



SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

As always, it is a pleasure to share the range of learning, experiences and opportunities our children have had this term. All subjects in our curriculum offer, are brought alive by the children's curiosity, care, excitement and life needs, which can be seen in all of the photographs.

You will also see a STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, focus from every academy. After the significant investments across the region into renewable energy, the free port, materials processing, software development and information technology (IT) we want to ensure that all of our children develop their STEM curriculum knowledge and apply it in the 'new' world of work around their schools and communities. Engaging with PD Ports, Sofia Windfarm, Materials Processing Institute and Teesside University, brings knowledge alive and we are proud to collaborate with them.

I'm particularly heartened, after returning from our wonderful Trust Easter Service at St Nicholas' Church in Guisborough. Despite the snowy weather it was wonderful to see all of our children together and to listen to their singing and celebration of Easter and Spring. Sharing all of these learning opportunities and performances with you the families and communities, always makes it extra special for the children and staff alike. We will ensure you have more to come...

In the meanwhile, please enjoy your Easter break and we look forward to seeing you for the Summer Term on Monday 25th April.



MISS K MORLEY
CEO
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Reception Teddy Bears Picnic

On Friday 4th March, we invited parents into school for a Teddy Bears Picnic. We had an overwhelming response, with 26 parents joining us to share a story and snacks. This was part of our World Book Week activities. During the week, the children became Authors, writing their own stories, which they then shared with their parents at the picnic.

The morning was a fantastic opportunity to show parents how much we love reading and to open our amazing new Library to everyone. We had some wonderful comments from parents who thoroughly enjoyed the reading morning – and the teddy bear biscuits we made!



Year 5 Enterprise Day

Discussing aspirations and job opportunities has been high on the agenda from Year 5 this term. With this in mind, we were visited by Mr Stogdale who helped increase our awareness of the huge variety of careers available in our area especially those in digital media and technology. We were asked to put our technology skills to use and design a birthday card using the app 'reality composer'. Inspired by the app's many possibilities, the children designed some wonderfully creative cards.

Year 5 Trip to the Great North Museum

Year 5 have had the opportunity to go to the Great North Museum, Newcastle. This enhanced their knowledge of The Ancient Egyptians, Ancient Greeks and Space (which are all topics we have studied so far this year) and we made great links in our learning.

First, the children got to use the Ancient Egyptian explorers' kit whilst viewing the exhibits with the challenge of spotting any cat theme objects (as these were seen as a sacred animal in Ancient Egyptian times). Next, the children got to observe our solar system in the museum's planetarium. Because they had found it so awe inspiring, once the show had finished, they gave a round of applause. Finally, they participated in an Ancient Greek workshop where they found out about the fighting forces of Athens and Sparta. In particular they enjoyed handling the weapons, armour and shields.

It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all.





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

STEM Silver Award (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Collectively, students in our Key Stage 2 STEM Club are working towards the Silver STEM Award through the National Schools' Observatory. As part of this, the club have, so far, taken part in four STEM investigations: they have used Play-Doh to discover the impact of rotation of the Earth on Day and Night. They built on this by designing and creating sundials that work specifically in Middlesbrough. Solar eclipses made up the next investigation, where children created moon cut-outs to identify the phases of the moon and how this can lead to solar eclipses.

After School Clubs

This term, our children have been lucky enough to participate in a wide range of exceptional after school clubs that have given them the opportunity to try a range of activities and sports that they have not experienced before.

Year 1 children, in our cooking club, have had lots of fun taste testing bread and making pizza. The children in our after school club have had fun tasting a variety of breads and discussing their favourite. The children then had the opportunity to look through cookbooks and vote as a group what they would like to cook over the coming weeks. This was a great success and the children really enjoyed this. In our second week we cooked pizza as this was one of the group's choices. We are 'Big cook, little cooks'.



Year 1 and year 2 have been taking part in ballet lessons. The children have learnt how to stand and sit correctly, as well as how to enter and leave the dance space. We learnt how to plié, tendu and sauté. Once we have grasped the basics they learnt a routine to Mary, Mary Quite Contrary. We have had so much fun and they have been amazing dancers.

