



# SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

The Trust Diamond Standards are something we are all really proud to share, demonstrate and grow because of. Children, staff, parents and community representatives being amazing in any of the four areas deserve the public recognition for making our academies, the Trust and our wider communities a better place. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everybody nominated this year – you really are a priceless diamond!

I want to add my congratulations to all of the finalists including the overall winners who have been recognised for their additional dedication in the academic year 2020-2021. I know that, as usual it has been an incredibly difficult choice.

Although a face-to-face event could not be held, we have included all of the overall winners in this newsletter and all of the finalists will be in a video on the academy and Trust websites.

Well done to everyone involved, your commitment, curiosity, courage and care has made our world's a better place.

You can also see the Diamond Standards displayed in every picture and across the activities in this term's newsletter.

I also want to wish our Year 6 children well for their move to secondary in September as well as welcoming our new Nursery and Reception children.

Please enjoy sharing the wonderful memories and achievements included in here and in the meanwhile, I wish you all a safe and pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you next year.



**MISS K MORLEY**  
CEO  
TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

## COMMITMENT, CURIOSITY, COURAGE AND CARE

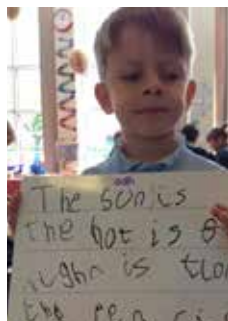




## BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

### EYFS

Nursery and Reception children have been enjoying a range of topics and activities including fantastic sentence writing, investigating floating and sinking objects, fruit kebab and ice-cream making, jigsaws, learning about the artist Seurat and making mud soup!



### Year 1

This term we have been reading a favourite story of ours, The Gruffalo. As the mouse's favourite food is Gruffalo crumble, we decided to write instructions to teach people how to make it. We made some crumble first and it was delicious! We have thought of lots of new adjectives, verbs and adverbs to make our writing more exciting!



### Year 2

On Monday 7th June, Year 2 started their new writing text – The Queen's Knickers. To support this, they designed an addition to the Royal knickers' trunk. We thought about what hobbies and interests Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles enjoy doing and we incorporated this into our design. We displayed our pants on washing lines to support our writing! It was great fun!



### Year 3

During the summer term, Nicky from 'Boro Explorers' came in to teach Year 3 outdoor skills and to develop teamwork skills too. The children learned how to communicate as a team and get a ball to a target using drain pipes. Making string men and dressing them with natural materials encouraged the children to use fine motor skills and to story tell. As a school, we encourage the children to read as often as possible so they made a book marker using flowers and leaves to use when they are reading at home. The children loved these activities and would like to encourage more classes to work outdoors.





## BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Year 4

#### Science Investigation

As part of our science topic 'Living Things including Humans', the children created an investigation to test the effects of different drinks on human teeth. As we were unable to use real human teeth, we used eggs as the shell of an egg is similar to the enamel of a human tooth. This picture shows the results of this investigation.



#### Sewing pencil cases

In Year 4, we produced our own textile pencil case as part of our Design & Technology project. We researched existing products and developed a design criteria to ensure that our pencil case would be fit for purpose. The children used felt for the body of their pencil case and they used a running stitch to sew the sides together. Finally, the children used felt shapes, sequins and beads for the decorations to make their pencil cases personal to them. We analysed our finished products in relation to the design criteria. The children are extremely proud of the pencil cases they produced using their own sewing skills and ideas. We now use them in class every day to keep our stationary and belongings safe. We are ready for learning!



### Year 5

#### Buddhism

Y5 children have been studying Buddhism in R.E. They began by exploring what it means to be a Buddhist and explored the teachings of Gautama Buddha. They produced some beautiful handwriting about the origins of Buddhism and the importance of Buddhist temples. The children produced some fantastic powerpoints about the Dharma Wheel, which has eight spokes - representing the Eightfold Path - and is the oldest, universal symbol for Buddhism.

#### Wind power

Y5 children have been looking at how society can help reduce pollution and climate change through the use of renewable energy. In pairs, they used their knowledge to design and construct a vehicle to move using wind power. The children selected the type of material as well as the size of their sail for the vehicle they had constructed. After construction, each pair tested their vehicles on different surface areas (carpet, desktop and concrete) to see which type would allow their vehicle to move the furthest and be the best to use as a test site for all vehicles. Using their knowledge of friction, the children selected a wooden surface (desktop) as this allowed the 2 surfaces to slide across each other more effectively. Each vehicle was tested from the same starting point with the same amount of wind power (an electric fan) to ensure a fair test.



