



COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & CARE

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2021.

As ever, I have great pleasure in sharing with you all the wonderful work our children have been doing both at school and at home whilst in the current lockdown.

A huge well-done to everybody involved, including you as parents and carers. I am also really proud to say that a wide range of local businesses and charity partnerships have supported our children in being able to access more digital devices, including iPads, laptops and routers. A big thank you to all of them including

Teesside Philanthropic Society.

Additionally, staff have worked incredibly hard with a range of other partners to support greater access to food hampers, breakfast opportunities, toys or Christmas presents, as well as other fund raising and support in order to buy gloves to keep all of our children warm. By working together, we are building stronger communities as well as supporting one another through these difficult times.

I am thrilled and really proud to be able to announce that

Discovery Special Academy was awarded planning permission at the beginning of the year. This is super news for our children, their families and our area – we look forward to including pictures of the build as it progresses but in the meanwhile we've included an artist's impression to give you an idea of the finished academy.

Following the governments announcement of a hopeful return to school from the 8th March, as soon as we hear any more, your academy will write to you directly to communicate the organisation around this.

Until the next newsletter at Easter, please stay safe and continue to follow government guidelines.

Best wishes,



Miss K Morley  
CEO  
Tees Valley Education



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES



## BRAMBLES FARM PRIMARY ACADEMY



### Santa Reindeer Run

**Final total £ 3760.76**

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our wonderful families for sponsoring their children in our Santa Reindeer Run. The children all had the most amazing fun!

They took great delight in chasing Santa around our playing fields dressed up in their antlers and red noses.

I think we all know someone whose family has been directly affected by cancer and Teesside Hospice has struggled this year without their ability to fundraise. This huge donation will make such an enormous difference to their work -We have handed over a cheque to Teesside Hospice on your behalves for £3760.76.

**Many, thanks for all your support – this is a staggering amount!**

### Blended Learning Offer

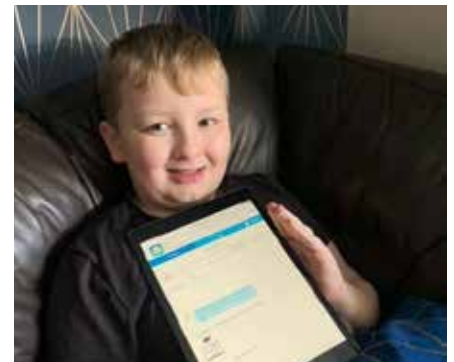
In January, the academy were provided with a limited number of government provided laptops which could be used to support online learning at home. These were distributed to parents along with Wi-Fi dongles to support internet access. We have also recently been allocated some iPads and these are presently being distributed to those children who are entitled to these government provided devices.

Mr Mayle produced a video to support parents and children with accessing Showbie as part of our Brambles blended learning offer. In addition, staff supported parents via telephone calls with any technical questions they may have had to support pupils

logging into this platform and using the laptop for the first time.

This online platform is in addition to the work packs which were sent home with all pupils. Pupils were also given log-ins to access a range of online resources which include Spelling Shed, Nessie and Timestable Rockstars. Well done everyone.

We are really pleased with the level of engagement and positivity of all pupils with this blended learning offer. Regular phone calls by staff to parents have also supported with any barriers to learning and the Pastoral Team remain on hand to offer any further help to families which may be deemed necessary.



### A special thank you to you all at Northumbrian Water for supporting us and helping our families this year.

On behalf of the pupils and families of Brambles Farm and the surrounding area, may I just take a moment to send our utmost gratitude to Northumbrian Water in supporting us this year. We are an academy, situated in an area of significant challenges, which has been made even more difficult due to effects of COVID19 and the pandemic this year. Many of our families were struggling at Christmas and we knew it would be a difficult time for them.

Thanks to Northumbrian Water and the offer of a van and a driver to travel to Newcastle for us, we were able to take advantage of a substantial 'Cash for Kids' donation and take delivery of a vast amount of presents for our children and families. This was such an amazing gesture and had such a positive impact on our families.