Year 1 and Year 2 had the opportunity to attend a sculpture after school club. We designed a pot and a sculpture of ourselves first and coloured it in with our favourite colours. We have made the pot out of clay. Some children used the coiling technique where the clay is rolled into a sausage shape and coiled round to meet. Other children created a pinch pot where they used their fingers to create a delve in the middle. We then used a coloured paint for the base of our pot to paint finer detail on. We are then going to create a sculpture of ourselves to attach to our pot. We have had lots of fun!



Year 3 and Year 4 pupils in our gardening club have had the opportunity to put their green fingers to the test. We have learnt about the process of growing plants - in particular growing our own vegetables. We have started a sunflower growing competition and are hoping that they will all grow taller than a metre! Hopefully the seeds we have sown this spring (in the window boxes and around the quad), will be in full bloom come the summer time. We are excited to see our hard work grow!



Key Stage 2 Children have been attending a badminton club, which has focused on hand eye coordination and the fundamental rules of the sport. Each week, they have had a skills focus of the session (such as underhand, overhand and physical movement), the sessions have then culminated with a weekly tournament, during which, the 'Brambles Badminton Champion' is awarded their championship belt.



DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Swimming

As part of our PE curriculum, and to support well-being and develop physical health, Y5/6 children have been experiencing swimming. They have made lots of progress from dipping toes in the water to achieving their first swim experience! Some children have gained their first swimming award. Well done everyone!



STEM Club

Our STEM club re-started this term with the theme of Space. Children retrieved previous knowledge and were able to match planets to their properties. The children used marble ink to re-create the clouds that exist on the solar system's gas giants. Developing team work is an additional focus of STEM club as we prepare for adulthood and show how we can work together and consider the opinions and ideas of others.

British Values

All pupils in the academy have been showing how they can make a difference with their choices. Every week they choose their favourite book from previous stories they have read in their class. The votes are then counted and the favourite story is read the following week. Children have also voted for new playground equipment and are learning the important life skill that their choice may not always be part of the majority.



Well-being

As a trust dedicated to improving health and well-being, staff and children at Discovery recognised Mental Health Week in February. During the week, we took part in sensory well-being sessions, mindfulness, sensory music, art therapy and sensory cooking. We are learning to appreciate the quiet times and how important it is to reflect on what is happening in the moment.



DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Winter Paralympics

To celebrate the Winter Paralympics in Beijing, children experienced New Age Kurling. This is a version of Kurling which takes place in the Olympics but with no ice! We enjoyed holding and sliding the Kurling stones and soon realised that the stones moved faster and slower depending on how we pushed them. It was great fun, especially when our stones tapped and moved those that belonged to our friends!



Visits

Children in Key Stage 2 developed their History knowledge with a visit to Preston Park Museum. They enjoyed being out in the community and applying their classroom knowledge to the experience provided by the staff and the 'back in time' environment. Pupils also popped to Tesco and experienced time in the community. They enjoyed exploring the area around the shop and took a closer look at things that interested them. Some children visited Pendragon to experience an alternative therapeutic environment.



Zoo Lab

To support our Science theme of classification, Zoo Lab came to Discovery! We overcame our fears of unfamiliar animals and sat beside rats, cockroaches, a snake and a tarantula! Some brave children stroked or held the animals and listened well to all the interesting facts.



EYFS

Children in Nursery and Reception have been learning how to be independent. Some children are learning to choose a familiar activity using symbols and other visual support. Completing an activity with no help is a huge achievement for our younger children. In Nursery, children have been learning about mini beasts and have been observing caterpillars as they change into butterflies.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Voice 21 Oracy

This term, all our staff and children have been working hard to develop their Oracy skills. Oracy is the ability we have to express ourselves verbally and is incredibly important, not only in school, but also as we go through our lives.

Children have been learning how to talk, including using their tone, body language and listening skills effectively. This has then allowed them to participate in a range of activities where they have been able to apply their language and vocabulary to further their learning.