### Year 6

#### Be Internet Legends

In Year 6, as part of our 'Be Internet Legends' e-safety work, we were tasked with building a robot. First, we had to scan a QR code which was linked to a website with a set of instructions to help us. Each new instruction was unlocked as we answered a question about staying safe online. It was really interesting to see how all the pieces fit together and we were really satisfied with the end result.







## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### Reading

Pupils are continuing to enjoy our lending library and are so excited to choose a library book, to take it home and enjoy for a week, before returning to the library and choosing a new book. Pupils from years 4 and 5 have responsibilities as librarians and keep the library tidy and organised ready for everyone to enjoy. In addition, some pupils are taking home a reading book. This book has been read in school with their teacher first and pupils are then able to confidently share the book at home with their families. This has been very well received by families and will be extended to all classes over the next term.

In our main outdoor area, we have installed a reading and writing shed which pupils can use independently at lunch and play times, as well as during structured sessions as part of their daily timetable. It is lovely to see pupils enjoying new books and reading for pleasure throughout the day, and developing their mark making and early writing skills.



### Science

In Science lessons, Year 3 have been learning about the structure of plants. We were lucky to have some plants donated by Arcadia Garden Centre. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring and investigating the different features of a plant. They also planted some peas and are measuring their growth each week. We can't wait to eat some!



### PE

Our oldest children in the academy have been learning to kick a ball for a purpose. They have developed skills to control, stop and kick a ball. Here they are enjoying a game of football rounders.





## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### World Environment Day

Pupils celebrated World Environment Day by exploring different ecosystems. Some children have created their own small world ecosystems including a farm, a beach and a forest. They spent lots of time appreciating our own ecosystem in our school grounds. They looked at the beautiful leaves, trees and plants we are lucky to have and thought about all of the wonderful things on Earth that we are thankful for.

Pupils also upcycled plastic bottles to recreate a learning resource by making Ten Green Bottles. They then used these to sing and learn about number order 1-10 and 10-1.



### Healthy Eating Week

Healthy Eating Week is an annual event created by the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF).

It is a week to celebrate healthy living and to encourage people to make positive changes to their lifestyle. At Discovery, we have been exploring being healthy by learning about and tasting different fruit and vegetables, knowing it is important to drink water, moving more and thinking about looking after our minds. We also talked to the children about how everyone is different and how being healthy is different for different people.







## DORMANTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### History in Year 1

Year 1 held an Edwardian day in school. Children were immersed in a day without technology! They practised the 3R's (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic) in a traditional way including using chalk on their boards to write with and chanting their times tables. In the afternoon, they learnt to play traditional games such as marbles and dominoes. The children and staff dressed in Edwardian inspired clothing and followed the rules and routines of an Edwardian school.

This day supported the teaching of their History curriculum, during which they learnt about what life was like in Middlesbrough around the time of the construction of the Transporter Bridge.



### Pop Art

This term, B3A were introduced to one of the most iconic artists of all time – Andy Warhol and the Pop Art movement. The children explored what constitutes art and why people's opinions on what art is differ, before delving into the Pop Art movement. They investigated a variety of works by Warhol and other Pop Art artists. They learnt about the life, work and early techniques of Warhol. The children developed the blotted line technique and then produced their own works of art. They studied some of Warhol's portraits and then created their own Warhol-inspired portraits of staff in school.



### Minibeasts in Nursery

To start their topic "All about Minibeasts", Nursery was transformed, and it was taken over by minibeasts! They created their own beehive for the children to explore and set up new areas to create hooks and excitement for their learning. To add to the buzz, they had their very own caterpillars arrive to care for and watch them transform into butterflies! After listening to the story of 'The Very Greedy Bee', they experimented making their own honeycombs and even worked together with their peers to create a honey pot shop in the outdoor area. They measured out the honey and sold it for different amounts of money. Children made cocoons out of tyres and sorted worms according to their size! To celebrate all the learning, they ended the topic with their very own 'Bug Ball'. Parents went to great efforts to make costumes and a wonderful day was had eating the food the children had made and playing lots of fun games all about bugs! The wiggly worm jelly was a real hit once everyone realised the worms were not the ones they had found in the garden! The children truly had the most magical time!





## DORMANTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Singing across the academy

At the beginning of the summer term, Mr Nixon started teaching every year group a range of songs, and our aim was to have an outdoor summer concert to put a smile on everyone's faces at the end of a very challenging and difficult year. The children learnt a range of songs from across the eras including "We Will Rock You", "The Yellow Submarine" and "Eye of the Tiger". Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we had to delay our outdoor concert until the next academic year, when we can hopefully let parents and carers enjoy it on the school field. Watch out for a preview video that we will share with you virtually this term.

### Wonderful Writing

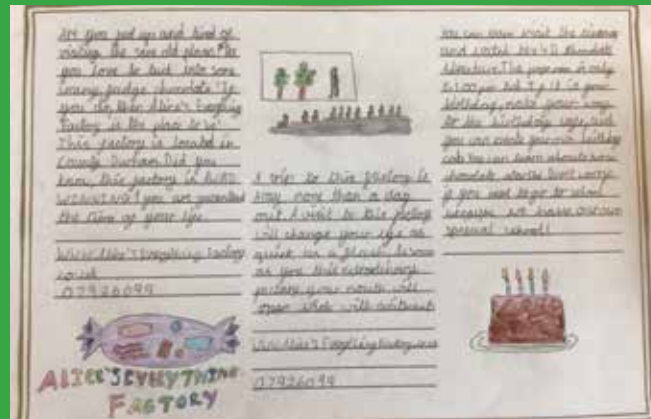
Year 4 would like to invite you to join them on a visit to their amazing and wonderful chocolate factory. They followed a sequence of work which included learning about similes and metaphors, writing exclamation sentences, using inverted commas and writing a character description about their factory owner.

After completing, the children were ready to open their minds to a World of Imagination, where anything was possible! Activating all of their newly learned knowledge, the children wrote a narrative ending on a cliffhanger...

Through resilience, patience and perseverance, the children drafted, edited and

published their wonderful pieces of writing.

Following this, the children then produced a persuasive leaflet to entice visitors to their factory.



### STEM Club

This term, a selection of children in Year 5 started a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) club. As part of this they are working with professionals from Liverpool John Moores University and the National School's Observatory, and the children have been undertaking tasks to achieve their bronze award. This includes exploring the moon, building the solar system, creating a new planet and launching their own rocket. The children have thoroughly enjoyed it and worked together very collaboratively.







## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Amazing Andy Warhol Art!

This term, our UKS2 SEND children have really enjoyed being immersed in the Pop Art culture of Andy Warhol; an artist famous for his large, bright prints and iconic images.

To achieve this, the children experimented with a range of art equipment and techniques to create their own vivid prints and paintings. These included print making with acrylics and self-portraiture using a mixed media approach of watercolour or pastels and pen on printed photographs. They also explored digital image enhancing using iPads.

To consolidate the children's learning, we created a film, documenting Warhol's life and work through acting, dancing and narration. This was a lot of fun and a fantastic way to embed all the facts children needed to know. We have certainly found our creative side this term.



### Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!

In Year One, we have been imagining what it would be like to spend time on a beach with our friends. As part of our beach experience day, we sunbathed in the glorious (albeit imaginary) sunshine, had a whale of time splashing in the water, made fantastic sandcastles and cooled down with refreshing, delicious ice lollies (that we made ourselves!). We discussed our senses and what we would hear, see, smell and taste at the seaside. During our English lessons, we wrote instructions for 'how to make an ice lolly' which we then followed; using juice, cups and lolly sticks and freezing them overnight to make our tasty treats. What a day we had!







## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Reunited

This term the children and staff have been delighted to be able to participate in some live assemblies and music sessions, adhering to rigorous safety procedures in place. Each week classes take their turn in the hall in person joining Mrs Stogdale for her Friday celebration assembly and with Mr Nixon for his Thursday singing assembly whilst the other classes zoom in virtually. We happily welcome Mr Nixon back into the academy to deliver live music sessions and the Year 3 children are very pleased to be continuing with their recorder lessons.



