

Tees Valley Education

# TVEd

Magazine - Spring 2025

**Trust Vision**

*To transform children's  
life chances.*

What's inside:

**Diamond Standards** P10-11

**Classroom to Careers** P12-13

**The Cost of Spring** P22-23

[www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk](http://www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk)



**TEES VALLEY  
EDUCATION**  
[www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk](http://www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk)



# Welcome...



**MISS K MORLEY OBE**  
CEO  
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Dear parents, carers and the community,

This term has been filled with exciting opportunities for our children and young people to explore new ideas, develop their skills, and express their talents in a variety of ways. From hands-on learning experiences to creative performances and special events, our academies have been buzzing with enthusiasm and engagement. It's been wonderful to see the joy of discovery, the pride in achievement, and the friendships that continue to grow along the way.

Beyond the classroom, our community has come together in inspiring ways to support one another. Whether through initiatives that promote wellbeing, encourage a love of reading together, or provide

opportunities to engage with a range of services, these collective efforts highlight the strength and kindness across our Trust. The dedication of our staff, the curiosity of our learners, and the support of all of you - our families and carers make all of this possible. We are truly grateful.

As we step into the brighter days of spring, let's continue to nurture this. So please do enjoy this edition of our magazine.

Wishing you all a wonderful and refreshing spring break.

Warmest wishes  
**Katrina Morley**

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# New School Meals Coming Soon!



We are thrilled to share some exciting news! From Tuesday, 1st April 2025, we will have a brand-new catering provider.

Aspens are passionate about providing high-quality food that is both delicious and nutritious. They also take special care to make sure every child's dietary needs are met, so everyone can enjoy their meals safely and happily.

### A Smooth Transition

To help everyone adjust, we will have an introductory launch of the new catering service. This means there will be a slightly different menu before the Easter holidays, giving us time to introduce the changes gradually. Once the holidays are over, we will launch the full menu!

### Meet the Catering Team

After the Easter holidays, your children's academy will be hosting special tasting events where children, parents, and carers can meet the friendly catering team. You will get the chance to try some of their delicious food and see for yourself the great meals they will be serving. We hope you can come along!

### We Want Your Feedback!

We want to hear from you! During this transition, your thoughts and suggestions will be really important. We would love to know what you and your children think about the new meals. Aspens wants to create "great food memories" that children will remember for years to come, and your feedback will help make this happen. We would love you to share your thoughts with your child's Academy.

This is an exciting time for our school community, and we can't wait for everyone to enjoy these wonderful meals. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to sharing this new chapter with you!

FOOD FESTIVAL  
by Aspens

Spring Summer 2025  
21/04/25, 12/05/25,  
02/06/25, 23/06/25,  
14/07/25, 04/08/25,  
25/08/25, 15/09/25,  
06/10/25

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

LUNCHTIME

THE MAIN EVENT

MEAT-FREE MAGIC  
Veggie Dish

RAINBOW ALLEY  
Vegetarian Meat Substitute

BIG TOPPING

DESSERT TROLLEY

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

All Day Breakfast

Picnic Style Sausage Roll Lunch

Roast Pork, New Potatoes and Gravy

Tomato and Basil Chicken Pasta Bake

Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips

Margherita Pizza Slice and Wedges

Picnic Style Veggie Sausage Roll Lunch

Vegetable and Stuffing Loaf with New Potatoes

Veggie Noodle Stir Fry

Cheesy Bean Wrap with Chips

Baked Beans

Crudites

Carrots and Cabbage

Green Salad

Peas

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Toffee Biscuit Bars

Classic Trifle

Bananas and Custard

Strawberry and Pineapple Jelly

Coconut Crisp Bar

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURT AND CUT FRUIT  
AVAILABLE DAILY

PASTA TWIRLER  
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY  
Topped Pasta  
Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese

TRADITIONAL  
Week 1

W1

## YOUNG JOURNALISTS

## TVEd Young Journalists

We now have a group of children who are TVEd journalists. Please enjoy reading their write ups on events that have taken place in each academy.



## Discovery News

On Thursday 30th January, Discovery Special Academy and Priory Woods School had their first Boccia competition. Discovery hosted this event in their Pioneer Hall and Priory Woods travelled to Discovery to play. They brought a team of six players, to compete against Discovery pupils from Years 5 and 6.

The match was very competitive and, despite the efforts of both teams to secure a win, it ended in a tie. More important than the result, however, was the sportsmanship on show! Both teams played the game in good spirits and were supportive of each other. There were close calls and tough decisions, all of which were greeted with good manners, positivity and resilience. At the end of the very tightly fought Boccia game, the results stood as Discovery Special Academy, six points and Priory Woods School, six points.

The end of the match was friendly and all pupils shook each other's hands. Everybody agreed that the two teams had been good opponents for each other, and all agreed that there should be another match in the future.

As journalists, we recorded the events of the afternoon and we also collected opinions from the two teams. We found out that everybody had had a fantastic time and that one of the most popular parts of the afternoon was that some people had learned a new skill in how to throw a Boccia ball. Both teams had been

excited to play the match but they were also excited to have made new friends. Our favourite part of the day was taking the picture with all the pupils with whom we worked. We would love to have another event like this as it was so much fun. Everybody learned a lot and had a brilliant time. We really hope we can meet all our new friends again... very soon!

