



COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & CARE

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

Welcome to the Trusts final Community newsletter of the academic year. There have been so many wonderful, heartfelt areas of support, generosity and kindness that it's been really difficult for the staff and children to choose what to put in and share with you.

I personally want to thank every person, company, charity and community that have given so generously of their time, resources and efforts – for it has helped to make a difference to all of our children, in all of our academies in this continued pandemic.

Overall, partnerships, working together, sharing hope and kindness as well as a smile has gone a long way this year and can clearly be seen in the wonderful stories inside.

I hope, therefore, that you enjoy reading about them as much as we have enjoyed being part of them.

With all best wishes



Miss K Morley
CEO
Tees Valley Education

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Keeping in touch with families and the community

At Brambles, despite the third lockdown, we have had another amazing term. Our pastoral team have worked diligently with families and children in our community to offer support and care to those affected by the COVID pandemic.

Brambles Leadership, as well as the Pastoral Staff, still have daily meet and greets with parents and carers on the gates each morning and afternoon. These daily 'check-ins' allow the academy to keep up-to-date with families and give support where needed. It also demonstrates our unwavering commitment to our families and our community. This daily contact enables us to point parents to a range of services such as health advice, benefit advice, safeguarding support and emotional support. We are also mindful of 'poverty proofing' the school day and ensure we supply uniform and are able to donate clothing in order to get children into the academy happily and safely each day. We consider this time together to be invaluable.



Headstart MIDDLESBROUGH

Brambles Primary Academy has worked hard to secure a Silver Award from HeadStart, a service which is working hard to give all Middlesbrough's children and young people the necessary support to build resilience to achieve good emotional health. To support this, the Well-Being Team have accessed additional training for resilience which the staff have found very beneficial. Additionally, the team have attended their first network meeting which has allowed our team to meet with professionals from other settings to develop understanding and share good practice.

Support from local Businesses and Charities

Our fabulous sponsor, The Greggs Foundation, renewed our hardship fund allowance which enabled us to bid for a variety of white goods and other household items in order to support families in need. Articles such as beds and bedding, washing machines and fridge freezers have been donated and these items allow families to thrive.

'Greggs' and 'Cause' have continued to support the academy and our families through the various lockdowns in the

past year. They have provided funds, so that we have been able to source weekly breakfast bags to sustain families who would normally access the academy's 'Breakfast club'. Their support has been invaluable to families and Brambles Primary Academy are proud to continue this working relationship. After another recent application, Greggs has provided the academy with food vouchers to help sustain families during the school holidays. These vouchers have been

a lifeline for some families affected by job losses and the effects of self-isolation and COVID.

The Philanthropic society are also supporting the academy with applications for holidays for our most deserving and vulnerable families. These short breaks allow children and families wonderful experiences together making memories, which they may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy.





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY



New play equipment

Our wonderful caretaker, Mr Verrill, has built us some new play equipment for our EYFS outdoor play area. The children have been loving making lots and lots of mud pies and mud cakes. It's really important that after numerous lockdowns, our children get to play outside as much as possible and Mr Verrill has really made the area such fun!!! We have also been making best use of our playgrounds to ensure we get as much exercise as possible. We love the bikes at playtimes. The academy has also invested in some new digital outdoor play equipment which means our older children can play against each other or in teams and they are loving the challenge it brings.



Race to Tokyo

To promote improving physical as well as mental health, at Brambles we have been taking part in regular exercise. The children are being encouraged to run and walk a mile along with the adults in school. To further promote the 'weekly mile' our PE lead developed an academy challenge- we could race to Tokyo in time for the Olympics beginning on the 23rd July! Tokyo is roughly 9,000 miles away depending on the route taken. If every child in the academy runs 1 mile per week until the summer it would equate to 5,100 miles. If every class can run 2 miles per week we'd easily complete it! This idea has been shared with the children and they are loving the progress the academy is making. Each week the children are given an update as to how many miles we have run and how far we have managed to travel. We are currently in Vienna, Austria.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

New Signage

After lockdown, we focussed on re-establishing the sense of identity and belonging for all pupils and used our new logo (designed by our pupils and voted for by our whole community) as a driver to re-establish our positive learning culture. Displaying the logos within the academy and establishing our values through assemblies and whole school awards added to the already very positive social norms within the academy.



