



The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



We provide the best possible education in a fun and enjoyable learning environment.

THE NEWS LETTER

Welcome



Welcome to our Autumn 2020 Trust Newsletter.

Despite the national 'backdrop' being centred around Covid-19, we are determined to share some wider news and so this is our first termly newsletter with a short piece from each of our

11 Trust schools. Attached however is my end of term letter, which admittedly is a little more Covid-centred!

I hope you enjoy this brief tour around the Trust. If it whets your appetite, then please do visit the appropriate individual school website. Links to all school sites are available via the Trust website at www.starmat.uk

Wishing every family a peaceful Christmas and wonderful start to 2021.

Ian Yapp
CEO

From the Chair of the Trust.....

This has been a very busy term for the Trust Board focussing, as you would expect, on getting our schools through the current Covid crisis. We have been so impressed with the resilience

shown by all of our school leaders, staff and students alike in navigating the minefield of this pandemic. Our sincere thanks goes to all involved, particularly our Interim CEO Ian Yapp, who has had what can only be described as a 'baptism of fire' in his new role. He has been outstanding.

The pandemic has further highlighted for the Trust Board how important the use and provision of IT across the Trust has been and will continue to be. We are developing a coherent IT strategy to try and ensure that our young people can have the best experience possible, which is no small task with very limited financial resource, and broadband provision that is creaking in many of our schools. However, we are passionate about trying to resolve this so that in the medium to long term we can meet the IT needs of students and staff alike.

The Board are also pleased to be able to spend some capital monies on our schools to try and resolve some long term issues within many of our school buildings. This is being ably led by our new Estates Director – Rob Holah who is working really hard with all of our schools to create a rolling programme of works into the coming years.

I must admit to be looking forward to seeing the back of 2020 however, and to move into 2021 and hopefully at least the green shoots of a return to some more normality where our children and staff can get back to the core business of learning and developing, without continual fear of this disease.

Clare Thornton-Eckford
Chair of the Trust Board



May
Lovely,
Happy Times
Decorate Your
Holiday Season,
May Warm, Special
Memories Brighten
Your New Year, May
The Wonder of Christmas
Be With You Forever.



Appleton Roebuck Primary School

Returning after so many months away was always going to be a challenging time for everyone: pupils returning to school-based learning; teachers who had tirelessly worked throughout lockdown with key-worker children once again managing full classes; and parents, some still working at home, some back in their 'new' normal workplaces.

It is with huge pride that I look back on a term where everyone has not only taken this in their stride, but actually thrived, using creativity to turn a disrupted, somewhat bleak time into a superb opportunity to embrace a new way of learning. Recalling something someone said to me a few months ago - we had "innovated through crisis." In the face of so many challenges and changes to our normal routine – who would ever have considered a 'bubble' as a collective noun for any group of people before? – our school community has demonstrated every one of our core values of wisdom, courage, kindness, love and gratitude on a daily basis. It has been hard, but (touch wood) we have kept all of our children safe and are incredibly fortunate to have had a Covid-free school. It has taken wisdom from the staff to restructure the school in such a way that every child could still grow, having access to all the resources they need – and space to unwind – without crossing the paths of other bubbles. Building routines around extra cleaning regimes, and looking at flexible ways of managing staff absence when they have been required to self-isolate.

We have seen so much courage: for many who had been at home with few opportunities to leave the house, returning to school was filled with fear and anxiety. Can we still do this? Will we cope without our loved ones around us each day? And without a single exception, everyone has risen to the challenge. Staff have shared the highs (usually on a Google Meet!) and comforted each other (again, without physical contact) during the times when each of us has been knocked down by this bizarre world in which we are living. For our pupils, facing the challenge of catch-up, new routines, new rules and being away from home has really been a testament to their courage and resilience. Our children are smiling!

The kindness shown by our community has been humbling. Our staff have had their heads down for months, barely coming up for air as rules and approved practices changed, so it has been wonderful to receive messages of support from parents. Being nominated as 'school of the week' for BBC Radio York in November, couldn't have come at a better time. The warm words from pupils, staff and parents were shared with the whole of North Yorkshire, and really showcased our distinctive and holistic school

Being celebrated in a case study as a leading school in our approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing was just incredible. Never before have we appreciated having had this priority firmly in place, but being able to draw on this embedded work and knowing who to ask for help has been vital. Both through lockdown and during this last term, we have endeavoured to show all of our families warmth and love at a time when it would have been far easier to remain remote and disconnected. We're now communicating far better with our families and actively working in partnership to support children and their wider families. Our children have better attendance than before Covid - they are supported to feel well and finding ways to be happy. We feel that out of the difficulty has come growth and understanding. Collaboration and support of schools both locally and around the world to share this learning experience has begun.

