



COMMUNITY, SUPPORT & CARE

# NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and the community,

At the end of the first half term of the new school year, I'm really pleased to say that all of the children have settled incredibly well into their new routines, class bubbles and learning.

It is heartening to hear the usual sounds of learning, exploring and developing through a range of adapted activities, lessons and space.

A huge well done to every child and a massive thank you to all of you for supporting them and our amazing staff in making it possible.

We know that these routines will have to continue until

there is a vaccine, so I'm asking now for your continued support over the winter, in making sure we can keep running safely and can protect the children and each other. The need for masks, space and regular handwashing will continue to be needed to protect one another.

With this news, and continued hardship, please take a moment to share in the wonderful community, charity and support work that the children and staff have been involved with in order to help one another, our families and the wider community, over the last few months.

At Tees Valley Education, we remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure that: no child goes hungry or cold, all charities and community groups available can support with the hardship for our families that Covid has caused and that we continue to support access to service providers locally.

In addition, we are looking at how to offer even more opportunities for children to undertake work at home.

I think that the collaboration, generosity of spirit and heartfelt care and kindness demonstrated in here, by all, is something to treasure. So

please enjoy reading about all of it but as always please contact us, if there is anything else you could share.

Until the learning newsletter in December, all best wishes.



**Miss K Morley**  
CEO  
Tees Valley Education



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

**STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES**



# BRAMBLES FARM PRIMARY ACADEMY



## Behaviour Support Lead

This year we have welcomed the appointment of a new behavioural lead within the academy. Ms Walker has numerous years of experience at Brambles and will be working across the academy to support our children upon their return to school life. Part of her duties will include Literacy interventions and ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) support. We believe that given the length of the time that the children have spent at home during lockdown it is important that their transition into school life is as seamless as possible.

## Let's Get Physical!

Over the Summer, we have had both our Key Stage Two MUGAs resurfaced. This is so that we can maximise the opportunities to have P.E in all weathers. The children have loved the new additions to our playtimes and lunchtimes and are looking forward to the time they can invite other academies for football tournaments. In order to improve our

children's physical fitness we have also included a daily mile as part of our exercise regime. We now have a 220-metre running track that our children will be able to use as part of our fitness. The children have loved running with their friends and have been very competitive and we now have a leader board in each year group of all our best runners.

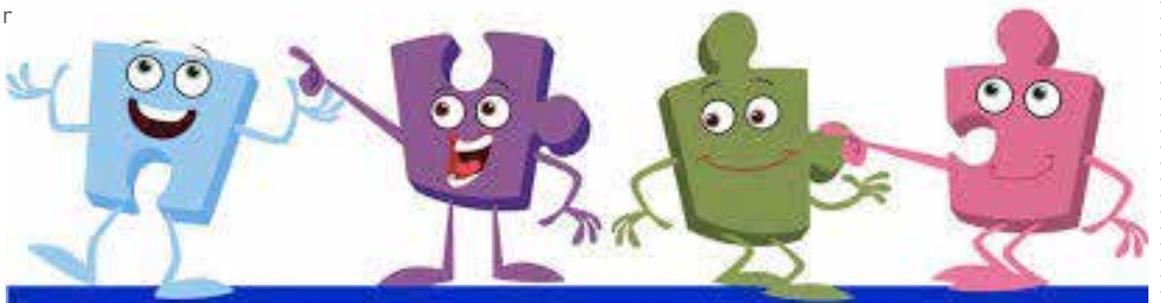


## Jigsaw PSHE scheme of work

This year we have introduced a new PSHE scheme called Jigsaw. This is a Programme for Primary children which includes Relationships and Health Education, giving children learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others.

It has a strong emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health. It aims to prepare children for life in the future in this ever changing world.

At Brambles, we believe that growth mindset is a key component to be a resilient learner and therefore this will be a key part of our curriculum.





## BRAMBLES FARM PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Keeping in touch with parents or carers

Relationships with home is important at Brambles. Due to COVID it has been difficult to have face to face conversations with parents. To address this we have ensured that there are staff available on the gate each morning to pass on any messages to teachers. The use of social media and Marvellous Me has allowed us to communicate and keep parents updated with the regular successes which have occurred each week.

We are excited to announce that we are introducing an online platform called Showbie. Showbie makes it easy to create online tasks and work for the children. Children can access them at home, once completed they can send them back and can get in touch with teachers using this platform. Due to social distancing all our teachers will be telephoning parents in the next two weeks to introduce themselves, share children's progress and discuss how the children have settled back into the academy. Should parents have any worries this is a time to address them.

