



WINTER TERM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

As 2022 draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate, with all of our children, the range of exciting learning events this term, and year, across the Trust.

In every academy, children have more books, magazines and reading materials than ever. Please do take the time to share them and listen to your child read. It's a great way to spend more time together!

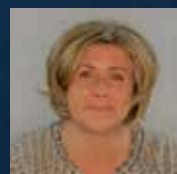
Additionally, musical opportunities and, in particular, singing with our choirs is back... Hearing the Christmas songs, especially from our youngest and newest children in the Trust, always heralds December and this magical time of year. I hope you and your family enjoy sharing the nativities, performances and concerts taking place across the Trust, I know that the children and staff certainly do.

For our older children, the growing links with business and industry means more opportunity too. Our year 5 children across the Trust, started this work by visiting PD Ports during maritime week, seeing a range of different employment roles and pathways. As well being a credit to you all, the children asked great questions, undertook some of the exciting work and interviewed a range of staff on their visit. This is just the beginning of this new area of work, so please do ask more when you see us and we will make sure we keep you updated.

Finally, we need to hear from you about what you especially enjoy in the newsletters, what you'd like to read more about, or your ideas to improve them by including something new.

Whilst we look forward to continuing to work together for the children in 2023, we also know how hard this time of year can be, especially at this current time. All academies have been given extra donations to share with our families and children, so please speak to your links in the academy about fuel vouchers, food hampers, toy appeals and access to council hardship funds. We are here to help in any way we can, especially in the present economic climate.

Please have a wonderful time with your families, friends and love ones this Christmas period. On behalf of the team across Tees Valley Education, we hope 2023 is filled with hope, happiness, peace and health, and remember the magic of Christmas is made with one another – not bought.



MISS K MORLEY
CEO
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

MFC Foundation Black History Month

Following on from work taking place across the academy, as part of a celebration of, and contribution to, Black History Month our year 4 pupils were invited to speak to 19-year-old MFC football player George Gitau. George, born in Germany and of Jamaican heritage, spoke on a Zoom call with pupils and answered a number of the questions posed by our children and the full interview can be seen at the following webpage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHMYWJWg9nk>



MFC Foundation Disability Sports Session

As a partner school with MFC Foundation, we are afforded the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sessions and experiences. In November, Brambles took part in a Disability Sports Session in order to celebrate Disability Awareness Month. Year 5 took part in the session which was focused on visually impaired football. The year group practised moving around the space whilst wearing blindfolds which impeded their vision. This progressed on to practising football skills and moving around space whilst visually impaired, taking part in a number of games, activities and as well as looking at the design and impact of the sport on a national and global scale like the Paralympics.





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Go Well Glow in the Dark Day

Through the service provided by our children with GoWell, we at Brambles have the opportunity to book in a number of exciting and active days throughout the academic year. The first of these was a glow in the dark day. All children, from nursery through to year 6, were asked to dress up in bright or neon colours. Our hall was blacked out, and in this dark environment GoWell used black lights, disco lights and luminous objects to turn the hall into a dazzling and engaging space in which the children took part in dances and sporting activities that they (and staff) all thoroughly enjoyed. It was great fun and we were all very active!



Great Fire of London Day

Year 2 had the opportunity to take part in a full day learning about the Great Fire of London with Chris McGrath from Make the Classroom Disappear: a company which re-enacts events from history using genuine artefacts and dramatic retellings of accounts and sources of historical evidence! We first worked closely with Chris in the hall, we set up a London scene and acted out how the fire spread through the city. We used a fire engine and fire hook to put the fire out and discussed the differences. After play time, we split into three groups and worked on a set of activities to embed our knowledge about the fire. We took part in a quiz, looked at some artefacts from the time of the fire and created a 1666 London street using wooden blocks. We all had a very fun day and we learned lots about the fire.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Middlesbrough Football Club

This term, Y1 to Y7 have been lucky enough to experience PE lessons with MFC Foundation. To support the PE curriculum, pupils have focussed on agility and throwing skills. Preparing for adulthood is also a priority throughout the academy and this was a perfect opportunity to strengthen our resilience and respect through independence and team work supported by staff from MFC.