Pot of Gold

We felt so proud to give out our new "Pot of Gold" certificates and badges as our Friday reward, based on our values: Inspiration, Aspiration, Collaboration, Celebration. Once the children have received at least one of each badge, they will be given the main logo badge featuring all four values. We are delighted to promote our weekly winners in our values entrance display.



The children all voted for their replacement for a Honk reward token following ideas gathered from Pupil Voice and discussions in Academy Council. The children have voted for a gold coins. These are collected to go into our Friday draw to be in with the chance to choose a prize.

Ladies of Steel

We want to say a huge thank you to the Ladies of Steel who provided every child in the academy with a hygiene pack funded and organised by themselves. This was such a relevant gesture with the focus on hygiene during the pandemic and allowed all the classes to engage in sessions on the importance of keeping clean and looking after your teeth. Another level of support much appreciated by the academy, families and the community.



HeadStart

We are so pleased to be part of the HeadStart programme to give all children the necessary support to build resilience to achieve good emotional health. The Key Stage 2 classes had a virtual assembly to introduce the programme and the Y5 children are currently undertaking a course to become HeadStarters. This involves them being engaged in an accredited pathway of education that aims to build resilience, knowledge around their own wellbeing and increase their confidence and self-esteem.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Comic Relief

Great fun was had in the academy as we celebrated Comic Relief. It was non-uniform, with staff and children wearing something red. We had a joke competition in line with the theme of "Funny is Power". Children and parents voted for the funniest joke in class and via Facebook. Our winning joke came from Tommy-Jay in 1T. Well done on making everyone laugh and putting a smile on everyone's faces!

We raised a grand total of £225.75 that we donated to this amazing charity.



Staff Wellbeing Board

It has been important to look after all our staff too during these challenging times, and they have enjoyed having access to our Wellbeing board where lots of little treats are available to them.



CAUSE Hampers

We were very grateful to the CAUSE Foundation for the very generous donation of food to make hampers to distribute to some of our families before the Easter holidays. These were so very well received and a wonderful support.



Relationships / PSHE work

Relationship Education and PSHE is taught weekly in the academy and is a focus for our whole school assemblies. Children are learning how to develop good relationships with their friends and families and how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy. Courtesy, self-discipline and honesty are some of the themes covered through Character Education which is taught in all year groups. The wonderful work the children have produced is displayed in our new PSHE class floor books.

One assembly about Captain Tom led to class discussions on how his amazing commitment is an example to us all. Children were challenged to do an activity linked to the number 100. Reception children ran as far and as fast as they could in 100 seconds which required perseverance to complete and other children did 100 star jumps or skips.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Junior Leadership Team

This half term, the junior leadership team have been able to meet again, outside with social distancing. Each team sat in their year group bubbles and came up with a design to upgrade the KS2 playground benches, which we hope to be made into a buddy bench. Also, the children were excited for our new cook to speak to each class and the junior leadership team even handed out suggestion slips to their classes to help come up with new ideas for the lunchtime menu. On top of that, the JLT members helped to distribute their own worry monsters so that every class has one to support children during current events. Every single JLT member was thrilled to be able to restart our meetings safely outside.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY



Stamp for Heroes Design Competition

This half term, the children of Pennyman are taking part in a competition with the Royal Mail designing a stamp which celebrates work of all of our heroes during the pandemic. The stamp is celebrating the work of not just famous people, but those who have done extraordinary work. These are the people who have helped us all through a really difficult time.

Millions of key workers have kept the country going whilst others had to stay at home for their own safety. There have been many people in communities who have volunteered to help others at their most vulnerable and greatest time of need. These people are all heroes and here at Pennyman alongside the Royal Mail, we wanted to celebrate those heroes by joining in the stamp competition. We are asking our children of Pennyman to help create one of the winning eight stamps which shows who their hero or heroes are. We have received some fabulous entries so far and are very proud of all the children who have taken part.



Support from local businesses



We are grateful to the care shown by Jon and his team at our local Sainsburys. They have always been very supportive of Pennyman, our children and their families. They have worked with Pennyman to provide hampers to families, donated Easter eggs, raffle prizes and more. Staff have also given their time to support community groups with litter picks on the estate and have been involved in Action Weeks to improve the community, which were held at Pennyman.