**Journalists:** Hayley, Alfie and Byron



## Brambles News

## West End in Schools

In March, children in Brambles Primary Academy had the opportunity to work with a professional actor from 'West End in Schools'. Different groups of children looked at different stories, including 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. With these stories, the children interpreted them through actions and dance. Some of these actions included acting like a chocolate machine, a nut machine, a bubble-gum machine and a TV machine. The children appeared to very much enjoy practising and delivering their performances. Their enthusiasm was infectious and we even got to have a try ourselves! It felt like we had been transported into the story itself!

We had the chance to speak with Shannon Swan (the lady who delivered the workshop) and found out about the journey of her career. She informed us that she had been

working in the industry for over 9 years! Her love for acting started when she was 12, which was when she realised she wanted to pursue acting as her career. You may have seen her as the green queen (Anne Boleyn) in Six, Belle in Beauty and the Beast and you may have even spotted her in the popular TV show - Outlander!

Her advice to any aspiring actors was, "The audience will never know if you make a mistake-just keep going." and she continued, "Once you're on the stage, you're no longer yourself. Become the character!"

It was a pleasure to immerse ourselves in the different workshops and meet Shannon. We hope this article can inspire young actors to pursue their dreams!

**Journalists:** Confidence and Theodore



Confidence

Theodore



## Dormanstown News



## Boggle Hole - Recount

On the first day of our adventure, we arrived in the middle of nowhere, excitement bubbling within us. As we walked down a very steep hill, the stunning view of the cove took our breath away. There, perched perfectly on the edge of the cliff, was our accommodation - the new 'Crow's nest'. Almost immediately we embarked on a fascinating fossil hunting expedition. The beach was alive with history, and we discovered an array of fossils, including ammonites, devil toenails and Whitby jets. Mrs McDonald, filled with enthusiasm, led us further along the beach to find the elusive waterfall.

After a long day of travelling and exploring, we showered and changed

into our evening attire for a gorgeous tea. Burgers and chips filled our plates, and the delicious food was a perfect reward for our hard work. Once our bellies were full, we gathered around the fire pit, roasting marshmallows and immersing ourselves in the soothing sound of nature. The crackle of the fire and the gentle whispers of the night helped us settle down for a restful sleep, ensuring we were ready for another day of adventure.

The following morning, we eagerly set off to Robin Hoods Bay, following the old smugglers' route. As we walked, we noticed how the sea had eroded some parts of the path, making it a thrilling journey. Armed with maps, we explored the beautiful little village,

seeking out new treasures. After a delightful visit to Boggles gift shop, where we happily spent our money, we changed for the much-anticipated pirate party! The highlight of the evening was watching our teachers' showcase their dance moves, with Miss Hogarth winning with her impressive 'worm' technique. We danced all night, like proper pirates, and even had a chance to stargaze and marvel at the different constellations. It was a fantastic trip, filled with laughter and teamwork, and I hope other children get the chance to experience the same joy!

**Journalists:** Bonnie, Jorgia, Leisha, Alisha, Mark





# Pennyman News



## Women in History

During the month of March, we celebrated 'Women in History' and their contributions to history, culture and society. Throughout school we are taking part in lessons to learn about such important figures.

We would like to share with you some fascinating facts that we think are most important about these influential women.

### Did you know...?



#### Katherine Johnson

She was promoted to Project Mercury, a programme to send the first American astronaut into space and then to Project Apollo – the first flights to the moon.



#### Mary Seacole

She suffered a dislocated thumb as she threw herself on the ground to avoid gunfire.



#### Greta Thunberg

At the age of 11, Greta became so upset about climate change she temporarily stopped talking.



#### Malala Yousafzai

On her 16th birthday she gave a speech at a meeting of the United Nations. She spoke about her passion for girls and the importance of being able to go to school.



#### Florence Nightingale

She made sure hospital beds were clean, and medical equipment was cleaned. She made the rule of washing your hands before you helped a patient.



#### Flora Drummond

In 1908, Drummond spent three years in prison because she organised the Trafalgar Square Rally with other suffragettes.

**Journalists:** Phoebe, Louis and Lolah-Jo



#### Harriet Tubman

Instead of being put to sleep during surgery, while the doctor cut open her skull she chose to bite on a bullet. She had seen soldiers do this.



#### Cleopatra

She wasn't actually Egyptian, but in fact she was descended from the Greeks, and spoke Greek. Apparently, she died by allowing a poisonous snake to bite her.



# Wilton News

## Year 1/ 2 Art

In art the year 1 and 2s have been trying very hard in their artwork this term. Everyone got to draw what they wanted, from sheep all the way to ROSEBERRY TOPPING! They were inspired by the wonderful artists Lucy Pittway.

They were following the topic of nature, animals and landscapes.

The children's favourite part was choosing what amazing place to draw, deciding how to illustrate it and bringing their vision to life.

## Year 3/4 residential

This half term, the year 3/4s have been on a residential. They went to Boggle Hole (near Whitby) and according to what they have stated, most of them really enjoyed it.

Some of the children said:

"I liked the marshmallows and the campfire, but I didn't like walking too much!"

"My favourite activity was fossil hunting on the beach and I would definitely do it again."

"I liked walking along the beach but I disliked when we had to go back home. It was very exciting!"

### Activities included:

- Building a Campfire
- Marshmallow toasting
- Preparing meals and eating together
- Visiting the Beach
- Fossil hunting
- Storytelling
- Singing songs together

The children were allowed to take up to £10 for the gift shops in-town. Some bought stationary, sweets and other small items that could fit in their purse or pockets. Most of them had money left over but others spent it all.

They were there for 2 days and 1 night and are ready for another overnight stay!