Our classrooms have seen debating, collaboration and discussion, and it has been amazing to see how well our children can express themselves, and show their progress through talk.



Cultural Capital in Reception

Reception have been studying old and new toys during their focus on the past and present. Children had a wonderful time learning all about the materials that different toys are made from, how toys are made and how they move. What better way to discover the answers to these questions than to experience Dormanstown's very own Toy Museum!



Amazing Art

The children have really enjoyed exploring the world of Peter Thorpe's abstract art work. We have taken a close look at his World of Space and how colour holds a great importance to the artist. We noticed how colour 'explodes off the page' and that 'rockets must be important to him'.

The children practised many skills to help create their own space art work. To create the background, the children made solid, bold brush marks which were placed randomly across the canvas. Stars were fun, as they required flicking white paint off the bristles of a brush to create millions of stars. Various tools to print circles and lines were used to make planets and bright stars. Finally, we practised drawing rockets and used oil pastels to create bright solid lines for definition. We pieced all these skills together to create "Space" inspired by Peter Thorpe.



The Land of Make Believe

Reception's new role-play area is the 'The Land of Make Believe'. This wonderful open-ended environment has allowed children to use material to make their own costumes. They have pretended to be many different characters from the giant in Jack and the Beanstalk to kings, queens, princes and princesses. Children have also listened to and learned how to tell their own imaginative stories. They have shown interest in developing their knowledge of life in a castle and can use castle related vocabulary when building castles and role-playing castle life. Children have made battlements, moats and working drawbridges! They are demonstrating a deep understand of life long ago by immersing themselves in the past!





DORMANTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

STEM Club

This half term, we relaunched our STEM Club. We now have a group of Y5 children working towards their Bronze Award and a Y6 group working on their Silver Award. The Y6's were fantastic ambassadors for the award and supported the Y5's to log into the National Schools' Observatory and navigate during their sessions using the online Liverpool Telescope.

The National Schools' Observatory (NSO) is about inspiring the next generation of scientists, programmers, engineers and mathematicians. They provide free access to the world's largest fully robotic telescope, and they use the wonders of space to excite and amaze pupils of all ages and develop their love of STEM education.



Lunchtime Activities

Our lunchtime supervisors took part enthusiastically in a training session with Mr Long to practice different 5-a-side games to play on the MUGA (the sweatbands were optional!). This has enhanced our lunchtime offer with a wider range of activities being available to the children. Members of our Y6 Junior Leadership team are also leading dance sessions for two lunchtimes a week in the sports hall. They have selected their own music and provide moves for each dance. We have lots of very happy and active children at lunchtime, and it is wonderful to see boys and girls from Reception to Y6 mixing and playing so harmoniously.



Welcome to No. 2 Lilly Lane

The saying "home is where the heart is" is certainly true in Nursery's Lilly Lane. We have worked hard to create a new home area that mirrors the children's own experiences of life at home. The children have been involved in decorating it with wallpaper, accessorising it with picture frames of themselves and have helped organise our kitchen to create an engaging experience for all. The importance of building on children's interests and experiences, using language to support vocabulary and thinking skills, is a crucial part of the learning process and our new domestic role play area is the heart of where all this happens. It is something that all children have in common regardless of their cultural background or previous experience. The learning we have already experienced since creating this has been extraordinary and high-quality communication is taking place daily. We look forward to seeing you all at No.2 Lilly Lane soon!



Amazing Mazes

Year 5 created computer games, and these were based around a book the children have been enjoying called Room 13 (set in Whitby). They had to create a maze game in which the main character is trying to escape from a vampire bat. It was such a collaborative task that the children thoroughly enjoyed.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Aye, Aye Captain!

During the first week of term, Year 1 went on their first class trip of the year to the Captain Cook Museum at Stewart Park. The children were amazing as we walked to and from the park, singing along the way showing the local community our true Pennyman spirit. We were blown away by the amazing facts and information we found at the museum resulting in the children writing beautiful recounts of the day. We cannot wait for our next adventure!