Horse Riding

Y3/4 pupils have been taking weekly horse-riding lessons at a local riding school. Each week the pupils have grown in confidence as they get to know the horses and what it feels like as they move. Pupils can now lead the horses to trot and change directions. Matthew looks forward to horse riding each week and said, "I enjoy trotting and balancing, and my horse is called Spider!"



Introduction to Work Experience

We recognise that preparing for adulthood should begin as early as possible to support pupils to have high aspirations for the future. Our Y7 pupils have been very excited to start their work experience roles. They have supported in our nursery class, engaging pupils in games and helping over lunch time. This has increased their confidence, communication skills and ambition which is essential for the world of work.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Junior Leadership Team

We asked for volunteers to join our Junior Leadership Team and we were met with an amazing response. Pupils were chosen using a democratic process where the students were elected after their peers voted.



Secondary Logo Designing

This term we have designed a new academy logo for the Secondary school phase of Discovery. The first step was to look at our existing logo and decide how we might adapt this. To decide on the changes, each student was given a picture of the existing logo and asked to sketch, draw or write which parts they would change and how they would want it to look.



We then collected in all their ideas and created a shortlist of the most popular changes. We created a voting slip where students could pick their favourite changes and cast their vote in a secret ballot. The votes were counted and decisions sent to the design team. We are very happy with our design, we hope you like it too!

World Science Day

On Thursday 11th November, it was World Science Day. World Science Day aims to show that, although you may not be a scientist or a researcher, science is all around you and is a part of everybody's life. By making science more accessible, World Science Day is one way in which science can be used to inspire people to study have fun and participate in it. We carried out experiments with our children to provide them with opportunities to explore and investigate which provide them with wonder, curiosity and awe.





DORMANTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Art Room

Our art team have been very busy this term. They have been developing our art room to support the delivery of the curriculum and make it even more exciting for our children to create their masterpieces in. The walls show our academy's key artists to inspire and motivate our young learners to embrace their creative side. Pupil work, inspired by these artists, is on display to showcase the knowledge, skills and techniques they are using to develop their own unique style.



Westfield Farm

Our Reception class visited Westfield Farm in Dormanstown in the lead up to Halloween. They visited the beautiful garden and observed plants growing in the allotments. They saw the pumpkin patch and were able to pick the pumpkins before carving them with the support of staff. They also did some autumn crafts and looked for signs of autumn supporting their science curriculum in the grounds which are so well looked after by the volunteers.



Experiencing University Life

We were delighted to take a group of pupils from Years 5 and 6 to Durham University as part of the Scholars Programme led by The Brilliant Club. The programme helps children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to consider progressing to universities and raise aspirations for the future. They had the chance to talk with students and even visit the halls of residence! In the academy, the children are undertaking a programme of work led by a university PhD student each week building up to completing a challenging final assessment which is marked and moderated using university grades.



Diwali

The children in B1R learned all about the festival of Diwali as part of our RE curriculum. They learned how Hindus celebrate this festival of light and why it is an important time of year in this religion. To celebrate in the academy, they made colourful Rangoli patterns using coloured rice, used their fine motor skills to thread sparkly pipe cleaners to make a firework and created lots of fantastic firework pictures.



DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Journey of The River Tees

Year 5 visited the Teesmouth field centre to support their Geography work. The children learned about the River Tees from its source, in the Pennine Hills, to its mouth. The children got to visit the Transporter Bridge and took part in an activity spotting different objects and landmarks along the River Tees. As a whole class, they created a model of the River Tees using different fabrics and other materials, before heading down to South Gare beach to create their own models of the river on the sand in small groups. The children loved exploring the beach for natural materials to make their models of the River Tees!



Parental Engagement

We have had a great range of parental engagement activities where we invite parents and carers into the academy to undertake activities to celebrate the children's learning and curriculum work. These have included PSHE work in Year 3, peeling and chopping vegetables to make soup in Year 1, art work to recreate the Dormanstown scenery in the style of Friedensreich Hundertwasser in Year 2 and looking at old toys and making a Jack in the Box in B2S. It's so great to welcome everyone and share our learning.



