



Winter newsletter Issue #1



Welcome to the Leading Learners Newsletter

Welcome from the CEO

2020 has been tough for all of us. Our schools, our children and our communities have faced challenges that we have never had to face before.

What is also important is that we have to take some good from all of this. I look around our schools and I am so proud of everything that is being achieved. Our classrooms are buzzing with new ideas and energy. After the sadness of lockdown, our pupils are embracing every opportunity that comes their way, and our sense of community has strengthened.

So, thank you. Our schools could not do all that they do without the support we receive from parents, our stakeholders and each other.

Please do have the most relaxing Christmas possible. On behalf of everyone in our schools, we really do wish you all the happiest of New Years!

Yvonne Brown
CEO

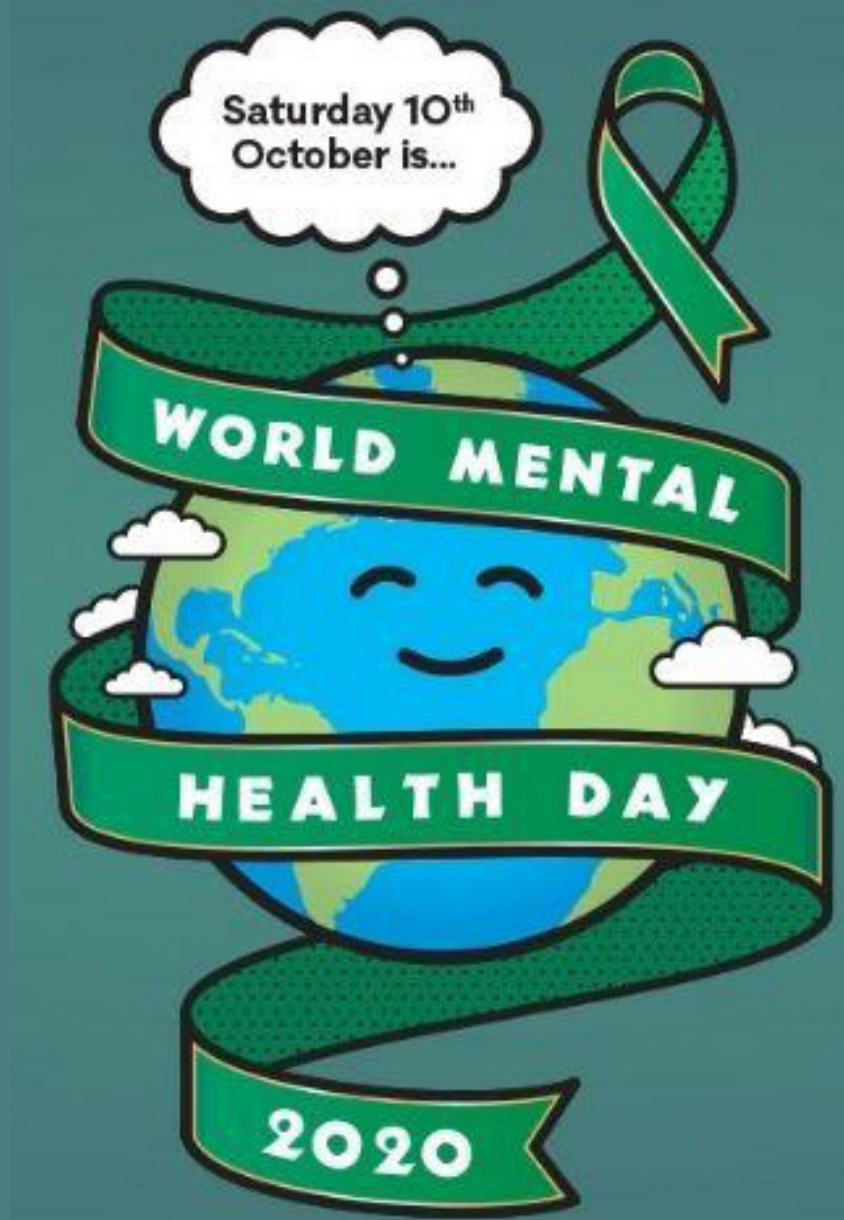
Worth Valley Primary School Focuses on Mental Health and Wellbeing

Staff and pupils at Worth Valley Primary School have been focusing on their own mental health and wellbeing. One of the activities was a 'Worth Valley Wellbeing Day', where pupils and staff were invited to come to school dressed in whatever makes them feel good.

