



# COMMUNITY & PASTORAL NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

Welcome to the first Community and Pastoral newsletter.

We want to show case the very best of our amazing community champions: the children, you the parents and carers, staff, charities, local businesses and all of our partner agencies. Given that we are currently living through the most unbelievable time in recent history, we also wanted to share the positivity, the good news, our unique community spirit and the hope and happiness it generates.

The articles from all of our academies and the central Trust will allow you to see the many small and large acts of generosity and the huge hearts! I've always said that Teesside was built from steel – but so are we! The years have proved that despite some incredible hardship our ability to come together, to stay together and to forge a new, better path has been incredible.

To update you all, over the past 10 weeks of lockdown, all of our academies have been open to the children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable. This included the Easter holidays and May half term, and where parents expressed demand the Bank Holidays too.

In addition, we along with our catering staff, have ensured over 1000 meals have been available each week for families in addition to the government voucher scheme. To date that's about 10,000 well fed children.

Tees Valley Education staff have also undertaken more than 3000 doorstep home visits and distributed more than £5,000 of charitable donations as gift cards, hampers, fuel vouchers and emergency support packs.

We have also ensured that regular work packs, exercise books, writing, colouring and art materials have been available. Thank you

to everybody for sharing their learning and for taking part in the academy family themes – there are some wonderful pictures in every academy and in this newsletter. It has also meant that the communities of children in school and at home could keep in touch with one another too. This is vital.

Within this newsletter, we have included some of the wonderful stories about the care, commitment and donations from the local communities. I have been truly humbled by the response we have received, since this crisis began, the support has been phenomenal.

As the Trust has extended the opportunity for more children to return to schooling, we continue to follow Government guidelines and advice from the World Health Organisation to ensure staff, children and families are safe. We have invested in

signage, hygiene supplies and extra cleaning for each academy, including clinical deep cleans last weekend.

I am incredibly proud of the role's that staff, children and families have played during the Covid-19 pandemic. I do genuinely feel that we owe it to one another and most importantly to our children to keep working together through this. I hope you enjoy reading all the amazing stories that the staff, children, families and communities have put together. It engenders a true celebration of what we have and will always continue to achieve in every academy in Tees Valley Education, every day but especially throughout this pandemic.



**Miss K Morley**  
CEO  
Tees Valley Education

**STAY  
ALERT**

**CONTROL  
THE VIRUS**

**SAVE  
LIVES**



## BRAMBLES FARM PRIMARY ACADEMY

At the beginning of March 2020, the Government closed English schools due to a terrible virus called Covid-19. This was a very unusual time in history. During this time, school remained open for some pupils. Here are some photos of how the staff and pastoral team have supported the children and families since then.

Wish tree - the staff worked with the children to address their anxieties about the COVID19 pandemic at this time and also to think about what they hoped for when this time ends. The children loved making all of the decorations as they each had a significant message and hope for the future.

The staff have been delivering up to 170 packed lunches a day during this time. They have also sourced school vouchers to support the families during this time of uncertainty and have made house calls and phone calls to the children to keep in touch with them.



We have used the website to share children's work with the community and staff have loved seeing all the wonderful work they have been doing at home.

Some of the children have recognised the staff as key workers and sent some beautiful thank you messages to keep our spirits up. The community as a whole have sent us so many wonderful messages of support, which have really kept our spirits up!



The children and staff wanted to say a huge thank you to our NHS for all of the wonderful work that they have been doing during this time. Martin, our caretaker made the sign and the staff and children had great fun painting their thank you's on it.

The staff and children attending the academy have been putting all of the work they have completed each week on a display board, so that they can share it with their peers on our full return. The children have been very busy.

Parents from the Brambles area have been having 'socially-distanced bingo sessions' and other fund raising activities to support the staff at James Cook hospital. They also took the time to have a collection to thank the staff at Brambles Primary Academy for all of their support at this time.

Thank you all...





## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### School website

As well as providing lots of resources and activity ideas, our school website includes videos of staff reading stories and showing children and parents different activities they can do at home.

Seeing staff that the children know well, doing familiar activities, has really helped us all to stay happy and in touch.

One parent said "He laughed so much when he saw his teacher reading a story and doing all the actions".

