



WINTER TERM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

In the final newsletter of 2020, I want to thank you all for the support, community spirit and determination that you, your children and families have shown in one of the most unusual and difficult years we have all known.

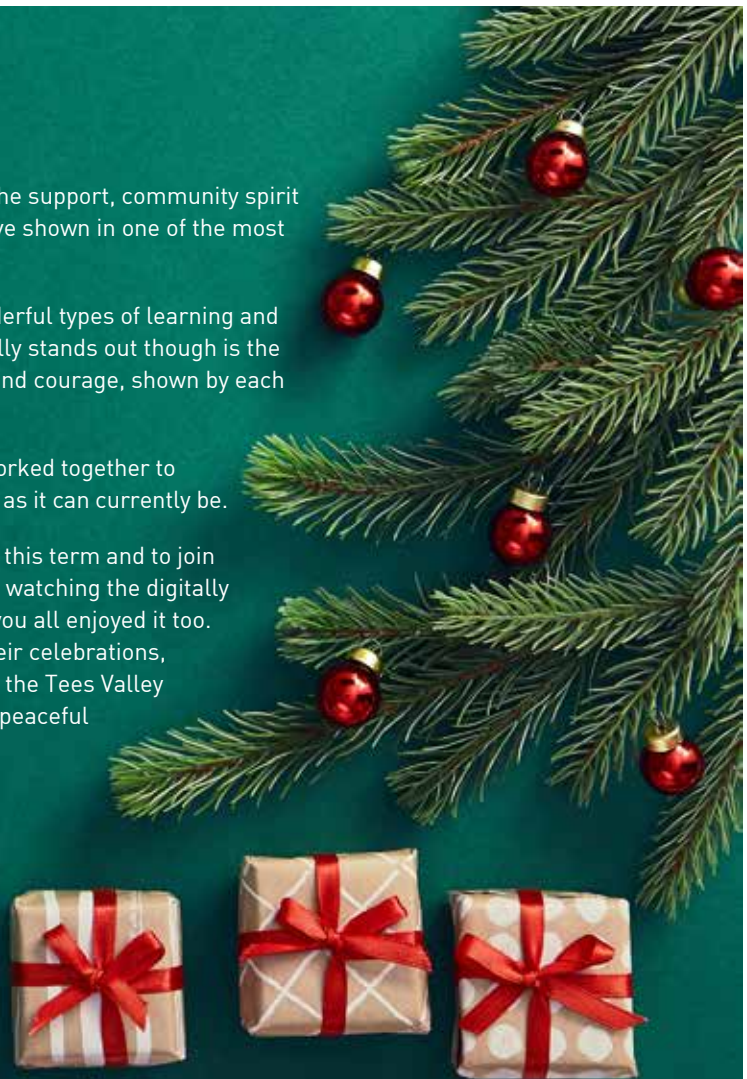
The following pages are packed with a wide range of wonderful types of learning and opportunities for fun from all of our academies. What really stands out though is the amazing 'Tees Valley Education' spirit of resilience, care and courage, shown by each child and every member of staff across the Trust.

I'm immensely proud of this and of how well we have all worked together to ensure that life for all of our children, remains as 'normal' as it can currently be.

It has been especially heartening to see all of the children this term and to join in standing outside singing by Christmas Trees, as well as watching the digitally created Trust Christmas Carol Concert. I sincerely hope you all enjoyed it too. I truly believe that at this time of the year, the children, their celebrations, nativities and families are what make Christmas; so, from the Tees Valley Education Trust family to you and yours – have a safe and peaceful time and we look forward to seeing you all in 2021.



MISS K MORLEY
CEO
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



**We must keep on
protecting each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE



BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Headstart Award

HeadStart aims to give all 'Middlesbrough's children and young people the necessary support to build resilience to achieve good emotional health'.

