are dyslexia have amazing potential to go on and do whatever it is they want to do next and we're just providing the platform for them to be able to do that."

> We shouldn't be one of the few dyslexic schools in the country - the government should invest more in pupils with dyslexia.
>
> Michelle Catterson

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PETS AS THERAPY



Buzz







Organisation of our library



Toby Smith was given a spelling test live on BBC Radio 2 by Zoe Ball (inset above)
DARREN PEPE

Toby's radio test leaves 9m listeners spellbound

PUPIL DEFIES DYSLEXIA TO PASS ZOE BALL'S STERN EXAMINATION

By MATTHEW LODGE
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THE prospect of spelling out a tricky word in front of 30 classmates is many schoolboys' worst nightmare.

But not Leatherhead's Toby Smith, who kept his cool while taking his test live on Zoe Ball's Radio 2 Breakfast Show this week – with nine million people listening in.

What's more, the nine-year-old, who has dyslexia and attends Moon Hall School in Reigate, answered all three questions correctly.

on to national radio and do something that he finds naturally challenging.

On the programme's Show and Tell section, host Zoe asked Toby to spell out the words "could", "stood" and "full", which he aced first time.

Toby says he is so proud of his progress, which has come on leaps and bounds since he joined Moon Hall School in September 2018

after he started getting full marks in his spelling tests.

Mrs Catterson said she "cannot put into words" how proud she was to hear him on the radio – adding that it was a reward for all his hard work.

"To get on national radio, for him to do something that's really difficult and really

Mrs Smith, who is also a teacher at the school, said his "significant" improvements at school had helped him in his personal life as well.

"He's just so much happier at home," she said. "He comes home and he's happy have a go at his homework we don't have to tie him to the chair anymore.

"He's never unhappy at school here because everybody's in the same boat.

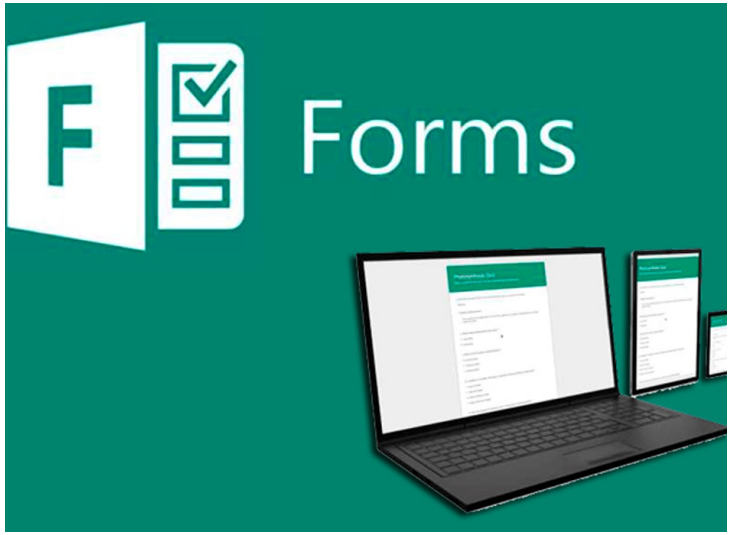
"He's just got much more confident."