To support communication, the website also contains a 'sign of the day' section which shows staff signing a new Makaton sign each day. Families have enjoyed learning to sign together. A parent said, "I didn't realise how many signs he knew and learning them alongside my child has been great".



### In school

The group of children in school have been busy enjoying a range of activities with staff, including sensory activities, stories and phonics and number activities.

They also enjoyed using the sensory room and soft play room at Pennyman Academy, as well as the outdoor areas.



### Visiting families

Families have appreciated seeing a friendly face and the opportunity to have a chat and talk through any concerns with staff doing doorstep visits.

Where needed, we have been able to make referrals to other agencies to offer additional support, eg SALT and the continence team.

Shopping vouchers have been delivered to families, along with packs of work and resources for the children to use at home, including a pack of activities to celebrate VE Day.

### Evidence for Learning

We have also used the Evidence for Learning app to send personalised video messages from teachers to each child.

Families are also able to send us videos and photographs via the app to show us what they have been doing at home, which their teachers have loved to see.





## DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Although the academy has been partially closed over the last few weeks, the staff have been busy supporting the children of key workers and vulnerable children as well as being there for the children at home and the wider community. Lots of telephone calls, home visits, pastoral support, delivering of food hampers and packed lunches have filled our days.

### Weekend Packed Lunches

724 packed lunches have been delivered over 3 weekends to the children of the academy. These have been made by the wonderful Ladies of Steel 'Helping Hands Campaign' who have also worked with the academy staff and parents to deliver them.

Funding for the purchase of the food has come from County Durham Community Foundation and Redcar and Marske/New Marske Coronavirus Support Group.

It was wonderful to see the children's smiling faces and they thoroughly enjoyed their lunches. More funding has been obtained from Beyond Housing to provide even more lunches.

A special thank you to Chris and Debbie Powlay who have done so much work to source the food, make the picnics and organise the deliveries; they are giving so much to the Dormanstown community. Debbie appeared on Radio Tees to talk about what she had been doing during the lockdown.

### LADIES OF STEEL



**"Well done to everyone at my granddaughter's school"**    **"You're all doing a brilliant job, thank you 😊"**

### Celebrating VE Day with delicious picnics

The children in the academy produced some amazing banners and flags to decorate our front railings to celebrate VE day. The red, white and blue colours really brightened up these difficult times!

What a pleasure it was to deliver the VE Day picnics to the children in the Dormanstown Ward: 265 in total! Thank you so much to Councillors Ceri Cawley and Alec Brown who funded this special occasion from their councillors allowance and to the Ladies of Steel who made and delivered them, as well as the DPA staff who helped with deliveries.

We know that this provided a wonderful community spirit and reminded the children of this important commemoration.

**"Really proud of our wonderful community coming together and helping each other in such horrible times ❤️"**



# DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Wonderful support through food hampers

A huge thank you to Sirius Minerals who provided funding to the Chris Cave Foundation to source and put together food packages for our academy families.

We want to say what a wonderful job Theresa, from the Chris Cave Foundation, and Vanessa are doing to provide amazing resources to all of the Redcar community. Thank you from everyone at Dormanstown; we really appreciate all that you are doing.

Mrs Wilson and Miss Marsden spent a productive afternoon delivering the hampers to our families.



**THE CHRIS CAVE FOUNDATION**  
SUPPORTING - COMFORTING - CONNECTING

## Weekly Virtual Assemblies

Mr Long's Friday Virtual Celebration Assemblies have become a highlight of both the children and staff's week. They allow us the opportunity to share the achievements of children both in and out of the academy as well as being lots of fun with a little added dancing or exercise regimes! Everyone can view them on our Facebook page.

"Brilliant assembly! This makes our week! Haha well done everyone 🙌🙌🙌"

"Mr Long makes my Friday 😂👏👏... just brilliant."

## Academy Challenges

Each week we have set an academy challenge as part of our home learning. We have items from A to Z on a dinner plate, drawing a portrait of a member of staff, creating your own Superhero costume and designing a new academy logo and slogan.

## Easter Bunnies

The lovely people at our local Morrisons and the Teesside Family Foundation donated over 300 Easter eggs to us, and we set the children a challenge. They had to spread the love around Dormanstown creating a heart shaped gesture with their hands and, in exchange, they received a delicious egg. Our very own Easter bunnies, completed their daily exercise to deliver them to some very happy children.



