



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

Welcome to our 'new look' Autumn term newsletter. I sincerely hope you will enjoy seeing some of the great adventures and experiences that all of our children have had in this term. Whilst there is once again lots to share with you all, I am especially proud of all of the community work and links we have made.

There are other fabulous partnerships too – especially with the University of Teesside. I am pleased to say that we are the first Trust in the area to work together with them, in order to share our commitment to investing in a range of learning opportunities for our staff, children and communities for the future.



MISS K MORLEY
CEO
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Harvest Festival

During Harvest, we collected food produce for our local food bank depot, in Skippers Lane. Prefects were able to take the food to the depot where Lee-Anne, who helps run the facility, greeted us. Our food will have gone to many homes in our area and we are really proud to be from Middlesbrough.



Forest Schools

Forest Schools also took place with Emily and the Year 2 children. She shared all of her knowledge with us, surrounding the outdoor environment. During one session, we learned about hedgehogs. Then, we went looking for hedgehog food in our quad. We found: beetles, worms and flies which hedgehogs love to eat.



Remembrance Day

On 11th November, Brambles Primary Academy held a whole school remembrance theme. As part of the day, children across the academy learnt about remembrance day. At 11.00 a.m the whole school took part in a one minute remembrance in the quad and the head boy and girl raised the flag in remembrance for all those who died.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Children in Need

This year Discovery Special Academy celebrated Children in Need by asking our academy community to donate to the local foodbank. We invited representatives from the foodbank to share our assembly and collect the donations. They were overwhelmed by the amount of food we had. We know all the donations will be well used to support our locality. Thank you to everyone who donated food.



Mayor hails fantastic moment for free school

Middlesbrough mayor Andy Preston has described as "trail-blazing" new high quality temporary facilities for Teesside's first free school for those with special educational needs.

The mayor officially opened the specially constructed school accommodation ahead of plans to build a new school, Discovery Special Academy, in Middlesbrough by the 2021-22 academic year. Middlesbrough Council has agreed the sale of land at Sandy Flatts Lane, Acklam, to the Department of Education for the construction of Discovery Special Academy, one of the Government's flagship free schools.

Once built, the free school will provide a specialist educational provision for up to 84 children aged four to 11 with complex and significant learning, communication, physical and medical needs. Part of Tees Valley Education Trust and representing Teesside's largest primary special school, Discovery will help to meet an increasing demand for special needs facilities within the Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland local authority areas.

Mayor Preston, who was chair of Tees Valley Education Trust's board when the free school was first applied for, said:

"As one of the government's first free special schools, Discovery is blazing a trail not only for Middlesbrough and Teesside but the whole country.

"For too long, we've had a sticking plaster approach, trying to make do as best we could, but Discovery represents a beautiful and groundbreaking solution to help solve a really pressing need for children with a range of complex needs.

"Discovery have some outstanding people who have created a truly uplifting, inspiring environment for the children within the temporary facilities."



DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

What a busy and productive autumn term we have had at Dormanstown. All classes have welcomed their parents and carers into the academy to celebrate their curriculum work through assemblies and various practical or creative activities. These have included making colourful Egyptian masks, designing and building Anderson Shelters, constructing houses in the style of The Fire of London, creating miniature gardens and making vehicles used by people who help us. Look out for the work produced displayed around the academy.

Educational Visits have enhanced our learning with an exciting visit to the Tees Barrage for 5S and map work at the Danby Moors Centre for 1T and 2S. Hunting for the Little Red Hen in Foxrush woodland proved exciting for R/1M and our older discrete classes have had two successful visits to the Ironstone Museum to find out more about the Iron Age. Whilst visiting Eden Camp, 6N experienced a flavour of life during World War 2.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Pennyman Art Afternoon

Earlier this term Pennyman held its first community art afternoon. Parents and families came to the academy to take part in a creative art afternoon with their children, as well as view the work done by the children to date. This proved to be a very successful afternoon enjoyed by all who attended, celebrating work and sharing skills. There were many talented artists within our families who really appreciated the opportunity to take part in wider curriculum learning within the academy.



Award-winning breakfast club at Pennyman

Pennyman has always been incredibly proud of the breakfast club offer that is in place at the academy. Around 80 children attend every day, enjoy a healthy breakfast and have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities. Following their entry earlier this term, the breakfast club have been named a North East Kellogs breakfast club award winner. As winners, the academy has been awarded £1000 and they will be entered into the national award, with some children having the opportunity to visit London in the spring term. Congratulations to the breakfast club team for the offer they give to the children and their well-deserved award.



WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

NatWest MoneySense



During this term, we continued our work on developing the life skills of the children at Wilton. NatWest MoneySense have been working with us and this has led to us achieving NatWest MoneySense Accredited Status!

As well as this, our Year 5 and 6 children have taken part in Bikeability, with the majority of children successfully completing level 2.

During the term we have had visitors in school to talk to the children as well as visiting other places. Key Stage 1 have been to Lazenby Village Hall to delve into the past and find out what the village used to be like. Upper Key Stage 2, in collaboration with Brambles Primary, visited Eden Camp and truly experienced what it was like for people during WW2.



"It has been my pleasure to visit Brambles, Dormanstown and our new Discovery site this term and to experience first hand the excellent work of our children with the support of our staff. Everyone shone and reflected our 'Diamond Standards' in everything they were doing - you should all be very proud!" **Mr J Brine** Chair of the Trust



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION TRUST-WIDE



YOUNGSTERS TOLD 'DREAM BIG AND BE ANYTHING YOU WANT'

Tees Valley Education pupils received a taste of what their future careers could be like when they kick-started what is the first partnership of its kind in the region. The youngsters were told their dreams could come true and they could aspire to be whatever they wanted when they were invited to Teesside University for a special signing ceremony.

