

Tees Valley Education

TVEd

Newsletter - Winter 2023

Trust Vision
*To transform children's
life chances.*



What's inside:

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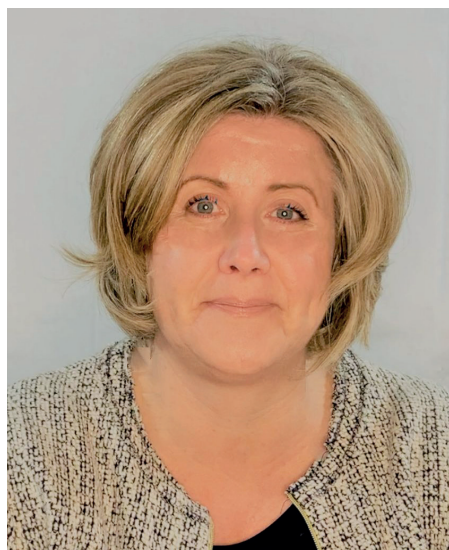
Staying Safe in the cold P14

www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk



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EDUCATION**
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Welcome...



MISS K MORLEY
CEO
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



Dear parents, carers and the community,

I am delighted to present our new look Tees Valley Education newsletter. As lots of you know, we spent time over the last twelve months speaking to a range of parents and families about our newsletter and what we could improve. Thank you to everybody who contributed, and your feedback has helped to shape and create this new and improved newsletter. I sincerely hope you like it.

As you will now receive Trust Newsletters termly, this is also an excellent opportunity to present to you our latest Diamond Standards. We have introduced Creativity alongside our original Diamond Standards (Care, Curiosity, Commitment and Courage). This is because the children, staff, and communities in each of our academies, use their talents to imagine, innovate and inspire. Therefore, the Local Academy Committees, Junior Leadership teams, and parent views collected feel that these words sum up what it means to be creative in classrooms and communities.

I hope. Therefore, you enjoy reading about the various creative events and activities that have taken place across our academies and communities, this term.

As a Trust, as well as celebrating the wonderful achievements of the children, we also recognise that this year has been especially hard with the cost-of-living crisis. In this newsletter, we have continued to share some ways in which families can find additional support and advice through the winter months. If, however, you need more, please don't hesitate to contact your child's academy – we always do our best to help.

All that remains at the end of this year, is to thank you all for your ongoing support and to wish you and your families the warmest of festive greetings.

With all best wishes.

Christmas closure

Whilst the two-week Christmas holiday period is the only holiday period the Trust and all of its Academies close completely, we realise that for some families, there may still be a need to access emergency provisions, funds and services. Below we have signposted some useful contacts for you:

Website: **Turn2Us**
<https://advicefinder.turn2us.org.uk>

This is a one stop webpage offering contact details for a wide range of support providers.

Telephone contacts (by Local Authority)

Middlesbrough LA

Social Care first contact team
01642 726004

SEND Team - single point of contact
01642 201831

Middlesbrough Foodbank
07954 131337

Middlesbrough Citizens Advice
01642 802282

Middlesbrough Welfare Rights Unit
01642 729242

Redcar & Cleveland LA

Social Care first contact team
01642 130700

SEND Team
01642 304503

Redcar Foodbank
01642 484842

Redcar Citizens Advice
01642 030000

Redcar Welfare Rights Unit
01642 771166

Remember - the above contacts are not intended to be used instead of the emergency services. Always dial 999 if you feel a person or people are in immediate danger.

What's new at TVEd...

Alongside improving our Newsletter, as a Trust we have refreshed our Mission Statement and Vision Statement.

Trust Mission Statement

Our mission is to deliver educational excellence for all of our children by fostering a culture of creativity, curiosity, care, courage and commitment.

Trust Vision Statement

To transform children's life chances.

Values – Diamond Standards 5th C – Creativity

Guided by the Aristotle motto of “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit” the Trusts Diamond Standards are the values which underpin everything.

Our Diamond Standards outline all that we value at Tees Valley Education. We see children, staff and members of the community demonstrating remarkable commitment, courage, curiosity and care every single day however we started to realise that we were seeing something else...creativity! The ability to think outside of the box and imagine new possibilities is something we realised should be equally as celebrated. Therefore, creativity has earned its rightful place amongst our Diamond Standards and is officially our 5th C. This term sees the first among us who have been awarded for their exceptional creativity and we thank them as well as our other Diamond Standard winners for being brilliant!

Commitment

To be dedicated, hard working and always try our best.

Courage

To be adventurous, bold and brave.

Curiosity

To be inquisitive, excited and explore.

Care

To be kind to ourselves, each other and our communities.

Creativity

To use our talents to imagine, innovate and inspire.

Please read all about our Autum Term Diamond Standards winners on the next page.





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Diamond Standard Awards

AUTUMN TERM 2023/2024

 **Courage**
 **Commitment**
 **Curiosity**
 **Care**
 **Creativity**

Brambles Primary Academy



Courage

Laurie Tranter

Showing courage to attend the academy daily with a smile on her face during a very difficult time at home.