In 2015 the Government's Future in Mind report was published, providing national recognition of the need to make dramatic improvements in children's mental health services, the HeadStart programme has been developed in response to the needs highlighted in the report.

HeadStart aims to introduce support within school, home, the community and on-line taking on a preventative and early intervention approach to equip young people aged 10-16 years to cope better with difficult circumstances.

There are currently 423 HeadStarters in Middlesbrough accessing mental health training to build resilience and help them to support their peers!

Visit their Facebook page @Headstart Boro for more information.



At Brambles Academy, the Welfare team set about gaining HeadStart status in September 2019. We originally aimed to be awarded the Bronze status which would acknowledge our commitment towards this important focus. However, Miss Beadling, supported by Mrs Duffill aimed higher and we have actually

achieved silver status and have been awarded a £6,000 grant. A huge well done needs to go to the team for their enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment in achieving this status; their hard work to providing the very best for our children and families is very much appreciated by all.

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 different times throughout the day each academy bubble 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. Children also painted remembrance stones and wreaths which were also displayed around our flag pole.





BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Reindeer Run

On Friday 27th November, our pupils and staff took part in a sponsored reindeer run in aid of Teesside Hospice. All children were provided with antlers and a red nose and followed Santa on an organised run around our school perimeter. The children thought it was fabulous fun and we thank the parents for their huge support in raising a significant amount of money for a very good cause.



Christmas at Brambles

This year children made decorations in order to decorate our Christmas tree. Given Covid restrictions, we had to do our tree dressing celebrations in bubbles, but still wanted the best possible Christmas celebrations. So for that reason, we have included a Santa's Grotto in our Quad with lots of fantastic illuminations! We also have snowmen, igloos, a nativity scene, a father Christmas and lots more. We will be celebrating Christmas jumper day and don't forget our Christmas parties too. We will be singing Christmas carols (safely and virtually) and we look forward to hot chocolate as a treat...



Gifts for Christmas

We have been extremely lucky this year to have been supported by the Greggs Foundation. They have provided breakfast hampers, food vouchers and many other vital funds towards school projects for all of our families. Due to COVID19 and its impact on extra-curricular clubs this provision has a massive help in our bid to support families through these very difficult times. As well as this we have been fortunate to receive the offer of Christmas presents and hampers for families in our community by a number of local charities and organisations including Tees Philanthropic Society, Cash for Kids. A special thank you as well to Erica and her friends for knitting all the woolly hats for our children to wear.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Christmas tree

Children enjoyed some festive music whilst decorating our Christmas tree - I'm sure you'd agree that it looks lovely.



Cinderella

As part of our Christmas celebrations, children enjoyed a performance of the pantomime, Cinderella. A live, digital recording was enjoyed in classrooms with all of the usual fun, singing, dancing and costumes you expect at a pantomime. For many children this was a new experience and they thoroughly enjoyed watching and taking part in the performance with their friends.



Christmas Carol Concert

Children worked hard to learn a Christmas song for the Trust, virtual, carol concert. They also explored our woodland area, enjoying Christmas stories and songs and making music with bells...

Hearts for Homes

Children have taken part in a project called 'Hearts for Homes' which is a campaign to spread joy between children and residents from local care homes. Children created art work, based on a heart, with a picture or joyful message for a resident in a care home. Discovery teamed up with Marske Hall Care Home and the home manager has told us how delighted her residents were to receive the pictures and messages. They now decorate many of the bedrooms and communal areas, and have brightened up a very difficult year.

Christmas sensory books

Children have been enjoying Christmas sensory books created by our staff. These books are personalised for each pupil and give them a whole sensory experience of Christmas. For example, this could be the scents of gingerbread and pine, the touch of snow and pine needles. Children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing these books with staff and one another.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Support staff stars

We are so fortunate to have a dedicated group of teaching assistants, care staff, office staff, kitchen staff, lunch time supervisors and a site supervisor who demonstrate their commitment and care to our children and to each other, and make Discovery a truly amazing school.