Not so dark skies

In Year 5, both children and staff were extremely disappointed that storm warnings and high force winds meant their Dark Skies visit was cancelled. To try and recreate some of the magic, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Jones & Mrs Nelson created a not-so-dark sky in the classroom with starlight projectors. The children laid on the floor to look at the stars while they enjoyed the not-so-toasted marshmallows and then watched NASA's footage of the Webb telescope launch from December 2021. The children also used online links to view and control some of the world's powerful telescopes virtually. It wasn't quite the night of excitement they had planned, but everyone enjoyed applying and extending our understanding of space.



Let's go quackers!

During the last couple of weeks, there has been a buzz of excitement at the arrival of 6 new additions to the Pennyman family. These new arrivals were not the same as others, their webbed feet and tiny beaks set them apart.

The ducks arrived to support the children in Miss Gates' class to understand where animals come from and to prepare them for their science work at the start of the summer term. The children were fascinated by the eggs when they arrived and before long interest had been sparked not only in the children across school, but in the adults too. We all watched as the tiny bundles of feathers emerged from their eggs. The six ducklings that hatched have been visited by every class from across the academy. They have brought so much joy and a sense of calm to the academy!

We are looking forward to who or what arrives in the academy next.... watch this space!



DT's ups and downs

During the spring term, Year 3 created their very own board games! The children investigated and rated different board games, thinking about their accessibility and enjoyment when playing them.

From this they developed a plan to create their own version of Snakes and Ladders, building the game from the board up. The children created their own moveable pieces using clay, a checkerboard background for their board and even added 3D snakes and ladders using string and card. At the end of the module, the children were excited to play each other's games and thoroughly enjoyed their design technology project.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Published poets

Year five recently took part in the Young Writers 'This is Me' poetry competition where schools across the country were asked to compose a poem reflecting their identity. The competition is in its 31st year and they received over 10,000 entries. Twenty five, Year 5 children have been successful and their work will be published in a book titled 'This is Me 2022 – Life In Verse'!

We are incredibly proud of the children's achievement and can't wait to see their names in print – Pennyman Primary Academy has 25 published authors!



We're going on a community hunt

To start our exploration of the community and the buildings around us the children were challenged to walk the local area and find lots of different types of buildings. It was great to see lots of families getting involved and the children took some interesting photos from around our local area. The children talked about what they had discovered and we began to design our own community. The children used large boxes to make a police station, fire station, library, shops and a school. They decided to name the community Pennyman Village.



Creative minds

In Year 2, the children have been studying the artist Mackenzie Thorpe and were very excited to learn that he was from Middlesbrough. They used the power of social media to speak to Mackenzie Thorpe and he sent our pupils a personal video message. He told them to use his artwork as a starting point for their own creative ideas and if you work hard, you can achieve anything. The children have developed their observational skills, explored colour palettes and created their own artwork highlighting Middlesbrough landmarks.



Splish splash

Year 4 made a splash this term at the Neptune Centre during their swimming lessons. Swim coaches Gemma and Christine were impressed by the hard work and effort demonstrated by all the pupils during their lessons which took place every day for two weeks. Despite the limitations at accessing swimming pools during the pandemic over the past two years, all the children have shown incredible resilience learning to swim. All children finished their swimming lessons confident in the water with many achieving 25 metres and more.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Enterprise Day

KS2 took part in an Enterprise Day funded by Tees Valley Combined Authority. Andrew Stogdale, delivered the day which began with the children learning about some of the job opportunities that are available in the local area, particularly linked with computing. After that, the children used the Reality Composer app to design and create their own birthday card. It was a very successful day for both the children and staff!

RAF STEM Competition

Miss Norton's class took part in a STEM competition run by the RAF. They had an online workshop in which they looked at how to design an aeroplane and then they spent time designing, testing and evaluating their own design. This then leads into a national competition which the children are currently working on. Watch this space!