Laurie's mum has recently passed away. She has continuously shown huge courage.



Commitment

Cassie Jo Manning

For demonstrating wonderful commitment to attendance at the academy. She has recently had health complications but has continued to be her usual happy, smiling self.



Care

Ruth Hunter

For demonstrating great care towards children and staff. Ruth always goes above and beyond to chase things up and ensure everyone is getting the best possible deal. She amazes us with her huge commitment to the care of everyone at TVed.



Curiosity

Saul Goodall

He is always super interested in everything that we do, has good knowledge and always asks lots of questions.

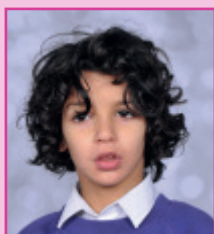


Creativity

Gill Trodden

She has lots of amazing ideas and brings everything to life in 2 year old provision with her creativity and imagination. She has helped to develop the room to be a beautiful inviting space.

Discovery Special Academy



Courage

Toby Petty

Toby is an adventurous, curious and determined little boy. He does not let his disability get in the way of anything. Toby makes adults smile and is very determined with everything he does.



Commitment

Terri

Terri has worked at Discovery as we have developed and grown. She shows great commitment working with pupils in a calm and patient manner, supporting all pupils to achieve.



Care

Alfie Chadwick

Alfie is always caring and helpful to his friends and adults in school. He always thinks about how others are feeling. Alfie brightens everyone's day.



Curiosity

Sihem Senay- Hadgu

Sihem has worked so hard to develop his speech and communication skills through his engagement of class stories.



Creativity

Saffron Akrami

Saffron shows creativity through her writing and story-telling, her expressive language and through art work she produces



Dormanstown Primary Academy



Courage

Hunter Carney

For showing so much courage, resilience and perseverance in all aspects of his learning in Year 1. He has grown so much and his positive attitude has blown us all away!



Commitment

Lisa Caster

For going above and beyond in her role, constantly enhancing her knowledge by taking online CPD at home. She uses personal time to create resources, and supports other staff with their professional development. We are so lucky to have her!



Care

Bev Berry

For always checking in on children and staff - showing true care and compassion to our whole school community and for supporting in all areas of school. This person has shown the diamond standard of care in abundance not only this term, but for the full 23 years of her service.



Curiosity

Stephie Paine

Reception have all been learning makaton, but this boy has gone the extra mile and has independently taught himself new signs at home so he can communicate with his non-verbal peers. Not only that, he is also teaching his younger sister!

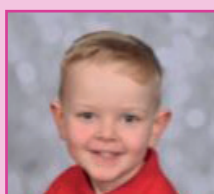


Creativity

Lilly-May Lainton

For producing outstanding artwork in the style of any artist. Lilly is naturally gifted in the field, and frequently continues her studies at home. In addition to this, she also sings beautifully and has the creativity to write and perform her own compositions.

Pennyman Special Academy



Courage

Finnley Luck

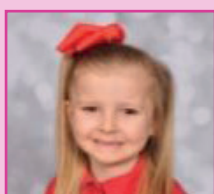
For the incredible courage, initiative and calmness shown by Finnley in the face of a challenging situation. You were a superhero Finnley!



Commitment

Phoebe Foster

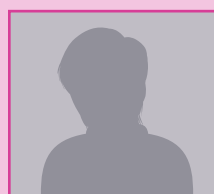
For her great commitment to her gymnastics outside of school and sharing her fabulous achievements with others. You are an inspiration Phoebe!



Care

Molly Atkins

For always being ready to offer a helping hand to anyone who needs it - staff or children. She comforts those who are sad and tirelessly tidies the Reception classes to make them look beautiful. Thank you for your kindness Molly!



Curiosity

Sam Wright

Sam is such a curious little boy and he loves to explore the world around him. He will come to the adult led activities independently and see what is going on there. He also enjoys sharing his enjoyment with his peers. Never stop exploring Sam!



Creativity

Mrs Nelson

Emma Nelson - For her amazing creativity in spreading a love of reading for pleasure across the academy. Thank you for your passion and dedication to our reading and opening the door to endless possibilities in the world of books!

Wilton Special Academy



Courage

Isla Smith

Isla has faced her fears over the past year and has really developed her resilience and confidence. She has a mature approach to challenges and pushes herself out of her comfort zone.



Commitment

Mrs Wardle

Mrs Wardle is always working her hardest with choir to encourage children to join. She gives up her own time for additional rehearsals and also organises and supports lots of events in school.



Care

Harriet Regan

Harriet is a very kind and caring girl. She always looks out for others, includes them in games and has a lot of time and patience for everybody.



Curiosity

Sophia Hassan

Sophia is quietly curious about the world around her. She loves to take her learning further by going to the library to develop her understanding and share with others. She is inquisitive and enjoys investigations.



Creativity

Oceane Ali

Oceane loves to draw and is very detailed in her art work. She has her own YouTube channel where she shares some of her art work too. Oceane enjoys being creative and also uses it as a way of relaxing.