### The Pennyman Pantry!

The children in LKS2 SEND have been learning how to write instructions; including recipes. Following our science, design technology and PSHE curriculum, we have made healthy sweet and savoury food - we all thought it was delicious when we ate it! The classroom role play area is a tea shop, named 'The Pennyman Pantry', in which the children have thoroughly enjoyed playing the role of chef, waiter and customer. They have practised their speaking and listening skills, using appropriate phrases, vocabulary and excellent manners, as well as counting in two pence pieces to pay for their food!



### Virtual Athlete Visit Prize Winners!

Through 'Get Set Education' and as part of the Travel to Tokyo initiative Pennyman Primary Academy were the proud winners of a Virtual Athlete Visit which will take place later this term. Travel to Tokyo athlete ambassador, British middleweight bronze Olympic medallist, Anthony Ogogo, will be joining our children on a live video call. Anthony, now a professional wrestler, who has also appeared on TV's Strictly Come Dancing and Splash will be sharing stories about his life, sports and career as well as answering some questions from the children.



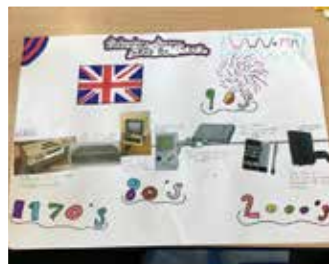


## WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Changes in Britain since the 1980's

The children in Mrs Stephenson's class thoroughly enjoyed learning about the significant changes in Britain since the 1980's and have been surprised to find out that the internet was only invented in 1989! They have written Margaret Thatcher's biography, discussed the reasons for the Miner's strike in 1984 and have researched and ordered the changes in technology since the start of the 1980's.

In English, the children actively engaged in discussions and wrote a discussion on - Should the government shorten the school holidays and lengthen the school day? They argued for and against this argument and unanimously decided - Against!



### Delivery of chicks

The children were very excited when they received a delivery of 10 eggs, which then produced 9 little chicks. It caused great excitement across the academy and the children were very careful when looking after and holding the chicks. They have also had caterpillars turn into butterflies and to end their topic they held an ugly bug ball where all of the children and staff dressed up as mini beasts. It was great fun!



### William Morris Art Work

As part of their Art topic, the children in Mrs Gainford's class have been learning about the work of William Morris. Firstly, the children researched the artist and found out that William Morris produced designs for furniture, fabrics, stained glass, wallpaper, and other decorative arts. He was famous for repeated patterns within his designs.

The children were lucky enough to work with local artist Sara Calgie to produce some really effective prints. They then used the skills and techniques learnt to build up their final pieces in the style of William Morris.







## WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY



### Miniature gardens

Mrs Barron's class designed and created their own miniature gardens in DT. They spent a long time researching which structures they would use and which plants would look effective. They then used different techniques to create their structures and they were so proud of their final creations. Mrs Evans took some of the gardens to display on the window sills of St Cuthbert's Church in Wilton so they could be appreciated by the congregation. Also as part of their science topic, the children planted lots of flowers and vegetables around the academy. They were proud of their crop of potatoes, and they tasted delicious!



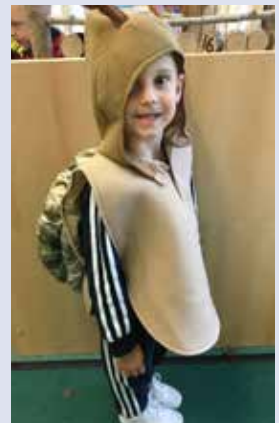
### History

As part of their history topic, the children learned what life was like when the Transporter Bridge was built and they experienced a day in the life of a school child at that time. They decided it was too strict and school now is much more fun!



### Mini beasts

Mrs Wardle's class have had an exciting term learning all about different mini beasts and creatures! They had a visitor in the academy who brought lots of different animals in for the children to learn about and hold. They were really brave and held lots of different animals.





## TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

### PD Ports joins forces with Tees Valley Education Multi-Academy Trust

PD Ports has joined forces with Tees Valley Education Multi-Academy Trust, to create an Enterprise Charter for children and young people across Teesside. Including other key partners and stakeholders, such as Teesside University, this shared commitment to do more for the young people of Teesside, will develop career-led learning opportunities for primary years to post 18.

After recently launching plans to recruit 50 new apprentices across its operations, PD Ports is now accelerating their commitment to raise aspirations, and inspire young people.