We value the commitment from Thirteen Housing to improving the lives of our children and their families. They have been instrumental in improving the environment on the estate and in helping to address anti-social behaviour. They organised an Action Week in conjunction with Pennyman, Police, Street Wardens and Linx Youth Support. This included a litter pick, drop in advice sessions for residents, security marking for bicycles and fun activities for children. They have planted fruit trees around the estate as well as fifteen fruit trees in school. In addition they have donated the bark mulch to the academy to use in our play areas and planted meadow flowers around the estate.



DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Being active

We recognise that being physically active and being outside have many benefits for the physical and emotional well-being of all of our pupils. Our outdoor areas have been developed to provide a range of physical and sensory opportunities, including a mud kitchen, climbing frames, obstacle courses and bikes and scooters to support pupils to develop gross and fine motor skills as well as increase confidence and independence. We have recently added two new big bikes which our pupils are really enjoying learning to ride, developing their balance and co-ordination and having fun.



Paint your feelings

Pupils have been involved in 'Paint your feelings' to support them to explore and express their emotions using colour, textures and a range of sensory experiences. This has been linked to work the academy has done across the year on healthy minds and mental health awareness.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Festivals

In the academy pupils have learned about Easter and Holi. Pupils have enjoyed hearing the Easter story and finding out about the Hindu festival of Holi which is a colourful celebration of spring and new life.

Many thanks to local charity, Teesside Family Foundation, who provided every child in the academy with an Easter Egg to take home on the last day of the spring term.



Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence

We are very pleased to announce that Discovery Special Academy has just been awarded Centre of Excellence status by the Inclusion Quality Mark.

A huge thank you to all children, staff and the wider community who have made this possible through their hard work and commitment. The assessor commented on the sense of pride everyone had at the academy about the work that we do here. All staff are committed and focused on equity and inclusive practice, and relationships are extremely strong. One of our favourite comments from the report is: 'The school's commitment to their pupils is well expressed and captured in the quote from Rita F Pierson: "every child deserves a champion, an adult that will never give up on them" and is echoed in their daily attitude and practice.'

Well done to the whole Discovery community – an amazing achievement.



Junior leadership team

Our Junior Leadership Team has been established this term. An election was held and key stage 2 pupils voted in their team of leaders who will be meeting regularly to share their thoughts and ideas. They will also be deciding on a project they can lead on to improve our academy environment and we look forward to seeing what their plans are over the next term.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Breakfast club

We are delighted to have opened our breakfast club again this term. We know this greatly helps working parents and the children enjoy socialising within their bubbles. The children have breakfast and then have time to play games or do some colouring in. We are also still receiving bagels, porridge and cereal for all children from the National School Breakfast Programme as this has been extended to support families during the pandemic. Bagels are on offer every morning and the porridge and cereal is sent home to give every child a great way to start the day.

Mrs Jinks has been part of the Wilton family for many years running breakfast club and she recently made the difficult decision to leave the academy to spend more time with her family. She will be missed by all the staff, children and families.



Return to swimming

As things begin to return to a little normality, school swimming began again. Wilton were the first school to return to the swimming baths and the opportunity to go out on a visit again had a positive impact on everybody. All of the children in KS2 went and we are so proud of the progress of all of the children. Everybody received a certificate for increasing their confidence in water through to some children who achieved their 200m. The national curriculum states that all children in KS2 should be able to swim 25m and we are pleased with the determination of the children to try to achieve this.



Talk Boost

This term we have implemented a new intervention for some children in KS1 called Talk Boost. This is a programme designed to develop the language and communication skills of children and is designed to increase skills and confidence in listening, vocabulary, narrative, sentence building and conversation. The children complete sessions in a small group at least twice a week and it is a pleasure to see the confidence of the children increasing already. As part of the programme the children present to the rest of the class to help increase their confidence as well as the language development. The children also complete additional activities at home with their parents and their support is so important to the progress the children make.

We also have a learning assistant undergoing the training to be an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). This is specific training to support and work with children who may need some additional support with their emotional needs.



