



COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & CARE

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

As you can see from the articles, there was a lot of work happening across the Trust over the summer holidays both with building improvements and in broader fun learning opportunities. Most notably, for the first time in its life Brambles has a kitchen and can provide food for breakfast club and lunch. Building work has also started for Discovery Special Academy on the Sandy Flatts Lane site, in Middlesbrough. Dormanstown has seen significant improvements to its library and all academies have benefitted from a range of improvement work.

I'm also proud to add that Discovery Special Academy has a nursery and that Pennyman has gained its Inclusion Quality Mark. Wilton's wildlife and bug houses have contributed to our work with nature, supporting the sustainability of our planet.

With our range of partners, organisations, charities and agencies we continue to be able to provide learning, support and opportunity to all of our children, and you our families and community.

I'm very much looking forward to the next half term but thank you for everything you've shared this first half term.



Miss K Morley
CEO
Tees Valley Education

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

The Great Brambles Build!!!

Kitchen/Classroom Extension

It is with great excitement that we can announce that the kitchen and classroom refurbishment project was completed on time during the summer holidays. A huge amount of building work has been undertaken to maximise capacity in the academy and support Discovery Academy in its final year sharing our site.

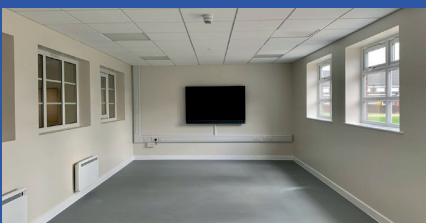
The refurbishment project has enabled us to have a fully working kitchen on site for the first time in decades. We now no longer have to have food bussed in from another kitchen, which will be a huge benefit for the academy. It also means that we will be able to support any holiday hunger clubs which may be offered across Middlesbrough during holiday time and allows us much greater autonomy in the food we offer and also what we can provide during the school day.

A new classroom and sensory room for Discovery Special Academy and an intervention room for Brambles were also included in the build. Thanks to a £6000 grant from Head Start and working with our Mental Health Lead and ELSA coach, we are now able to offer small group interventions and also a respite area for children who may be in crisis. This will be a huge advantage to the academy.

It is wonderful to see the kitchen in full operation and all the feedback from the staff and children has been very positive. The children are now thoroughly enjoying all of the hot and cold choices that are on offer and the numbers of hot meals being ordered has increased significantly since the start of last year.

May we say a massive thank you to all the parents for their support and patience throughout the summer term due to the inconvenience and disruption that the building work produced. Also, for accepting that packed lunches were our only offer during the summer months until the kitchen was completed. As you can see, the wait was worth it!

The images below show the building work that has been undertaken throughout the spring and summer term and the wonderful addition this has made to our academy ...





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY



WIFI Upgrade

The Brambles Academy WIFI system has also been upgraded throughout the summer holidays using a grant that had been awarded to us from Middlesbrough Council to support our digital capacity. The upgrade will further enhance teaching and learning by enabling the children to make use of the additional iPads that were allocated by the DfE to the academy throughout the pandemic. WIFI provision has been extended to the quad area which will allow us to also create many outdoor teaching and learning opportunities for the children.

Digital devices are still available by contacting the office, should your child be convalescing or isolating at home and the Showbie learning platform is also being used to offer additionality and support work completed in the academy.



Long Service Award

On behalf of Brambles Primary Academy and Tees Valley Education, may we take this opportunity to share a significant event with you. Staff, parents and children at Brambles Primary Academy would like to personally thank Mrs Gill for completing an incredible 30 years of service at our school. From working in the nursery, to supporting in the workshop and right up to year 6, Mrs Gill has been a key player in

all areas of the academy. For over ten years, she has been a huge part of the pastoral team, working with families in our community and ensuring that our children get the support to which they are entitled.

At Brambles we recognise that staff will always be our greatest asset and the dedication, drive and passion that she has displayed throughout her time

with us is instrumental to the success of the academy. This is an amazing achievement and we are very proud to have such devoted and committed team members within our academy.

We recognise and are very grateful to this huge commitment to our school and our community.

Very well done Mrs Gill!





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Opening our new Library

This half term we have launched our brand new library space, filled with a fantastic range of books, beautiful seating areas as well as a wide range of fascinating artefacts such as real butterflies, canopic jars and a friendly tarantula!

To celebrate our amazing new area, and to coincide with Roald Dahl's birthday, children across the academy came to school dressed as their favourite book characters. There were some tremendous costumes on show, and all the staff loved seeing the children so excited about reading.