### Wellbeing Team

Together with representatives from all academies in the trust, we get together to discuss wellbeing in the academy for staff. In our initial meeting, we discussed outcomes from a survey which was completed by staff. We have developed methods of improving wellbeing. We have driven a focus on the Diamond Standards wall to celebrate staff achievements and people going above and beyond. The wellbeing team have reintroduced the Thrive app. Members of staff can download the app which focuses on CBT and changing people's approach to anxiety. It gives people a daily goal to achieve such as exercise or socialising to improve mental health and wellbeing. The wellbeing team also interrogates what staff feel will improve their wellbeing and we are putting these together to create a TVED charter.

### Outdoor Learning Classroom

Over the Summer we had our exciting new outdoor classroom built. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn all about nature. The children are very excited to begin our Forest Schools curriculum and we have also included growing beds, mud kitchens and al fresco dining so that children can have their lunches outdoors when the weather allows.





## DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY

What a settled return to the academy we have had, and the children have adapted to the new routines and rules extremely well. We continue to work with members of our community to provide support and guidance for our families.

### A BIG THANK YOU

We just want to say a huge THANK YOU to the Ladies of Steel and all the associated support linked to the summer weekend packed lunch deliveries. In total, over 4500 lunches were delivered over the last few months to support our families during the partial closure and over each weekend of the summer holidays – an amazing achievement! Each week over the holidays, the families had a postcard with some facts and a task to complete from one of the local services (fire service, housing and police) which were also well received.

We are so grateful to the Coronavirus Community Support Fund distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund as well as Beyond Housing UK who matched the national funding to undertake the summer project. Also, many thanks to the Redcar, Marske and New Marske Coronavirus Support Service, local volunteers, Beyond Housing and, of course, the Ladies of Steel team led by Chris and Debbie Powlay who organised the deliveries. You have all made such a positive impact on our Dormanstown community, bringing a huge smile to everyone's faces and a gesture to remember for years to come.

**“Thank you Debbie, the ladies of steel and all the volunteers, proud to be part of a great community that has pulled together through this pandemic”**

### LADIES OF STEEL



In partnership with  
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND

**We all made cards and presented them to the Ladies of Steel.**



**“Well done everyone you've shown a true community spirit. 🙌🙌”**

### BREAKFAST PACKS

Our school has signed up to receive free healthy breakfast food as part of the COVID response offer, under the National School Breakfast Programme, which is being delivered by the charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast. As part of the offer we had breakfast packs available at the start of the holidays, then every fortnight during term time. These packs include cereal, bagels and porridge to provide enough food for 2 weeks of breakfasts. These have been very well received by the children.



Building stronger families



Delivering the National School Breakfast Programme



## DORMANSTOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY



### FANTASTIC FRIENDSHIPS

At Dormanstown, we are very excited to introduce our new Relationships Education theme of Friendship across all year groups from Nursery to Year 6 during the autumn term.

**Children in Reception** have been role playing how to be welcoming towards our friends by greeting them with a smile and showing kindness towards each other in both words and actions. We created a class charter using all of the personal qualities we aspire to have including kindness, happiness, respect and good manners.

**In Year 2**, children have been discussing how to treat their friends and positive rules for the classroom and the playground. They have also looked at empathy and how we can tell if one of our friends is sad and how we can help. The children completed the Helping Hand activity to think about who we can go to if we need any help.

**Year 3** have been thinking about our their qualities as a learner and as a friend, and they have begun to think about their characteristics including determination, kindness, friendship, being hard working, helpful, happy and reliable.

**The children in Year 5** have worked on the value of having friends, what makes a good friend and what a friend means to them. Children extended their learning by producing friendship booklets.

Year 5 also made some beautiful positivity jars that they have filled with positive comments or affirmations. The purpose of the jar is to use it whenever they are feeling sad and need to remember all of their strengths.

**Class B2H** have spent lots of time in the first couple of weeks introducing and learning new routines. They also talked about what makes a good friend and organised sentences into groups when learning about healthy and unhealthy friendships.



### CLEVELAND POLICE PARTNERSHIP

We are pleased to say we will be working with Graeme Small (C8981) who is the Cleveland Police Early Intervention Coordinator for Redcar and Cleveland. It is his mission statement to work with young people, schools, parents and partners to identify young people at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and/or coming to the attention of the police. We are sure that this intervention will be very supportive.

