



COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & CARE

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community,

Welcome back to the Autumn term. I do hope you all enjoyed the summer and its beautiful weather. Once again, you have a packed edition detailing what all of the children across the academies have been enjoying. As well as the developments across the Trust.

I'm particularly pleased to be able to share the opening of the new building for the children attending Discovery Special Academy. It really shows the impact of the team work and the investment the Trustees and team, offer. Please be reassured that the Trust continues to invest in all academy facilities and a breadth of educational opportunities, despite the mounting cost of living crisis.

We really want to be able to help you all as much as we can with this crisis too. Each academy is trying to apply for grants and extra funding to support holiday provision,

trips, sports kits, uniforms, fruit, food deliveries, as well as accessing any council funding. Please keep looking at your academies communication as all opportunities will be detailed there. Additionally, the Trust will be publishing on the website, details of free activities and support in the local area for half term and other holidays. However, please also come in and speak to your academy staff – if we can help, we always will.

With Kindest wishes,



Miss K Morley
CEO
Tees Valley Education



BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY



Gold HeadStart Award

After a lot of hard work on the part of our pastoral and welfare team, and particularly Miss Beadling, we are incredibly pleased to have been awarded the Gold Award for HeadStart. The HeadStart programme was developed to support schools in facilitating effective and sustainable change in the delivery of support for emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people. The letter that we received explained that we have clearly demonstrated our commitment to increasing resilience and supporting the emotional health of children across South Tees.



BRAMBLES PRIMARY ACADEMY

Summer Club

Alongside Simon Carson Sports School, Brambles Primary Academy opened for two weeks during the summer holidays and provided the community with the opportunity to access a wide range of activities and experiences.

Brambles staff, working closely with a member of staff from Simon Carson Sports School, engaged the children in a breadth of exciting activities ranging from PSHE work on friendships and kindness to a whole host of sports and even water fights – which was a great relief on some of the hottest days of the summer.

The children were provided with healthy meal options and the two weeks gave them access to a range of physical and emotional well-being opportunities.

The outward reach of these two weeks was not just aimed at children from Brambles but we also catered for children within the wider community. The photo attached shows just how much one of our children enjoyed the experience.

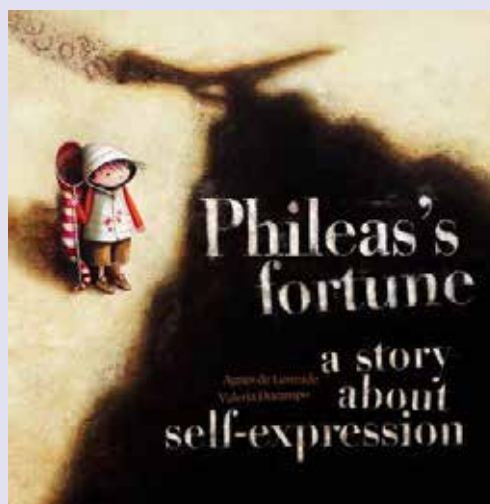
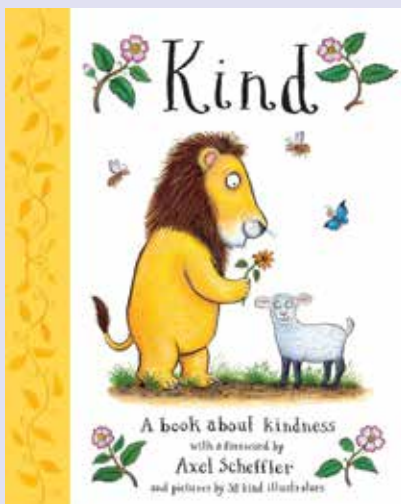


*I really, really enjoyed this club;
like as in really. It is the best.
I enjoyed everything. The eating,
water-fight, playing, football, man-on-
mars, who took my lego and many other fun
activities. I hope this club continues to go on
and have fun.*

Written by Miracle

PSHE Approach

At Brambles, we have spent a lot of time and effort developing a PSHE curriculum that links to our newly implemented core values: Kindness, Resilience, Respect and Teamwork. As part of this development, we have designed a progression document which sets out picture books linking to all four core values in every year group across the academy. Children then engage in these texts on a weekly basis and explore key questions and talking points that link back to the core values. These values are also embedded across our curriculum and link to the rewards received in our celebration 'Honker' assembly on a Friday morning.





WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Defibrillator Presentation

We are very lucky and grateful to one of our families. Jason works at Falck UK and all staff members were asked to nominate causes in the local community who they felt would benefit from receiving a defibrillator. We were pleased to receive an email to say we had been chosen. Peter Burke, Operations Manager for Falck UK came to present the defibrillator to the academy. Whilst we hope we never need to use it, we are grateful it is there for peace of mind and in the event of an emergency we would be able to potentially save a life.



Falck

Fire Services



Redcar and Eston School Sports Partnership

To increase our access to sporting opportunities, this year we have joined the Redcar and Eston School Sports Partnership. As part of this, all classes will access sporting competitions and festivals in a range of sports. It is also another opportunity for the children to go out into the community and represent the academy. So far, all of KS2 have taken part in a cross country race or fun run and Y3/4 spent an afternoon completing a scavenger hunt and orienteering. Our new PE kits make it easier to spot the children too as they were on the courses. Charlotte and Freya, we are very proud of you.



New starters

We know starting school can be challenging for some children and it is so important to provide a transition that works for the child. All of our new starters into Nursery have a pre-session where they can come and meet the staff and explore the environment at a quieter time. This allows children to visualise the setting and for parents to be able support their child with their nerves. All of our new starters have settled in well and were quickly up to their full hours. We are looking forward to seeing how they progress over the year.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Our Community has Grown!

This Autumn term has been an incredibly exciting start for all pupils and staff as we settle into our new building on Sandy Flatts Lane. It was a wonderful feeling when all the keys to the new building were finally handed over to us. In our school on the Brambles Academy site we welcome Discovery's first secondary students in Year 7, and Discovery's youngest, our Nursery children. The photographs show how well the children have settled in ready to learn from the first day and also demonstrate the breadth of our learning community.

Through Discovery we grow!



Headstart Gold Award

Following the success of our bronze and silver Headstart awards, we have now achieved the Gold award! Discovery Special Academy realises the importance of well-being for pupils and staff and this most recent award further highlights our commitment. Children in Y6 are continuing their roles as buddies and this will be developed further to include training to become 'Headstarters'. This will support their friends and younger children to talk about their feelings and learn strategies to help them feel good about themselves.





DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

Parent Coffee Morning

Many parents and carers joined us for a coffee morning to share information about family support in our community and school lunch choices for their children. Parents and carers were also reminded about the value of Showbie and how sharing children's experiences between school and home can strengthen the relationship between our two communities.



Andy Preston - Mayor of Middlesbrough

We were honoured to welcome Andy Preston, the Mayor of Middlesbrough to our new building on Sandy Flatts Lane. He spent the morning talking to children about their learning and how they are enjoying their new environments and their own classrooms.



Joe Black Donation

Joe Black, a recruitment consultant at CER, chose Discovery Special Academy to receive his sponsorship funds of £500.00 from the Great North Run. Children made thank you cards and wrote letters to show their gratitude. The money raised will help us to secure the use of an additional mini bus to extend our educational visits around the local area and beyond and support the development of our sensory garden.



ELSA – Sian Lamb

Our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant is Sian Lamb. She will provide children with valuable emotional support using strategies such as play therapy and Lego therapy. Sian will also support children in recognising their emotions and the feelings of others through group work to build friendships. Our ELSA room provides a nurturing, safe space where Sian can teach children the strategies they need to regulate their emotions.



DORMANTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Roald Dahl Day

It was lovely to celebrate the life of the incredible Roald Dahl in the academy this year, and we had some amazing costumes inspired by his characters as well as the children's favourite stories. Reading is at the heart of our school community, so to hear children talking about books so passionately around school on the day made the celebration even greater. Thank you to all our school community for helping the children look incredible and for the reading you continue to do at home to support our children.



Cross Country Trials

The Key Stage Two children took part in an inter school cross country competition at Redcar Rugby Club through the Redcar and Eston Sports Partnership. This was the first cross country competition of the year and, for many of our children, the first competition they have taken part in off the school site. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm, perseverance and determination to complete their runs and represented the whole of Dormanstown in the most positive fashion.



After School Clubs Offer

We are proud to offer a range of after school clubs for the children to enjoy and learn new skills and experiences. This half term these include:



Urban Kaos Street Dance

Tag Rugby



Cross Country



Orienteering





DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Remembering Her Majesty the Queen

Following the sad news about the Queen, we remembered her amazing life through assemblies, reflections and discussions in class. These memories and feelings were captured in our floor books as a record of this significant event in British History.