What a huge difference this made to our children when they got up on Christmas morning.





## BRAMBLES FARM PRIMARY ACADEMY



### A Huge Thank you to 'The Salvation Army', 'Cause' and 'Cash for Kids' this year...

Each year these wonderful charities hold massive appeals to support families in our area. They collect many donations of presents and bring food hampers to the academy, so that we can distribute them to our most deserving families. Given the effects of COVID19, and the resulting pandemic, a significant number of our families have been effected during this past year. On behalf of our families and our community we would like to say a huge thank you to them all, as without their amazing generosity, Christmas celebrations may have looked much different.

### A BIG THANK YOU

Aims of Greggs Foundation: To build stronger and healthier communities. Their purpose is to address the issues of poverty and inequality and to ensure food is at the heart of our communities and they support local organisations to make a real difference.



Here at Brambles Primary Academy, we are lucky enough to be supported by the Greggs Foundation who enable us to provide a healthy daily breakfast and provide breakfast bags to those children who are learning remotely at home. We normally collect over 60 loaves of bread each week from our local Greggs store and shop for cereal, spreads and condiments on a regular basis to supplement this offer.

At Christmas time we provided over 40 families with a food shopping parcel. This included a variety of tinned goods, perishable items and treats such as boxed biscuits and selection boxes for the children and their families.

Greggs also allow us to apply to their 'COVID19 Funding' which so far has provided a number of families with a range of white goods and furniture such as a new washing machine, a new cooker and two families were given beds which included mattresses, protectors and pillows. One family also received £100 worth of food vouchers and two others were given £150 worth of clothing vouchers which allowed them to purchase appropriate winter clothing and footwear at this difficult time.

We continue to spread this support out across as many families as we can reach.



### Emotional Literacy Support Assistant Support (ELSA)

Hello - may I take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Miss Walker and I have recently joined the Brambles Pastoral Team. As part of my ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) role at Brambles, I have continued holding my weekly sessions despite the recent lockdowns and effects of this pandemic. The Elsa children who are attending the academy come to me to address their emotional needs by talking, using creative work and also play to support them. I have also provided work sheets for the children to take home and complete. I have supplied mindfulness colouring sheets, calmness techniques to use at home and emotion and wellbeing activities. As well as taking my sessions, I have used my time in the academy to check in on the other children attending daily and also making telephone calls home to those I feel need a simple 'Hello, how you doing?' as it is important for their wellbeing to know that we are still here for them.

I have also provided all teaching staff with a variety of mental health and wellbeing resources which they have been able to access should the need arise.





## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### Discovery mini bus

We are very excited to announce that we now have our own brand-new Discovery mini bus.

Our own mini bus means we can offer a wider range of visits for all of our pupils to provide them with many more experiences within our local community and wider area. We are excitedly planning a range of cultural, sporting and outdoor visits for when Covid restrictions allow. All these opportunities support the development of communication skills, independence, life skills and confidence and we look forward to telling you all about where we go in the mini bus in future newsletters.



### Showbie

To support remote learning and blended learning, we have been developing the use of Showbie. This is an online platform which can be used on a laptop or downloaded as an App on a tablet. Teachers set personalised work and activities for pupils who are learning at home, including adding videos and voice messages to support children to engage in their home learning and stay connected to school staff. This has proved to be very popular with children and families and it is great to see children continuing their learning with support from home and alongside feedback from their teachers.



### Emotional and physical well-being

This academic year we have had a focus on promoting emotional and physical well-being all across the academy. Within classes, pupils are supported to explore different emotions and use signs, symbols and speech to talk about how they are feeling. Pupils are encouraged to express their emotions, the importance of emotional well-being and the links to physical health and being active. We have developed our outdoor areas to include a wider range of equipment to develop balance, co-ordination and agility. As pupils use this equipment they co-operate with others, use problem solving skills and develop confidence and resilience.





## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### Communication boards

To support the development of communication, we have installed communication boards in each of our outdoor areas. These boards support pupils to express what they would like to do or how they are feeling, and supports social and emotional development. They are used by all pupils from early years to year five and we are so pleased with how children have responded and learned how to use the communication boards.



### Discovery new build

On Friday 15th January, Middlesbrough council unanimously voted to approve the planning permission for the new build of Discovery Special Academy. This is a great moment for everyone involved with Discovery and we can now share the plans for the new building. It will be really exciting to see the ground works begin, which we hope to be in the next few weeks. Please check our website for updates as the building works progress. Here are some artists impressions of what the building might look like.







# DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Charity Hampers

We were able to provide some of our families with a Christmas hamper that was donated by the Mike Hind charity appeal. They contained a wonderful selection of foods to support breakfasts and lunches over the holidays, and our families found them so helpful. We want to send a huge thank you everyone involved in the appeal, including the organisation and delivery of the hampers as it was a mammoth task to get them to every school in Redcar and Cleveland.



## Christmas Jumper Day

In December, we had a festive Christmas Jumper Day. Children enjoyed undertaking a range of Christmas activities in their bubbles. Donations brought in for non-uniform were donated to the Ladies of Steel to support their charity and community work: this amounted to £179.16. The whole Dormanstown community are so grateful for what the charity did in 2020 and continue to do in the New Year. Thank you so much!

The Ladies of Steel also provided Christmas goody bags to all the children in the academy, and they came dressed up in wonderful festive costumes to deliver them.

We are so proud of some of our children who were awarded as Junior Community Champions after helping the Ladies of Steel deliver their Covid-19 information leaflets.



## Attendance

A huge well done to Class RM for being the first to win the attendance reward this year! They managed to get all 7 letters of AWESOME by being the top class for attendance for 7 weeks in the autumn term. They are in discussion with Miss Duffy to decide what their reward will be, and Mrs McFarlane is delighted too!

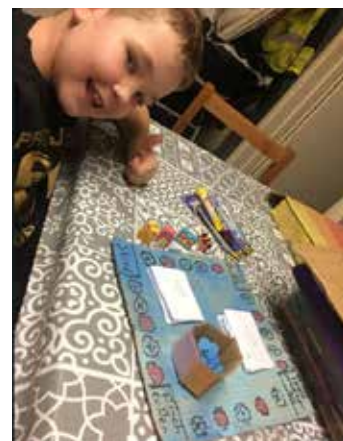




# DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Home Learning

We are so pleased with how our children and their families have adapted to their home learning offer using the Showbie app. We are all learning together with this new way of working, and classes have been motivated by seeing, or hearing, their teachers teaching their lessons online and giving the children feedback for their work. It has been great to see that many families have developed good routines for the school day "at home", which really helps children to develop positive habits. Regular phone calls from class teachers and the pastoral team continue to support children with any barriers or technical issues. We have had some lovely examples of work posted that we wish to celebrate.



## Community Links



### Salvation Army

We were able to support some of our families with Christmas presents and food thanks to an extremely generous offer of support from the Salvation Army. They made up toy packages suited to each of the individual children based on their age.

### Aldi

We have made some excellent links with Aldi, Redcar. They have donated surplus food to the academy, and we used this to further support the food packages we were providing to our children who were self-isolating last half term.



### Wellbeing

To support wellbeing during the lockdown, we provided our children and families with regular activities to share as a family, looking particularly at feelings and values using the Emotional Literacy Support resources. This has generated a lot of discussions and positive outcomes from our children.

## Breakfast Packs

We are so lucky to be able to continue to provide our children with their take home breakfast packs during the lockdown, and families can collect them if passing on their daily exercise. The children in the academy also continue to receive a bagel snack when they come into school on a morning, giving them a healthy start to the day. The National School Breakfast Programme have extended the scheme until the end of the summer term which is wonderful news.

