



# WINTER TERM NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

I can't quite believe that we are in the final few weeks of 2021. As always, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, feedback and the shared community spirit that has helped throughout the year.

This newsletter is packed with a range of examples of the wonderful learning opportunities, fun and adventure seen across the Trust, in all of our academies. It shows the determination, commitment and care that sum up the Tees Valley Education Trust family.

From our family to yours, we hope you all have a safe, peaceful and joyous Christmas time, as well as a wonderful New Year.

With all best wishes,



**MISS K MORLEY**  
CEO  
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION



## BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Remembrance Day

On 11th November, Brambles Primary Academy held a whole school remembrance theme. Throughout the day children across the academy learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day. Each phase of the academy took part in a one minute remembrance and listened to the last post in the quad whilst the flag was raised in remembrance for all those who died. Children also created poppies and wreaths which were also displayed around our flag pole. In addition, our academy council and head boy and girl attended a memorial service at the cenotaph in Albert Park.



### Reindeer Run

On Friday 10th December, 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 chased Santa on an organised run around our school perimeter. The children really enjoyed this event and we would like to thank the parents for their huge support in raising another significant amount of money for a very good cause.



### Children in Need

On Friday 19th November, Brambles took part in the Children in Need 'Spots and Sparkles' event. Children had a fantastic day dressing up, making and selling cakes and having our very own dance off party during the afternoon. After all the money has come in we raised a grand total of £502.67. Thank you to all parents for their donations.



## BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY



### Christmas comes to Brambles

This year our pupils have designed and created decorations in order to decorate our Christmas tree. On Tuesday 29th November, we had our tree dressing celebrations in year groups. During this afternoon, we sang Christmas songs whilst children placed their decorations on the tree. It was great fun!



### Christmas Celebrations

Christmas celebrations are important at Brambles and in readiness for our special visitor, staff decorated our Santa's Grotto in our Quad with lots of fantastic illuminations! We have added more inflatables this year which include snowmen, igloos, a nativity scene, a Father Christmas and lots more.

Also, a huge thank you to Kayleigh Summers for painting our hall windows with a Christmas theme – the children and staff love it! We will also be celebrating by wearing our Christmas jumpers and eating a delicious Christmas dinner from (from our new kitchen!) on Friday 17th December. During the last week of term we will be singing Christmas carols, enjoying our Christmas parties, alongside our EYFS and KS2 performing their nativities which will be pre-recorded and available for parents to watch.



### Brambles Sporting Events

On Tuesday 23rd November Brambles Primary played a football friendly against Viewley Hill Academy. Ten pupils from across Year 5 and 6 represented the academy in what was an exciting game. The final score was Brambles 5 Viewley Hill 1. We were really pleased and proud with the sportsmanship from all pupils involved.

On Tuesday 9th November, children from Y1 to Y6 competed in a TVED cross country event at Dormanstown. Six pupils from each year group represented the academy against other schools within the Trust. Pupils really enjoyed the morning and we came 2nd place overall!





## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### Children in need

Pupils wore their spotty and colourful clothes to mark Children in Need. We also combined this with our annual collection of food for the Middlesbrough food bank. Staff from the food bank came into the academy and joined us for an assembly during which we celebrated harvest and pupils learned about the work of the food bank, and the food collection was handed over to their staff.



### Black history month

We marked black history month by learning about the achievements of black Britons and their contributions to British society. Pupils learned about British black artists and learned new dance routines.



### Remembrance Day

Pupils and staff marked Remembrance Day within the academy. Pupils created poppies in their classes using recycled materials, marked a minute of silence and learned about Remembrance Day in assembly. The Junior Leadership Team also joined pupils from other local schools to attend the ceremony at the Cenotaph with the mayor and representatives from the military and the local area. During the ceremony the poppies pupils had made in the academy were planted in the ground around the Cenotaph.