## Y5/6 Life Centre

Also this half term the year 5s and 6s have visited the Life Centre in Newcastle. The planetarium was most of the children's favourite activity there but others liked the physics and chemistry science show.

"It was quite a journey but the actual visit was worth the wait!"

Later, in the science lab, the students tried some different types of food that are usually taken to space. This included, normal strawberries, freeze-dried strawberries and dehydrated strawberries. The favourite by far was the freeze-dried ones.

Also in the laboratory, the children watched a miniature rocket get sent across the room. Luckily, this was completely child friendly and the instructor insured everyone was kept safe.

There's always lots of things going on at Wilton!

**Journalists:** Alice and Sophia





# An interview with the CEO

This term, some of our young journalists had the opportunity to interview Miss Morley about her job as CEO and her recently awarded OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire).

The young journalists were Teddy, Confidence, Byron, Charlotte, Harry, Lolah and Phoebe.



## What is the most exciting part of your job?

*All of you! I love to be a part of helping you to grow and blossom. I want to give you opportunities and support your lives and your hopes and dreams for the future. It's great to do a little bit of what you love every day.*

## Did you always want to do this job when you were younger?

*I always loved school when I was younger. I was, and I still am, insanely curious. I just love learning, and I especially loved reading and science. When I left university, I wanted to be a chemical engineer and worked in this industry for some time. I couldn't decide if I really wanted to be a scientist, downhill skier or concert pianist when I was at school.*

## Who has inspired you the most?

*Everyone in different ways - I have such a big family. We all share the same mindset of be yourself, and its ok to be different. I get inspiration from everyone I meet in some way.*

## How did you feel when you found out about the OBE?

*Shocked! I had no idea. I had been in London working on different projects and when I had got back to my car my back windscreen had been smashed. I was sad and looking forward to getting home. When I arrived home there was a letter addressed to me from 'His Majesty's Service'. When I opened the letter, I was completely speechless. I rang my sister as I thought she was having a joke with me - she is always doing that. She told me it was real, and I just burst out crying and I was a little embarrassed.*

## What was the award for, and why do you think you were chosen?

*The award is for services to education. I think I was chosen because I work with lots of different people and children, and we are all so special.*

## Will you get to go to Buckingham Palace? Will you meet the King?

*I will either go to Throne Room at Buckingham Palace, or in the Grand Reception Room at Windsor Castle to receive the award. I will receive my award from either the King, Princess Anne or Prince William. I really don't mind who, but I would love it to be Princess Anne - she is a remarkable lady. I once attended a garden party for the late Queen Elizabeth, and I had ice-cream. It was the best ice-cream I had ever tasted, so I went back for seconds so I am very much looking forward to attending a royal event again.*

## What will you wear?

*When I go to the palace to receive my award, I am going to wear a dress and hat made with our TVED colours. I will wear our Diamond Standards badge because I want someone to ask me about it, so I can talk about all of you.*

## When will you get the award? Where will you keep your OBE medal?

*I am not sure yet as there is a waiting time. As soon as I know, I will let you all know. I am going to keep my OBE at home, and I am going to take my dad with me when I receive it. My Dad once said to me when he was making me do my homework, "One day you will get your dream and you will thank me, this is because sometimes you have to do things you don't really want to do." I will thank my dad on the day I receive my award, it's my dad's medal too.*

## How do you think this award will inspire others?

*I don't know yet, but it will be to do with making our lives here in Teesside better as well as our communities and opportunities in our life choices. I think OBE stands for 'Our Brilliant Efforts', so it will be about us and our education and careers.*

## What would you say to young people who want to achieve something like this one day?

*I will tell you what my Grandad told me on New Year's Eve 1979. It was a cold and frosty night, I was only 5 years old, and I was excited because it was the first time I had been allowed to stay up. We were looking up at the moon and I remember it was shining beautifully. Grandad asked me if I wanted to go there - to the moon. He said, "Believe you can, and you will get there, bairn."*

*So, I would say to all of you, keep going through your hopes, adventures and quests and you will get there one day too. Do it with a big heart and I am sure you will meet some amazing people on the way.*

## Any final words?

*My final message to you today is; Dream big, believe in yourself to the very bottom of your heart, make a difference to whoever and whatever you can. Share you, because you are special!*

*Thank you all, I have had many years in education, and you are the first young journalist group to interview me - I don't like talking about myself very much, but I have loved talking to all of you.*





# Diamond Standard Awards

SPRING TERM 2025

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

In this edition of our Trust magazine, we are thrilled to highlight the exceptional achievements of our pupils and staff in the Diamond Standards section. We celebrate those who have truly embodied our core values of Care, Curiosity, Commitment, Courage, and Creativity in remarkable ways. From acts of kindness and innovative thinking to unwavering dedication and fearless ambition, these individuals continue to inspire us all. Congratulations to everyone featured! Your efforts shine as a beacon of excellence in our community, and we are incredibly proud of all you've accomplished. Keep striving, keep shining!



## Brambles Primary Academy



**Courage**  
Jasmine



**Commitment**  
Mavita Gamilin



**Curiosity**  
Theodore



**Care**  
Oliver



**Creativity**  
Confidence



## Discovery Special Academy



**Courage**  
Teddy



**Commitment**  
Michelle Armour



**Curiosity**  
Matthew



**Care**  
Samantha Person



**Creativity**  
Victor



## Dormanstown Primary Academy



**Courage**  
Emma Atkins



**Commitment**  
Jacob



**Curiosity**  
Joey



**Care**  
Arlo the dog



**Creativity**  
Helena



## Pennyman Primary Academy



**Courage**  
Jude



**Commitment**  
Eliza



**Curiosity**  
Ryan Bogan



**Care**  
Louise Stogdale



**Creativity**  
Isla



## Wilton Primary Academy



**Courage**  
Miliena



**Commitment**  
Indie



**Curiosity**  
Ruben



**Care**  
Grace



**Creativity**  
Ezra



# Classroom to Careers



## Tees Valley Museums:

Each term we will be shining a spotlight on a local business and one of its employees to show you what real-world careers are all about.