Kirsten Donkin, head of PR, marketing and communications at PD Ports, explained how the partnership has been in the port's operator plan since 2019, the launch of PD Ports' innovative Teesport Explorers programme.

"At PD Ports we already do a tremendous amount of work to raise aspirations of young people,"

Kirsten mentioned that the people at PD Ports recognise that by the age of 14, young people have already conditioned themselves into believing what jobs they can and cannot do.

"That was our initial thought process behind launching the Teesport Explorers programme – getting young people down to the port to see our operations and meet our people. It's all about providing consistent engagement throughout childhood and into early adulthood in order to ignite their imagination and show them if they believe it, they can achieve it when choosing a career."

Following this, CEO of Tees Valley Education, Katrina Morley, explained how she believes the partnership with PD Ports will deliver real value to primary school pupils across the region.

"By working in collaboration with the biggest employer in the region, and Teesside University, we are able to construct a variety of curriculum, skills, experiential and project-based learning for all of our children and young people," said Katrina.

"The ability to learn about real world employment opportunities, visit a range of sites, experience being at the forefront of the exciting investment in the area, will have long lasting impact on the life chances, aspirations and choices for all.

"The shared commitment we have to investing in our communities is being realised through the project which will support Year 1 children to adults. Children hold the keys to the future... but we must help them to unlock a range of possibilities with them."

After winning the NEPIC Communities and Reputation Award, PD Ports donated their winnings of £2000 for the Tees Valley Education Trust to kick-start the Enterprise Charter.

PD Ports was commended at the prestigious awards for its outstanding demonstration of community support and social responsibility throughout 2020.

Tees Valley Education have just received a further donation from PD ports of £1500 which is amazing!







TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

**PD PORTS**





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[www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk](http://www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk)

## Diamond Standard Awards 2020/2021

*We are all diamonds: none of us start off polished, but with the right environment, time, support and development we become brilliant.*





## TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Despite the challenges we have faced during the Covid pandemic, our Tees Valley Education Diamonds never cease to amaze us! Although we were unable to have our usual Diamond Standards Awards ceremony, celebrations have taken place in each academy to recognise the brilliance across the Trust. We have put together a short film, which is available on our website which shows you all the nominees in every category and shows you who our overall 2020-2021 winners are. As ever, we have some truly inspiring children, adults and families who we are all incredibly proud of.

**A huge well done to all our Diamond Standards winners this year.**



**Commitment**  
Grace Brock



**Courage**  
Bethany McCabe



**Curiosity**  
Finley Dee



**Care**  
Amanda Thompson



**Overall Child**  
Macauley Saunders



**Overall Adult**  
Rachel Robinson

Where has this last term and year gone? With the excitement of everyone returning to our classrooms and face to face learning, the days and weeks have flown by!

Our academies are proudly sending our Year 6 children onto the next stage of their education. They have not had the learning experience that they (or we) would have expected over the last terms but what started as one of the greatest challenges our children and teachers have experienced has actually presented important opportunities to adapt and thrive.

We can't control what happens to us but we can control how we respond to it.

All our children have reflected our Diamond Standards and with commitment, curiosity, courage and care they have thrived and flourished this year. It is wonderful to see our Tees Valley Education, Diamond Standards Awards winners and hear about the celebrations in all our academies for everyone nominated for awards – wear your medals with pride! Due to Covid restrictions unfortunately we were not all able to attend and celebrate the achievements of the nominees and winners, but I am delighted that we are all able to share the celebrations by viewing our virtual Awards Ceremony video.

I hope you all enjoyed the end of this term where we have again adapted to bring together our children in wonderful academy music performances, adapted sports day events and our individual academies have been able to celebrate what they have achieved this term.

If you have not already done so please look to our websites and social media accounts to share in our celebrations as a Trust and family of academies.

I personally thank all of our teachers, staff and volunteers for doing everything possible to support the learning and pastoral needs of our community in what has been a very challenging year.

I look forward with excitement to our next school year when we welcome our new Nursery and Reception children and we continue to develop and shape our classroom practice to provide the best possible education and future to all our pupils.

Stay safe and enjoy a fabulous summer.



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



**TEES VALLEY EDUCATION**

**PROUD TO BE PART OF TEES VALLEY EDUCATION**