**Thank you so much!**





## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Trolley Dash

Smyth's superstore and The Teesside Family Foundation worked together at Christmas to provide a very special shopping trip for 24 children in the area with a life limiting illness or disability. We nominated one of our children from the academy who has been in hospital for such long periods in the last year and who, despite all he has been through, is happy, hardworking and resilient. Noah thoroughly enjoyed his shopping dash!



### A Huge Thank you

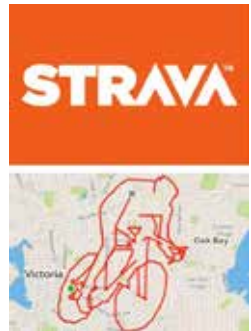
Each year the Salvation Army holds a Christmas appeal to support vulnerable families. They bring donations of presents and food hampers to the academy. We would like to send our thanks to them for all that they provided our families and community with this year.



### Well-Being

#### Strava Running / Walking Club

At Pennyman, we have established a virtual staff running (walking!) club. Staff have downloaded the Strava App and when they complete a run or walk it is registered onto the Pennyman leader board. We thought it would encourage staff to be active during the lockdown and help keep them motivated. So far, we have 16 members...anyone else?



#### Get Set Tokyo

Get Set Tokyo is an online tool for children to record any physical activity/exercise they are completing whilst at school or at home. The activity is converted to kilometres and as a school we see how far we have travelled, with the aim to reach Tokyo. Challenges will be set by Mr Newham and class teachers to help encourage the children to be active.

#### Zoom After School Clubs

We have arranged for some external providers to deliver Zoom afterschool clubs for the children, these are Karate, KS1 Street Dance and KS2 Street Dance. The children are so excited to join in with these.







## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY



### Tree Planting at Pennyman Primary

A half million-pound grant saw the first wave of 10,000 new trees planted in Middlesbrough, following the mayor's campaign promise to bring "public orchards" and "micro-forests" to the town, recognising the vital role played by the local landscape in promoting health and wellbeing, with the new trees helping to deliver a greener and healthier environment.

Thirteen Housing kindly nominated Pennyman Primary to kick start the offer to National Tree Week, to highlight the importance of trees and all the benefits they bring. Staff from Thirteen Housing and Middlesbrough Council came to school and planted fifteen fruit trees with our children. We were honoured to be the first to participate.

Tree planting offers a host of benefits - these include fresh fruit and nutrition, health and well-being as its proved that getting outdoors in amongst trees, plants and out in the sunshine plays a big role with anti-stress and improves mental well-being for all ages.

Trees are one of the best ways to offset carbon problems and, as you will know, trees absorb lots of nasty chemicals and release clean oxygen - so all in all trees are a fantastic way of giving back to nature and a positive environment.



### Home Learning

The children at Pennyman are embracing their blended learning during lockdown. Each week starts with a Monday morning live Zoom academy assembly with Mrs Stogdale. Every day the children are enjoying live teaching opportunities through our Seesaw Online Learning Platform, complimented by the home learning work packs that were distributed in early January. All children, both in the academy and at home, are keeping fit through their PE lessons from Mr Newham and practising songs, new and old, with Mr Nixon in Music. Celebrating our weekly Pennyman Champions, one for school and one for home, takes place on a Friday during our live Zoom year group celebration assemblies.

We are loving seeing you all!





## WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Digital Learning

In Wilton, we have been developing the use of Showbie to support digital learning. This programme can be used on the iPads either in school or at home. It is certainly supporting our home learning offer during the current lockdown. It is lovely to see the children's work and engagement with regular contact from class teachers to feedback and celebrate achievements. We are so proud of the children, parents and staff and how well everybody is adapting to working under these new conditions. To support access to home learning activities we have been able to offer the loan of iPads, and support for access through Vodafone SIM cards, BT wifi access, and accessing support from mobile phone providers for additional data allowances.