Children in Need

At Tess Valley Education we celebrate lots of charities throughout the year. On Friday 17th November all the children celebrated Children In Need.

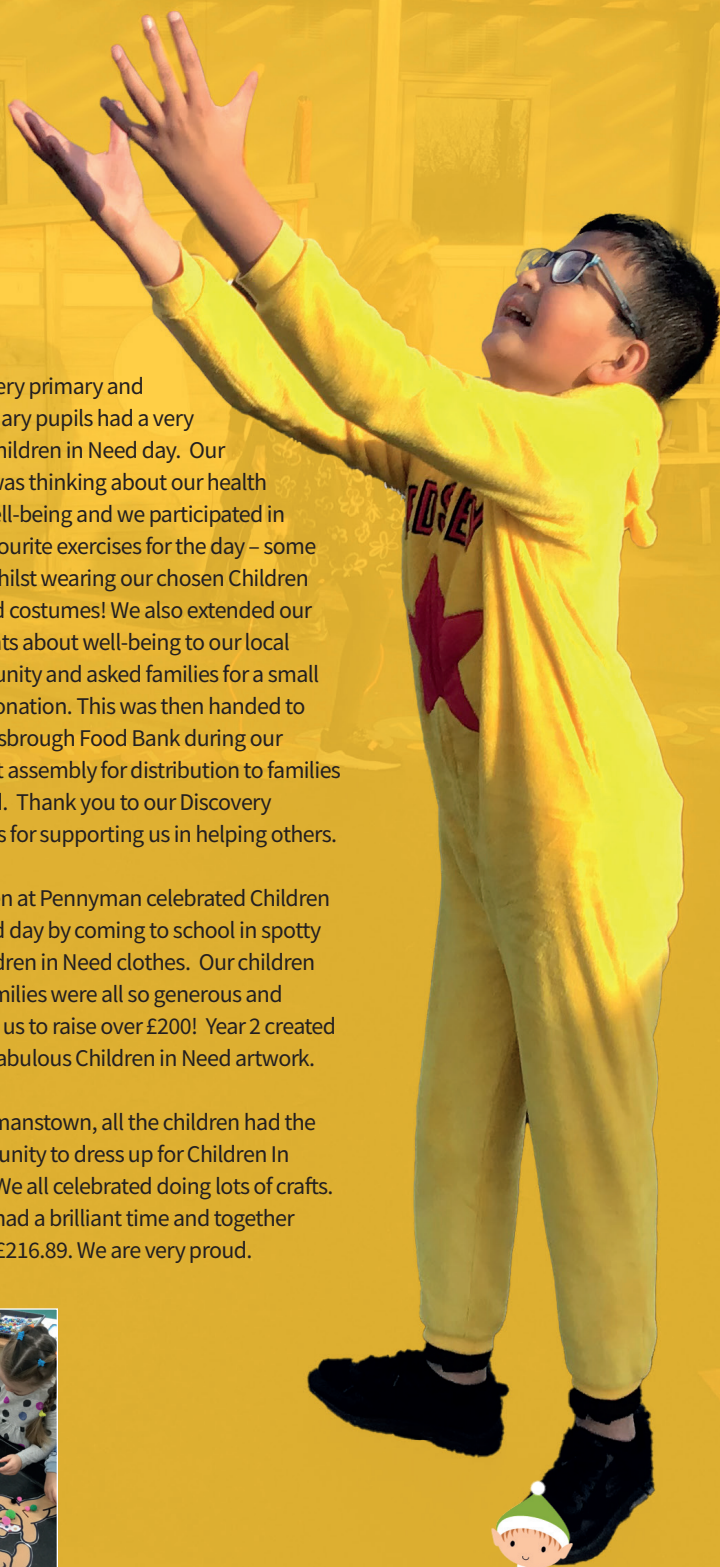
At Brambles, one of our core values is kindness. Every year we demonstrate our kindness through supporting a number of charities close to our hearts. This year for Children In Need we dressed up in spots, sporty clothing and Pudsey styled items to celebrate. This year's theme was the Great Spotacular and the children took part in sporting events throughout the day such as challenges to see how many star jumps the children can do in 2 minutes or who could hold the longest plank. Everyone had a brilliant time and we raised £253.34 which is amazing for this brilliant cause.

For Children in Need at Wilton, all of the children took part in an assembly to help them understand what the charity does. We then all joined in with Joe Wicks and his 'Bearpee' challenge, as well as wearing spotty or non-uniform for a donation.

Discovery primary and secondary pupils had a very busy Children in Need day. Our focus was thinking about our health and well-being and we participated in our favourite exercises for the day – some of us whilst wearing our chosen Children in Need costumes! We also extended our thoughts about well-being to our local community and asked families for a small food donation. This was then handed to Middlesbrough Food Bank during our harvest assembly for distribution to families in need. Thank you to our Discovery families for supporting us in helping others.

Children at Pennyman celebrated Children in Need day by coming to school in spotty or Children in Need clothes. Our children and families were all so generous and helped us to raise over £200! Year 2 created some fabulous Children in Need artwork.