We are grateful for all that they do and for how much they go the extra mile to support our children and families. As part of Unison's 'Stars in our schools' celebration day, pupils made cards and wrote special messages to show our support staff how much they are appreciated and we also held a special celebration event in school on 4th December.

Thank you to all our support staff for your hard work and commitment – we really appreciate everything that you do.

Remembrance Day

Children and staff marked Remembrance Day in school and created a display of some of the symbols of remembrance. At 11 am our older pupils and staff took part in the 2 minute silence and our younger children listened to some calming music and enjoyed images of poppies on the whiteboard.



Food Bank

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we collected donations for Middlesbrough food bank. Children learned about what a food bank is and decorated boxes to collect donations in. Families overwhelmed us with their generosity and we were able to donate a huge amount of groceries to enable the food bank to continue supporting local families.



Discovery Library

This term we have created a dedicated library space in school and set up our own lending library. It is an exciting space which children are able to access as part of planned activities with staff. They are also able to do independent reading. Children are really enjoying the space and the range of books available and are able to choose a book to take home to share with you, their families.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Our New Academy Logo!

Over the summer, as one of our academy challenges, we launched a competition to design our new logo. The children's ideas inspired it, and we have combined a number of these into our new design.

We were keen to capture the spirit of Dormanstown and showing the industrial heritage. There were also a lot of designs which included rainbows, reflecting the theme of recent times.

Parents, carers, children and staff were shown 4 slightly different designs and asked to vote for an overall winner. We had 77 votes on Facebook which included representatives from many of our families.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the challenge and voted for the winner.



We are very proud of our new uniform and exercise books that we have been phasing in:

Weekly Celebration Assembly

We tried something a little different for this week's assembly. The children announcing the winners had no idea that they were infact the actual winners!! Some very suprised, shocked, delighted and confused faces!! Well done to all winners! Sit back and enjoy.....



25 14 comments 2 shares

Each week we celebrate the children's achievements during our online virtual assembly. Both Honkers and Praise and Share winners are recognised, as well as other school successes. The assembly is broadcast with the children each Friday afternoon, and it is posted on our Facebook page at the end of the day for our community to enjoy. The children and parents/carers love to see the formats each week and who is presenting the assembly.



Cross Country Team

A huge congratulations to all the Dormanstown children who took part in the TVEd 'Virtual Cross-Country' competition.

All the races were hugely competitive, and we saw some amazing times achieved but, more importantly, some very happy children enjoying keeping fit and healthy. Overall we came first place within the Trust.

We had some amazing achievements and times from the children.

These were our year group winners: Joseph (Rec), Porche (Rec), Harry (Y2), Lola (Y2), Josie (Y5), Kieron (Y6).

A special well done to Josie who ran a time of 6min 25sec for her 1.5km. This was the best time from all the children across the whole of the 4 academies, so a BIG 'virtual' high 5 for Josie.

Well done to all the children who took part.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY



UNISON Stars in our Schools

On Friday 27th November, at Dormanstown, we said a BIG thank you and celebrated all the support staff who work in the academy. This included members of our Academy Council saying thank you to each group of staff during our virtual Celebration Assembly and each member of support staff receiving a "Star in our School" certificate. Thank you to all our learning assistants, pastoral staff, office staff, lunchtime supervisors, cleaning staff, kitchen staff, our caretaker and ICT technician: **what a huge difference you all make to our academy.**



Chess

This term, the Year 5 children have really enjoyed and engaged with their chess lessons. These sessions have been taking place in the classroom with the use of Zoom. The professional teachers have been amazed at how much the children have participated in each session and all of the knowledge they have retained from week to week.

Break and Lunch Equipment

The children have been introduced to some brand new and exciting pieces of equipment to help them improve but, more importantly, to have LOTS of FUN with during break and lunchtimes. Each class or bubble have their own box of tricks to use, so it's safe within these times. Some of the equipment is brand new for the children that they have never used before, and some are things they can play along with their friends and improve along the way.