The University has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tees Valley Education which will enthuse youngsters from an early age about the vast array of education and career opportunities available to them. It is the first partnership of this nature to be signed between Teesside University and a Primary Academy Trust and embeds a number of core principals and commitments. These include collaborating on research opportunities, developing activities and events to raise aspirations, enthusing pupils and their families about the benefits of life-long learning and providing opportunities for children to work on bespoke projects. There will also be a chance for pupils to celebrate their achievements through an annual graduation ceremony.

A number of pupils from the five Tees Valley Education schools, along with their teachers, visited Teesside University for the signing agreement and they also got the opportunity to talk to senior staff and tour the facilities.

Katrina Morley, Chief Executive of Tees Valley Education and herself a Teesside University graduate, said: 'We are delighted to be the first set of primary schools to be able to work with Teesside University in this way on a whole host of exciting projects.'

'It is a fabulous opportunity which is a result of all the hard work the children have been doing. Our pupils are extremely committed and we constantly tell them that their dreams can come true if they believe in themselves and work hard.'

'This partnership is about being special, being creative and brave and trying something new. We are all looking forward to a very exciting time working together.'

This partnership is about being special, being creative and brave and trying something new.

Rafe, from Wilton Primary Academy, said: 'It has been an exciting day - when I grow up I would like to be an astronaut because you get to float around and it would be really cool.'

Charly, from Pennyman Primary Academy, added: 'It has been good to come here and think about different careers. When I am older I would like to do something in medicine, like a doctor or a nurse.'

Professor Jane Turner OBE DL is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise and Business Engagement) at Teesside University and she spoke to the pupils about the importance of education.

She said: 'We have some brilliant young people in this area and when you work in partnership with people with similar ideas and ambitions, amazing things can happen.'

'This partnership will help to ignite passion and inspiration from a young age and will let the pupils know that if they have a belief they can be anything they want to be.'

An additional aim of the Memorandum of Understanding is to enable Teesside University to obtain Qualified Teacher Status to increase the availability of qualified teachers in the Tees Valley.

Dr Helen Dudiak, Associate Dean (Enterprise and Business Engagement) in Teesside University's School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Law, has been working for over a year to formalise the relationship with Tees Valley Education. She said: 'A large part of the partnership is about raising aspirations, not just for the children, but for their families too. They may also be considering coming back to university and we want to promote the message that you are never too young or too old to think about higher education and the different opportunities it provides.'



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION BOOK AWARDS 2020



After the huge success of the Tees Valley Education Book Awards 2019, which was won by the fantastic Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer, we have exciting news... We are delighted to announce the Tees Valley Education 2020 shortlist has been decided...

We can't wait to share these beautiful books with you and the children once the competition begins in January.

9-11 YEAR OLD CHAPTER BOOK CATEGORY

THE SHORTLIST IS:

- **MO, LOTTIE AND THE JUNKERS** by Jennifer Killick
- **THE MIDNIGHT HOUR** by Benjamin Read and Laura Trinder
- **THE BOY WHO FLEW** by Fleur Hitchcock
- **RUMBLE STAR** by Abi Elphinstone.



7-9 YEAR OLD CHAPTER BOOK CATEGORY (NEW FOR 2020!)

THE SHORTLIST IS:

- **ISADORA MOON MAKES WINTER MAGIC** by Harriet Muncaster
- **HOTEL FLAMINGO** by Alex Milway
- **THE JOLLY ROGERS AND THE PIRATE PIPER** by Jonny Duddle
- **THE BOY WHO FLEW WITH DRAGONS** by Andy Shepherd



PICTURE BOOK CATEGORY (NEW FOR 2020!)

THE SHORTLIST IS:

- **OI PUPPIES!** by Kes Grey and Jim Field
- **RUBY'S WORRY** by Tom Percival
- **CARNIVAL OF CATASTRO-PEA** by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet
- **THE WAY HOME FOR WOLF** by Rachel Bright and Jim Field



CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

In October, Pennyman hosted the first Tees Valley Education sports competition of the year. 24 children from Brambles, Dormanstown, Pennyman and Wilton competed against each other in the outdoor event. It was a very wet and windy day however, all the children showed fantastic determination and resilience to finish the races. More Trust-wide competitions are planned for next term and we look forward to sharing them with you.

MIDDLESBROUGH INCLUSION CONFERENCE 'BELONGING'

Tees Valley Education, in partnership with Middlesbrough Local Authority, were proud to coordinate a conference for 120 local leaders and educationalists around the theme of 'Belonging' on 20th November 2019 at Middlesbrough Riverside Stadium. The conference had a wide range of inspirational national speakers, workshops and a marketplace of local agencies, all supporting and driving our ambitions towards greater inclusion in all settings across the region.



We would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of Tees Valley Education for the commitment and care given by one of our long serving trustees, Jenny Vickers. Sadly she retires from the board of the Trust at the end of this term after being a fundamental part of the Trust's journey to where it is today. Her positivity, support and enthusiasm will be missed by everyone she dealt with."

As you can see, once again, we have had a very busy term in all of our academies and across the Trust. We have also been busy singing for the Belonging Conference, at the choir festival and preparing for the Christmas Carol service. We are really looking forward to sharing this special time with our children, staff and you the communities, as we know Christmas has truly arrived when the children sing!

As ever, we wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Miss K Morley
CEO of the Trust

Mr J Brine
Chair of the Trust



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

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