At Dormanstown, all the children had the opportunity to dress up for Children In Need. We all celebrated doing lots of crafts. We all had a brilliant time and together raised £216.89. We are very proud.



Remembrance Day



In the leadup to Remembrance Day, the children at Wilton Primary Academy learnt about the war through stories and factual videos. The children talked about the war and how it was meant to end all wars. Year 3 / 4, listened to 'Taps' and discussed where they had heard it before and how it made them feel. They talked about how this music is associated with the soldiers who fought during WW1, who fought after and still fight today. Y5/6 read 'One Boy's War' by Lynn Huggins-Cooper and Ian Benfield Haywood, which was based on a real 16 year old boy in WWI. All of the children learned about the significance of the poppy and completed a minute's silence together to pay their respects.

All Junior Leadership Team members from Pennyman attended a Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph on Thursday 9th November. While there, they laid poppy crosses and paid their respects to the courageous people who

lost their lives for the sake of our freedom. The following day, they paid their respects as an academy on the playground at 11 am. They listened to the Last Post and bowed their heads, thinking about the brave soldiers who never returned home. Dormanstown Primary focused on poppy crafts and they observed the two-minutes silence with respect and thoughtfulness.

Students from Discovery created poppies to honour the event and took part in assemblies to raise their awareness of armistice. They talked about the importance of remembering people who had done something brave and important and they explored the theme of conflict. Isla, Izack, Zoya and Oliver, went to the Cenotaph to lay a wreath – they showed reverence throughout.

At Brambles, the Head Boy and Girl and their

Deputies attended Middlesbrough's Cenotaph for the laying of the first poppy. It was an honour for the children to attend such a poignant event. They laid their own tribute and handmade stones to show their respect. Back in the academy, every child from school attended a service the following day from nursery to year 6. All children demonstrated great respect, a core value at Brambles, during the service and whilst carrying out the two-minute silence. Each class took part in creating a wreath to display whilst learning the meaning of the day and the poppy itself.



Power of Women

The Power of Women is a charity that campaigns to raise the aspirations of girls and women and challenges the perception of women's role in industry. Children in each academy spent a morning learning about the Power of Women campaign, including stereotyping and inequality, and how they could apply to be an ambassador. Each applicant had to fill out a short application outlining their skills and attributes they feel they could contribute to the role and how they want to make a difference to the world. They were then chosen for an interview where they were able to show that they had the necessary skill set to help support

them as an ambassador. The final stage for a lucky few was to be interviewed by Power of Women representatives who currently work in male-dominated industries. The interviewers were very complementary of the children's skills and passion for the role. It has been great to see the increase in the number of boys being chosen to be a Power of Women ambassador, as whilst campaign for the opportunities for women, equality for all is what we are aiming for.

Congratulations to all who were chosen to be ambassadors and they will go onto represent the academies at Power of Women events in the future.





Choir

Children from across our trust have had a busy term. We began our term working towards harvest festivals as part of both our RE and music work. Children learned a wide range of songs, brought in gifts for the local community and learned about what Christians believe to be a loving community.

Later in the term the choirs took part in the North East Schools Choir Festival. Over 20 schools took part in this fabulous event and our TVED schools all performed beautifully on the same day. Our families and members of our school community enjoyed the performances from our academies and the standard was extremely high.



To conclude our musical offerings for the term our choirs got together at St Nicholas Church in Guisborough and performed carols that retold the Christmas story. The concert was enjoyed by the families, carers, staff and trust board members. They learned many different carols both traditional and modern and enjoyed sharing these with their audience.

The children now move onto preparing for stunning performances at Sheffield Arena and the Royal Albert Hall.



Parental Engagement

Across the Trust there has been lots of events going on which support Parental Engagement. We understand how important it is to work with the whole family and have really enjoyed all the sessions held so far and look forward to more to come.

At Brambles Primary we are working hard to engage parents and invite them in at all opportunities. So far this year we have held a McMillian Coffee morning, Early Years parents reading meeting and the first of our class celebration with parents.

For the McMillian Coffee morning, all class prepared sweet treats to sell and staff from work and their families baked good at home to help raise money for a cause very close to our hearts.

The day was a huge success with us raising an amazing £700.

For the EYFS parents meeting, parents and carers were invited into the academy. Firstly a meeting was held where information was shared with parents for early reading tips and advice to support their child. Following this, a host of activities were prepared for parents to complete with their child around reading and discussion of stories for comprehension. The children loved this and the parents did even more.

Class and year group open afternoon are new this year and our first one was a huge success. There are lots more to look forward to with parents being invited in to celebrate our learning or to complete crafts/activities at the academy.





At Wilton as a part of our parental engagement this term, all classes have had the opportunity for parents to come in and join in with the learning, as well as KS1 and KS2 classes doing an assembly too. EYFS went for an Autumn walk around the village and then parents came back into make some Autumn crafts. KS1 made some soup as part of their DT work and families enjoyed trying it with the children. in Y3/4, the families enjoyed supporting the children in making cushions, and in Y5/6, art was the focus. We have had a really high turnout for these sessions, and are grateful for all of the support from our families. In addition to the class events, we also held a Macmillan coffee afternoon and a Christmas fayre for the first time.