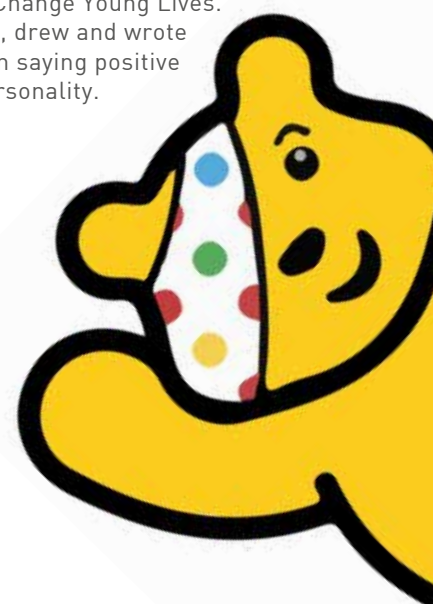
SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD

Show Racism the Red Card

During October, we held a fund raising day on behalf of the UK's leading anti-racism charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'. The event helped to raise awareness of racism in society. The whole school dressed in red and made donations to the charity. Each class took part in lessons about racism from the youngest children who learnt about how we are all different and how we embrace this, to children in Year 5 who created anti-racism posters and pic-collages.

Children in Need

To mark Children in Need, the children dressed in spots and bright colours, donated to charity and took part in Five to Thrive daily, led by Joe Wicks. This five day programme supported children with how they can take care of their mental health. This year's theme was Together, We Can Change Young Lives. Children as young as Reception discussed, drew and wrote about their friends and family focussing on saying positive things regarding their appearance and personality.





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week was another important annual event that we took part in. The children sang along to 'Kids are United', the official anti-bullying song. They discussed the different types of bullying and the impact on them as well as how to be united as one to stop bullying. Wearing odd socks made everyone celebrate how it is great that we are all different.

ACADEMY COUNCIL

We have been meeting our academy council virtually this half term with all our representatives accessing the meeting from their bubbles. This has allowed pupil voice to be shared, and the children have been very positive about the changes in school this term due to Covid-19. They have also held valuable discussions and brought the views of their class around our new reward tokens and weekly celebrations based on our new logo.



Times Tables Rockstars

The 'Rock Out 2020' attracted lots of attention this half term and it was excellent to see so many children taking part in this competition. There were many winners across the academy, and the person from each year group who scored the most correct answers won a prize, with a reward also given to the class who participated the most. Congratulations to Year 5 for getting an amazing 1792 points: that was lots of calculations completed!



Christmas at Dormanstown

Although we couldn't share our usual Christmas Performances this year, the children have still managed to celebrate Christmas in the academy. We learnt the song "Something Special" to sing (safely and virtually) in the Trust Carol Service and had a Christmas activity day. This included EYFS having a nativity scene in their outdoor area to learn about the Christmas story, classes undertaking lots of Christmas arts and crafts (including making tree decorations), designing an elves workshop and an outdoor Christmas café as well as a Christmas treasure hunt. Children were also able to wear their Christmas jumpers and to have a delicious Christmas lunch. In the last week of term, each class had a treat afternoon in their bubble.



PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

A big welcome to Mrs Stogdale

We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Head of Academy, Mrs Stogdale, who will take up the post from January 1st 2021. Mrs Stogdale has worked across Tees Valley Education as Deputy Head Teacher at Brambles Academy. She is really excited to start her journey at Pennyman Academy and to work alongside our children, staff, parents, and communities.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Fawcett, for her care, dedication, and enthusiasm she has shown whilst undertaking the Acting Head of Academy role since May this year. Mrs Fawcett will continue to work with the Senior Leadership Team at Pennyman as Senior Deputy Head of Academy and she will as always, continue to support our children and families.