Show Racism the Red Card

As part of our 'Show Racism the Red Card' day on 21st October, Year 5 and 6 had a visitor who came into school to work with them to raise their awareness of why we wear red. Richard talked to the children about the inclusion of all and what we mean by racism. The children were involved in many activities and games to help improve their awareness and understanding, and they were certainly motivated and inspired by our guest. All the children and staff in the academy wore something red for the day to highlight this important event.



Sports Partnership

This term, we have engaged in many activities, linked to our PE curriculum, through the Redcar and Eston School Sport Partnership. These have included cross country trials, orienteering, tag rugby, fundamental movement skills and an Invasion Development Day. The children have enjoyed participating and competing with other schools in the local area, and we have been so proud of their achievements. Alongside these events, there are School Games Values for each half term, and these have been Determination and Self-Belief. These have been promoted in assemblies and children have been selected from each year group to celebrate achievements in these areas.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Step back in time

October, Year 3 had a visit from a 'real life' Stone Age woman! Our visitor told us stories and shared parts of her life with us to help us understand how people lived during the prehistoric era, as part of our curriculum learning in history.

During the visit children were given the opportunity to dress up as Stone Age – Iron Age people, handle a number of interesting artefacts and hear stories from their time. The children were mesmerised and asked many thought provoking questions throughout the day.



Becoming Composers

During Autumn Term, Dahl Class and Ahlberg Class have become composers with the English National Opera! We have worked really hard to complete a challenge called, "Finish this...". We have been practising with percussion instruments and our voices to create music that describes colours. We have had to develop active listening skills, and have learnt to analyse sounds, this has meant we have become more self-confident in our own thinking and creativity. We have experimented with ideas and worked as teams to agree on what our unique sound would be. It's been noisy at times, but lots of fun and we can't wait to record our final performance.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY



Challenges at Carlton

Some of our Year 6 children spent the week at Carlton for their residential experience. They spent the week working together to overcome their fears, developing their resilience and making fantastic memories to treasure. We were so proud of each and every one of them as they took on the challenges of team building, rock climbing, shelter building and gully walking. Well done Year 6!



Performing Poets

As part of National Poetry Day on 6th October, Ahlberg class composed and performed their very own poems. They shared lots of examples before working together to become poets, investigating language and 'playing with' words. What a fun day we all had! Our Y6 classes took part in an online webinar through 'Young Writers' looking at metaphors and similes.



Riveting Romans

Year 4 and Ahlberg Class had the most amazing 'Make the Classroom Disappear' experience to enrich their history learning on the Romans and their impact on life in Britain today. The children learned all about the life of the Romans and how they lived, including the 'communal latrine' which the children found incredibly surprising! They explored timelines, artefacts and models to discover about mosaics, aqueducts, military operations and more!





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Redcar Illuminations Parade

The academy was chosen to take part in the Redcar Illuminations parade as part of the Christmas Tree switch on celebrations. Working with artist Bub Bacon, the children worked to create a lantern made of willow. After decorating the lanterns, the children then paraded them through the centre of Redcar as part of a procession. Thank you to all of the children and families who came to take part and support the academy, especially on a Sunday afternoon.



Wear Red Against Racism

As part of our ongoing work to raise awareness of Racism, we took part in the Wear Red Against Racism campaign. Following a whole academy assembly, all of the classes then completed some work around racism, prejudice and diversity.



Rugby World Cup

Thanks to Mr Mount, we were lucky enough to be able to attend a Rugby League World Cup match at the Riverside Stadium. Seeing live rugby was a new experience for all of the children and one I am sure they will not forget in a hurry. There was a great atmosphere and the final score was Tonga 92- Cook Island 10 so the children got to see lots of action and tries being scored.