At Discovery, we know that caring for our pupils and families goes beyond the classroom. We offer families opportunities to come into the academy to meet and talk about a variety of topics. Our recent parent/carer coffee morning was a wellbeing meeting where parents came together for a chat and a cuppa.



Our Early Bird programme offers a ten week course to support families with autistic children. Our current course is into its 6th week and families are finding the weekly meetings helpful and informative where they can share personal experiences and celebrate successes. Spring term Early Bird sessions begin on January 10th 2024 and last for ten weeks. Please scan the QR code below for more information about the Early Bird programme.



At Dormanstown, we take every opportunity to invite parents in. This term we have invited in our Y4 families to help them out with Antony Gormley artwork. We are sure that the children learnt lots about charcoal sketching and human proportions!

Parents, carers and friends have continued attending our 'Pot of Gold' assembly every Friday. We absolutely love celebrating all the wonderful achievements each week with you. A sense of pride fills the hall each week!

All our lovely families are invited to attend Starbooks on set mornings.

It is lovely to see so many children enjoying stories and speaking so passionately about their love of reading - keep it up!

At Pennyman, we love having our families in the academy to learn together and celebrate. This term we have started working with Oh the places you'll go, which is a reading incentive. Parents have been invited into the academy and received books to read at home with their children. As part of the programme, parents get to spend time with their children in the academy reading and sharing stories which continues at home. We have loved the sessions and look forward to more.



Discovery Nursery

The Discovery nursery provision moved onto our Sandy Flatts Lane site in September. The team worked hard to set up the classroom so the children could start as soon as possible. The children quickly settled and enjoy accessing the areas in the classroom, sharing the outdoor playground with the reception pupils and using the sensory spaces we have around the building.





COST £ F WINTER

We know that the past year has been extremely difficult for many families. The cost-of-living has increased for everybody and we know that many families will be having to manage this over the Christmas season.

Many families will be anxious about money and the cost of living. There are no easy solutions to managing this. However, we have suggested in this article some of the ways in which families might be supported over the Christmas period.

Share the struggle

If you can, talk to friends and family honestly about your money worries. They might be dealing with the same issues, and talking about it together can help.

Let people know you that buying expensive food and gifts this year is not possible. Some of the ways in which families can support each other might include:

- Spending limits: Agree a limit of how much everyone spends on presents. That helps take out the guesswork and makes things less stressful.
- Clothing swaps and toy swaps: Pass on toys your children have outgrown or clothes you never wear.
- Shared spreads: If you are hosting people on Christmas Day or having a party, ask everyone to bring a meal or food option. This spreads both the cost and the stress of cooking.

Gifts on a budget

Young children are often delighted by any present. But we know that as children get older, they might ask for specific gifts. In this case, it can help to be open with your children about how much you can afford. If your child has other people who want to buy them presents, make sure they know what your child is asking for. Giving vouchers or money towards a bigger item might mean your child can save up. Ideas for cost-saving gifts might include:

- Charity shops such as the **British Heart Foundation in Middlesbrough**
- Making use of a pay-it-forward scheme in book shops such as Drakes Bookshop. The bookshop have access to a number of brand new free books that families can request that have been donated by other customers. Families can contact the book shop here <https://www.drakethebookshop.co.uk/contact/>
- If getting to shops is difficult, use online marketplaces, like the **Oxfam online charity shop**. You can even find things for free and low-cost on Facebook marketplace.

Food on a budget

Making a weekly meal plan can help budget your spending for the week ahead.

If you can, making a weekly meal plan and buying what you need in bulk can help you save costs. Families might like to also consider:

- **Cheap Christmas recipes – Jack Monroe**
- Sign up to apps to find people giving away food that would otherwise go to waste. Example: **Too Good To Go**

Other support

- Cost of living payment: Guidance from the government on getting an extra payment to help with the cost of living if you're entitled to certain benefits or tax credits:
www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment
- Grants and benefits to support payment of energy bills: Citizens Advice has compiled a useful summary of grants and benefits that are widely available to support individuals and families struggling to afford energy bills or prepayment meters:
<https://bit.ly/3BIRoHe>
- Universal Credit: Information and updated guidance on accessing Universal Credit, a payment to help with living costs. Colleagues on low income or now unable to work may be able to access this:
www.gov.uk/universal-credit
- Trussell Trust: The Trussell Trust offers advice and support around personal financial crises via their online webpage and a free national helpline. Its website also contains a search tool for finding, accessing, or supporting local food banks:
www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/
- Money Saving Expert: Financial advisor and expert Martin Lewis has provided an updated guide to support all families and individuals navigate the cost of living crisis. The guide contains almost 100 ways to save money: www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/



Staying safe in the cold

Layer up! Bitter cold and snow can cause frostbite. Dress your child in several layers, and make sure their head, neck and hands are covered. Dress babies and young children in one more layer than an adult would wear. Beware of clothing hazards. Scarves and hood strings can strangle smaller children so use other clothing to keep them warm. Check in on warmth. Before kids head outside, tell them to come inside if they get wet or if they're cold. Then keep watching them and checking in. They may want to continue playing outside even if they are wet or cold. Keep them hydrated. In drier winter air kids lose more water through their breath. Offer plenty of water, and try giving them warm drinks and soup for extra appeal. Watch for danger signs. Signs of frostbite are pale, grey or blistered skin on the fingers, ears, nose, and toes. If you think your child has frostbite bring the child indoors and put the affected area in warm (not hot) water. Signs of hypothermia are shivering, slurred speech, and unusual clumsiness. If you think your child has hypothermia call 999 immediately.