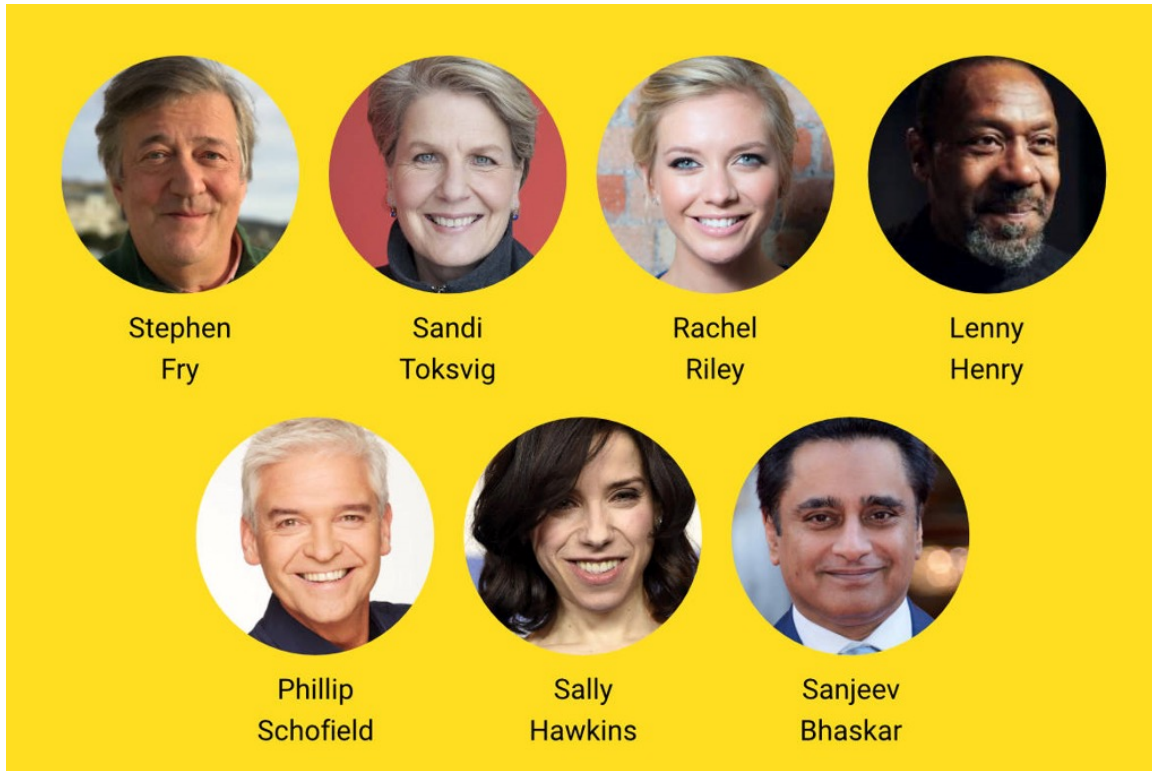


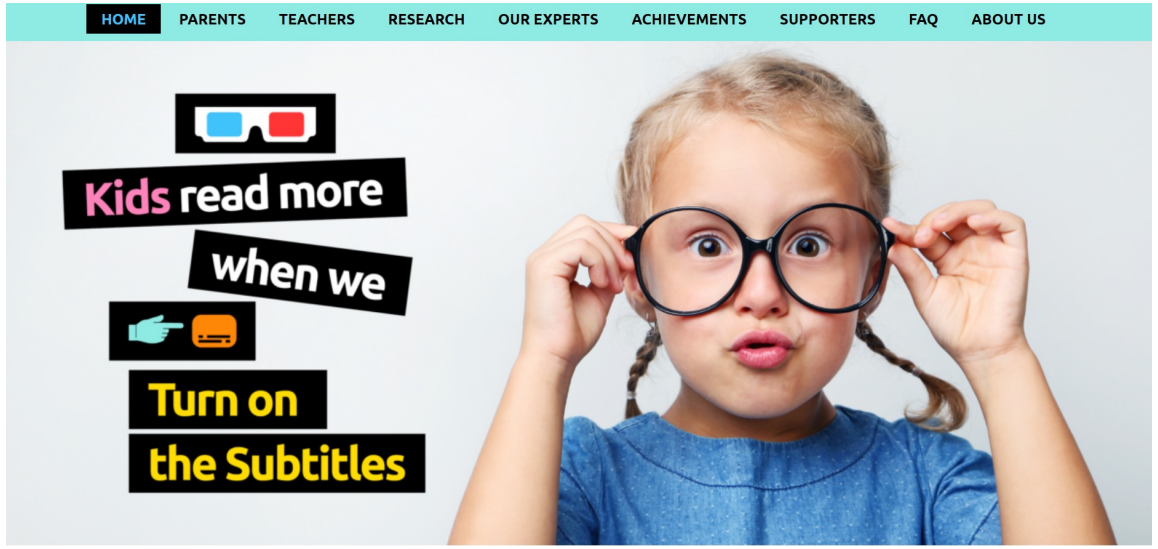
Kahoot!

Remote Teaching



Exam support





Turn on the subtitles

Where we want to go