Finally, at the end of the term, we dedicated our outdoor Christmas tree to demonstrate the myriad ways in which we can express gratitude, with children writing bauble tags to hang on the tree saying what they are grateful for. Being able to express gratitude is such an important aspect of developing positive thinkers, of helping people realise what really matters in life. With so much of our normal world being restricted, and fun activities like school trips and inter-school sports fixtures still on hold – and catch-up required from a full term without children in their normal classrooms – we have refocused our days and our curriculum to challenge, motivate and engage the children more than ever, and it has worked. I am so grateful to everyone who has contributed to this phenomenal effort within our school.

I wish our whole school family a peaceful and safe Christmas.

Andrea Commins
Headteacher



Our gratitude tree - donated by families!

Brayton CE Primary School



What a jammed-packed, learning filled, happy start to the year we have had at Brayton C of E Primary School! We have seen the launch of Brayton TV, which has provided opportunities for

interactive learning, has seen children showcase their personal talents - such as sign language, Christmas baking



and musical martial arts – and has been a platform to involve our wider community with a family quiz and parent videos. We have continued to come together as a whole school

through regular interactive worships, including ones with our Vicar, and by celebrating whole school weeks such as Remembrance Week and Anti-bullying Week. The children have also

enjoyed being part of a music appreciation day (Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson) and an artist appreciation day (Alma Thomas) and have produced some super work in response to these artists too. Next week, as part of our Christmas week, we are



also planning to hold a series of virtual events, including a whole school nativity, a singing competition, and a Christmas themed quiz – KS1 are even expecting a virtual visit from Santa!

During this term, our children have also been immersed in a range of year group topics as well as whole school events, including 'Lights, Camera, Action', 'Rewards and Remembrance', 'Britain Needs You', 'Way Back When' and 'Meet the Flintstones' – we've gone back in time, around the world and into imaginary lands too. Each year group have celebrated their learning with a special topic themed day. In addition to this, our Year 5/6 children have been developing their entrepreneurial skills by running a weekly tuck shop and making bobble hats for charity. Our children continue to 'Shine As One' community.



Kellington Primary School

The autumn term at Kellington Primary School, whilst different, has been very busy. We have been working hard but having lots of fun too. We started the autumn term with a whole school focus, across the

curriculum, on the book 'After the Fall'. The story, a sequel to the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty, gave the children something to relate to as they mirrored his resilience as they adapted back into school life after lockdown. We also explored our local history link to the nursery rhyme.

In October, as we were unable to welcome our parents into school to celebrate harvest, a video was created to share with them. This included; songs, children's work and some dancing.

At the beginning of the autumn term we had relaunched our phonics teaching scheme, 'Floppy's Phonics' in KS1. All our staff had training and through excellent teaching and hard work by the children and staff, we are delighted with the unbelievable progress that has been made. We are so proud of everyone.

'Children in Need' Friday is always time for fun at Kellington School. This year everyone dressed in clothes that made them happy and children flaunted their creative flair with each class creating something magical.



Sunflowers made Pudsey crowns, Daffodils created their very own bookmarks, in Roses and Lilies the children modelled their very own wearable creations and Tulips made Pudsey sock puppets. Lilies also produced a video to share with parents.



Such a busy but enjoyable autumn term, we are all glad to be back in school, despite the challenges we face.

Kirk Fenton CE Primary School

The Autumn term at Kirk Fenton has passed so quickly with lots of fun and great teaching and learning to make up for lost time. We have been very impressed by our pupils' resilience in adapting to the changes at school.

We started the year with a whole school focus on the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers to help us see the positives in the world rather than focussing on the negative.