Pupils were firmly in the driving seat, as they decided on the best and most enjoyable activities that would make for a stress free and fun day for everyone!

On World Mental Health Day, pupils and staff were given the opportunity to wear something yellow to support the day, and also to spend time learning about the importance of talking about how they are feeling.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher at Worth Valley Primary School, said "The mental health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff is a priority here at Worth Valley, especially after the time they spent away from school. With this in mind, we felt it was more than appropriate to allocate time to focusing on how our pupils and staff are feeling, and to help them cope with any extra challenges they may face."



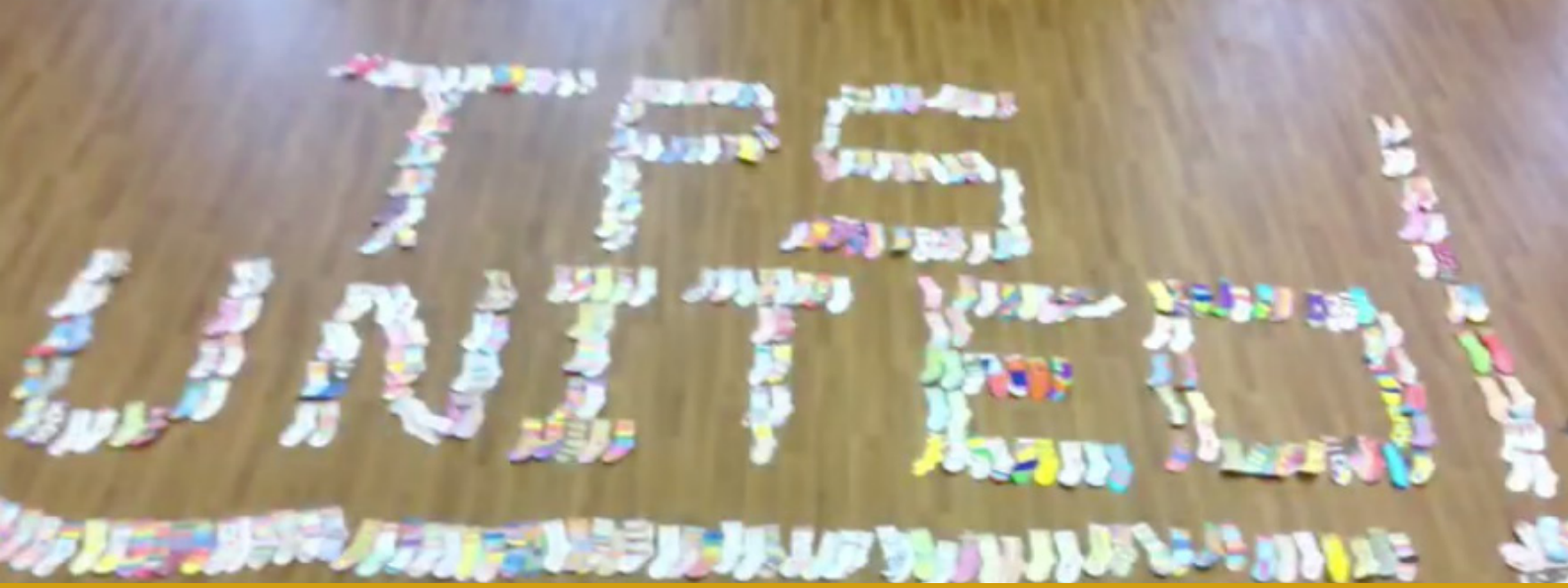
Young Authors Identified at Woodside!



At the start of term, Year 6 pupils at Woodside Academy entered a young writer's poetry competition called 'Peculiar Pets'.

Some children impressed the judges so much that they have been selected to have their work published in a book.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: "This is a fantastic achievement, and is testament to the work that has been going on in our classrooms."



Odd Socks for Anti Bullying

Pupils at Tyldesley Primary School stood united this Anti Bullying Week. Every child embraced the theme of odd socks, the idea being that odd socks represent and celebrate that everyone is unique. Working together, the children also used the socks to create a fantastic display spelling out 'TPS United'.

John McKenna, Headteacher at Tyldesley Primary

School, commented: "We think the project was a great success, and a really fantastic way to bring all our pupils together to create something we could all be proud of.