In this edition, we're diving into Tees Valley Museums to learn about what they do and the different kind of jobs they offer. We got to sit down with Jenny Wilkie, the Creative Learning Support Officer, who told us all about her job and what it's like working there.

### What does a typical day at Tees Valley Museums look like?

**Jenny:** No two days are ever the same, and that's what I love about my job! Our team of eight works across five local authorities—Middlesbrough, Redcar, Stockton, Hartlepool, and Darlington—making museums more accessible to everyone. Some days, I'm in schools running creative learning sessions, while other days, I'm working with teachers to integrate museum resources into history lessons. My team also takes museum objects into communities, like care homes and after-school clubs, so people who might struggle to visit museums can still experience history up close. It's a role that requires confidence, adaptability, and a passion for engaging with people from all walks of life.

### How did you get into this type of work, Jenny?

**Jenny:** My journey into the museum world wasn't exactly planned! I trained as a teacher and qualified in 2000, but I quickly realised that classroom teaching wasn't the right fit for me. I've always loved the creative side of education, so I

transitioned into museum work. Before joining Tees Valley Museums, I spent 18 years at the Captain Cook Museum, where I worked closely with schools. That experience helped me understand how to make history exciting and relevant for students. I've been in this role for 18 months now, and I absolutely love it.

### What are the highlights and challenges of doing a role like yours?

**Jenny:** One of the biggest highlights is working on a project in partnership with the British Museum. Kirkleatham Museum are loaning historical objects from the British Museum in London. The British Museum Curators will be taking an object into two primary schools in Redcar where the children will create their own classroom museum around this star object. It's amazing to see children interact with these artefacts and even create their own mini-museums around them. The biggest challenge? Working across five different local authorities. Each has its own structure and ways of working, so communication and coordination are key. It's all about finding ways to support each team effectively.

### How can others get into this type of work and industry?

**Jenny:** This wasn't the field of work I'd planned to get into. Many people however do choose this pathway if they're interested in history and education. My advice? Get hands-on experience in smaller museums first. Working in a small venue means you get to wear lots of different hats, which helps you figure out what aspects of museum work you enjoy the most. Museums have changed. They're no longer places with dusty display cases and boring labels. Museums are vibrant and welcoming places which can inspire people of all ages and backgrounds. The industry needs people who are innovative, curious, and eager to make history accessible to all.

### Where can people find more information about the work of Tees Valley Museums and vacancies within the organisation?

**Jenny:** We have a website where you can learn more about our programmes and projects. Job vacancies are advertised on Jobs North East, as well as through the local council jobs pages. We also run training opportunities through the Young Producers programme, which is a great way to gain experience and break into the industry for people aged 16-25.

<https://teesvalleymuseums.org>



KIRKLEATHAM MUSEUM



CAPTAIN COOK MUSEUM



HOPETOWN DARLINGTON  
MUSEUM



PRESTON HALL MUSEUM





# Year 5 Explore PD Ports

Year 5 pupils had an exciting trip to PD Ports this term, where they got to see how a busy port works. They learned about the different types of cargo that come in and out, had a go at moving shipping containers using a LEGO crane, and even tried out a crane simulator!

## Hands-On Fun

The children discovered how ports help transport goods all over the world. Using the LEGO crane, they worked together to move tiny shipping containers, just like in real life. The crane simulator was a real highlight—it was incredibly realistic, even vibrating as they moved the controls, making them feel like they were operating a real crane.

Adding to the excitement, the pupils also got to drive a drone using the simulator. This gave them a unique view of what a crane operator sees while working, helping them understand how cargo is carefully lifted and placed around the port.

## Exploring Future Jobs

The visit also helped them learn about the different jobs people do at PD Ports. From engineers and crane operators to office staff and security teams, there are so many roles that keep the port running. The children were amazed at how many career options there are in this exciting industry!

## A Refreshing Treat!

After all their hard work, the children enjoyed a well-earned break. Many of them agreed—the best part of the day was the juice! It was the perfect way to end a fun and busy visit.

The trip was a great way for the children to see how ports work and think about what they might like to do in the future. Who knows? Maybe one day, they'll be working at PD Ports themselves!



# Farm Shop and Refill Station Opening



On Tuesday 18th March, Dormanstown Primary Academy had the pleasure of welcoming Councillor Neil Bendelow, the Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland 24/25, to officially open their long-awaited farm shop and its new refill section. This exciting initiative is the result of hard work by the school's Year 6 junior leaders, who have taken charge of planning, stocking, pricing, packaging, and promoting the shop's products over the past two terms.

The farm shop, which features a range of locally sourced goods and Fareshare produce, is a culmination of a collaborative effort between the school and Ruth from Ecologico, with funding from Business in the Community. The project aims to teach pupils about business management, sustainability, and the importance of community involvement. In addition to selling fresh and ambient items, the shop now offers a refill station, where local families can purchase sustainable products like oats, broth mix, rice, washing-up liquid, and conditioner, to name a few. The introduction of refillable items is a step towards reducing single-use plastics and providing environmentally conscious options for families.