Class assemblies

This year we have reintroduced our class assemblies. Each term, the classes choose a theme for their assembly and then present to their parents and the children in the academy. The assemblies have been well attended by families and we look forward to seeing the children's confidence grow throughout the year as they develop their oracy skills to present.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

EYFS

Mrs Wardle's class have had an amazing time learning about different celebrations and festivals, including Diwali, Halloween, bonfire night and Remembrance Day. They learnt about firework safety and made their own model rockets, fireworks with glitter and even edible sparklers! The children made poppy pictures for Remembrance Day and can talk about why the poppy is an important symbol. As part of the topic People Who Help Us, the class have had visits from a dental nurse, the PCSO, a nurse and the fire brigade. The children helped turn the home corner into a hospital and enjoyed role playing doctors and nurses.



Year 1/2 class

Mrs Barron's class visited St Cuthbert's Church in Wilton as part of their RE topic about Belonging. They found out all about the symbols that show we are Christians, and about the font and how babies are baptised. After the visit inside the church they spent some time exploring outside and looking at the signs of autumn.

As part of the Redcar and Cleveland School Sports Partnership. They were lucky enough to visit Eston Leisure Centre and took part in a fundamental PE skills event with other schools from the area. The children had a great time developing their ball and coordination skills and loved their first experience of taking part in a sporting event outside the academy.



Year 3/4 class

Miss Norton's class enjoyed their scavenger hunt at Redcar Rugby Club and the opportunity to begin using some orienteering skills by reading the clues and searching for the answers in a big open field. They were also asked to locate letters on flags and these letters then formed phrases to do with theme 'Determination'.



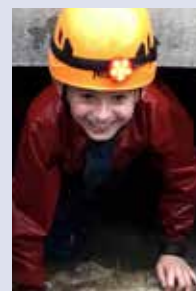
In Geography this term the children have been learning about the River Tees. They have developed their knowledge of human features, both locally and in the North East. As part of this the children visited the Tees Barrage where they applied their learning and gained understanding of why, in history, the river was important, how it has changed and explored how the locks work. The children asked some very interesting questions and learned a lot of new information.

In history, the children have been learning about the Stone Age and how this period has helped to shape us as humans today. They have been learning about their struggle to survive, the houses they lived in and even the types of weapons they used. The children even reported on the discovery of Skara Brae!



Year 5/6 class

Mrs Harding's class have had a very busy term. As part of their Geography topic they visited Tees Barrage to learn about why rivers are important in the development of human settlements. In Art, after learning about Andy Goldsworthy, the children made their own attempts at some art inspired by his style of ephemeral art. They also learned how to create armatures. The children loved their residential to Peat Rigg with children from Dormonstown and began the process of mixing with a larger group of children from outside our academy. This is an important part of our transition work, so as well as challenging themselves and being resilient in some difficult experiences, they also made new friendships that will be built on throughout the year.





PD Ports – Maritime week UK

Year 5 students from Brambles, Dormanstown, Pennyman and Wilton had the opportunity to visit our Trust partner PD Ports! A big part of our business, industry and enterprise curriculum is ensuring that we provide every child with meaningful encounters and interactions with real-world business and enterprise.

Our year 5's got to experience a vast range of potential Maritime careers when they visited the Harbour Office, Harbour Police, Container Terminal and Rail Terminal to meet the PD Port staff. The children got to see the Transporter Bridge and all the ships in the port whilst also finding out the purpose of the port and all of its infrastructure. One child said "my favourite part was meeting the Harbour Master where we talked about where all the ships came from and what they were carrying". It was a fun and educational day for children and staff alike!

Trust CEO Katrina Morley says "Both Tees Valley Education and PD Ports recognise the importance that education and business working in collaboration has on our children and young people lives. The ability to experience a range of different employment pathways, go out into businesses to see what they do as well as meet the people there, means children can relate to and understand the opportunities open to them.

"In turn, this raises their awareness of life choices as well as inspires them because ultimately, to see is to believe. PD Ports generously share their sites, time and their stories with our children, investing in their future, their dreams and their life chances. If the African proverb of it takes a village to raise a child is applied, it takes a town and shared effort to raise all of our children.