Parking posters

Before and after school parking can be difficult near Wilton as the streets are narrow and there is not a lot of space. However we have been working with the parents and children to ask them to consider carefully where they are parking and to also be considerate towards local residents. The children in KS2 created posters to send home to parents and also display outside the academy to encourage people to consider other people and to park safely. We then used parts of the different posters to create one overall poster which we hope will have an impact and help to keep the children safe around the academy.

Comic Relief – Make somebody laugh

To raise money for Comic Relief, using the theme of make somebody laugh, we had a non-uniform day where your clothing may make somebody laugh. The children had great fun wearing odd clothes, wearing them backwards, wearing pants on their head and also telling jokes on their t-shirts. We also had a joke telling session and created video of all the different jokes. We raised £100 and put a smile on people's faces which is so important. However, understanding where the money goes and who it supports is incredibly important and we have worked hard to share this with the children.





TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

The Power of Women Campaign

Tees Valley Education are proud to support the launch of 'The Power of Women' campaign, a movement to lift the aspirations of young women across the Tees region, after one study named Middlesbrough as the worst area in the country for women to grow up.

The campaign is the vision of Professor Jane Turner OBE, pro vice-chancellor for enterprise and business engagement at Teesside University, who felt passionately that this should not be the case.

As CEO for Tees Valley Education, Katrina is supporting the campaign by sitting on the board as a director, with Caroline Theobald CBE, Chris March, Dave Allan, Martin Walker and Rosalind Stuart, who runs Tees Valley Girls' Network, an organisation that's introduced 150 mentors to young women across the Teesside area.

To introduce the movement and raise awareness of the need to improve life chances in Middlesbrough from a young age, Pennyman Primary Academy's Head of Academy Louise Stogdale and pupils Chloe and Molly took part in the online launch on 23rd April. This event was attended by 110 people via Zoom, and will see much needed energy, time and investment.

Thank you to the girls and as ambassadors for the school, Trust and movement – watch this space ...



PD Ports

Celebrating the region's best and brightest, the flagship NEPIC Awards support STEM education across the North East Chemical-Processing sector, with winners able to select a local school or initiative to receive funding towards a science related project.

PD Ports allocated their £2,000 winnings to Tees Valley Education after realising their shared ambition to support primary school children with opportunities to investigate and experience a range of STEM and enterprise in the region. CEO, Katrina Morley, expressed her thanks on behalf of the Trust, when she added:

"Tees Valley Education send heartfelt congratulations to PD Ports on winning the communities and reputation award at the NEPIC annual event"

"PD Ports have consistently demonstrated their commitment to children, young people and the Tees Valley through supporting a range of learning and development opportunities."

"Therefore, TVEd are grateful for the £2000 donation to support our shared enterprise curriculum and look forward to continuing to raise the aspirations, life chances and future outcomes of our children and communities."



PD Ports is currently celebrating its 20th year of supporting young people through apprenticeships, which also coincides with the Company's largest ever recruitment drive as it looks to recruit 50 new apprentices across its operations. On behalf of the children and community we are very much looking forward to the next stage in our collaboration.



We have developed our Pupil Therapy & Wellbeing offer and this is now prominently displayed in our academies and on websites. It forms part of our Trust 'core offer' and details the range of therapies we offer to our children as well as the stakeholders we work with, in order to achieve this.

TVEd has made some truly amazing links with organisations in recent years, and all of them local, which is something we are immensely proud of. It has never been more important for us, as an inclusive Trust, to work collaboratively, so the children who require targeted therapies receive them without delay. This offer will allow our dedicated team of pastoral and welfare staff to draw upon, and provide, a bespoke offer to our children.

PUPIL THERAPY & WELLBEING OFFER



**TEES VALLEY
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www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk



The Link

The Link is a Community Interest Company. Rooted in the belief that nobody should have to face emotional distress alone, the Link provides a variety of therapeutic services, activities, training and events to support children, young people and families who are facing challenges in relation to mental health.



My Sisters Place

Working with the wider community through education and community involvement to create a cultural shift in a zero tolerance of domestic abuse; to better equip families to protect one another.



Speech & Language Therapy (NHS)

Specialist therapists and therapy assistants work with children with speech, language and communication needs in the following areas: autistic spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, physical disabilities (including communication aids), dysphagia (swallowing), specific speech and language impairments, dysfluency (stammering), voice disorders, cleft lip/palate, speech and language delay and hearing impairment.