The opening ceremony, attended by Councillor Bendelow, celebrated the pupils' achievement and their dedication to creating a shop that not only benefits the school but also promotes sustainability. Dormanstown Primary Academy's farm shop and refill station are sure to become a valuable resource for the school community, offering fresh, affordable goods and helping to build a greener future for all.





WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
6 MARCH 2025

# Igniting a Passion for Reading Across Our Trust

World Book Day 2025 was a spectacular celebration of imagination, creativity, and the boundless power of reading across all our Academies. From the moment pupils walked through the doors, the excitement was palpable as each academy brought books to life with a range of inspiring and unforgettable activities.



At **Dormanstown Primary Academy**, pupils arrived in their pyjamas, clutching their favourite bedtime stories, ready to share them with their teachers and friends. The academy was buzzing with creative book-related activities throughout the day. The World Book Day competition, offering the chance to win a National Book Token, sparked incredible enthusiasm. With so many outstanding entries, judging was no easy task!

**Discovery Primary Academy** transformed the day into a mathematical reading adventure with their 'World of Shapes' theme. Pupils delved into maths-themed books, explored 2D shape stories by Mac Barnett, and sang shape-inspired songs and rhymes. Secondary pupils were captivated by *The Perfect Fit* by Naomi Jones, using it as a springboard for their own creative stories, poems, and artwork celebrating diversity and individuality.

**Pennyman Primary Academy** was brimming with excitement, as pupils spent their book tokens and eagerly collected their World Book Day titles from the library. The academy's book swap event was so popular that the swap table had to be refilled five times! Creativity filled the classrooms as children decorated masks inspired by their favourite book characters. Online author events and engaging storytelling sessions led by staff made the day truly magical.

**Brambles Primary Academy** had pupils from Year One to Year Six exploring *Flotsam* by David Wiesner, while EYFS children enjoyed *Over the Shop* by Jon Arno Lawson. The academy's library became a hub of excitement with book-related activities, and children were thrilled by an online author event. Pupils proudly designed their own World Book Day t-shirts and took part in 'Rock Up & Read' sessions, where teachers shared their favourite stories with different classes.

**Wilton Primary Academy** dressed as characters or came in comfy pyjamas for a bedtime story theme. Classrooms were filled with laughter and wonder as children immersed themselves in a variety of books and reading activities throughout the day.

World Book Day 2025 was nothing short of extraordinary, bringing books to life and inspiring a love of reading across all our Trust schools. The creative and immersive activities left pupils buzzing with excitement and reminded everyone of the magic that books can bring to our lives.







# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



British Science Week is always an exciting time for our schools. This year, students and teachers across the Trust joined together to celebrate science in a big way. The activities helped us learn more about the world around us and showed us how science is important for the future. It also connected to our Classroom to Careers project, which helps students understand how learning science can lead to exciting jobs later on.

One of the most fun parts of Science Week was getting outdoors to explore nature. Students at schools across the Trust went outside to study wildlife and creepy crawlies. They looked closely at ants, beetles, and other insects, learning about how these tiny creatures help our environment. It was a great chance to learn about ecosystems and how important these little animals are to keeping nature in balance. It also showed students how studying animals and insects could lead to careers in areas like conservation, biology, or even medicine.

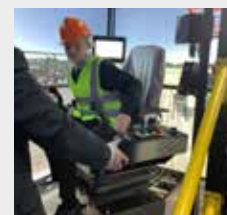
A big focus this year was also on pollution, especially microplastics. Students learned how tiny bits of plastic are harming the oceans and the animals that live there. They saw how plastic waste breaks down into small particles that end up in the sea and can be eaten by fish and other marine life. The discussions about microplastics made students think about how they can help protect the environment, like recycling more and using less plastic. It also sparked ideas for future careers in protecting the planet, like environmental science or developing new technologies to clean up pollution.

One of the most memorable activities was at Brambles Primary Academy. The students there focused on a real-life news story about a ship collision in the North Sea. The crash potentially caused a leak of toxic chemicals, which can harm sea life and pollute the oceans.

They also thought about ways to prevent this kind of pollution in the future. This activity helped students understand how science plays a big role in protecting our oceans and how people working in science can help solve these problems.

Overall, British Science Week has been a fun and inspiring time for all our students. It showed how science helps us understand the world better and how it is important for solving big problems, like pollution and saving wildlife. Our students now see how their love for science could lead to exciting careers in the future.

We can't wait to continue our Classroom to Careers project, where we help students discover what jobs they could do based on what they learn in school and how the learning in science can connect to future career opportunities in the local area.



# Easter Activities

At Tees Valley Education, Easter isn't just about chocolate eggs - it's a time to bring the entire school community together to learn about the religious, cultural, and seasonal aspects of Easter.

Whilst having some similarities, academies have their own way of acknowledging Easter and Spring. At Brambles, the pupils enjoyed an assembly led by Reverend Jane. Pupils, parents and carers enjoyed their Easter Fayre and Easter themed open afternoon sessions, where parents and carers spent time in the academy. At Discovery, they welcomed chicks and ducklings, which arrived as eggs, and the pupils experienced the life cycle of new life as they hatched and grew in their care. At Wilton, parents were invited to a coffee afternoon and pupils were invited to take part in a Easter bonnet competition with a focus on Spring and new life. Pupils at Dormanstown, held a KS2 Easter service at All Saints Church led by Reverend Rebecca. Parents and carers attended also. Meanwhile children in EYSF and KS1 took part in an Easter performance in school with Mrs Norris, and again, parents and carers attended. Pennyman pupils visited St Cuthberts Church for an Easter service and also held a raffle with proceeds being used to continue to develop outdoor provision for the pupils.