"So lovely seeing the children working hard"

"Love to you all, and thank you from all our kids."





# PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Home and Academy Themes and Challenges

Be it at home with families, or in the academy with staff, it has been lovely to see the range of activities and learning the children have enjoyed.

Through weekly themes and challenges, we have seen so many pictures and videos of the children enjoying the opportunity be creative, as well as share what they know and have learned.

From space to nature and bridges to Easter eggs, the academy is so proud of everyone's efforts. Well done to you all!



## Hospital Art Work

Alongside our learning themes, we have taken the opportunity ensure we pay tribute to our key workers.

This has included creating banners, rainbows and thank you messages which we have shared through our social media platforms.

We were particularly proud to be asked to create a piece of artwork for James Cook University Hospital. The children created a beautiful floral picture which included our Pennyman badge. This is now up in the Central Delivery Suite at the hospital, helping to brighten up the nurses station.

They were very grateful for our wonderful work and we are pleased to see it is making them smile.





## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY



### VE Day

Whilst we were sad not to be able to share VE day celebrations together as a whole community, we all took the opportunity to celebrate in our own way both in the academy and at home.

Within the academy the children and staff enjoyed creating VE day banners and posters as well as a VE day lunch which our cook Denise kindly prepared for them. The children also learnt to sign along to 'We'll meet again', learning an iconic song and new signing skills too.

Our families and staff also celebrated VE day at home with lots of fun in their gardens and at a distance within their streets. The smiles on the faces of everybody showed what a lovely time in the sun we all had!



### Our caring community

We have seen incredible kindness from our community. We have a very positive relationship with our local Sainsburys, who donated over 50 loaves of bread for us to share with our families. Sainsburys, alongside parents and Guisbrough Swimming club, also donated many Easter Eggs which meant many of our children got an extra chocolate treat this Easter!

The Teesside Philanthropic Society are always very

supportive and through them, we also secured vouchers to support our families at the challenging time.

Whilst we can't all be together at the moment, the sense of care, commitment, courage and curiosity across the community, which reflect our academy and trust diamond standards, remains as strong as always and something we are incredibly proud of.





# WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

## Easter Eggs

During the course of the COVID 19 closure we have been busy ensuring the children of Wilton are being kept busy.

The lovely people at Morrisons donated lots and lots of delicious Easter eggs to us and we set the children a challenge. They had to spread the love, creating a heart shaped gesture with their hands. The response was fantastic with almost every family sending in an image.

Then the Easter bunny, Mr Hunter, had to get to work, delivering an egg to each pupil.

One parent commented **'Thank you so much for taking the time to deliver the egg, as you can see you put a big smile on his face.....looking at these photos has made it even bigger, we miss you all, stay safe'**

Another said **"Fab little treat, thank you so much. We have an amazing school."**

While another said **'The boys were so happy to get there eggs off you Mr Hunter, and they have loved seeing all the photos stay safe everyone xx'**



## Home Learning

For the last few weeks, we have been setting the children home learning tasks. These have been set by the class teacher and have been shared on the Facebook and Website pages.

The Wilton Challenge has been fantastic, with children successfully completing a wide range of objects, portraits of staff along with VE Day bunting.