Donations for Christmas

Sarah Pritchard is a student at Northumbria University undertaking a teaching degree. She has kindly used her food vouchers, provided by the university, to buy food to create food parcels for us. She has provided enough for us to create ten hampers for our families.



We are currently working with Tees Valley Together who are also working closely with The Cause Christmas Hamper appeal. They are a local charity supporting families throughout this difficult time. We were able to share some of the hampers with them.

Jon and his amazing team at our local Sainsbury's helped us to order enough Popcorn for all of our children for the Christmas movie day. They generously contributed towards the cost of it. Thank you from all of us.



Digital Learners

At Pennyman we are incredibly fortunate and now have five sets of iPads across the academy for children to use. In addition, we have received iPads and laptops from the Department for Education which we can loan to children who do not have access to technology at home. This is to enable them to access learning if they have to self-isolate.

We have invested in lots of new apps and websites which support children's learning during lessons too, as these will be used in the academy and as part of interventions at home.

Our children love practising their spellings using Spelling Shed; improving their arithmetic skills with SumDog; challenging each other to battles on Times Tables Rockstars; and reading and listening to audiobooks using the Sora library app. They also enjoy making computer programs using Scratch and joining in with Mr Nixon's virtual music lessons using Garage Band!

Pupils are also gaining lots of confidence using Seesaw - this allows children to communicate with their teachers, complete work and receive feedback if they are unable to come into school due to illness or self-isolation.



PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Library and Author Visits

This term we have been lucky enough to have been 'virtually' joined by some incredible authors, who have shared their writing experiences with the children.

Key Stage 2 children completed an interactive drawing session with Chris Riddell OBE, who illustrated his talk live, as well as answering questions about his work.

They also spoke to academy favourite Harriett Muncaster, whose Isadora Moon and Victoria Stitch books have been flying off the shelves in the library.

In Key Stage 1, the children read along with picture book author John Kane and his fantastic, funny books I Say Boo You Say Who, and I Say Ooh You Say Ahh. The children were in hysterics trying to keep up with each action.

Most recently, school had a double author visit! KS1 had the chance to talk live with Chitra Soundar, whilst she was in her studio in India, and KS2 posed questions for the wonderful David Almond, who had joined us to discuss his new book Brand New Boy. These experiences have helped inspire children across the academy towards writing creatively, and introduce them to some fantastic new books!

Pennyman Curriculum Champions

To celebrate our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum and to give every child every chance to shine, this term, we have introduced our 'Curriculum Champion' awards. As an academy, we recognise the importance of not only English and Maths, but of each curriculum subject in its own right. The idea behind the awards is to champion those children who have a passion for PE, a desire to design or a have a skill set for science. Each term, every class nominates someone from each category. The categories include English, maths, science, PE, history,

computing, geography, art, music, PHSE, RE and design technology.

It was wonderful to find out why children had received their awards. The reasons ranged from children demonstrating a real passion for a specific subject to being incredibly knowledgeable to learning and crafting new skills. We held a virtual awards ceremony across the academy where the children were presented with their certificates and badges. It is wonderful to see the children around the academy proudly wearing their badges.



Black History Month

Black History Month UK is a celebration of black history that takes place between 1st - 31st October every year. This year, the 33rd UK Black History Month was celebrated in Pennyman. Children were taught about the history of influential black people. Typically, the achievements of inspiring black role models such as politicians, athletes, authors, poets, actors and musicians were celebrated, too. Individuals covered were selected to complement our core values.

Bessie Coleman: Bravery.

Mary Seacole: Perseverance.

Chinwe Chukwuogo Roy: Creativity

Nelson Mandela: Human rights and his caring role.

Barrack Obama: Democracy

Martian Luther King: His speeches and his resilience.