All academies took part in our Trust Choir Easter service at St Nicholas Church in Guisborough. The performance was a heartwarming display of talent and teamwork. The students' voices filled the church with uplifting songs that captured the true spirit of the season.

Alongside learning about the religious and cultural aspects of Easter, academies enjoyed a range of Easter and spring themed arts and crafts, which was a wonderful way for students to explore the theme of new life. As they created vibrant flowers, painted egg designs, and crafted bunnies, the children not only expressed their creativity but also learned about the renewal and growth that spring symbolises.





# The Great Easter Egg Adventure

One bright and sunny Easter morning, Lily and Jack were getting ready for the annual Teesside Easter Egg Hunt. Every year, the Easter Bunny left clues all over Middlesbrough and Redcar, leading to a special golden egg filled with delicious chocolates.

Excited, Lily and Jack met their best friend, Harry, at Stewart Park, where the first clue was hidden. They found it taped to a statue of Captain Cook. Jack read it aloud:

***“To find your next clue, don’t be slow,  
Where waves crash and sea winds blow!”***

***“That must be Redcar Beach!”*** said Lily. ***But just as they were about to set off, they saw a little girl looking sad. “What’s wrong?”*** asked Harry.

***“I want to do the Easter hunt, but I lost my first clue,”*** she sniffled.

Jack smiled. ***“Don’t worry! We’ll help you find it.”*** They searched high and low and finally spotted the clue fluttering in a bush. The girl’s face lit up.

***“Thank you! You’re so caring,”*** she said.

Now it was time for them to continue their own adventure. They raced to Redcar Beach, where they spotted a trail of chocolate eggs leading them toward Redcar Beacon. Nestled behind a rock was their next clue!

***“You’re getting closer, just one more try,  
Find the egg where ships sail by!”***

***“That’s got to be Middlesbrough’s Transporter Bridge!”*** Harry exclaimed.

But when they arrived, they found a problem—the clue was stuck high up in a tree! ***“We’ll never reach it,”*** sighed Jack.

Lily thought for a moment. ***“What if we use our coats to make a rope?”*** she suggested.

***“That’s so creative!”*** said Harry. Working together, they carefully looped the coats around the branch and pulled the clue down. Inside, they found the final riddle:

***“The golden egg is near, look around,  
Where Boro’s lion proudly stands on the ground!”***

They thought for a moment, then all shouted at once, ***“The Riverside Stadium!”***

But just as they were about to run, Harry hesitated. ***“What if we’re wrong?”*** he worried.

Jack patted his shoulder. ***“We’ve come this far - we have to be courageous and keep going!”***

Running as fast as they could, they made their way to Middlesbrough Football Club’s stadium. Near the statue of George Hardwick, a golden egg sparkled in the sun! ***“We did it!”*** cheered Lily. ***They opened the egg, and inside were delicious chocolates and a special note from the Easter Bunny:***

***“Well done, explorers! You were curious enough to follow the clues, committed to never giving up, creative when facing problems, courageous when things got tricky, and caring towards others. You truly deserve your Easter treats!”***

As they sat by the river, munching on their chocolate, Jack grinned. ***“Best Easter ever!”*** With happy hearts and chocolatey fingers, the three friends agreed—it truly was!



# The Cost of



We know that the cost-of-living continues to be a problem for many children and families in Teesside.

This term, we have shared some ideas and links that might be helpful to families over the coming months in Spring.



## Spend time outdoors, not money

Here are some local outdoor activities that are free for families to enjoy.

**ParkRun:** A parkrun happens every Saturday at 9am in Stewart Park, and it's free to enter. Find out more and register on the parkrun website. If you can't make it to parkrun on Saturday, the route is marked out around the park so you can run (or walk) it any time you like.

**Stewart Park:** Located in Marton in South Middlesbrough. The park covers approximately 120 acres, with open parkland and woodland on the southern side. Stewart Park is one of seven parks in Middlesbrough to hold the prestigious Green Flag award.

**Teessaurus Park:** A free park with space to run, hide and roar in the company of huge models of a T-rex, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Brontosaurus, Brachiosaurus and a Woolly Mammoth!

**Tees Barrage:** is a popular destination for walking, running and cycling, especially for families, and is a fantastic way to explore the River Tees. Families can access free walking and cycling routes by visiting:

<https://tbiwwc.com/activities/make-more-of-your-visit/family-cycling-routes/>

## How to crack Easter on a budget

Making a weekly meal plan can help budget your spending for the week ahead and during Springtime school holidays.