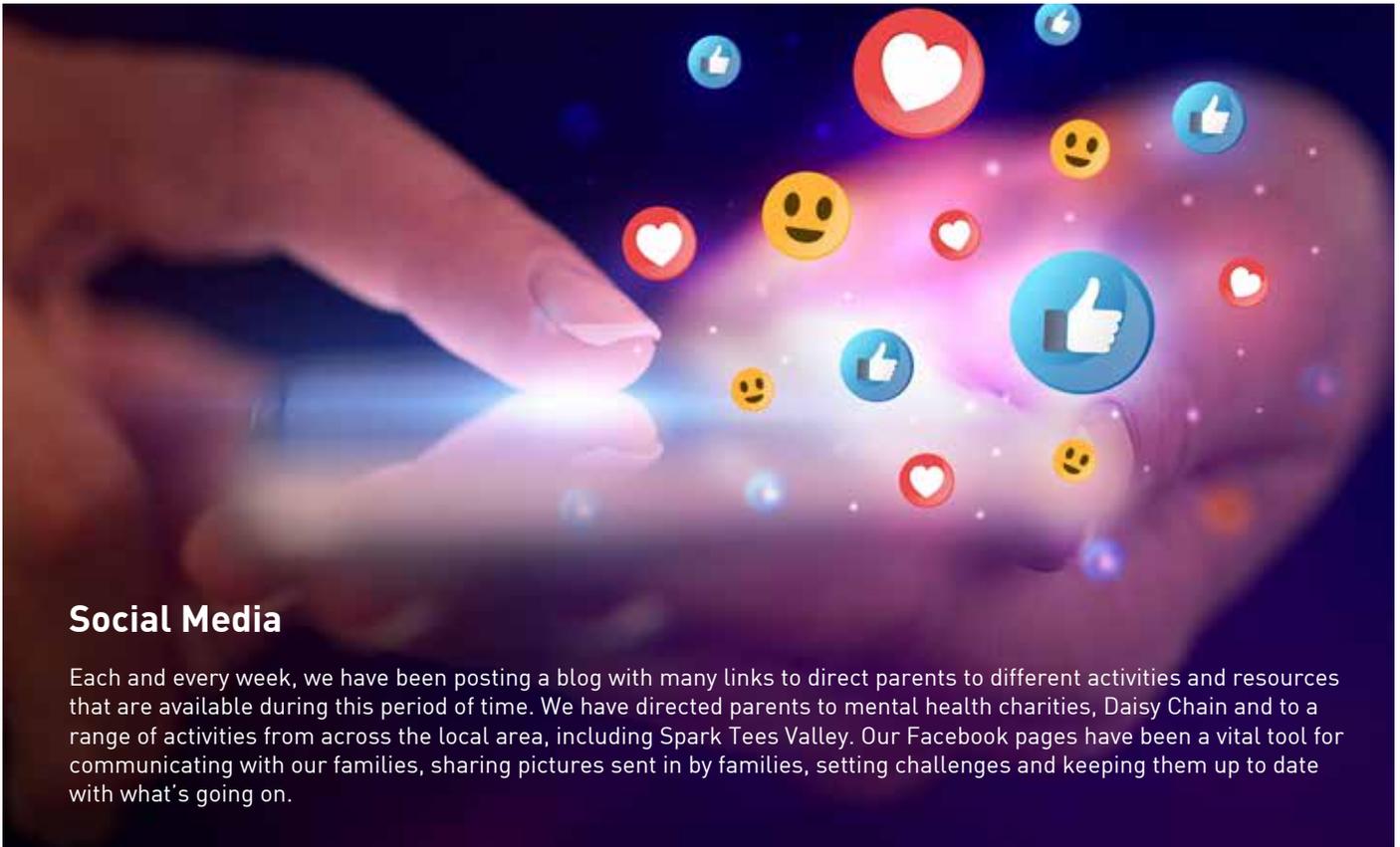
To begin, we provided the opportunity for parents to come and collect resources to help with this, such as exercise books, pencils and colours. The parents continue to be able to come and collect a pack from the academy every Monday morning, to ensure no-one misses out.

A parent said **"I was literally going to message to ask if there would be more material available for the kids so this is great news, thanks!"**





## WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY & DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY



### Social Media

Each and every week, we have been posting a blog with many links to direct parents to different activities and resources that are available during this period of time. We have directed parents to mental health charities, Daisy Chain and to a range of activities from across the local area, including Spark Tees Valley. Our Facebook pages have been a vital tool for communicating with our families, sharing pictures sent in by families, setting challenges and keeping them up to date with what's going on.

### Care Packages

Each week, staff from Wilton and Dormanstown have been delivering care packages to families. The care packages include the food needed to provide a lunch for one child for 5 days. The parents have been so thankful for these but also, it is a great way to see many of our wonderful children and make sure they aren't missing us as much as we are missing them.





## TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Tees Valley Creative Learning Partnership has continued to collaborate over the lockdown period. This Lead group is made up of artists and creative practitioners, who are working on the Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded project. This is aimed at embedding creativity, through visual arts, across the curriculum. It has seen nine Teesside primary schools including all of Tees Valley Education work closely with local artists. It captured the imagination of thousands of young children and was successful in upskilling staff's own art skills. This work did not stop when the 'Stay at Home, Stay Safe' message started...