"We always strive to make Tyldesley a place where everyone feels safe and included, so taking a stance against bullying is extremely important to every member of our school community."

Inspiring the Next Generation of Teachers

David Harrison, Executive Headteacher, has been working with the trainee teachers at Leeds Trinity University to explain the importance of teaching and the impact that they can have working in schools in the region.

David said: "It was great to be able to talk about what heads look for in trainees, the give them some of the tricks of the trade when it comes to walking into a classroom for the first time.

"Ultimately, however, we also

wanted to highlight the benefits of working in schools across Yorkshire, particularly Bradford.

"Our children are fantastic. Supported by inspirational teachers, the sky really is the limit for them!"



Leeds Trinity University

Workout with Wicks

Reevy Hill Primary School was one of just 10 primary schools from across the UK to be invited to take part in an online private PE lesson with school sports champion Joe Wicks MBE.

The session came about after the school won a Children in Need competition recognising the pupil's efforts to support the BBC's annual flagship charity event earlier this month.

Gary Stott, Headteacher at Reevy Hill, said: "Lots of our children watched Joe's morning workout routines during the first lockdown. They even joined Joe virtually for the last part of his marathon 24 challenge he did at the start of Children in Need. So, when we found out that we had won a competition to have a private session with Joe – one where he said hello to our pupils and watched them as they watched him – it really got all the children excited!" Throughout the half-hour session pupils gave it their all as they took part in a host of activities.

James, who is in Year 2, said: "It was brilliant. Joe gave our school a proper shout out and we all cheered when we heard our name."

Mr Stott added: "At the heart of this is the fact that our children deserved this opportunity to virtually meet Joe.

"A lot of our children and families are really struggling with the impact of Covid, but they did all that they could to support Children in Need. They took part in activities, raised what money they could and really got into the spirit of things."



Headteacher of the Year

Mick McKenna was named Headteacher of the Year during an online awards ceremony earlier this term.

Mr McKenna, who was Headteacher at Reevy Hill Primary until he moved to Tyldesley Primary School in the summer, was almost bombarded by his family on camera as he was about to accept his award at the Telegraph and Argus Education Awards.

Reevy Hill joined the Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust back in 2016 and Mr McKenna arrived in 2017 with a lot to do.

Before then, Reevy Hill had received a mixture of Inadequate and Requires Improvement ratings from Ofsted and two Satisfactory inspections under the old rating system.

Then in its latest visit, in October 2019, it was deemed to be Good, with Mr McKenna being recognised for the impact he had.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: "Mick is just one of the superb heads we have in our Trust. His award is not just down to his hard work, but the collective support they all give each other. We are so proud of him!"



Getting in the True Spirit of Christmas

After a tough 2020, things have been getting festive across the Trust.

At Reevy Hill Primary, the children took part in a National Santa Dash! The children dressed in their most festive outfits, including lots of Santa and reindeer costumes before taking part in an outdoor Christmas run.

At Tyldesley Primary, our children supported the Dancing with Dementia charity by making and sending 460 Christmas cards to people with dementia. These have been passed on with Secret Santa presents to add a little Christmas magic.

At Worth Valley Primary, Early Years staff produced a DVD instead of the traditional nativity, with children singing carols, decorating trees, acting out the nativity and reading poems.

Kind-hearted Key Stage 2 pupils at Woodside Academy have been busy creating Christmas cards for the residents at the Springfield Nursing Home. Furthermore, dedicated staff have been collecting presents to distribute to families who may be struggling to provide presents this Christmas.



Woodside Academy Celebrates Geography Award

Staff and pupils at Woodside Academy are feeling extremely proud this term after they achieved a bronze award for the quality of teaching and learning in geography.

The school was selected for its ability to foster lively and effective geography learning, and for inspiring geographers of the future. The school has really gone the extra mile to incorporate local visits and outdoor activities into their curriculum.

Many pupils have had the chance to get outside this term to learn about geography, with our reception children getting to enjoy a visit to local woodlands.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said: "Geography is a part of our core curriculum here at Woodside Academy. It is really fantastic to see that our hard efforts have been recognised with this award.

"We try to encourage all our pupils to get outside and enjoy geography while teaching them about the importance of the world around them. It has been really a great way to get the children engaged in the subject, and they have been really enjoying everything they have learnt this term!"