Parental Engagement and Class assemblies

Over this term, each class will undertake a parental engagement afternoon and perform a class assembly for their parents/carers. At the first class assembly, Year 2 enjoyed sharing all about The Great Fire of London with their audience. The children included dialogue singing, dancing and acting to show what they had learnt in their history work. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers into the academy over the rest of the term to share these events.



Macmillan Cake Sale

It was lovely to welcome parents and carers into the academy for our Macmillan Coffee/Tea afternoon and Cake Sale. We were very grateful for all the donations given by parents and staff which were sold to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event.



Academy Council and Junior Leadership Team

Classes voted for their Academy Council representatives after those who wanted to be considered did a presentation to the class. This was linked to the British Value of Democracy and how representation works. We know that the children selected are going to be the voice of their year group during the Academy Council meetings.

Our Junior Leadership Team is made up of Year 6 children who had to submit a written application form and were then interviewed for their roles. They are already doing a wonderful job supporting other children around the academy at lunchtimes: undertaking office jobs, helping in the dinner hall and supporting outdoor play.

We know that both of these groups are going to make a significant positive impact on academy life in the coming year.





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Mini Wildflower Meadows

A group of our children have been learning about wildflowers and the benefits they bring to the environment. Housing company Thirteen donated seed bombs so they could grow their own, aimed at complementing the 40,000 square meters of wildflowers which have been planted across the town in partnership with Middlesbrough Council. The children planted the seeds to create their own mini wildflower meadow for the community just outside the school grounds. This is what the children thought about it:

We enjoyed learning about the seed bombs and how the bees pollinate the flowers.



We have been checking the flower beds each day and are amazed how quickly the flowers are growing. We are looking forward to making our own seed bombs next year to create wild flower meadows in our school grounds.

We think the wild flowers are beautiful to look at and make our areas look very pretty.

Year 6 Bikeability

Year 6 recently took part in their bikeability training, completing both level 1 and level 2. They worked with their instructors to ensure that they were able to safely ride their bikes and follow the Highway Code to ensure that they were safe and were aware of other road users and pedestrians. We were immensely proud of their behaviour and how well they responded to their instructors. Well done Year 6!



Apple Picking in Nursery

Our Nursery children enjoyed harvesting the apples from their very own apple tree in the Nursery garden which were made into delicious apple crumble. Yum yum!





PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Middlesbrough Art Weekender

Some of the year 5 children worked with local artist Sue to create their own sculptures around power. The children discussed what power means to them and then came up with their own designs to represent this. Using clay, moulding tools and wooden sticks, the children made 3d standing sculptures that captured the meaning of power. This included brain power, the earth's power and a wide range of other ideas. The children were over the moon that their sculptures were going to be displayed at Middlesbrough Art Weekender.



Summer Holiday Club

Over 40 children attended our summer holiday club this year. They had a fabulous time taking part in a range of activities including sports, dance, arts & crafts, climbing wall, pizza making and more!



Sign of the Week

Here at Pennyman Primary Academy we provide a challenging and enriching curriculum in our specialist unit provision for children, many of whom have co-associated needs affecting their ability to interact with others resulting in difficulties with speech and communication. We strive to consider the perspective of the child, and seek new ways to provide them with choice, dignity, independence and self-esteem. Each week, children from Dahl class, our upper key stage two SEND teach the rest of the academy a new phrase in British Sign Language. This photo is taken from the video in which the children are teaching us to sign 'How are you?'



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Mayor hails “momentous” opening of Middlesbrough’s first free special school

Middlesbrough mayor Andy Preston has hailed the opening of the town’s first free school for children with special educational needs.

Described by the mayor as “momentous”, Discovery Special Academy provides a specialist educational provision for more than 100 children aged 4-11 with complex and significant learning, communication, physical and medical needs.

Built on Sandy Flatts Lane in Acklam, on the site of the former Nature’s World, Discovery is among the first of the government’s flagship free schools.

A £10 million-plus development, the purpose-built therapeutic and educational provision will also act as a regional hub for

services and partners including the NHS physiotherapists plus a range of occupational therapists and sensory experts.

Part of Tees Valley Education Multi Academy Trust, Discovery will help to meet an increasing demand for special needs education places and facilities across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland, with pupils also attending from neighbouring Stockton and North Yorkshire.