During the term our pupils have been involved in thinking about others by wearing yellow to raise awareness of World Mental Health day and wearing blue to celebrate World Toilet Day. Wateraid and Mentally Healthy Schools are our adopted charities this year. We also had lots of fun with Jupiter Class re-enacting a roman army on the march, Neptune class enjoying a morning orienteering



and Saturn class taking part in Tri-golf in the grounds. Mercury worked hard to make their own stick men having enjoyed the book so much.

The whole school wore yellow to support World Mental Health Day and have chosen to support Mentally Healthy Schools as our charity this year.

We have ended the term with socially distanced carols on the playground, Christmas crafts and Christmas jumpers.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from everyone at Kirk Fenton.

Mrs Karen Williams
Headteacher

Monk Fryston and Saxton Federation of CE Primary



It has been brilliant to return to a form of normality in school. We were delighted to welcome all children back in September, and we had 26 new pupils join our Reception class. They settled into their new school incredibly well and have had an amazing term. Getting back to the full curriculum has clearly benefited our children. They have been able to undertake collaborative practical activities that were not possible during lockdown. For example, our Year 4 children enjoyed exploring sound in science by making string telephones and whistles. They have also explored life in Ancient Egypt. Exploring mummification on a life - sized mummy was



particularly memorable! Our Year 4 children have also embarked upon the Archbishop's Youth Trust Young Leaders award. This teaches them responsibility and how to lead change in their community. They have begun to look at leadership techniques and the work that other organisations do to make a difference in their community. We look forward to them leading an initiative of their own later in the year.

At the end of term, we were sad to say goodbye to Miss Munro and Miss Jaques who were covering the maternity absences of two of our teachers. We are pleased to be able to welcome back Mrs Elcock and Mrs Starr who will teach Reception and Year 2 respectively.

Monk Fryston and Saxton Federation of CE Primary in Pictures



This term has made us realise just how much our children love coming to Saxton School. They come in smiling every day and their attendance this term has been exemplary. Nine new children started our Reception class and they have settled into school brilliantly well, joining in all our activities and quickly becoming a big part of our school. We were especially delighted that they were able to put on their own traditional nativity play at Christmas.

The school has really benefitted from MAT support with our premises. The building is looking much smarter with a new roof and new internal doors, and this has brought a more modern and professional appearance. We were successful in securing planning permission for our outside wildlife area so that we can enhance our outdoor learning in future.



Our children continuously amaze us with the learning that they do. We have enjoyed a range of activities since September, returning to the practical tasks that we couldn't do remotely. Science has a high profile in our school, and children have enjoyed a number of different themes including light, recycling, and materials. These tied in with an environment theme that we studied with the help of Powerdown Pete. Our children now understand their carbon footprint and are taking numerous steps to save energy (including turning off lights!)



Riverside Primary

We were delighted to see our families and children back in September, we have been very busy this term- we have supported each other with our well-being by having fun as well our highly creative staff team making sure that our children have had exciting curriculum opportunities-take a look below!



Our First Virtual Harvest festival
with The Reverend Lucy Bencher
from Tadcaster Benefice



Year 4 Tudor Day

We have stayed in touch with our local community by holding virtual and in school events that have raised approx. £1000 for charity including Children In Need, The Poppy Appeal, Bags2 School.

Christmas is well underway with secret door surprise decorations as well as our first virtual Christmas Nativities.



Anti Bullying Week



Sherburn High School

Sherburn High is proud of the effort staff and students have demonstrated this term both academically and pastorally. We are always delighted to celebrate success and this year is no exception; A Level and GCSE results were excellent and we welcomed back many students to Sixth Form. We've been busy handing out many Head Teacher Super Six rewards across all year groups for the excellent work that students are producing in lessons. Year 13 UCAS university applications are almost complete and it's always wonderful for students when the offers begin rolling in. GCSE mock exams went exceptionally well with outstanding behaviour and attitude from our Year 11 students and Year 7 have just taken their Cognitive Ability Tests with tremendous focus and determination.

In other school news, we are delighted that work has finally begun on our new gym and changing rooms to replace the ones destroyed in the fire in July 2018. The new facilities will be fully DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant with separate changing areas for school and community use. This will, once again, allow normal PE lessons to resume for students after two years of disruption.



As Christmas fast approaches, our charitable spirit is running at an all-time high as we gather donations for our Christmas Appeal for The Clothing Bank. Parents, students and staff have been generously donating pyjamas and gifts for needy families in our surrounding communities. It's been a mammoth task, collecting



from form rooms every day but well worth it to see the pleasure it gives when students have the opportunity to wrap them up in time for a Christmas delivery!

