



SPRING NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2



Welcome from the CEO

It is my great pleasure to write to you as we end the Spring Term celebrating the fact that the children have been reunited with their classmates once again.

It really has been a joy to see their smiling faces, to hear the sound of laughter on the playground and to begin to return to the routines of everyday school life.

My thanks go to everyone across our community that has supported us during what I know has been another challenging lockdown for everyone, for working with us to ensure that we continue to provide the best for our pupils, no matter what is going on in

the outside world.

As the days become warmer and brighter, the sun shines for longer and the flowers start to bloom, I believe there is much for us to look forward to over the coming months.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, and can't wait to welcome the children back once again for the start of a new and exciting Summer Term.

Yvonne Brown
CEO

World Book Day



It may have been another celebration spent in lockdown, but that didn't stop pupils across the Trust marking World Book Day, with a host of fun reading and writing activities taking place in school and at home.

At Tyldesley Primary School staff surprised pupils with a 'Masked Reader' competition. Inspired by the TV show - The Masked Singer, each staff member recorded a masked video of themselves reading poems, sharing clues and cues for the children to guess their true identities.

At Worth Valley Primary children were encouraged to take part in a reading challenge by taking a photo of themselves reading in an unusual place at home or on their daily walk. While at Woodside Academy, pupils were invited to visit the school to collect a special gift

for World Book Day – a brand new reading book to enjoy.

Children from Reevy Hill Primary School were also excited to take part in a special Zoom story time with Dapo Adeola, the award-winning illustrator of Look Up!, Clean Up! and Space Detectives. After finding out more about the creation of the stories and illustrations, the pupils had a chance to learn how to draw their favourite characters.

Gary Stott, Headteacher at Reevy Hill Primary School, said: "Although our plans for World Book Day had to be a bit different this year, that didn't stop us from holding lots of fun activities for all of our pupils to enjoy.

"Our children loved taking part in the Zoom story time event in particular, they were so inspired!"

Children 'Dress to Express' for Mental Health Week!

During this year's Children's Mental Health Week, at a time when we have all experienced so much change in our lives, it was the perfect opportunity to discuss the topic of feelings and emotions.

At Reevy Hill Primary, staff prepared a mental health pack for each child to collect. This included a yellow ribbon to symbolise the sense of togetherness of the school community, to remind pupils that their friends and staff at the school are always there for them, even at a time when they had to be apart. Mental Health Champions were also selected from across the school, in recognition for their commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their classmates.

Pupils and staff at Woodside Academy also took part in a 'Dress to Express' Day, where everyone was encouraged to wear bright colours to showcase different feelings, with a range of activities and discussions running at school and at home throughout the week.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said: "We believe there has never been a more important time to focus on the mental health and wellbeing of our children, to encourage them to speak about how they feel and to find ways to handle their emotions. This is a central part of daily life at Woodside Academy. That's why Children's Mental Health Week is a great way to bring a focus to that, and to highlight the range of resources and support that is available for children and their parents."



Activities galore for British Science Week

Pupils across the Trust have been celebrating British Science Week with experiments and activities galore.

With activities ranging from designing a boat and creating superhero balloons to building a bridge and exploring finger prints, there was so much to inspire the pupils to develop a love for science.

This year's theme of 'Innovating

for the Future' led to many discussions about how science, technology and innovation surrounds us in every part of our lives.

Gary Stott, Headteacher at Reevy Hill Primary School, said: "Events like British Science Week really add value to the curriculum we offer, and encourage our pupils to develop a curiosity for science and technology in and outside the classroom."



Remembering Captain Tom



We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore, a gentleman that inspired us so much with his fundraising efforts and kind spirit during the first national lockdown, so our staff and children decided to hold a host of fundraising challenges in his memory.

Children at Tyldesley Primary School held a week-long '100 and Moore Challenge', where children from Nursery to Year 6, took part in active challenges to complete 100 (and more...) of something from star jumps to laps of the

playground, including a huge playground dance-off (pictured), which took place on Red Nose Day.

While at Worth Valley Primary School, Woodside Academy and Reeve Hill Primary School, each year group decided to take on a different age-appropriate challenge to honour the memory of Captain Tom.