Staying safe in snow and around ice

Play it safe. Even when roads are closed to traffic, it's not safe to play or sled in the street. Visibility may be limited due to snowbanks, parked cars and ice on the roads makes braking difficult. Never go on the ice under any circumstances. This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice. Keep away from the edge of the water and do not lean over to touch the ice. You may lose your balance and fall in. Never allow children to be around open water unaccompanied. Ideally, even adults should be with a group in case of accident

What to do if you fall through the ice

Keep calm and shout 'help' as loud as you can. Spread your arms across the ice in front of you. Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and onto the ice. Lie flat, spreading your weight across the

surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll. If you cannot climb out, wait for help and try to keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Once safe, go to hospital immediately.

What to do if you see someone fall through the ice

Shout 'help' and call 999. DO NOT walk on the ice to attempt a rescue. Shout to the person 'keep still'. If they are close enough, lie down to avoid falling in and throw them something long like a scarf or tree branch for them to hold onto. If you cannot reach them, slide them something like a football or bottle to help them stay afloat. If they are too far away, wait for emergency services and reassure the victim from a safe distance.



Flu vaccine

Did you know?

Children are more likely than adults to get a cold because their immune system is not as strong as an adult's when it comes to fighting cold germs. A child's cold is more likely to develop into something serious because kids' immune systems aren't as efficient as adult immune systems, and their tiny bodies don't have as large a margin for error.

The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective. It's offered every year to children to help protect them against flu.

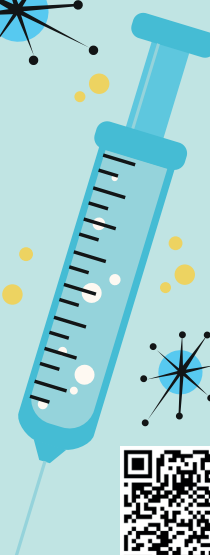
Flu is caused by the influenza virus. It can be a very unpleasant illness for children. It can also

lead to serious problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is free on the NHS for:

- children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023 (born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2021)
- all primary school children (Reception to Year 6)
- some secondary school aged children (Year 7 to Year 11)
- children aged 2 to 17 years with certain long-term health conditions

For more information on children's flu vaccine visit the NHS website or scan the QR code provided.



Attendance

Please consider the following regarding your child's attendance in school:

Being late to the academy can result in your child falling behind especially as they do the same lesson each morning meaning they miss the same lesson each time they are late. This not only implicates their education but can affect their well-being. Walking late into a busy classroom could be uncomfortable for some children.

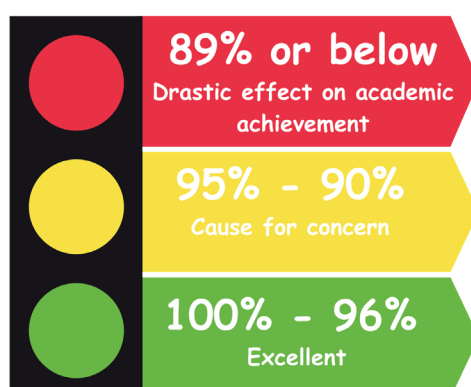
When fines are issued for poor attendance in school, these come from the Government and are not issued by your school. Schools do not fine carers for poor attendance however they can not stop the Government from doing so.

Sickness is unavoidable and we understand that absences are to be expected and do not expect you to bring a unfit child into school. When your child is too unwell to attend, please call our academy to let them know by 9am everyday that they will be absent. This helps us to be ensured that you

and your child are safe at home and ease worry for you and your child if they have not arrived at school unexpectedly.

Whenever possible, make dentist/doctors appointments, where possible, outside of school hours. If during school hours, after 2pm. You may be asked to provide evidence for these appointments in the form of a letter, card or appointment text.

Use our attendance traffic light as a useful guide for good attendance.



“Good attendance and punctuality will have a positive impact on your child's future life chances.”



Worried about your child's attendance?

We are always here to help with your child's attendance if you would like advice or support. If you find that your child regularly resists attending school it is beneficial to know why. Look for patterns in days that they try to avoid attending, for example, does your child want to stay home the same day every week. This could be a sign of a problem they are facing in school in a specific lesson or event that occurs that day. Speak to your child about how they are feeling, any worries they may have and encourage them to share any concerns. School should be a happy place for every child and a place of safety. Please report any issues to your academy so that they can be dealt with and make school a welcoming environment for everybody.

