



COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & CARE

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community,

It really is my pleasure to welcome you to the first of the Trust's 2022, Spring Term Newsletters.

I am incredibly proud of the work that all of our children across the Trust have undertaken across a range of health and wellbeing areas. Being able to support one another, explore feelings and resilience as well as have staff like our Trust councillors to speak to, supports our children to be happier and healthier. This is vital to all children's development and a key promise delivered across the Trust. National Children's Mental Health awareness week 7th – 13th February aims to highlight this need and to also offer a range of supportive ideas and stories. Please visit the site on www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk.

Additionally, the range of community partnerships and the generosity shown, meant that lots of children and families benefited from receiving Christmas goodies. A big Thank you to all groups, volunteers and staff who cared and helped bring even more festive cheer.

As always, enjoy reading the newsletter and the team and I, here at the Trust as well as in the academies look forward to working with you.



Miss K Morley
CEO
Tees Valley Education

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

First aid life skills

At Brambles, we are developing our children's understanding of first aid. First Aid is a key life skill and we whole heartedly believe these vital life-skills are invaluable for all our pupils.

This training is starting in Year 6 and will eventually be delivered at an appropriate level to other year groups within the

academy. This will help children to become more risk aware and equips them with skills to keep themselves safe and help themselves if they are involved in a medical emergency. It could save a life. Some of the skills which are being taught include, the recovery position, applying bandages or plasters and confidently calling the emergency

services and having the knowledge of what the children will need to provide.

The children are really enjoying gaining these skills. One pupil explained when asked, "It makes me feel more confident to know I could help if someone needed it at school or at home."





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Development of the mental health team

At Brambles, we are committed to supporting our children and staff's mental health and wellbeing. As a team, we understand that everyone needs to have the best level of mental health to be able to access learning. We know that mental health problems often first start during childhood and adolescence therefore early intervention is key.

We identified a member of the senior leadership team to complete training to become a senior mental health lead with Thrive. The course entitled "A Strategic Approach to Whole School Emotional Health and Wellbeing" means the academy has further strengthened their mental health team. Now the team has a Mental Health lead, a Headstart lead, a behaviour lead and an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). The academy also has two counsellors to promote well-being and mental health.

Also, the academy was very successful in gaining funding to support this professional development, and ultimately means we are in a better position to support all our pupils.



Relationship Education and Oracy

At Brambles, we have been working hard to improve and develop our Relationship Education (RSE) offer. We are trying to ensure that this development of relationship education links to our focus on oracy skills.

Lessons have been taught about relationships and the children have used these key speaking, listening and discussion skills to share their ideas and challenge others. The ethos of shared ideas, respect and inclusion has been adopted to allow the children to share their thoughts whilst listening to others. Children have then discussed all ideas and generally come to an agreement using a consensus circle.

In Year 3, the children have been discussing families. Initially, a child shared that their family was a mum, dad and their children. This was challenged by another child who said they felt it was who they lived with. A third child explained about extended families and after a detailed discussion, the children agreed what a family was to them. We have included some of their definitions and portraits of their families.

"It is some who cares about you. There might be a mum with one child, and it might be a family with two dads and two children. People in my family is me, my sister Salma, my mum and my dad. My family is special because we are all different and being different is what's special."



"A family is who takes care of you. You can have 2 mums, 2 dads or mum and a dad. In my family there is me, Grayson, Gavin, Karl, mum, dad, grandad, Robert, nana and my pets. Because they always help me with everything I need help with."





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Therapy Dogs

We are very lucky to have two therapy dogs that visit the academy regularly. They work as part of our ongoing provision for well-being and mental health. They support us in teaching the children how to treat and care for the dogs. They have a calming effect on the pupils, reduce stress and improve self-esteem. We love our visits from Molly & Kayleigh!



HeadStart

Last term we started on our journey to implement the Headstart programme into the academy. The aim of the programme is based on an early help and prevention model which will reduce the onset of common mental health problems by building resilience of pupils to be able to cope better in difficult circumstances. This is something that we will be doing with all of our children to support them in managing their emotional wellbeing.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Road Safety

Our key stage two children have been learning how to look after themselves and keep themselves safe. They have been practising using and understanding the words stop, look, listen and think to practise crossing the road with an adult.