We were joined for the day by children's author James Harris, and also Richard Drake (owner of a local bookshop) who both shared their stories and experiences of writing, as well as conducting interactive workshops for the KS2 classes.

After an exciting day, we are delighted to begin a new chapter of reading across the school in our new library!





DORMANTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

ELSA and Pastoral Support

Mrs Sherwood is now trained as an ELSA which is an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and is working with children in the academy. She has had special training from educational psychologists to support the emotional development of children and young people in school. ELSAs help children and young people learn to understand their emotions and respect the feelings of those around them. They provide the time and space for pupils to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage them.

We are also delighted to have a brand-new pastoral room for children to use. It provides a relaxing environment to support children's needs and is also used by Mrs Holmes, our academy counsellor.



Academy Council

Linked in with an assembly theme of Democracy, classes voted for their Academy Council members for this academic year. We are proud to have such a positive group of children representing our academy and acting as Pupil Voice for the other children. As we can all meet in person this year, we are looking forward to working on some projects together including healthy packed lunches and continuing to improve our lunchtime activities provision.



Assemblies

What a joy it has been to have our assemblies in the hall again. We are continuing to promote our themes and Character Education virtues within these as well as celebrating the achievements from the week in our Friday Pot of Gold assemblies.



Macmillan Cake Bake

We had amazing support at the Macmillan Cake Bake with a wonderful turn out from parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who made donations of sweet treats for the stalls and supported by purchasing cakes and biscuits.

We managed to raise **£268.89** for this wonderful charity.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Summer Fun!

During the summer holidays, Pennyman opened its doors to those who wanted to attend summer holiday provision. This year, thanks to Tees Valley Sport, Sport England and Teesside University, funding was secured to make sure this year was something special.

Over 40 children each week joined Pennyman staff as well as specialist coaches who delivered a range of activities. The children took part in art, dancing and climbing amongst other things. As a special treat, the children took part in a pizza making session. Their creations were delicious. The children really embraced the sessions and behaved so well.

"I loved the climbing wall because I had to climb so high and press the button at the top, I wasn't even scared!" (Bobby - Y1)

Due to last year's Year 6 bubble bursting before the end of the term, we were able to



invite the year group back to take part in a leaver's event with a difference. They took part in a climbing wall day ending it with a pizza treat. Given the end to their final year was like it was, we were delighted to be able to get together one last time and give them the send-off they deserved.

Visitors from Teesside University joined Mrs Kelly on the second week and were so impressed with the children, the organisation and the offer for our children that we are in discussions with them to see how we can continue to collaborate on future initiatives. Once again a huge thank you must go to the staff that organised and supported these holiday clubs.



Recognised for excellence

We were delighted to receive the news that we have been recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' by the 'Inclusion Quality Mark'. The Centre of Excellence recognised that Pennyman Primary Academy is a very unique school because the Unit is very much part of the whole school. The children here are totally accepting of each other and are non-judgemental. When they describe their friends, they do not talk about their disability; they discuss their attributes and personality and describe what they can do as opposed to what they cannot. The school motto 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day' is the ethos that is embedded throughout and underpins the vision and values shared by parents, pupils, and staff.

Sign of the times

As part of our commitment to all children, we have introduced a 'Sign of the Week'. This is introduced by a different member of staff each week and shared with the Pennyman community. So far this term we have learnt, good morning, good afternoon, please, thank you, how are you and fantastic. It is wonderful to see the children using signs to communicate with staff. If you want to join in, please see our Facebook page for the demonstration videos!



Pennyman Primary Academy



Makaton Signs of the week
06/09/21





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day!

In time for the start of the new year, we have revised our behaviour system in the academy. We continue to follow a staged approach, however in order to fully embody the 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day' philosophy, we now begin each day a fresh. We recognise that many of our children consistently follow the rules of the academy and as a result, at the end of each day we celebrate TEAM time, a short period of time where we acknowledge those children who have made the right choices and followed the TEAM goals.

"I love TEAM time because we get to play games with the children in our class."

"TEAM time is the best because we learn to listen to each other and work together."

"It is great because I have made up a game that the rest of the class like to play."

For those who have maybe forgotten what we expect, they spend some or all of the TEAM time reflecting on their choices. So far the children have engaged really well with the system and we have seen an improvement week on week in terms of the number of children receiving stages.

Flat Stan First Aid Training

Well done to Oliver and Alex in Year 4 and Cole in Nursery who completed some fantastic and important learning during the summer holidays. They took part in Flat Stan First Aid training and learned how to perform CPR, what to do if someone is choking, how to put a person into the recovery position, how to deal with burns and many more other things. We are very proud of you!