Sewing skills

Mrs Harding's class worked really hard on developing their sewing skills as part of their design technology topic. It took a lot of patience and resilience but they learnt how to do a running stitch, backstitch and blanket stitch. They then used their new-found sewing skills to decorate a bag. On the reverse of the bag, they created a pattern inspired by their work on the study of the artist Andy Warhol. The children were really proud of their efforts and the final results and created a pic collage to show the different stages of the process.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY



Iron Man designs

Miss Norton's class used their design technology topic of creating a product using recyclable materials, with their reading of the Iron Man. The children collected materials and designed their own Iron Man. After practising different joining techniques, they followed their design to create their own model. They then tested them to see if they could survive a fall from a height unlike the Iron Man himself!

Windmill designs

Mrs Barron's class worked incredibly hard to create a working windmill as part of their design technology topic. They looked at windmills, and made their own, which included working out how to design, construct and adapt the windmills to make sure they turned. They had fun painting the blades and working out how to attach them using simple tools.



Story Characters

The children in Mrs Wardle's class have been having lots of different experiences and adventures with characters from different stories! They cooked a gingerbread man in the oven but when they went to do PE, he ran away! Luckily after the children created missing posters to put around the academy and made a trap to leave in the classroom overnight, the gingerbread man was successfully caught! They also had an Enormous Turnip and Jack with his Beanstalk appear in the classroom too!





British Science Week

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that took place from 11th March to the 20th March 2022.

The idea behind the programme is to raise awareness, spark enthusiasm and celebrate science, engineering, technology and maths throughout each of our academies.

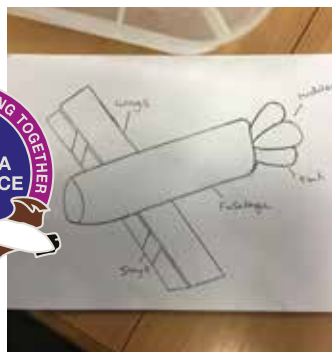
The themes for the week were 'Smashing Stereotypes' and 'Growth'.

Across the Trust, children studied significant STEM figures from both present day and in the past. This was aimed to show children that scientists take many shapes and forms and that they too can have the aspiration of becoming a scientist. Pupils conducted second hand research around a STEM profession and discussed all of the career possibilities available to them.

Other activities included an explosive assembly given by a visitor from Science Boffins and a workshop based on the wonders of the universe. They also enjoyed learning about 'Forces' and using 'Flight' as a stimulus for the week, pupils investigated a range of different air powered rockets, stunt planes and flying paper straws. The children worked together to investigate which flew the furthest, and how they could adapt their flying devices to make them fly further. Older children investigated how the trajectory of their planes effected the distance of flight.

In addition, the academies planted various flowers and vegetables in order to watch them grow over the coming months as well as observing chicks and ducklings hatching and growing too. Lots of mini experiments were carried out including comparing hand sizes with age, investigating carbon emissions and creating posters to encourage people to think about how their choices regarding these emissions effect the environment. Some children even got the chance to make slime to test how far it can be stretched!

We are sure that with all of the scientific work undertaken over the week, we have inspired a future generation to take up the many opportunities available in the world of STEM.





TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

World Book Day

The academies in the Trust spent World Book Day celebrating fantastic texts from a wide range of authors. Each academy celebrated in their own unique way.

Pennyman children attended school in pyjamas or comfy clothes to snuggle with a book. Foundation Stage brought a teddy to share a book with and all other year groups mixed with alternative years to share a story. They also ran a competition to persuade Mrs. Stogdale to buy a book for the academy. There was a big emphasis placed on the strap line "You are a reader" with lots of activities based on this.

Wilton Primary Academy dressed as their favourite book character and brought in the book. They also completed some activities throughout the day and the staff all went to read and share their favourite book with another class.

Brambles Primary dressed as their favourite character from a book, brought in copies of a book of their choice and took part in a wide range of activities throughout the day, all of which linked to more obscure texts and lesser known authors.

Discovery children voted for their favourite class story out of the previous books that have been read this year. Based on this book, they then created a selection of art work which is now on display in their library.