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:

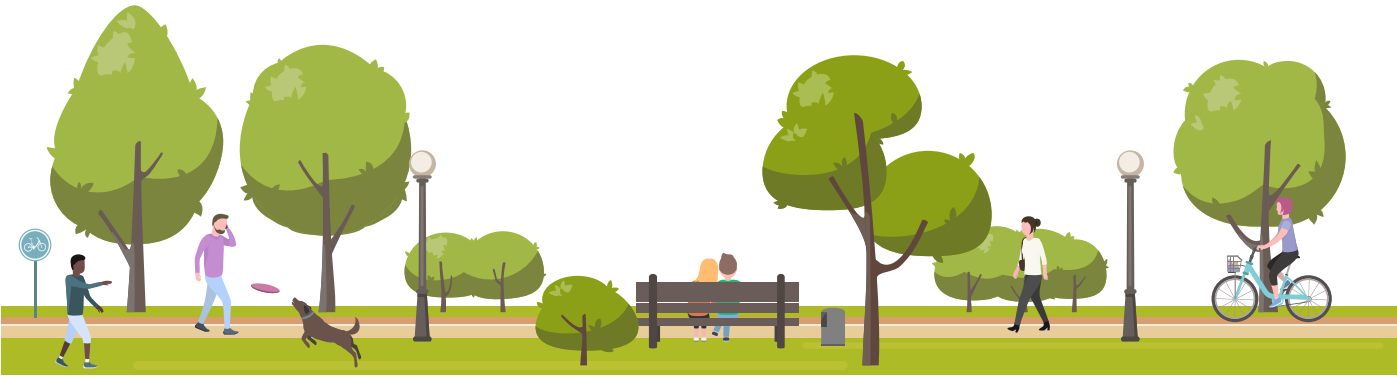
- **BBC Food** have produced ideas for families that include baking on a budget and food related activities that don't cost families lot. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/budget\\_easter](https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/articles/budget_easter)
- **Tesco:** have a produced a free to use area of their website with recipes for cooking on a budget and ways to make leftover food last longer. <https://realfood.tesco.com/budget-meals.html>
- **Free food:** Sign up to apps to find people giving away food that would otherwise go to waste. Example: Too Good To Go

# Days out on a budget

Spring should hopefully bring us some better weather! This gives families and young children and opportunity to enjoy more of the outdoors and local area. But we also know that the cost of activities locally might be a problem for some families.

Here are some examples of local low-cost and free activities

	<b>Dorman Museum</b>  A great range of permanent display galleries to captivate visitors of all ages, from space to Middlesbrough through time.	<b>FREE</b>
	<b>Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA)</b>  A fascinating free day out for the family, with something for everyone. MIMA also has a family programme which includes a number of weekly activities, and regular school holiday programmes.	<b>FREE</b>
	<b>Preston Park Museum, Victorian Street &amp; Gardens</b>  A museum with lots to do including outdoor play area, gardens, a Victorian street and fun activities with families. Families can also enjoy local riverside walks by the museum.	<b>Unwaged £3 Under 3s FREE Family: 1 adult + 3 children £10</b>



## 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](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/)





# Lunchtime Supervisor Role



Our academies are always recruiting committed lunchtime supervisors to join our team and help make lunchtimes a safe and enjoyable experience for our children and young people.

Lunchtime supervisors are paid at £12.60 per hour to work approximately 1 hour 15 minutes per day, school days only.

If you are interested in working with children and / or in education, this is an excellent entry role to help start your career.

Tees Valley Education is committed to an individual's development that are aligned to our diamond standards, and we work to support our staff to be the best they can be, regardless of their role.

## What you'll do:

- Support children while they eat, encourage good manners, and ensure a calm dining atmosphere.
- Supervise and engage with children and young people during playtime, helping them have fun while staying safe.
- Encourage positive behaviour and friendships, and provide support where needed.
- Help tidy up, assist with minor spills, and ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Work as part of a team to create a happy and secure environment.

## What we're looking for:

- Someone who enjoys working with children and has good communication skills.
- A team player who is patient, kind, and reliable.
- Someone who can handle situations calmly and promote positive behaviour.

## Why join us?

- Be part of a friendly and supportive school community.
- Help make a difference in children and young people's daily lives.
- A rewarding and enjoyable role with training opportunities.

If you would like to apply please contact the academy office of your preferred school by expressing an interest for any current vacancies.

### Brambles Primary Academy:

Phone Number - **01642 210704**

Email - **brambles@teesvalleyeducation.co.uk**

### Discovery Special Academy:

Phone Number - **01642 248333**

Email - **enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk**

### Dormanstown Primary Academy:

Phone Number - **01642 483696**

Email - **dormanstown@teesvalleyeducation.co.uk**

### Pennyman Primary Academy:

Phone Number - **01642 314750**

Email - **pennyman@teesvalleyeducation.co.uk**

### Wilton Primary Academy:

Phone Number - **01642 453374**

Email - **TVEWilton@tved.org.uk**

# Our Commitment to the Real Living Wage

Our staff in academies have an essential role to play in supporting children, families and communities.

With this in mind, we are proud to announce an important step in our commitment to fair pay. From 1st January 2025, TVEd will not only meet the National Living Wage of £11.44 per hour but will go beyond it by adopting the Real Living Wage of £12.60 per hour, as set by the Living Wage Foundation. Unlike the National Living Wage, which is determined by government policy, the Real Living Wage is based on the actual cost of living, ensuring that wages reflect what employees truly need to meet their everyday expenses.

## Why This Matters

We understand that financial security is a crucial aspect of overall well-being. By adopting the Real Living Wage, we are reinforcing our commitment to valuing our employees and supporting them in their daily lives. This initiative is about more than just pay—it is about ensuring that every member of our team feels recognised, respected, and supported.

Therefore this will be supported with recruitment of new staff and retention of current staff as we provide secure employment so children can continue to develop positive, healthy relationships everyday with adults across our Trust.



# SHREK THE MUSICAL JR

**25th June 2025**

Performances at 1pm & 5pm

Middlesbrough Little Theatre,  
TS5 6SA

## Ticket Prices:

Adult - £5

Child - £3

To book your tickets, scan the QR code or visit <https://boxoffice.middlesbrough.gov.uk/event/shrek-the-musical-jr/>

If you are struggling to afford the opportunity to see your child perform in the show then please speak to your child's teacher or member of the Academy office team.