All children enjoyed this topic and produced amazing work to be proud of.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Remembrance Day

In Pennyman, to commemorate Remembrance Day, the children held a 2-minute silence on the 11th November at 11am. This was followed by an afternoon full of different activities, giving the children the opportunity to reflect on why Remembrance Day continues to be so important for us all. Year 3 created a video about what Remembrance Day is. KS2 and UKS2 SEND children completed some poems to remember the people who were lost during the war. Year 6 used their understanding of their history topic 'World War 2' to write a letter from the perspective of a soldier in the trenches. Year 4 created wooden crosses with messages of hope written on them. KS1 made poppies to create a poppy memorial in the corridor that reminds everyone of the sacrifices made during the different wars around the world.



Junior Leadership Team

During this term, the children in the Junior Leadership Team have played a key role in maintaining dialogue between the bubbles. They have organised questionnaires around finding new names for the colour teams that would represent our local area. They have also completed questionnaires, gathering the opinions of the children in their bubbles, around the new safety measures in school for COVID. More recently, they had the opportunity to plant fruit trees around our playground with the mayor as part of an eco-initiative.



Christmas 2020 is a little different this year but in true Pennyman spirit, the staff have worked hard to share this special time of year, in a safe Christmas bubble, with their children. Together we have enjoyed Christmas singing around the outside Christmas trees; a virtual pantomime of Sleeping Beauty; a Santa Run; Christmas Jumper Day; Christmas Hat Day; Christmas Cracker Day; a bubble disco; movie afternoon; a virtual Carol Service; a range of Christmas arts and crafts, and each year group received a personal video message all the way from the North Pole from Santa Claus!



WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Wilton Expects We...

To bring the academy community together and re-establish a positive climate for learning, this term we have been focusing on promoting the Wilton Expects values. This is made up of 5 values that incorporate everything we do:

- Wilton Expects We...**
- Show pride**
- Are determined**
- Are independent**
- Collaborate**
- Are Curious**

Shine Like a Star!

As well as promoting the Wilton Expects through zoom assemblies, we have also introduced a specific focus each week, linked to showing yourself in a positive light. After lots of discussions between the staff and children, and a final vote, it was decided this would be called Shine Like a Star. Each Friday, the current focus is discussed and examples shared, and the new one introduced. This is also added onto Facebook each week in the form of a poster and shared in our weekly blog on the website. The children are enjoying sharing this and are quick to support and identify other children and staff they spot shining like a star.



Cross Country

Thanks to Mr Newham from Pennyman, we were able to take part in the TVED Cross Country competition. This involved all of the children completing either a 1km or 1.5km run, with the times from each academy being submitted. The children all tried their hardest and we were delighted to receive the news that Phoebe won the overall event for the Y4 girls. Congratulations also go to Isaac, Michael, Spencley and Zak who all received bronze or silver medals.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Activities at Wilton

The Nursery and Reception children have been reading the Gruffalo and learning about woodland animals and their homes. Retelling the story with puppets and masks has been lots of fun. They were very excited to receive a letter from the mouse asking for help to find the Gruffalo. The children went on a hunt outside and found the Gruffalo's den. They wrote letters back to the mouse and drew maps to the den. If you see the Gruffalo please let us know!



Y1/2 enjoyed learning about the artist Angie Lewin. They used mark making, sketching and printing techniques. The children have loved the ability to work in our Art room with lots of resources at hand to explore with.

As part of the Science topic, How do we move and grow? the children in Year 3 & 4 have been investigating what is inside their hands and how do they move. The children worked in pairs to build a bionic hand made out of cardboard, strings, straws and rubber bands. They related the bionic hand to their own hand in order to understand the function of the fingers and the importance of the thumb, to grab or hold objects with different shapes and forms. Pupils learned that it would not be possible to move the human hand if it was only composed of bones. They understood how the bones, muscles, tendons and ligaments work, by comparing them with the materials used on the bionic hand to move the fingers. The children explored, tested and made improvements to their designs.

