



SUMMER NEWSLETTER ISSUE #3



Welcome from the CEO

The end of the academic year is always a time of mixed emotions. It is a time to celebrate achievements and share memories, as well as looking forward to an exciting summer break. We also wave farewell to pupils who will be going on to the next phase of their education, and to valued colleagues who are set to go on to pastures new.

For me, the summer break also offers a time for reflection, and to think about the experiences and achievements of our children, staff and schools, particularly over the last eighteen months.

What really strikes me is how resilient our pupils have been, how much they have embraced being back at school and have adapted to the necessary rules – they are all simply remarkable. The pages of this newsletter just give some indication that things haven't stood still during this time – real and tangible progress has been made.

So, as we reflect on some wonderful moments, it's important to take the time to feel grateful in the knowledge that we have faced every hurdle with positivity and perseverance.

There can be no shying away from the fact that the pandemic will have a long and lasting impact on us all, but I could not be prouder of the way that our pupils, staff and our wider community have responded.

I have never been prouder to be part of Leading Learners.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yvonne Brown
CEO

Worth Valley Primary welcomes Captain Sir Tom home

A staff member and pupil from Worth Valley Primary were asked to help form the guard of honour as Captain Sir Tom Moore's ashes were buried alongside his parents and grandparents in Keighley.

Sir Tom's daughter, Hannah Ingram-Moore, said her father was immensely proud to come from Keighley.

"It didn't matter where he was, this was still home to him. For him to be back here in the hands and the arms of this local community, I know that made him so happy, so we're really happy too."

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said: "Captain Sir Tom Moore inspired our pupils and staff to realise the impact that they can have as an individual and as a community. It was a real honour to have the opportunity to be able to say our farewells to one of Keighley's most famous sons."



Reevy Hill is a real page turner...

Books have been the order of the day at Reevy Hill Primary School.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "One of the things that really underpins our Trust is our collective passion for reading. Not only do books help inspire our children and open the world up to them, but a love of reading is a love of learning."

To support this, the school's Year 2 pupils have been

working with Alex T. Smith, author of the renowned Claude in the City book series, to create their own canine themed adventures. One child said: "It has been brilliant meeting a real author. He was just like us – maybe I can get a book published one day too."

A free community lending library is also up and running now from the school's foyer for parents/carers and children who don't have many books at home.

“Are these kids from a special forces school?” - The welcome return of school trips

As Covid measures have started to relax, children have been taking part in the return of some long overdue trips and activities – all of which have an overwhelmingly positive impact on the wellbeing and engagement of our pupils.

Pupils at Worth Valley, for example, went on a trip to High Adventure

in Cowling for a day of confidence building and adventure, and Year 6 pupils also enjoyed a two day ‘residential’ (minus the overnight stay!) in the Yorkshire Dales.

At Tyldesley Primary School, one senior instructor from an adventure centre asked if the children actually went to a feeder school for the

Special Forces as all the children approached every challenge so confidently.

Year 2 children at Reevy Hill Primary also had a day of den making at Ledston Estate in Leeds.



It is a team approach

Senior leaders from across the Trust met for a two-day residential to explore how to continue to support children when the new academic year starts.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: “The real strength of this Trust is our collective expertise and experience. We achieve so much when we are together debating and discussing the challenges that our schools, our children and our families are facing.

“We have achieved a great deal over Zoom, but you

can achieve so much more when you are together.”

Among the key topics of debate was how the Trust is going to support the wellbeing of pupils while ensuring that there are no gaps in their learning after the disruption of the last 18 months.

Yvonne added: “That being said, I really dislike the phrase “catch up” – we want to reimagine how we can continue to do things better as a Trust.”



Feeling tip-top on the trim trail

After the success of having Joe Wicks teaching an online PE lesson to Reevy Hill Primary children at the start of the year, the school has continued its focus on health and wellbeing by installing a new trim trail around the play area.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "It is brilliant. It is really helping the children to stay active."



Kind-hearted Tyldesley staff give for charity

Staff at Tyldesley Primary School have collectively walked, ran or cycled over 3,000 miles to raise money for Manchester Children's Hospital.

Staff finished the challenge on the charity's "Be Seen in Green Day", and raised nearly £1,200 for the hospital.

Mick McKenna, Headteacher said: "Not only did we raise some much-needed money for a very valued charity, we also got to do something together as a staff body – which we have really missed during the pandemic."

Reimagining spaces

Woodside Academy and Worth Valley Primary will both be putting the finishing touches to new provisions this summer.

Worth Valley Primary has created a fantastic area of the school to help support children from the community with additional needs, particularly those with autism. At Woodside Academy, two classrooms are being converted to create a Discovery Centre – which will be kitted out with science equipment to help encourage children to think about careers in science and technology.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: "Our schools are blessed with some amazing facilities, and we are continually able to re-imagine spaces to help raise aspiration and support the needs of our children.

"These two provisions will be fantastic additions to our Trust."



