

Thu 31/07/2025 08:24

Dear Colleagues,

Epping Forest Open Day

Epping held their second Open Day of the year last Friday and it was a huge success. They were joined by Matt, a tutor from The Hive, another outdoor learning organisation in Epping Forest who brought the giant snails. Showcasing our partnership with City of London Epping Forest, Yve, Interim Head of Business Development and Caroline Haines, Chair of the Epping Forest & Committee came along too. Caroline did a great [Linkedin post](#). As well as families and a gentleman who hadn't been to Epping Forest Field Centre since he did his A-Levels in 1981, they also welcomed the local SEND Sunflower Group to join in the activities.

We received the email picture (centre) below from one of the parents. Well done to all of you as you clearly provided a hugely enjoyable day.



Civil Society Covenant

This has been a long time in the making with our response to the consultation being made last year. Government have signed the [Civil Society Covenant](#) that aims to clarify the relationship between all parties, recognising and respecting their different roles and sets out a "new model of partnership between civil society and government".

At a time when Civil Society has seen its funding cut, but demand for its help rise, there has been a need for a re-set in the relationship between charities and government. This is particularly important for those who want to campaign without fear of repercussions when they feel that their beneficiaries have been negatively impacted by government policy. It will not be an easy tightrope to walk but it's an improvement on what has been before. There's a [thoughtful article about it here](#) for those that would like to find out more.

TPT Pension Update

TPT have been updating their portal since December 2024 with the intention to go live for employees in June 2025. This was pushed back to July as they were doing some final tweaks. After not receiving any update, Trevor phoned TPT to be informed that the updates are still progressing and no "go live" date has yet been announced, so watch this space and we will keep you updated.

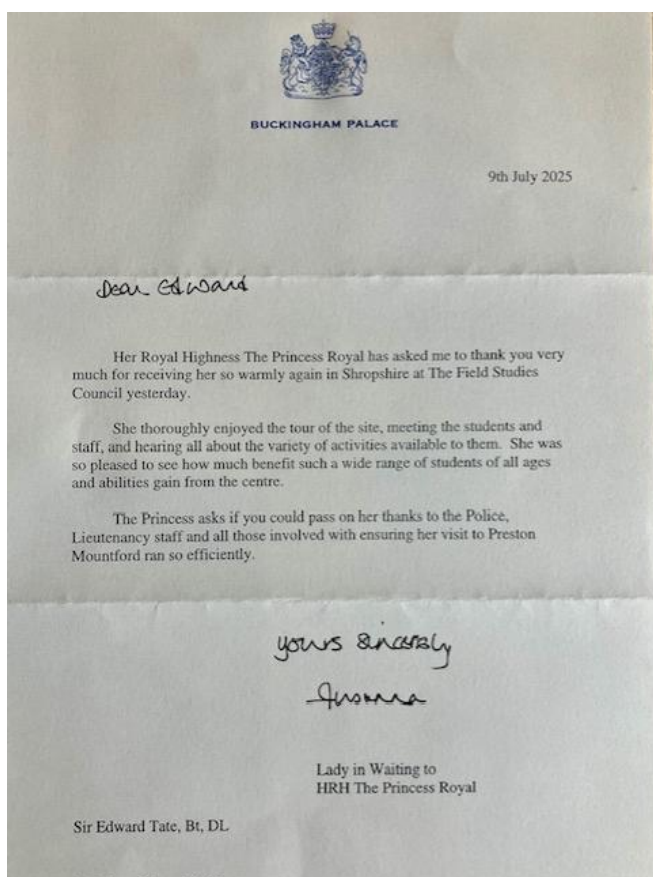
TPT also confirmed that the regular monthly contribution emails employees had been receiving prior to the upgrade have also stopped for good, as TPT have switched providers. Whilst this is disappointing, please rest assured your contributions are still being paid into your pension pots and once their portal is back live, you will be able to check these yourself.

No cause for alarm

It's a little way off yet but the Government will be doing another test of the National Emergency Alert system. Mobile phones should receive a short text, vibrate and sound an alarm for about 10 seconds at around 3pm on Sunday 7th September. You can [find out more here](#), and here in [British Sign Language](#) and the information campaign will also provide advice to vulnerable groups such as those at risk of domestic violence.

A Thank You

Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Edward Tate has been asked to pass on a thank you message from HRH The Princess Royal who clearly enjoyed her visit to Preston Montford.



Best regards

Mark