To view the Trust attendance policy please scan the QR code provided.



The Magical Christmas Journey

Author: Mr Mount - Dormastown Primary Academy. **Illustrations by:** Children of Dormastown

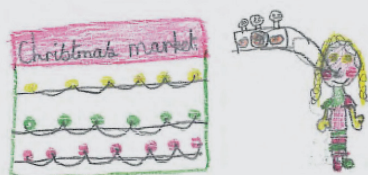
Once upon a time in a small village, nestled along the River Tees, there lived a young girl named Emily. With rosy cheeks and bright eyes, she adored Christmas more than anything. Each year, she eagerly awaited the festive magic that transformed her town into a winter wonderland.

As snowflakes danced outside her window, Emily donned her warmest coat and ventured into the heart of the village. The town was a merry sight with twinkling lights and colourful decorations adorning every corner. Emily's excitement bubbled like a pot of hot chocolate.



“Let’s explore, Rudolph!” Emily exclaimed, clutching her favourite stuffed reindeer.

They strolled through the bustling streets, stopping at the Christmas markets filled with stalls selling handmade crafts and delicious treats. The air was rich with the scent of roasted chestnuts and freshly baked pies. Emily’s eyes sparkled as she sampled tasty delights, her cheeks flushed with delight.



“Look, Rudolph!” Emily pointed to a carousel adorned with shimmering lights. **“Let’s take a ride!”**

With Rudolph tucked under her arm, she hopped onto the carousel’s majestic reindeer. As the carousel spun, Emily giggled, feeling like she was flying through the starry sky.

But the true magic awaited her at the Transporter Bridge. As Emily gazed at its towering structure, she noticed something extraordinary. The bridge shimmered with an otherworldly glow, and a jolly figure emerged from its midst.

“Ho, ho, ho!” Santa’s laughter rang through the air. **“Welcome, Emily, to the Teesside Christmas Adventure!”**

Santa beckoned Emily aboard a sleigh, drawn by merry reindeer. With a twinkle in his eye, he whisked her on a magical journey across Teesside. Through the snowy streets and over the twinkling river, they soared past iconic landmarks, spreading joy and Christmas cheer.



They flew over Albert Park, where families ice-skated and built snowmen, their laughter echoing in the frosty air. Santa guided the sleigh to the Riverside Stadium, where fans cheered and sang carols in support of the Boro team playing a festive match.

“Isn’t Teesside beautiful during Christmas?” Santa asked, his voice warm with delight.

Emily nodded, her heart brimming with happiness. **“It’s the most magical place of all!”**

As the night drew to a close, Santa returned Emily to the Transporter Bridge. With a twinkling wink, he bid her farewell, leaving her with cherished memories of a Christmas adventure she’d never forget.

As Emily made her way home, she knew that the true magic of Christmas wasn’t just in the lights or the presents. It was in the joy of sharing special moments with loved ones and feeling the warmth of kindness all around.

Snuggled in her bed, Emily hugged Rudolph tight, dreaming of the magical Christmas journey through Teesside, a tale she’d cherish forever.



In need of a book recommendation?



We love reading at TVED! Sometimes there is so many amazing stories out there that you just don't know which to choose. Don't worry, we have great suggestions!



The Snow Queen

My current reading recommendation is The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson. It is one of my favourite to read at this time of year. It is an original fairytale which focuses on the dilemma of good and evil. It is about two friends - Kai and Gerda - who have their friendship tested by the Snow Queen.

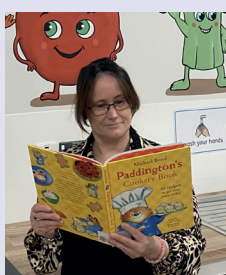
Mrs Stewart - Deputy Headteacher at Pennyman Primary Academy



The Tiger who Came to Tea

I have always enjoyed reading this book from an early age. Sharing it with the children I have taught always brings memories back of me reading it as a child.

Ms Duncan - Executive Headteacher, Discovery Special Academy



Paddington's Cook Book

I love cooking and baking and enjoy finding new recipes to try. This was a new book in our library that I have enjoyed looking at to find new ideas.

Mrs Titchener - Head of Academy, Discovery Special Academy



Each Peach Pear Plum

This was a favourite of mine as a child and my daughters also love it. They love finishing the rhymes at the end of each page and searching for the characters. It is a real family favourite.

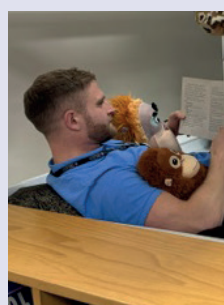
Mrs Arkle - Deputy Head of Academy, Discovery Special Academy



Nabil Steals A Penguin

I am reading Nabil Steals A Penguin by Nishani Reed. Nishani recently visited the school and we loved the cheeky, mischievous Pierre the penguin and his adventures! A fantastic read to share as a family!