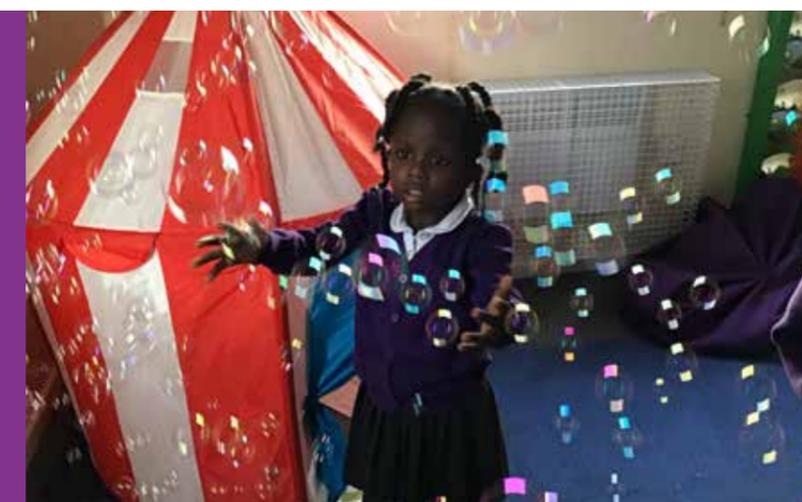
### Visits

We are so fortunate to have a dedicated mini-bus. Pupils have enjoyed being able to get out and about in the community this term in our mini-bus. Groups have visited the sensory and soft play rooms at Pennyman Primary Academy, Pendragon multi-sensory centre, and visited Stewart Park. Pupils have also been to Nature's World and worked with The Friends of Nature's World on craft projects and within the community garden. We are looking forward to developing this link with Nature's World as the move to our new building gets closer.



### Nursery and reception classes

Our nursery and reception children have enjoyed discovering their new classrooms and learning their new routines. They have also investigated their outdoor areas and developed strong relationships with pupils and staff. It has been lovely to see how quickly they have all settled into the academy.



### Anti-bullying week

We marked anti-bullying week in the academy by joining in with odd socks day. Pupils and staff wore odd socks to celebrate our individuality and what makes us unique. It was a fun way to explore this important topic.



### Christmas at Discovery

Pupils and staff have enjoyed this special time of the year in the academy. All pupils have made decorations for our Christmas tree and we had a lovely afternoon of tree dressing to start our festive season. Santa has visited and pupils have had the opportunity to spend some time with him and listen to stories read by him in a relaxed environment.





## DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

## DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Dormanstown Rocks!

We certainly did rock Dormanstown on a Wednesday afternoon in October. Children from Nursery to Year 6 all had a chance to go on the stage and share the songs they had been learning, which was a mix of different rock songs from Eye of the Tiger to We will Rock You, as well as some more traditional songs. It was great to have such an amazing audience of over 150 parents, carers and members of the community to see all of our children perform on our impressive stage on the Plaza. The community spirit was so noticeable and we hope this is the start of many more events to come. A big thank you to Mr Nixon, our music teacher, for co-ordinating the event and to Thirteen Housing, who kindly gave us a community grant to support the costs for the event.



### Cross Country

On Tuesday 9th November, children from across TVED came together for a very successful Cross-Country competition. There were six different races, with a total of over 120 children taking part, which was amazing to see. All the children who took part did the Trust and their Academies very proud, with some very talented runners from all year groups. The overall points total came out as 1st to Pennyman, 2nd to Brambles, 3rd to Dormanstown and 4th to Wilton. A huge thanks to all the staff within the Trust that helped, supported and made it possible for the children to take part in what was truly a fantastic and enjoyable morning. We were also proud of our Year 6 race marshalls, who did an amazing job of directing the runners and giving them lots of encouragement.



### Nursery's Magical trip to the Theatre!

The day we had all been waiting for finally arrived...our trip to watch the Hungry Caterpillar live at the Theatre. Nursery doors opened on the morning of the trip to be greeted with a sea of smiling faces and very excitable children. All of them carrying their carefully packed lunch bags ready for their first ever lunch in school.

After lunch we all walked so sensibly to the coach. The children climbed onto their seats and couldn't believe how high up they were. We were then on our way!

When we arrived at the theatre the children's jaws dropped and mouths were wide open at the magical sight of all the lights, sounds and velvety red seats. The children were mesmerized. The show was brilliant and the children joined in with the famous lines and phrases from the story. There was a real sense of magic in the air. The excitement of the day and the pure enjoyment of the show resulted in lots of sleepy children on the coach drive back to school.

This certainly was an experience that all of us will never forget.

We explored the story of the Hungry Caterpillar through lots of fun, imaginative play and the anticipation grew as we tried to imagine what a theatre is and what it would be like inside. Then the time came for lunch. We all sat round the tables in Nursery and enjoyed our own little tea party. The children loved chatting and talking about their excitement whilst enjoying their yummy lunch. One child said "this is so lovely eating our lunch together, can we do this every day?"