For a full round up of school news and events, please visit

www.sherburnhigh.co.uk or find us on Twitter [@sherburnhigh](https://twitter.com/sherburnhigh)

From all at Sherburn High, we wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year!



Sherburn Hungate Primary School

It's been an incredibly exciting term at Sherburn Hungate as we return to some normality of learning. Our school is also a building site at the moment, as we double in size. As you will see from the pictures, the building team has been enhanced by some cracking apprentices! It's probably pertinent at this point to thank our entire school community for their support and understanding during this difficult time. Our parents, children and staff have been so supportive and we're really looking forward to next term, when the building works hopefully complete.



Holding special events when visitors aren't allowed on site has been a real challenge, but we managed to get our odd socks on in support of anti-bullying week. The children loved it and it further raised awareness of everyone's wellbeing, which has been the absolute priority for everyone connected to school

since September. We're really looking forward to Christmas Jumper Week which will support Save the Children in their Christmas campaign. Finally, we're also going to utilise the technology at our fingertips to capture all our usual Christmas nativities and performances, ensuring no-one misses out. If they're anything like usual, they'll be a real treat for us all.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from everyone at Sherburn Hungate.

Mr Martyn Broom
Headteacher



South Milford Primary School

Wow, what a busy half term we have had here at SMPS!

It has been wonderful to see all the children and staff back in school, there has been a real buzz of learning and happiness around the school.

In November, we held a whole school anti-bullying week, where we spent lots of time celebrating the way that people can be different. We began on Monday, wearing our odd socks, and finished the week with a whole school virtual assembly, where each class had the opportunity to showcase some of their learning. Classes talked together about the importance of treating others with respect, how to include everybody and what to do if we see someone who is in need of help. They have created kindness stars for display and thought carefully about the people in their lives who they could turn to for support.



This term, Key Stage Two have been enjoying a variety of different activities in PE.

Years Five and Six have been working with Joe Barr, community cricket officer for the Yorkshire Cricket Board. He has been leading weekly coaching sessions, giving the pupils the chance to develop their batting and fielding skills. The sessions are highly engaging and always include a competitive game element. Even the children who claimed not to be cricket enthusiasts to begin with have loved this unit of work!

Years Three and Five have been working with Andy Jackson, the PE co-ordinator for the Sherburn Schools Partnership. Year Three enjoyed a tri golf lesson and our Year Five pupils were tested in a tricky set of orienteering challenges! We are looking forward to joining Andy again in the Spring Term for archery and cross country sessions.

At South Milford, we enjoy sharing activities, events and celebrations with each other as a whole school. In a time when we sadly have to be apart, we have tried to find different ways to keep our school community together. In the first half term this came in the form of weekly



Shining Star assemblies: all classes joining together via Google Meet to talk about successes and celebrating the shining stars of the week. We also created a music video, where each class sang part of a song – fun to learn and even more exciting as we watched all of the school performing together.

On Remembrance Day, our year five and six Junior Leadership Team members led a thoughtful Google Meet assembly. At the end of term, we plan to perform something from our Christmas assemblies virtually, so we can share with each other and enjoy being together at this special time of year.

Tadcaster Grammar School

Tadcaster Grammar School
Visions & Values

OUR VISION
BE YOUR BEST SELF
CORE VALUES



Tadcaster Grammar School

photo encouraging students to work towards their 'Responsibility' blazer lapel badge.

Following the launch of our revised school vision and values, the fantastic TGS House Champion team have been actively promoting the core student values to all students. Mr Simpson and Mrs Lattimore can be seen in this



Global Live Broadcasting

The current pandemic has allowed us to turn many challenges into unique opportunities. Following an unprecedented live interactive Year 6 virtual open evening event starring the Head and Deputy Head, some of our fantastic Year 8 students took to the air to answer questions live to year 6 students in the community.



Lest we Forget

Reflection is an important part of the personal development curriculum at TGS. Armistice Day at the school was marked with a bugler's call followed by a silence.

Thinking of the Community

Charity work is a strong feature in the school. We have raised over £1300 this year for WEAR IT PINK (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) and have supported many families in the community during the current festive season by contributing to the Wetherby & District foodbank.