Welcome to the team

We are delighted to welcome a new member to the pastoral team here at Pennyman. Mrs Conroy joined us in September and brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the team. She will be delivering ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) support to children across the academy while also working with groups around resilience, friendships and behaviour. Mrs Conroy has already made such an impact with so many of our children and we are excited to see this impact continue across the academy during the year. As with all our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is something you want to discuss about your child.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Summer Holiday Club

During the Summer, the academy held a holiday club for our children. Pupils and staff enjoyed two weeks of sporting and creative activities together. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part and enabled pupils to maintain relationships with staff and have routine during the long holiday, supporting a smooth return to the academy in September.

MFC Foundation

We are pleased to be working with the MFC Foundation who are delivering a bespoke careers and enterprise program to our year 5 and 6 pupils. This program aims to develop pupil's confidence and aspirations by introducing pupils to enterprise and careers themes through real life learning opportunities and developing skills to prepare pupils for adulthood, such as independence, responsibility and resilience.



New school building

We are very excited to see our new school building developing and look forward to its completion and opening next summer. It is really starting to take shape and changes to the site can be seen weekly. A group of pupils who were in the first Discovery class recently visited the site to meet with Andy Preston and have their photographs taken to mark the progress of the build so far. Please check our website for regular updates on the progress of the build.



Coffee morning

It has been so lovely to be able to hold two welfare coffee mornings since returning to the academy in September. We are eager to start working with our families again face to face. During the mornings, we discussed the support parents feel they need for their children and families, and put together a plan of sessions that we are going to facilitate. We cannot wait to get started.

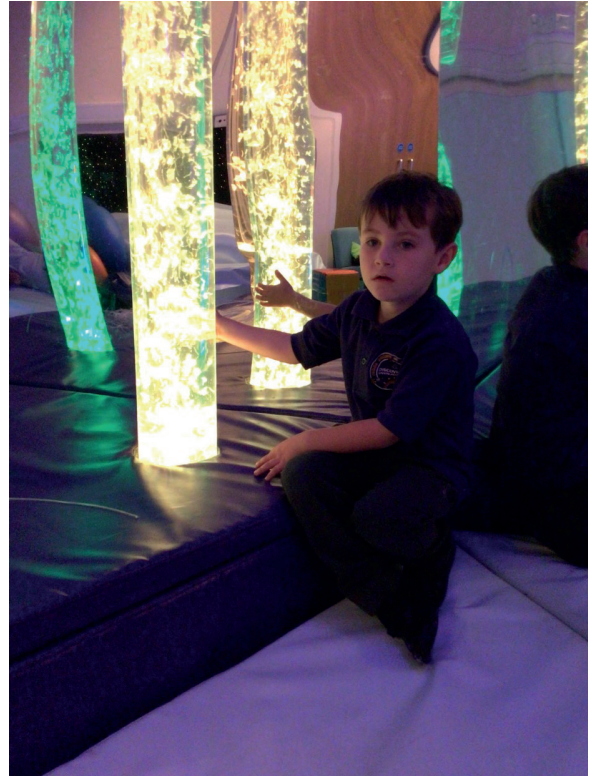




DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Sensory room

We are very excited to be able to use our new sensory space that has been created to support our children who require a sensory diet throughout the day. The new space has a range of resources and equipment to help the children to regulate their sensory input. Alongside this, we are putting our mini bus to good use and have re-started visiting the Sensory Room at Pennyman Primary Academy each week.



Choir

We have missed not working as closely as we have previously with the other academies during the last year. Our year 5 and 6 pupils were very excited to visit Pennyman Primary Academy and the KS2 Unit Provision classes to form a Tees Valley Education choir, practising some songs and signs together with Mr Nixon. We hope we can share them at Trust events soon.



Pupil and parent support advisor

Mrs Lamb has started a new role this year as our Pupil and Family Support Advisor. Mrs Lamb's role is to support parents and carers to overcome barriers to help support their children's learning. Mrs Lamb works with children and families across the academy supporting the pastoral and safeguarding team as required. Mrs Lamb works in partnership with the academy welfare team, making links with all stakeholders, ensuring high attendance and supporting pupils to access education through 1:1 class support and other appropriate interventions.



WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Wilton Expects

Wilton Expects are the values and attributes we teach the children and expect them to exhibit in their learning and behaviour around the academy. Our four values encompass the whole child:

Determination - the attitude and drive to be the best they can be and persevere even when things are difficult.

Independence - working on their own and using their initiative to succeed in a range of situations.