### Competition Winners

The academy entered a local competition run by Sencorp Utilities. The challenge was to create a picture for a community calendar and the theme for this year was "The things I've learned in the past year." All of the children in KS1 and KS2 took part and we were extremely proud to hear that Oceane and Freya were chosen as two of the overall winners with their design representing one of the months within the final calendar. They were presented with a poster of their design, a £50 gift vouchers each for Smyths and a cheque for £200 for the academy. The calendar is proudly displayed in the academy office and has been delivered to numerous homes in the community. We are looking forward to February and May, which are the featured months for Oceane and Freya's art work.

### Thank You

To support families in the run up to Christmas we received a large donation of hampers from Morrisons to distribute to our families. A big thank you goes to Anthony Conlin, Mike Hind and Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team for the distribution of the hampers to schools. They contained a range of fresh and packaged food and we know our families were extremely grateful for this support. At a difficult time the support of the community makes such a difference.

In addition to the hampers, we ensured every child went home with food for a substantial breakfast over Christmas period through distribution of the breakfast packs we received from the National School Breakfast Programme. Into the spring term, we will continue to provide all children attending the academy with bagels for the start of their day. Breakfast food packs of bagels, cereal and porridge will be available for all children to collect through the lockdown period. The National School Breakfast Programme has pledged to continue to providing breakfasts until July, which is fantastic news.







## TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



**TEES VALLEY  
EDUCATION**  
www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk

MIDDLESBROUGH & TEESSIDE  
**PHILANTHROPIC  
FOUNDATION**

### Middlesbrough & Teesside Philanthropic Foundation donation

Middlesbrough & Teesside Philanthropic Foundation are fighting hard for disadvantaged children in Teesside during the third lockdown - in a bid to ensure they aren't further disadvantaged in their learning due to a lack of tech and/or connectivity.

Middlesbrough mayor Andy Preston - the founder of the charity - is backing a joint initiative between local firm PD Ports (Teesport) and the Philanthropic Foundation to raise funds to help provide technology support; such as laptops, iPads, Chrome Books and connectivity to local school communities to provide to their least privileged children.

With thousands of the town's pupils again working from home following the government's closure of schools, PD Ports - guardians of the River Tees - have made an initial £5,000 donation to the Foundation.

Tees Valley Education are extremely grateful to have received a £2000 donation from the Philanthropic Foundation which will buy 10 new iPads, making a huge difference to children and families in our community.



**"Having Kieron's school iPad at home has really supported his learning as it means he can access Showbie and his home learning easily, as well as other apps such as Spelling Shed. It also means he can contact his teachers for support through the Showbie app."**



**Riley, Y3 - "I can get on Times Tables Rock Stars everyday now and I have caught up with all my work."**

**Riley's Nanna/Guardian - "Riley couldn't do his online learning before but now he is working a dream."**



**Evie, Y3 - "It makes it easier to do my learning and get my work done."**



**Evie and Oliver's Mam - "We previously had our own tablet but the battery is faulty and only lasts half an hour, but now they can get on and do all their learning." Mum joked "The biggest problem I have now is them racing down the stairs in the morning to get on the school iPad first!"**



**Ruben said "Its so much more easier practicing and learning spellings and times tables on an iPad. It makes it easier to learn and I am much faster."**



**Isla said "It's great having an ipad to use because I am not in school every day. It means I can complete the work at home and I know how to use the ipad easily to help me."**

In December a JustGiving charity page was set up by the central team.

**I am pleased to announce that we raised £273.00.**

Thank you to everyone who donated and shared the campaign.

With thanks to an extremely generous offer from W. Boyes & Co., we have been able to purchase 1100 pairs of unisex magic gloves for the Trust to ensure that all children in all academies get a pair to keep their hands warm in the playground, or on their way to school.

**Boyes**  
for good value

**JustGiving**

Here are a few, free to access, services if you need support at home.



01642 241864



01642 249290



01642 218361



0808 800 5000



0800 1111



01642 802282



01642 909299

LADIES OF STEEL



07876 571399



www.barnardos.org.uk



www.theteessidefamily.com



www.childnet.com



0808 802 2000

In addition please remember there is always someone in each of our academies to support and listen.



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