Y5/6 completed a study of the artist Andy Goldsworthy who creates his art using the environment. The children used our school environment to investigate

different shapes that they could create. They had a great time! In Geography, the children enjoyed developing their knowledge of the location of major oceans and seas in the world and can now explain the difference between oceans and seas. The class are looking forward to deepening their learning throughout the new topic, Rivers.

As part of our drive to understand diversity and global citizenship, the academy took part in the Say No to Racism day by wearing red clothing. The classes discussed what Racism means and thought about how to treat people fairly. The children also took part in Children in Need embracing the Five to Thrive focus for the week. Mental health and well-being is so important to us and we have been discussing this throughout the term and the children enjoyed watching the Joe Wicks videos linked to the five areas needed for us to thrive.



Christmas

Although Christmas looks a little different in the academy this year, the Christmas spirit has definitely arrived! The children have had a Christmas activity day, in which they completed lots of Christmas crafts, made even more special by wearing Christmas jumpers! They have helped to decorate the academy trees and Early Years Foundation Stage even had Santa's workshop where the children practised their wrapping skills! The Elves created havoc in the classrooms and the classes watched Christmas movies with hot chocolate. All of these events, alongside taking part in the trust video have all contributed to a different but still memorable Christmas.



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION - PAUL HAMLYN

This term is the final term that the schools will be working with artists, supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund.

This term the project has adapted to the changes in school and to keep the connection with classes and staff, has started to deliver the classes digitally. The artists are continuing to support teachers, who have become confident creators over the course of the project.



We're creative - it's what we do!! Creativity is all about being inquisitive, persistent, collaborative, disciplined and imaginative!! We have to be a role model for the children, showing them that using these habits, we carry on, adapting to new challenges.

This project has embedded creative habits in the children approaches to learning, which they now use across the curriculum . Now, using this new 'Creative Star,' co- constructed with the children themselves, the children can learn to recognise the creative habits when they use them , in all of their lessons across the curriculum. Now we can really start to see how we have embedded creativity!

Health and Wellbeing

The importance of our children's health and wellbeing has never been more important. We're really familiar with our physical health playing a big role but getting classes back on track will provide that all important expression, engagement and agency that the children are used to enjoying in class. Art naturally fits with the 5 ways of wellbeing, which are - Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learn and Give. Connection to others helps children feel close to and valued by other people. Activities done together are powerful for all relationships, creating art together is perfect.

Be active, go outside, what do you notice? wonder and like? Our new website www.tvclp.org now shows links from art activities to the many ways it links to health and well being agenda's as well as the 'Creative Star.'

Culture Bridge North East-'imagine if'- conference

Our www.tvclp.org website, with all of its wonderful creative resources, is now listed to the 'Compendium' of resources Culture Bridge North East website.

Lead Artist Practitioners from the project spoke about the outcomes for the children at the annual conference 'imagine if' to delegates from schools and cultural organisations across the UK.





TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

This Christmas enjoy your celebrations – you all deserve them! They may be different this year however I am certain our academies' and communities' festivities will still be very special and I cannot wait to hear all about them.

Remember the importance of family, friends and our community as we share this special time. Stay connected, stay sensible and stay safe then we can all return in 2021 with a renewed positive outlook for everything we can achieve together in the year ahead.

Thank you to all our staff for everything they do everyday to make Tees Valley Education great and can I say a huge thank you on behalf of Tees Valley Education to a very special person, Patrick Scott, who retired as a Trustee this term. He has always been a champion of and for children and the education profession. He advanced the profession, secured the sound foundations of our academies, and supported the evolution of Tees Valley Education. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with him.

My closing message comes from one of my favourite authors Dr Seuss:

**“The more that you read,
the more things you will know,
the more that you learn,
the more places you'll go”**

if you have a few minutes this 'different' Christmas pick up a book and see where it will take you!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Mr J Brine
Chair of the Trust Board

**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.**
-- Dr. Seuss





TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