Mr Mount - Assistant Headteacher, Dormanstown Primary Academy



Arctic Star

I have been recently reading Arctic Star by Tom Palmer. This is a brilliant book about the Royal Navy's Arctic convoys during the Second World War. I loved this book because it links to one of my favourite topics: the Second World War.

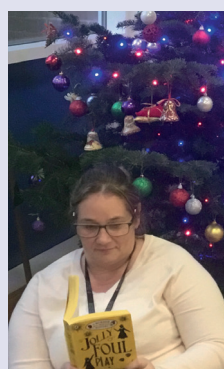
Mr Mayle - Acting Head Teacher Brambles Primary Academy



My Friend Walter

I have been reading one of my favourite books My Friend Walter by Michael Morpurgo. I love it because it tells a fictional story of the real-life person Walter Raleigh. It is based in the Tower of London. I was lucky enough to visit there this year and see Walter's house and herb garden for his herbal remedies. It has made me even more excited for the Trust visit to London in the new year.

Mrs Beever - Acting Deputy Head Teacher Brambles Primary Academy



Jolly Foul Play

I am reading Jolly Foul Play. It is part of series of mystery books with the girls Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong. Daisy and Hazel become detectives in order to solve a mystery and in this story, a murder! Who will it be? Will they work out the murderer in time before a second person is killed? An exciting mystery in a race against time!

Mrs Hood - Deputy Headteacher Wilton Primary Academy

Melting Snowman Biscuits

Did you know?

Baking with children can encourage a willingness to try new foods, develop reading and maths skills, strengthen family bonds and is a lot of fun!

We would love to see your winter baking creations! Scan the QR code to share some photos and look out for them on our social media and websites!



Ingredients

200g fondant icing sugar

6 white marshmallows

6 large cookies

24 mini chocolate beans

6 pretzel sticks

tube black writing icing

Method

STEP 1

Put the icing sugar into a bowl and add cold water a teaspoon at a time until the mixture is runny but thick enough to coat a spoon.

STEP 2

Ask an adult to snip the marshmallows in half using wetted scissors.

STEP 3

Spoon a little icing onto each cookie and attach half a marshmallow. Using a little icing, stick the other half on top at an angle. Drizzle a little more icing onto the cookie to make melting snow.

STEP 4

Break the pretzel sticks in half and place on the cookie for arms. Stick orange chocolate beans on for the noses. Stick three chocolate beans on each cookie to represent buttons.

STEP 5

Using the writing icing, pipe small blobs for the eyes and mouth. Leave to set.

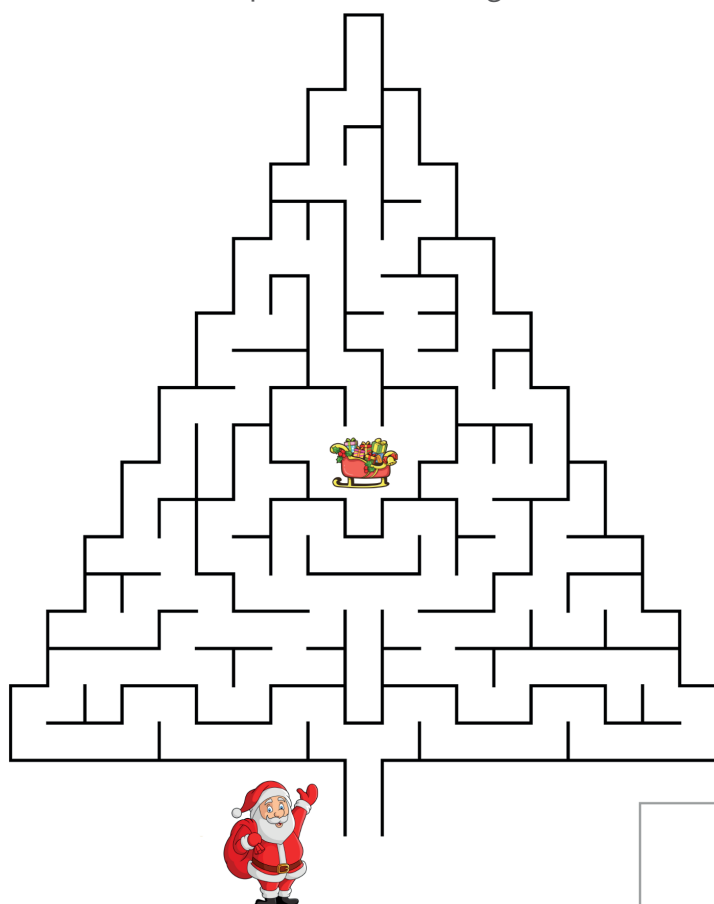
For more winter baking ideas visit BBC Good Food or scan the QR code provided.



Family Creativity Section

A-Maze-ing Christmas!

Help Santa find his sleigh!



Can you help me find my Elves?

How many Elves did you find?

Help Santa find his Elves

Oh no! Santa can't find his Elves! Can you help Santa and find all of his Elves causing mischief in this newsletter?

Christmas Symmetry

Use the grid to draw the other side of the picture