In lockdown, the project team then turned their attention to creating their new website, [www.TVCLP.org](http://www.TVCLP.org).

The site now provides parents, carers and teachers with resources and information about art, as well as showcasing the work that has been done throughout the project to inspire you and give examples.

Pupils artwork is also being shared using hashtags (#) on social media and new art materials are being regularly added from across the UK, as well the rest of the world, as far reaching as Sri Lanka!

Tees Valley Education Academy Trust has been leading this two-year visual arts initiative, and we are determined to keep the value of art alive so please help us by using the site and posting your pictures and ideas too.

**"I really enjoyed when we went to MIMA and then when we came back we had to be the teacher and show others the skills we had been taught. I also enjoyed the art afternoons when artists came in to work with us making things with fabric."**

Jenson Law

**"The thought of homeschooling was very daunting at first, especially when I have 7 children all at different stages of their education. I have always loved being creative and we found early in the lockdown that doing this together was a way of learning about the same subject at different levels. We have also grown to know what each other likes... When the world was so uncertain this has kept us smiling and we can't thank everyone enough for all the help and support we have had."**



Jan Barker, a Lead Artist Practitioner said,  
**"All of the projects we have worked on are with the aim of helping children experiencing disadvantage. Using arts as a vehicle for learning creative habits gives them an advantage in their approaches to learning. These activities develop imagination and encourages pupils to be inquisitive, they learn to be disciplined, persistent and to collaborate. We want to make this project sustainable for the schools,"** she added. **"Going online has really had a great impact and is totally sustainable."**



## TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Finally, the Trustees and I are really proud to say that our commitment to you all meant that we could open our academies to more children from 1st June. In Middlesbrough the Mayor Andy Preston was on hand at Pennyman Primary Academy- at a safe distance - to welcome the children back to the classroom.



**“Tees Valley Education welcomed BBC Look North to Pennyman Primary Academy yesterday. Staff, parents/carers and the community celebrated the safe return of more children across TVEd academies”**



# TVED schools re-open with safe distance measures

The academies opened the majority of classrooms, with a maximum safe capacity in place for each classroom based on floor space divided into 4m sq (squares of 2m x 2m). Hand sanitiser was widely available, appropriate PPE was available for intimate care roles and all pupils worked and played in ‘bubbles’ with designated outdoor spaces for each bubble.

Miss Morley added: “The health and safety of our staff, their families and all of our children and their communities has to be paramount, and of course no children will be forced to attend if their parents or guardians are not comfortable for them to do so.

“We have carefully considered the government’s guidance and significantly adapted it to make it work for us.

“Of course, no situation exists without risks but we are confident that we can mitigate all risks within our control.

“We’re ready to make the best efforts we can to make tiny steps forward towards a more normalised school life, whilst doing what’s right for our children, staff and the safety of everyone involved.

“Ultimately, based on all the available



evidence and advice, we have made the best decision that we can in challenging circumstances.”

Middlesbrough Mayor Andy Preston said: “Getting schools open again is crucial, but that can only happen when it’s as safe as possible for everyone involved.

“There’s nothing more important for our kids than a great education, so this is fantastic news.

“Education changes lives and gives our young people the

chance to thrive, so it’s absolutely vital that we get as many as possible back in the classroom as soon as it’s safe to do so.

“Tees Valley Education is setting a terrific example, and a huge amount of work has gone into getting the schools ready for more pupils.

“We’ll continue to do everything we can to support them and other schools, so parents can send their children back to school with confidence.”



Packed lunches await pupils returning to Pennyman Primary Academy

Monday 1st June 2020

"All of the Trustees at Tees Valley Education would like to acknowledge the hard work, passion and commitment of our fabulous staff, partner agencies, partner businesses and teams of volunteers in doing all that we can to help our communities and children. We are very proud of everything our academies and children achieve every day and this is even more so when times are hard or we face uncertain circumstances. This newsletter only scratches the surface of the supportive work that is being done in all our academies and there is so much!

As the physicist and chemist Marie Curie said: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less". We are committed to do all we can for our children including being at the heart of our communities, making sense of these difficult times, helping beyond the classroom and over the next months being at the forefront of pupils and staff safely returning to our academies."

**Mr J Brine**  
Chair of the Trust



**TEES VALLEY EDUCATION**

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