The Junction

The Junction is a local based charity which exists to make a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families. Working with young people to empower them to deal with the challenges they face, preventing escalation into crisis. Supporting young people with complex needs who are in crisis to achieve stabilisation, enabling them to begin to build a foundation to move on from.



Trust Counsellor

Trust counsellor provides 1:1 sessions, by referral, to children who present with a range of SEMH needs. Parents and staff receive feedback to help inform next steps and other referral pathways.



The Bungalow Partnership

Targeted support for children who have emotional, social or behavioural needs.



CAMHS (NHS)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is the NHS services that assess and treat young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties. Support covers depression, problems with food, self-harm, abuse, violence or anger, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and anxiety.



Headlight Project

A local mental health charity working with young people and adults, providing support and help in collaboration with other organisations, to deliver emotional resilience workshops, and one to one counselling.



ELSA

(Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) Teaching Assistants trained in ELSA support. Aimed at developing pupils social skills, emotions, bereavement, social stories and therapeutic stories, anger management, self-esteem, counselling skills such as solution focus and friendship.



Trust Educational Psychologist

Employed across the Trust 2 days per week, working with staff and children on a range of cognitive and behavioural assessments, parent consultations, referrals to external agencies, pre-EHC pathway reports which detail the support and strategies required to help the child reach the desired outcomes.



Occupational Therapy (NHS)

Occupational therapists (OTs) and therapy assistants provide assessment, treatment and advice to children and their families, in a range of locations including home, school or hospital clinics. OTs assess and treat children who have long term health needs or problems with movement and coordination, fine and gross motor skills.



Barnardo's Bridgeway Project

Bridgeway provides assessment and therapeutic interventions for families affected by all aspects of abuse. This includes pre-trial therapy, play therapy, individual and group counselling. Bridgeway also provides risk/safety assessments prior to behaviour management and change interventions with young people who have displayed sexually harmful and abusing behaviours. The work takes place in individual, family and group work settings.



HeadStart programme

HeadStart is aimed at improving resilience and emotional well-being in young people in order to improve emotional well-being, improve engagement in school and academic attainment, reduce the onset of diagnosable mental health disorders and reduce engagement in 'risky' behaviour.



Positive Handling / de-escalation

All Trust employees have undertaken both theory and practical based training on understanding the verbal, and physical behaviours, some children display when they feel they have reached crisis point. Staff use proven de-escalation strategies, allowing the child to develop alternative and more appropriate coping mechanisms.



Physiotherapy (NHS)

Paediatric physiotherapists help children to achieve their optimal physical development. They have specialist knowledge in the movement, development and conditions that are likely to affect a child. This may involve soft tissue massage, mobilisation, stretching, specific therapeutic exercises and posture education.



Educational Psychologist LA

Local Authority EPs work in a range of different ways to help children, this includes intervention and support and often involves observation and assessment of children; with pre and post follow up work with parents/carers and school staff.



Tree Tops Sensory Occupational Therapy

Tree Tops are an established service with an outstanding reputation for children's occupational therapy and sensory integration. Working in partnership with families, schools and health professionals to make a difference to children's lives by improving their ability to achieve.



Aquatic Therapy

Children with identified needs are offered block sessions of aquatic therapy, using local hydrotherapy pools. Higher ratios of staff are required to deliver bespoke aqua therapy programmes.



A Time 4 You (Counselling)

A local based trained team of counsellors and psychotherapists working with schools and focusing on building and strengthening the natural resilience inherent in young people.



Academy therapy resources

Our academies are richly resourced with therapy, soft play and movement suites. Using the latest technology and resources, children receive bespoke therapies tailored to their individual sensory diet. Each academy has a core offer which illustrates these areas.



Harbour

Harbour give children and young people who have suffered abuse an opportunity to have someone listen to their experiences and help them to deal with their feelings. Each child or young person's support is different as the content is tailored to meet individual needs. Using play, art, drama, sport and discussion during our sessions.



Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health (Level 2)

All academy SLTs and Pastoral leads have completed the Level 2 certificate in Understanding Children and Young people's mental health.