"Tees Valley Education are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to continuing to develop our partnership, for the benefit of even more children."

It was a brilliant opportunity which, who knows, could have inspired a future career with Maritime and PD Ports!



Both Tees Valley Education and PD Ports recognise the importance that education and business working in collaboration has on our children and young people lives.





TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



Children in need 2022

Tees Valley Education have been working together to raise money for Children in Need 2022. Our academies are committed to not only changing the lives of the children beyond our communities we serve but also others. Whilst this is a serious issue, we all had lots of fun being SPOTacular! All of our children and staff dressed in spots or wore PUDSEY clothes and brought a voluntary donation, contributing to the national total of £35,273,167. Children wrote poems, went shopping to buy Pudsey merchandise and got messy with arts and crafts. Everyone had a wonderful time!

Thank you for your ongoing support, it really is appreciated.



Remembrance Day

At Tees Valley Education, we believe in our Diamond Standards. Two of these standards are courage and commitment, these are embodied by our country's veterans through their selfless service and sacrifice. The 11th November each year is a date when our academies take time to reflect on and remember the sacrifices made by members of our armed forces past and present.

Children from across our academies' took time out of the classroom to pay their respects in a number of different ways and in a number of settings. Academy council members from our academies attended the Cenotaph in Middlesbrough to lay wreaths and mark two minutes silence. Each academy also marked the two minute silence in school and undertook work and services to commemorate all veterans and service people past and present and those affected by conflicts around the world.





Christmas Carols

Our academies have been alive with the sound of children rehearsing Christmas carols this half term which culminated in the most beautiful Christmas Carol service at St Nicholas Church in Guisborough.

Children from the choirs of each academy led the carol service made up of carols and readings telling the Christmas story. Each school performed their own carols to parents each depicting a part of the Christmas Nativity.

The songs which included old favourites such as 'Away in a manger' and 'Hark the herald angels sing' also had modern favourites including 'Mary's Boy Child' and 'He is Immanuel'.

Children in the academy choirs enjoyed learning such a wide variety of carols, reaching high standards for their singing and dazzling parents with their stunning performance of the Christmas story.

A massive thank you to children, parents and staff for helping to make this such a moving carol service.

The choirs are now quietly awaiting with anticipation and excitement their next performance in Sheffield Arena in February.





Trust Newsletter Survey

Win a £20 Morrisons gift card!

We are looking at changing a few things about our Trust Newsletter! We want to meet the needs of parents and carers and ensure we are delivering news in the best way possible. We are always open to hearing your thoughts to improve Tees Valley Education as a Trust and all of our Academies to make sure we are providing the best for our children and families. We have put together a short, online survey to hear your thoughts on the Trust newsletters – open your smartphone or tablets camera, scan the QR code and follow the link to complete the survey to be in with a chance of winning a £20 Morrisons gift card!



September seems like a distant memory and all our 2022 new starters are now truly part of our Tees Valley Education family. TVEd continues to grow with Discovery Special Academy settling into its new school site and welcoming its first nursey and year 7 secondary children which is a wonderful addition to the Trust.

This term has been packed with activities, visitors into our academies and educational visits outside of school aligned to our Trust Specialisms of STEM, Business, Industry and Enterprise some of which have been highlighted in this newsletter. Thank you to all the organisations and businesses that are assisting our academies develop and deliver these valuable experiences for our children. This has all been in addition to our children working extremely hard every day with their teachers to reach their full potential.

With classroom, academy and Trust wide festive celebrations including concerts, nativities, and parties our children have really entered the Christmas spirit. The highlight, as always, being the Christmas Carol Service where a packed church watched our confident children singing and presenting with huge smiles on their faces. These events enrich the curriculum and again allow education to take place both inside and outside of the classroom.

It has been a long and busy Autumn Term so we are all looking forward to Christmas and our whole staff team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for everything they do to make TVEd great and thank you, our children and families, for the support, community spirit and determination that you show all year round.

From the Tees Valley Education family to you and yours – have very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Mr J Brine
Chair of the Trust Board



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