### Remembering World War 2...

Year Six visited Eden Camp after studying World War 2 in history curriculum. The children were able to see first-hand what it was like during the war. They walked down a boarded up street, saw a Prisoner of War camp and experienced the sights and sounds of the Blitz. The impact of the war was greatly felt by all children at the end when we paid our respects in the Chapel of Rest. When we returned to school, we weighed out food to see how much was received during rationing, and we were evacuated to the countryside away from our class. We have also created some fantastic poems, stories and diary entries from our History work.



### Harvest Festival

We had Harvest Festival assemblies in the academy which were enjoyed by all the children and led by Miss Riley. We were so grateful for all the amazing donations of food and other household goods which we took to the local Footprints Food Bank.



### Elves Workshop

The Nursery and Reception children have been very busy making toys, wrapping presents and role playing in their Elves Workshops. They even had a quiet story area to enjoy their Christmas stories.



### Year 4 Science Show

As part of their Science topic, Electricity, children in Year 4 took part in a science show with a wide variety of enjoyable activities. Children were able to witness incredible experiments carried out by 'Professor Brainstorm'. Through creating a human chain that allowed electricity to pass through and light up a bulb, children were amazed to learn that humans are conductors of electricity. In class, Year 4, have continued their work on electricity through creating circuits and carrying out various experiments. Year 4 children can speak confidently about the uses of electricity and how an electrical circuit works.



### Christingle

All the children in the academy made a Christingle, and we had Christingle services for both key stages where we shared the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. The children had learnt a range of songs, and we had lots of children participating in the services, including our choir who led the singing for us.





## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Carlton November 2021

We were delighted to be able to take some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children to Carlton this year to enjoy their first 5 day residential. The children took part in so many different activities and it was a privilege to see so many of them grow in resilience and overcome so many of their fears. Throughout the week, many children formed new friendships, tried new activities (and new foods!) and even learnt how to make their own beds!! The children were so well behaved and were a shining example of Pennyman.



### Reception Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 17th November, Reception children went to Billingham forum to see The Very Hungry Caterpillar and other stories by Eric Carle.

These stories were 'The Very Lonely Firefly', '10 Rubber Ducks' and 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?'

The children were amazed by the whole trip and were incredibly well behaved. They couldn't believe how the puppets came 'to life'. When they got back to the academy, they talked about their favourite story and puppets from the performance.

It was lovely to take the children out again after COVID and we are looking forward to booking another trip in Spring.



### Sporting Success

It has been lovely to see the children attending sports competitions again this half term and we have had some fantastic performances in ALL the competitions we have entered. The Y5/6 boys produced some excellent attacking play in the football competition, progressing to the Championship Competition, just missing out on a Semi Final Place. We took 33 children to the cross-country competition, in tough conditions all the children ran their best and we had 6 top 20 finishes with Mercy T, Lily F and Jenson K finishing in the top 10 in their races to qualify for the Tees Valley Finals. We also took a team of children from across the academy to the TVEd Cross Country competition at Dormanstown. The children once again proved how determined, committed and resilient they were, coming back to the academy as the overall winners. Well done to them and all the children across TVEd!

In the Tag Rugby competitions, the Y5 and 6 girls team played some wonderful rugby scoring some excellent tries, finishing 4th in a very tough group. The Y5 and 6 boys' team were in a very competitive group, they played some excellent attacking Rugby and defending brilliantly throughout, finishing joint 2nd in the group progressing onto the semi-finals on try difference. In a pulsating end to end game the boys just missed out on the final losing to a very solid Berwick Hills team 6 - 4.

Well done to ALL the children who have been selected so far in representing Pennyman you have made us ALL super PROUD of you!



## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY



### We will remember them

On Thursday 11th November the whole of Pennyman stood still for two minutes both in school and at Middlesbrough Cenotaph.

Due to this Year celebrating 100 years of the Poppy here at Pennyman we thought we would do something different. As well as children completing activities in classes, children made plastic bottle poppies and watched a presentation from Durham Light Infantry all about this period. The children heard stories from the time, met soldiers from wars and got to see real life artefacts soldiers had. All classes enjoyed this experience and it brought their learning to life.

In addition to this, 10 Year 6 children were lucky enough to be invited to visit Middlesbrough Cenotaph to represent the school. Here the children added our plastic bottle poppies to a display, laid poppy crosses on behalf of the school and celebrated with local councillors and the mayor. Once again, the children enjoyed this experience and represented Pennyman brilliantly.



### Reliving the Romans!

The year four classes were treated to a feast of Roman facts to kick start their learning on this significant period of our history. It was a wonderful experience for the children to meet 'a real roman' and learn from him what it was like to be a soldier, what life was like and how the roman's fought with the Spartans.