### DORMANSTOWN PORTRAIT GALLERY

As our Relationships theme focussed on friendships, we decided to link this to an academy wide art project focussing on observational drawing and, in particular, looking at ourselves! Each class throughout the academy closely observed (using mirrors and I pads) just what makes them unique in appearance. We used our new knowledge sequences to develop our understanding of various techniques including: line, tone, shape and shading techniques, such as stippling, cross-hatching and blending.

It is important to celebrate ourselves and also to celebrate the progress each pupil made from their first portrait to their final masterpieces!

In a celebration of what makes each and every one of us unique, a portrait of EVERY child in the academy is proudly hung in our portrait gallery in the academy entrance.





## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Physical Health and Wellbeing

At Pennyman, we are dedicated to helping our pupils to be fit and healthy. Following lockdown, Mr Newham has worked tirelessly to create existing ways of enhancing physical fitness. Here are just a few of the new additions:

#### Walk a Mile

A path of footprints have been painted around the perimeter of the KS2 playground marking out a walk a mile track. Each day year group bubbles complete laps. Each week the leader board is updated to show which year group has completed the most miles.

#### Sport Spotlights

To highlight sporting interests and achievements to inspire children to take up a sport, children and staff complete a Sport Spotlight detailing their favourite sport or physical activity, favourite sports person/team and their biggest sport or activity achievement and the chosen weekly spotlight is shared throughout the academy.

#### Mr Newham's PE Star

At the end of each weekly PE lesson Mr Newham chooses a PE Star from each year group bubble identified for their excellent listening skills, fantastic behaviour, following instructions, great attitude and trying their best.

#### Virtual Sports Competitions

This year the focus is on virtual sport competitions at Pennyman. The first of many competitions to be completed this year is Cross Country in which each year group competes in their colour team during a PE lesson. The times of the fastest three boys and three girls in each year group, will be submitted to the TVED inter-academy virtual cross country competition towards an overall academy winner.

### The Pennyman Library

The recently refurbished Pennyman Library has been a labour of love for Mr Mount and his team of dedicated Year 4 librarians. Every detail from the Roald Dahl story cushions to the inspiring reading quotes spanning the four walls has been carefully planned to nurture a deep and lasting love of reading within each and every Pennyman child.

Our library offers the children a huge range of books, e-books and audio books to take home and enjoy each week. Each class has weekly designated time in which to visit the library, to choose books and to sit in comfy surroundings to read and share books. In addition, our new monthly reading newsletter includes reading recommendations for all age groups. The 'Author Spotlight' features the children's interviews with a different author each month.

**'Do you want to know where real magic lives? It lives within the pages of books. Reading for fun can change who you are and who you can be.'** Malorie Blackman





## PENNYMAN PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Summer Holidays

At Pennyman, we have always provided a holiday club offer. During the 2020 summer holidays, we remained open for the full six weeks, offering six hours of provision each day. Children enjoyed arts and crafts; sport and fitness as well as looking at a range of topics from 'under the sea' to 'all about summer'.



### What's for lunch?

Supermarket vouchers received from Morrisons and Sainsbury's were used by the academy to make up eight hampers. In addition to this, Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation kindly donated five £25 supermarket vouchers. These were delivered to families during the summer holiday as well as additional Edenred vouchers to the value of £15 each.



### Out in the Community

We kept in touch with our families throughout the summer. Whilst carrying out some of the face to face visits, we not only dropped off food parcels, but resources to help keep our families active. The outreach programme LINKS is now back up and running again to support children through encouraging positive behaviour. They have also been delivering surplus food to families.



### Keeping in touch

Over the past few months, keeping in touch with our Pennyman community has been so vitally important. We now have a presence on Social Media through the use of our Facebook page, while continuing with learning at home via SeeSaw. Our celebration of our 'Pennyman Champion' has been a highlight of the week, with followers of the page commenting. One parent said, '**Love this idea for recognising good work and positive attitudes**' with another commenting, '**Well done to you all for taking the extra time to do this especially under all the additional work COVID has created you still have time to do this**'. One parent wrote '**I've just seen this, was so proud of Oscar, he was over the moon**'.

To keep parents up to date with everything that is going on now, we produce a weekly newsletter, sharing key messages and celebrating the fantastic behaviours for learning the children are demonstrating.



## WILTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to the academy this term. They have settled back in to the new routines and are working hard on keeping themselves and the community safe. The whole academy has taken part in creating a pencil portrait of themselves and these are now proudly displayed in the entrance to show our Wilton family.