For example, there were '100 slides down the slide' for pre-school children and '100 minutes of skipping' in Year 4, as well as a giant domino rally made of 100

home-made giant dominoes for Year 5 pupils, every pupil played their part to contribute to the whole-school fundraisers.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said: "Captain Sir Tom Moore was such an inspiration to our pupils, so we wanted to find a special way to celebrate him and smile.

"It has been great fun watching the children taking part in their individual challenges, trying their best and raising money for such a good cause. Well done everyone!"

COVID-19 National Day of Reflection

On Tuesday 23rd March we marked the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, by taking part in the National Day of Reflection, a day to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future.

Yvonne Brown, CEO of Leading Learners, said: "The past year has been an incredibly challenging time for us all for so many reasons, but the greatest sadness is the tragic loss of so many lives.

"As a Trust, we are here to support those who have sadly lost loved ones and share our deepest condolences with them. We also wish to thank all of the people on the frontline, nurses, doctors, and other critical workers who have gone out of their way to carry on doing such a remarkable job looking after the welfare of others."

National Day of
Reflection
23 March

A little kindness goes a long way

We are always proud of the part our schools play in our local community, so it was wonderful to hear of the joy that our children have brought over recent months.

As a special treat for staff and patients at Airedale Hospital, pupils from Worth Valley Primary School recently drew and painted pictures to brighten up the wards. While pupils from Tyldesley Primary School created cards for the residents at Walkden Manor

Care Home to enjoy.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher at Worth Valley Primary School, said: "It is so important to remember the impact that acts of kindness, however big or small, can have on others. It is a real privilege to know that our children have helped to make someone's day a little brighter."

Big Schools' Bird Watch

At the start of term, pupils at Reevy Hill Primary School took part in the 20th Big Schools' Birdwatch.

The event, which invites schools to count the number and species of birds within their grounds, encourages children to discover nature and find out more about the wildlife that surrounds them.

After creating bird feeders from fruit and seeds, the Reevy Hill pupils explored the school grounds and began the big count.



Going Green

Tyldesley Primary School has received a grant of over £5000 from the Environment Department at Wigan Council, to contribute to improving the air quality in the area.

In an effort to encourage more children to ride to school instead of driving, the school has used the funding to purchase balance bikes for younger children to learn to ride and scooters for Key Stage 2 pupils to use at breaktimes.

A dedicated woodland area is also being created, with over 100 saplings donated by the Woodland Trust to be planted alongside a range of more established trees.

Mick McKenna, Headteacher at Tyldesley Primary School said: "Protecting our environment is very important to us here at Tyldesley, so we were thrilled to receive this grant to help play our part in the fight against climate change.

"The children are thoroughly enjoying the new equipment and we are looking forward to seeing the woodland area grow."



Welcoming new feathered friends

There has been much excitement across our schools who have been eagerly anticipating the hatching of some tiny baby chicks.

As part of Living Egg Week, pupils had the chance to learn more about the life cycle process and to see the newborn chicks emerge from their shells, inspiring many discussions about new life.

We received these lovely photos of Pre-School pupils from Worth Valley Primary School who were delighted to be able to meet and hold their new feathered friends.

Art competition inspires

An art competition at Tyldesley Primary School has showcased the creative talents of pupils from across the school.

The competition, called 'The View From My Window', invited pupils to draw or paint a real or imaginary view

of their choice. With lots of fabulous entries it was a tough decision for the judges, who awarded new art sets to each of the winners.

Mick McKenna, Headteacher at Tyldesley Primary School, said: "We were blown away by the number of fantastic pictures we received for the competition. It is wonderful to see the creativity and imagination of our pupils coming to life."



Worth Valley pupils enjoy new resourced provision

Pupils from Worth Valley Primary School have been exploring their new dedicated resourced provision.

The space, which features a range of sensory resources as well as a relaxation area, is a welcome addition to the range of facilities at Worth Valley and is already proving popular amongst the children.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher at Worth Valley Primary School: "Children from across the school have had a chance to access the room and enjoy its different sensory resources. We look forward to creating lots of memories here."