Our children could not believe that buildings built by the romans all those years ago are still standing today in the United Kingdom. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and this provided a springboard for their learning.



### Year 6 World War 2 Day

To end their WW2 topic in style, Year 6 celebrated with a World War 2 theme day. The children looked fantastic in their costumes, ranging from soldiers to land girls and evacuees to teachers. Throughout the day, the children took part in a whole range of activities. The day began with an air raid siren where the children were fully immersed and followed the 'black out' rules. They then cracked Morse Code messages, learnt the Lindy Hop dance, created Spitfires and played war time playground games. They ended the day with afternoon tea served from original china tea pots, cups and saucers. The children all thoroughly enjoyed the day and will remember it for many years to come.



# WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Redcar Illuminations Parade

Our KS2 children were very lucky to be chosen to take part in the Redcar Illuminations parade. Our academy was part of the ice theme so the children all made a lantern using willow. They created their structures and then covered the lantern so the lights could shine through. The children also had a dance workshop where they learnt a dance for the parade. Despite the weather being cold and wet on the day, there was a huge turn out and the children walked proudly through Redcar town centre in their ice costumes with their lanterns. It was lovely to see so many parents and children taking time out on a Sunday to support the academy.



## Show Racism the Red Card

The academy took part in the 'Show Racism the Red Card' campaign which took place in October. This also coincided with the end of Black History Month. All classes completed some work around understanding what racism means and how people should be treated fairly. Tierney, Y6, completed some art work at home based on significant figures from Black History. We are extremely proud of her dedication to her art work.



## Harvest Festival

Thanks to the generosity of the families we were able to provide lots of food for the local foodbank Footprints in the Community. They were extremely grateful for our donations. Mrs Wardle led a lovely Harvest assembly in school where we were thankful for the food the farmers provide for us.



# WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

## EYFS

Mrs Wardle's children have been having fun exploring the environment and focussing on different books this term. The children thoroughly enjoyed their first trip to the theatre to see the Hungry Caterpillar and other stories. They have been developing their drawing and painting skills and have a lovely art gallery in the classroom.



## Year 1/2 class

Mrs Barron's class created some paintings in the style of the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. They took great care and could evaluate the effectiveness of their own work. As part of their DT topic, the children used their knowledge to create a working drawbridge mechanism.



## Year 3/4 class

Miss Norton's class did some cooking in DT. They had to design and make a pizza, including making their own dough. They all got to have a taste in the academy and then took their own pizza home to cook and share with their families. They also created the Angel of the North as part of their art work based on the sculptor Antony Gormley.



## Year 5/6 class

The parents and families of Mrs Harding's class were lucky enough to be treated to a 3 course meal designed, prepared, cooked and served by the children as part of their Design Technology topic. They made a melon and ham starter, pasta bolognaise with Rocky Road for dessert. It was lovely to see so many families supporting the children and they received lots of positive comments on the evaluation forms!

As part of the history topic on World War II, the class visited Eden Camp. They heard lots of facts and information from the war and enjoyed seeing and feeling what it would have been like during the Blitz.





# Discovery Special Academy New Build



The Discovery new build is now well underway. Here are some of the pictures showing the journey of the new build so far.

Back in March 2020, the construction company began clearing the land and preparing the foundations.

By September, there were the beginnings of a building in place and some of the children went to visit the building site with Mayor Andy Preston. It was incredible to see the new build structure appearing. Even more incredible was seeing the reactions and faces of the children when they realised they were going to see their new school being built and then when they got their first glimpse, they were so excited, as were the staff!

By October, most of the build structure was in place and we could walk into some of the rooms to get a sense of their size and footprint.

Now, the academy is really beginning to take shape and the whole of the structure is in place. Wow!





# Christmas at Tees Valley Education



As the calendar year draws to a close and we reflect on our fabulous achievements in this newsletter I want to thank all our staff for everything they do to make Tees Valley Education great and thank you all for the support, community spirit and determination that you, our children and families show all year round.

During the Christmas holidays I hope, individually or as a family, you are able to pick up a festive book, join in with Christmas carols and songs or watch some of the great festive films. Try to take a moment to reflect on their important seasonal messages of tolerance, sharing and enjoyment. Some of my favourites I'd love to share are:

Dr Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas  
"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."

Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol  
"I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."

Will Farrell, Elf  
"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

At this time of year you and your celebrations in your classrooms, academies and across the Trust with concerts, nativities and parties are what make Christmas. For me Christmas starts as soon as I hear our children sing so, 'sing loud for all to hear'!

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 2022.

**Mr J Brine**  
Chair of the Trust Board



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

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