Nature's World

Mrs Brock's class took part in a visit to Nature's World. They worked with some volunteers from Friends of Nature's World. They helped to make a Bug Hotel to help keep the insects warm during winter. The children went for a walk around Nature's World and enjoyed exploring the different types of gardens, plants, trees and flowers. After a snack, the children put their fruit peel into the compost bin to help produce some compost that will be used to grow more plants at Nature's World. We are all looking forward to using this outdoor space much more when we move into our new building.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Community Support

Some of our Junior Leadership Team represented Dormanstown Primary Academy out in the community by taking part in bulb planting opposite the Dormanstown shops. Despite the cold and wet weather, they were a real credit to our academy, working alongside Councillor Cawley, the new PCSO, Craig Metcalfe, the Community Development Officer, Nichola Laverick, as well as volunteers from Westfield Farm. We look forward to seeing the bulbs come through in the spring and blossom for everyone in Dormanstown to enjoy.

In the new year, as part of "Week of Action" our JLT supported the community team with a litter pick around Dormanstown. They were proud to make our local area free of litter for all the residents.



Caring at Christmas

Children in the Key Stage One Art Club made festive cards and pictures to send to the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for them to distribute to patients in hospital at Christmas. This was even more important this year with visiting halted.

Parents and staff also donated items for shoe boxes to give to people through the Teesside Christmas Appeal 2021.



Community Calendar

We took part in the community calendar competition with Sofia Offshore Wind Farm. The challenge was to design a picture for the calendar to show how 'The Future is Bright'. Well done to our two winners who received an amazing prize voucher and their pictures are now part of the calendar for 2022!





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Thank you

We would like to thank all these wonderful charities and organisations who supported our children and families in the run up to Christmas this year.

We appreciated all that was donated and the generous gifts received.

Mike Hind Christmas Grotto giving presents through the Virtual School



CAUSE food hampers



Salvation Army presents



Ladies of Steel gave selection boxes to all of the children in the academy and delivered them in festive costumes.

Stars in our Schools

We celebrated the Stars in our Schools event with recognition for all our wonderful support staff – learning assistants, office staff, lunchtime supervisors, cleaning staff, caretaker, kitchen staff, sports lead, ICT technician and counsellor. You all play such a vital role in the smooth running of our academy, and thank you for all that you do.



Worry Worms

We were so lucky to have a wonderful parent who has crocheted us some worry worms to support children around the academy with their social and emotional wellbeing. We are placing them near our Worry boxes so children can access them when they need to.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Community Christmas

In the build up to the Christmas holidays, we worked closely with a range of different organisations to help make sure our children had a Christmas to remember. The donations from these groups were huge, with such a wealth of different toys and gifts delivered. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Salvation Army and TFM Cash for Kids. As a result of this generosity, we were able to provide toys for over 40 children!

Christmas is not Christmas without a hamper, and our hampers would not be anything without the generosity of the Aircon Group and Ash and Allia Uddin who provided food. These were combined to create a number of food hampers, which were delivered to some of our families.

Our generous parents bought raffle tickets in their hundreds. Prizes were a range of cuddly toys and a book, all part of our drive to encourage a love of reading at Pennyman. This raffle helped to raise a total of £436.90.



Storm Arwen

When the school was battered by Storm Arwen in early December, we began working with AAA Roofing, a local company who helped get the school back open with no disruption to learning. Because of this work, the company gave us an incredible donation of £3736. Some of the money was used to buy food to make up 21 plentiful food hampers, which we delivered to families in need of support over the Christmas period. In addition to this we used the money to buy party food for the children to have Christmas parties in the last week of term. We still have a substantial amount to use throughout the year, so watch this space!

Thank you to AAA Roofing!



Industrial Cadets

This term we are starting to work with the Industrial Cadets, an organisation in our local area. The Industrial Cadets have worked with our Y4 classes, creating exposure and interaction for our children to find out more about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), university, industry and routes to careers into STEM. All this work is curriculum-aligned, supporting our children's academic recovery after COVID with an emphasis on core maths and English skills. More importantly than this it is focused on developing vital employability skills like resilience and teamwork.



Industrial Cadets



PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Looking after our Mental Health

Since returning this term, the Pennyman children have begun to learn about resilience and growth mindset. Throughout school, our children naturally come across a number of problems and areas of misconception that need to be overcome. Although this is a natural process for some, for many children, they need guidance on shifting their mindset to a more positive viewpoint. Through this term's assembly time and consequent class conversations, our children have been learning more about the benefits of building resilience and seeing the positive effects of shifting their mindset with the 'Power of Yet'. We are already seeing the impact of this, in how our children approach corrections to work and new concepts in class.