FUN ACTIVITIES

# Chocolate Cornflake Cake



**Ingredients**

- 80 g Butter
- 200 g Milk Chocolate
- 2 tablespoon Golden Syrup
- 150 g Cornflakes

**Optional Extras**

- Handful Marshmallows, smarties or mini eggs for easter

**Method**

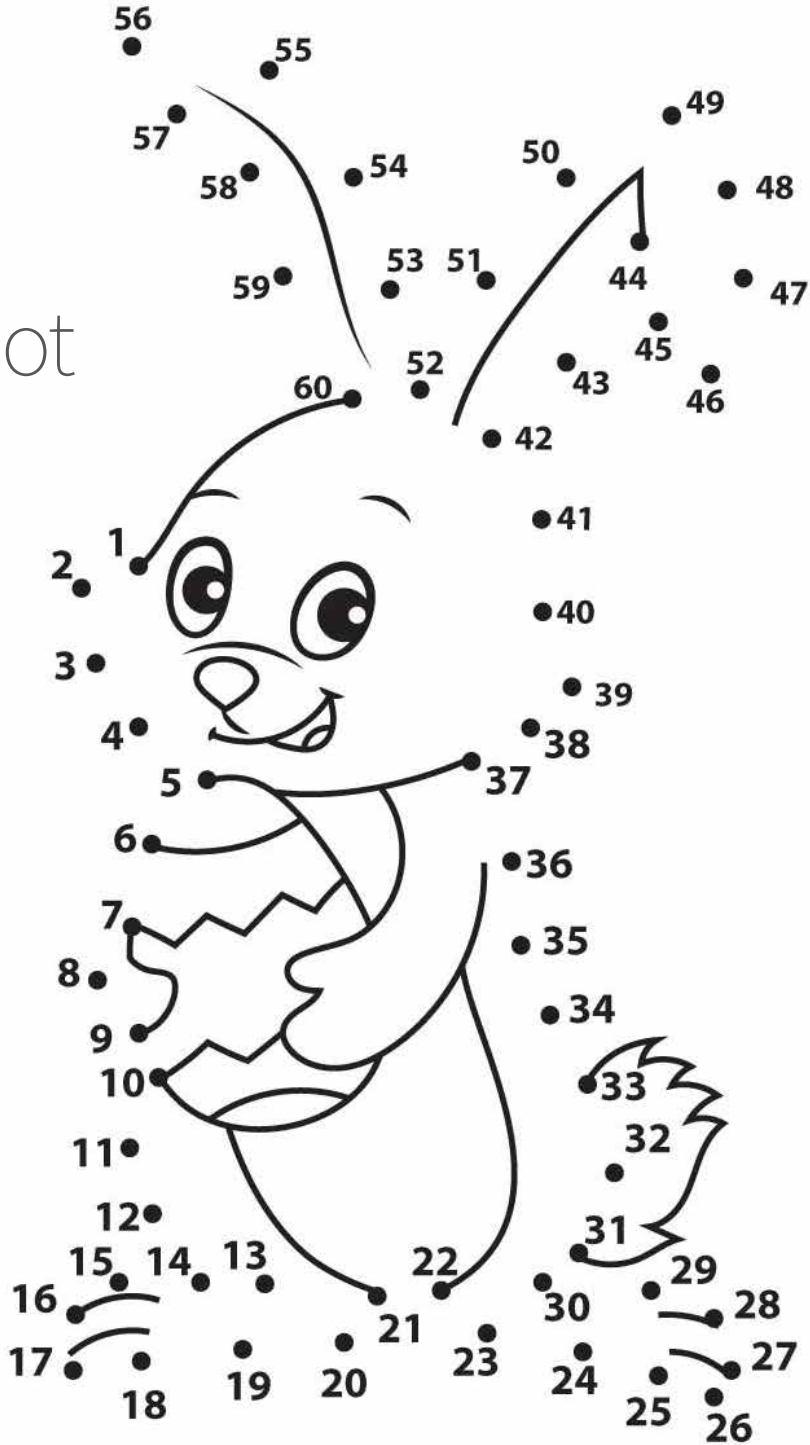
- STEP 1**
- Cut 80 g Butter into cubes, break 200 g Milk Chocolate into small pieces and place into a large glass mixing bowl.
- Pour 2 tablespoon Golden Syrup on top.
- STEP 2**
- Microwave on 50% power for 30 - second intervals. Melt slowly to prevent overcooking chocolate.
- STEP 3**
- Stir and continue in 30 - second intervals in the microwave. Stirring each time until melted into a smooth mix.
- STEP 4**
- Pour 150 g Cornflakes into the melted chocolate mix
- STEP 5**
- Stir until well coated
- STEP 6**
- Scoop into cupcake cases, it is normal for them to be soft at the moment they will harden as they cool.
- STEP 7**
- Add extras if wanted like Handful Marshmallows, smarties, mini eggs for easter or raisins
- STEP 8**
- Place in the fridge to cool and firm up.

# Family Creativity Section

*Easter Egg Hunt*

How many Easter Eggs can you find throughout the magazine?

## Dot-to-dot





# BRING IT ON!

**BORO**

**REDCAR &  
CLEVELAND**

SCAN HERE



Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme South Tees

## EASTER 2025

Application Process  
Guidance



Middlesbrough  
moving forward

The holiday activities and food programme (HAF)  
is funded by the Department for Education

 Department  
for Education