### Breakfast Club Funding

Although we are unable to run our breakfast club at the moment, we have been lucky enough to gain some funding from the National School Breakfast Programme which is being delivered by the charities Family Action and Magic Breakfast. We receive a delivery of bagels, cereal and porridge fortnightly. The children are provided with the bagels in the academy when they arrive every morning and take the porridge and cereal home to ensure everybody can start the day with a healthy breakfast. Whilst we would love to have the children back in the academy for breakfast, at least we know everybody can start the day with a healthy breakfast.



### Weekly Blog

In order to share our news with families and the community, we are continuing to develop our weekly blog on the website and use of Facebook to share celebrations and news. This helps us to share information and reminders with parents, as well as having a more in depth focus on a different class each week. We hope this goes some way towards helping everybody feel included and involved in academy life. Staff are always on the gate to talk to parents and this allows the opportunity to build relationships and also gain feedback on what parents feel is working well or areas we could consider further to improve the academy experience.

### Outdoor Equipment

We have also invested in some new outdoor equipment for break and lunchtimes. The children are enjoying being able to play with their friends, build relationships and develop their social skills further. For those children who have found it more difficult to return after being at home for so long, we have been working closely with them and their families to help them become less anxious and feel more in control again. This will be ongoing work for as long as it is required but will continue to be a priority for the emotional wellbeing of all children.



## DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY

### Safeguarding SEND and Inclusion Manager

We are really pleased to have had Andrew Wilkinson join us as our Safeguarding, SEND and Inclusion Manager in September. He comes with a vast experience supporting children and families and is available to provide assistance and offer advice, signposting to relevant services if appropriate. He has already been in contact with many families, and if you would like to speak to him please contact the academy on 01642 248333.



### Happiness Boxes

To support our emotional well-being, children have enjoyed creating happiness boxes. The children have used the creative techniques they learned in school last year to decorate a special box or bag. Families have then supported children to identify items which help them to feel calm and happy and sent them into school to be kept in the box. Children are encouraged to use the Happiness box to express and recognise their emotions which has been really helpful as we all settle back into full time school.



### Summer holidays

Over the summer holiday we offered our families a holiday club with full days of varied activities to keep children entertained and stimulated. Feedback from families highlighted how vital this had been for key worker parents and more generally to maintain structures and routines for children. We were also able to access shopping vouchers from the Philanthropic Society to further support families over the six week period.



### Tree Tops Occupational Therapy

We continue to work closely with Tree Tops Occupational Therapy to support sensory and motor difficulties. Even though Laura has not been able to come into the academy for some time we have ensured all our children have been supported with personalised sensory programmes which our staff can implement in school. Laura also supported children and families during lockdown with telephone consultations and developing home programmes and being a point of advice. For more information about Tree Tops see the link: [www.treetopsoccupationaltherapy.co.uk/services/](http://www.treetopsoccupationaltherapy.co.uk/services/)

### Look after your teeth

Good dental health and good teeth brushing routines are very important to develop and maintain, particularly at this time when visiting the dentist may not be easy. Families have been supported to encourage good dental care and all children have been given a tooth brush and tooth paste to take home to support them with this.



### Time 4 You counselling

Our counsellor offers support to children in the academy and was able to continue supporting children and their families during lockdown and self-isolation through video calls and telephone calls. One parent said that **"she is amazing and the change in my child since working with her has been massive"**. We will soon be introducing play therapy to support more of our children.



# TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Tees Valley Education believes that when used properly, the internet is a wonderfully positive tool for our children's curious minds. Our academies are committed to keeping their children safe online, making sure they give them a balanced approach, by promoting the positive opportunities, as well as responding to the risks they may face. Through lessons around internet safety, we are equipping our children with the knowledge of what to do should they encounter any issues.

**Be smart on the internet**

**Childnet International**  
www.childnet.com

**S SAFE** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password. **ZIP IT**

**M MEETING** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. **MEET IT**

**A ACCEPTING** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages! **BLOCK IT**

**R RELIABLE** Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows. **QUESTION IT**

**t TELL** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. **THINK U KNOW**  
You can report online abuse to the police at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) **FLAG IT**

**www.kidsmart.org.uk**

**KidSMART** Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world. **JOINING HANDS**



## TEES VALLEY EDUCATION

Here are a few free to access services if you need support for any issues at home.



01642 241864



01642 249290



01642 218361



0808 800 5000



0800 1111



01642 802282



01642 909299

LADIES OF STEEL



07876 571399



[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)



[www.theteessidefamily.com](http://www.theteessidefamily.com)



[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)



0808 802 2000



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