During a tour of the school’s facilities, Mayor Preston said:

“It’s a momentous achievement for all involved in this magnificent project, ensuring Middlesbrough now leads the way with a trail-blazing specialist facility.”

“Discovery represents a ground-breaking solution to help solve a really pressing need for children with a range of complex needs across our town and neighbouring Redcar.”

“It was uplifting to see the school and wider provision in use, making a difference and improving lives. The joy on the faces of staff and pupils alike was fantastic to see.”

Katrina Morley, CEO of Tees Valley Education, said:

“Discovery’s building is a beacon of excellence for specialist provision and education.”

“Its legacy is already changing lives and will continue to do so for generations to come.”

“The mayor’s visit to see the academy, the children and staff was a welcome recognition of the endeavour, commitment, care and courage that so many groups and individuals have shown in delivering this project over more than seven years. This includes but is not limited to Middlesbrough Council, the Department for Education, parents, staff, consultants and Tees Valley Education trustees.”

The facility features a mixture of bespoke therapy suites and rooms designed to support the development of children with complex and significant medical, physical and learning needs.

Ms Morley said the range of brand new facilities – including ground-breaking rebound therapy using specialised trampolines – alongside skilled physiotherapists and occupational therapists would allow children “to access their pathways of need” on one site.



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Reflecting on the seven years it had taken to deliver the new facility from original vision, Jennifer Duncan, executive head teacher for Discovery and SEND, said: **"It's been a long journey, but you just have to walk through the academy, in and out of all the learning and therapy spaces, to know it was worth every step."**

"The children have settled into their new environment incredibly quickly, and this is down to the dedication and determination of staff to have everything ready in a very short timeframe."

"It's humbling to think that it will be here, serving the Middlesbrough and Tees Valley community, for years to come. It is a legacy which so many children, their families, staff and many others have helped to create."

"Each and every person involved so should stop, pause and take a moment to stand tall and feel proud, saying 'I helped build this'."



Emma Lowe, the trust's director of SEND and inclusion, explained that young children had faced the prospect of travelling to special schools out of the area as Teesside schools were over-capacity.

"Our trust has a proven track record in educating SEND children, so we made it our mission to be part of the solution," she said.

"There were undoubtedly times when it felt like the odds were stacked against us but with that grit and determination that Teessiders are so renowned for, we stuck at it, doubled down and made sure we delivered."

We now have a state-of-the-art special school and therapeutic provision that will serve Teesside for many years to come.

"I have nothing but praise and admiration for those who helped make it happen, especially the Discovery staff who have provided the continuity the children need."



The academy will feature a therapy suite including sensory integration therapy, a physiotherapy room, soft play, light and sound therapy and rebound therapy.

Outdoor learning will also be a big feature to encourage exploration and supported risk-taking.

Middlesbrough Council is currently scoping a suitable site within the borough to build a Discovery Secondary Academy for those aged 11-16.

Voluntary group The Friends of Nature's World is working with the academy to develop sensory gardens at the school and within the remaining Nature's World area.

Trauma Informed Practice programme Lead

Tees Valley Education MAT is delighted to announce Lynn Miles' appointment as Trust Trauma Informed Practice programme lead.

Lynn began working for the Trust one day a week in September 2022; she brings a wealth of experience in the areas of childhood trauma and evidence based research to this new role. As part of this research, Lynn has built up an extensive network of colleagues within the Trauma Informed international community, which TVED will also benefit from.

It is essential we provide our staff with the necessary training and

skills to enable them to better understand, and respond to, those children who have encountered one or several traumatic life events, often at such a young age. This vital work will strengthen our already successful Pastoral & Welfare teams, and will take TVED one step closer to becoming a fully Trauma Informed MAT.

Lynn has already begun working with nominated senior leads within all five TVED academies, collecting baseline data and other evidence. Over time this will, as part of our ongoing evaluation, feed into both regional and national trauma informed studies and potentially influence future policy making.



Community School Clothing Scheme

A North East based organisation is offering a range of free, non-branded school uniform to families.

Please find link below for more information:
www.communityschoolclothingscheme.org
or contact 0191 3223609

They will provide **FREE** generic (non-branded) clothing to parents who are in need. There is a shop tab at the top of the homepage, and parents can simply select the items, many of them have **FREE** postage and package too.



TEES VALLEY EDUCATION
WWW.TEESVALLEYEDUCATION.CO.UK