Collaboration - working together as part of a group or team, listening to others, sharing support and encouraging others to achieve a common goal.

Compassion - Thinking of others and going out of their way to be kind and considerate.

Each value is linked to a colour. Children who demonstrate a value are awarded a wowcher of the colour they have earned. Once they complete their chart with the required number of wowchers, the child will be awarded one of new Wilton Expects badges. Once a child has earned their determination, independence, collaboration and compassion badges, they will be awarded the Wilton badge to show they have successfully and consistently demonstrated they are a model Wilton citizen. We can't wait to share our first badge winners with you!



Wilton expects we show

Determination

Independence

Collaboration

Compassion



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We were so pleased to be able to invite parents back into the academy to join in with Macmillan's the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We decided to hold it straight after school so the children could join in too! We have missed having parents in the academy and it was a lovely atmosphere. Everybody was so generous and we raised a fantastic £96.78 to support people with cancer and their families.



Suez recycling donation

Suez Recycling and Recovery were very kind in donating some bug houses and wild flower seeds for us to place around the academy. The children love searching for insects and investigating our wildlife area so the bug houses were a perfect addition!





TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Power of Women Primary Ambassadors

In our last edition, we reported on the launch of 'The Power of Women' campaign, a movement to lift the aspirations of young women across the Tees region after on study named Middlesbrough as the worst area in the country for women to grow up.

Following on from the launch, Tees Valley Education are delighted to be the first schools to take part in the Primary Ambassadors programme. Seeing young women from our schools get involved with the campaign has been amazing. We are so happy that the campaign is giving young people confidence and inspiring them to be their best.



After becoming involved, Tierney said she wanted to develop her own confidence in the role and was proud to be chosen & Cara felt she could inspire others to make a difference and be a good role model. **THIS is what POW is about!**



PD Ports donation

Tees Valley Education would like to thank PD Ports once again for another generous donation. PD Ports kindly donated the location fee of £1500 to Tees Valley Education following the filming of ITV's next series of Vera. The funds will go towards the shared commitment between Tees Valley Education and PD Ports to create an Enterprise Charter for children and young people across Teesside.



Trauma Informed Practice

This year, staff and children at Tees Valley Education are getting the opportunity to take part in an exciting new project with Teesside University, The Attachment Research Community and schools in Nashville (USA), Dublin (Ireland) and Victoria (Australia).

For many of us the COVID pandemic has been an extremely difficult time. Some families were already experiencing lots of adversity, living in very stressful, potentially traumatic circumstances, which can leave children anxious, unhappy and struggling to learn at school. Sadly, when children are

distressed, they can struggle with their behaviour, find it harder to make friends and focus on their schoolwork.

Lynn Miles, a lecturer at Teesside University, runs courses to help teachers work with children who are living in difficult circumstances and often feel distressed. She had a difficult time herself as a child, so trained to be a primary school teacher to help children who are finding school tricky. Lynn now teaches what she has learned over the last 25 years to others working with children in schools.

Lynn has been talking to senior leaders about how we can help the academies become places that can help children recover from the pandemic and other difficult experiences they may be having.

To do this they are going to be 'Trauma-Informing' staff and practices at the school, by teaching the adults about how adversity and stress can change the body and brain. Staff will also learn strategies and tools to help children who are struggling with difficult feelings, that makes it hard for them to learn.



Tees firm keeping children safe in the classroom

Analox is supplying Tees Valley Education with more than 100 Air Quality Guardian CO2 monitors for use within their schools and classrooms.

The science of the Covid virus has taught the world the importance of effective ventilation and Analox say the best indicator of when ventilation is needed is to monitor the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Katrina Morley, CEO of Tees Valley Education, said: "In my previous job role, I was a chemical engineer, so I understand the scientific reasons behind the use of a CO2 monitor.

"Having the unit installed allows all of my teaching staff and children to remain safe and focussed on excellent teaching and learning without having to second guess if an area requires additional ventilation. Plus, the Air Quality Guardian units are simple to

operate and are small enough not to cause any disruption in the classroom.

"Equally as important to the Trust is the fact that we are supporting local businesses, research and employment which means that our children, their families and the Tees Valley community benefit all round."

Becca Dodds, business development manager at Analox, said: "Following on from the government's announcement that CO2 monitors will be installed into schools, we have been working with the education industry. It is great that we are able to supply our monitors to a local school trust and help protect their staff and students."

The Air Quality Guardian offers a simple traffic light system, advising teachers on when the classroom requires additional ventilation.

ANALOX



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION
WWW.TEESVALLEYEDUCATION.CO.UK