Children and teachers at Dormanstown dressed up as their favourite book characters and, in each class, children shared their favourite books, listened to new, exciting stories and undertook a range of activities linked to children's literature! We have also been joined recently by the fabulous author, Helen Rutter, who shared her inspirations and answered the children's questions about how she gathers her ideas. The excitement isn't over yet ... our partners at Drake the Bookshop have invited us to their belated World Book Day extravaganza, where children will be meeting as many as ten authors over an action-packed day of reading fun!

As a Trust, we hold reading as one of our top priorities and look forward to the rest of the year and building towards our TVED Book of the Year Awards.





PD Ports Teesport Explorers Programme



Following two years of unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis, PD Ports, the largest private employer in the Tees Valley, is renewing its call for businesses to do all they can to tackle the skills gaps, challenge stereotypes and raise aspirations.

First trialled pre-pandemic in 2019, PD Ports has now officially revamped and relaunched its innovative Teesport Explorers programme as part of a week of International Women's Day celebrations.

The programme forms part of PD Ports' widespread commitment to supporting young people and in February, the company welcomed 30 children from Pennyman Primary Academy on an exclusive re-launch trip to spend time with PD Ports staff from the marketing team, engineering department, harbour police, transport team and operations whilst taking in all the sights and sounds that the port has to offer.

The programme, which aims to give primary school children their first glimpse of potential future careers during a trip

around one of the most progressive ports in the UK, will now be rolled out to primary schools across the Tees Valley in order to open the eyes of as many young people as possible.

Rachel Reynolds, a Year 5 Teacher at Pennyman who accompanied her class on their visit, said: "The port visit was an incredible opportunity for our children. It was immediately evident that it broadened their horizons and inspired future career choices they may make. We all had a fantastic time and hope we are able to return again someday soon."

The re-launch of the programme is part of a continuation of PD Ports' 'Project Hope' initiative launched in 2020 to engage partners in business, communities, charity and Government to find new ways to inspire young people.



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

International Women's Day Festival 2022

Tees Valley Education are proud to take part in the celebrations for International Women's day each year at Teesside University. The event celebrates the inspirational women who contribute so much to making the region an outstanding place to live, work and study.

TVEd recognises that equality is essential for economies and communities to thrive and that's why we're proud to support the #BreakTheBias campaign.

As part of the International Women's Day Festival 2022, 9 of Pennyman's Year 5 children attended Teesside University's Launchpad incubator for start-up businesses. The Children were taken on a guided tour of the facility, seeing some of the fantastic and innovative start-up businesses in Middlesbrough. Claire Walton, an inspiring author from Teesside, spoke to the

children, helping them to uncover their hidden superpowers and the power of the superhero pose before they met three female entrepreneurs who gave advice on what they wish they had been given in school about their future prospects. The children were treated to an afternoon in the Big River Bakery, working together to make cupcakes and cookies.

We would like to say thank you to Teesside University and the Power of Women campaign for organising the event, along with everyone else involved – the children really enjoyed the day!



What a Newsletter... International Women's Day, British Science Week and World Book Day plus fabulous learning in all our academies. Our children are truly flourishing and taking full advantage of the return to normal routines in our academies.

During the year we take time to recognise everyone's achievements in the classrooms and academies culminating in our Tees Valley Education 'Diamond Awards' at the end of the year. It has been a pleasure this term to be able to visit some of our classrooms and I can see among all the happy faces: Commitment, Curiosity, Courage and Care everywhere and I hope this is felt across our whole community.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the Trusts nomination at the Northern Power Women Awards 2022, which celebrated the commitment of Tees Valley Education to improve outcomes for all children and their communities. This is truly recognition of the whole Trust, our leaders, teachers, staff, volunteers, pupils and community in striving every day for the very best. It is great to be thought of so highly by the world outside our Trust for what we do for our children. Everyone deserves a huge pat on the back and should rightly be very proud.

I hope that you are able to enjoy a wonderful spring break with the renewal and rebirth that this time of year brings from daffodils to baby birds – and of course a little Easter chocolate treat!



Mr J Brine
Chair of the Trust Board



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