Marcus Rashford

We are always looking for positive role models for our children. During the pandemic, one person has really stood up for what he believes in. Marcus Rashford has written a book 'You are a Champion: How to be the best you can be'. This is exactly what we want for all our children, so to be able to give all our Year 6s a copy of his book was brilliant. They have loved reading it. Let's hope he inspires them to be change makers of the future and to have the confidence to fight for what they believe in.



FareShare

Here at Pennyman Primary Academy, we take the welfare of children and their families seriously. We are working in collaboration with the national charity FareShare.

Pennyman Primary have been using FareShare's food for the last 3 months to run a community shop. The shop allows parents to buy essential supplies for their families. We usually receive a weekly boxed delivery of food on a Monday, which is shared with pupil's families through a shop set up in the school on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Parents pay 30p per item and these range from fresh meats to juicy vegetables all of which the parents love. Each week, they look forward to seeing the offerings with one parent quoting, "This is much more fun than going to an actual shop." We look forward to continuing this throughout the year.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Wilton Expects badges

The children have been working hard since September to earn their 'Wilton Expects' badges by showing Determination, Independence, Collaboration and Compassion. These are the characteristics we expect the children to show and model around the academy. Some children are beginning to earn their badges and proudly wear them. We hope we will soon be able to share the first winner of the Wilton Badge that will be awarded when a child has achieved all four 'Wilton Expects' badges.



Theatre visit

As part of their Christmas celebrations, all children from Y1-Y6 attended the theatre. Mrs Barron's class watched The Tin Foil Astronaut at The Arc, and KS2 watched a performance of Elf at Stockton Riverside College. It was lovely to be able to support the local theatres again and all of the children really enjoyed themselves.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Children in Need

The academy took part in raising money and awareness for Children in Need. The children learnt about where the money goes and how it can help others who are not so fortunate. Thank you to the families in the academy who helped us raise £96.



Community Calendar 2022

Congratulations to Freya and Charlotte who were chosen as winners of the Sofia Offshore Wind Farm Community Calendar 2022. The theme was 'The Future is Bright.'

Charlotte wrote 'I drew dolphins because I have never seen them and now we can travel again so I really want to go and see them in the wild.'

Freya said 'The future is bright because I am going to be a nurse. I'm going to help people get better. Then I'm going to give people medicine and I will put bandages on people's legs. But first I'm going to college so I can train and learn to be a nurse.'

As prizes for winning, the academy will receive £400 and both girls received a Smyths voucher. Well done Charlotte and Freya, we are very proud of you.



Defibrillator

The academy was nominated by one of our parents to receive a defibrillator for the academy. We are pleased to share we have been chosen by Falck Fire Services and will receive the defibrillator and some staff training in the near future.



Falck
Fire Services

Trust Counsellors

As a Trust we invest heavily in our children's pastoral welfare, especially their emotional health and wellbeing. It is a vital part of them being ready to learn, if they are in the right frame of mind and don't have things troubling them. This term we are pleased to welcome a new counsellor to the Trust, Mrs Sharon Strickland, who will work alongside our existing counsellor Ms Gill Holmes, who some of you may already know. Both Gill and Sharon bring a wealth of skills with them to the Trust, to support some of our children with a range of needs.

A lead member of staff in each academy Pastoral team will always work with parents and carers if they feel your child would benefit from accessing our pupil counsellor service.



Educational Psychologist

Following his retirement last summer, we wished a fond farewell to Billy Peters, our long-standing Trust Educational Psychologist. Billy, as those of you who have had the good fortune to meet will agree, was always going to be a very difficult person to replace, simply because he was (and still is) child focussed in every aspect of his work! The Trust is excited to announce that we are due to begin work with a new independent Educational Psychology service, Applied Psychologies, based in the north of England. Dr Karen Thomas will join the Trust for 2 days each week and more information will follow in future newsletters. Karen will be a great addition to the Trust SEND and Therapy team, and I am sure you will join us in welcoming Karen to our academies.



Ramp donation for St Nicholas Church

The Trust are proud of its ongoing working relationship with St Nicolas Church Hall in Guisborough and holding many celebration services that our children absolutely enjoy. To ensure the church hall is accessible for not just our children, but the children in the local community, the Trust has gifted the church a ramp. This enables inclusive access for all children to use their facilities.

