



## LEADING LEARNERS

Guiding children to promising futures

# WINTER NEWSLETTER ISSUE #4

## Welcome from the CEO

### What a term it has been here at Leading Learners.

It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming everyone back for the start of a new and exciting academic year. The last few months have certainly flown by and I can hardly believe that we are approaching the Christmas break.

I never fail to be amazed by the incredible work that goes on in our schools, and there has been so much to recognise, celebrate and be proud of this term.

As our pupils have settled into their new year groups, they have enjoyed exploring exciting topics across the curriculum and showcasing their talents and achievements. They have also been thrilled to take part in exciting events that have enriched their learning and created wonderful memories with their friends and class mates.

Over the last few weeks, as Covid-19 has begun to hit the headlines once more, it has reminded us all what we have been through together over the last couple of years and the way that our community has come together and cared for one another.

For me, and the team across Leading Learners, this has also reinforced our absolute commitment to providing the best possible opportunities for our children to fulfil their potential. We will focus on preparing for the future of our pupils' education and being there for our community, whatever changes may be taking place in the outside world.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable festive break

**Yvonne Brown**  
CEO

# Fostering a love of science

Pupils at Woodside Academy have been reaping the benefits of a new Science Discovery Centre that has opened at the school. The Discovery Centre, which will provide a base for lots of exciting science lessons, has been filled with a range of new and interesting resources for the pupils to explore and enjoy.

To mark the occasion, Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils were visited by ZooLab, who provide fun and interactive workshops and animal encounters. During the session the children had the chance to meet toads, tarantulas, a tortoise, an iguana and even a striking orange snake.

Meanwhile, older pupils took part in workshops with Sublime Science, who delivered lots of spectacular experiments and magic tricks led by the 'Sublime Scientist'.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said: "Through our new Discovery Centre, we want to encourage pupils to foster a love of science and develop their curiosity for learning.

**"The children absolutely loved their ZooLab and Sublime Science workshops – there was such a buzz about science throughout the day."**



## Science Dome inspires

Year 3 and 6 pupils at Tyldesley Primary School received a visit from the Science Dome as part of their science topic, learning about light.

With the giant inflatable dome set up in the school hall, pupils had the chance to experience the wonders of the mobile

planetarium, searching for stars and planets, while finding out about the universe that they are surrounded by. The sessions were then linked back to the children's current science topic, exploring what light is, where it comes from and how it travels.

Mick McKenna, Headteacher at Tyldesley Primary School, said: "The children's faces were a real picture. They were absolutely fascinated by what they saw and it really brought their science topic to life."

## Learning about nocturnal animals



Reception pupils at Reeve Hill Primary School have been getting acquainted with an albino hedgehog and an owl as part of their learning on nocturnal animals.

The session provided the perfect opportunity for pupils to learn more about different species and the characteristics that make nocturnal animals unique.

Gary Stott, Headteacher at Reeve Hill Primary School, said: "Because they are nocturnal, it is rare for the children to be able to see hedgehogs and owls out in the wild.

**"They really enjoyed being able to see the animals up close and to find out more about their natural habitats."**

# Lest we forget



**Each November across the Trust, we hold services of remembrance, special assemblies and classroom activities that provide the opportunity for pupils to learn more about the sacrifices made by servicemen and women throughout modern history.**

This year, pupils from Worth Valley Primary represented their school with pride in the annual Remembrance Sunday parade in Keighley. Alongside children from other local schools, the pupils were joined by civic dignitaries, representatives from the Royal British Legion, veterans and other local groups and organisations. Organisers of the event said: "Every single young person, without exception, demonstrated such respect and pride while representing our schools."



At Tyldesley Primary School, pupils were tasked with finding '100 ways of remembering'. This included a focus on what remembrance is and how symbols and music are part of the act of remembrance.

At Woodside Academy every class held special lessons where children learnt all about the importance of the day, pupils then wrote poems and messages of remembrance and took part in craft activities on the topic. While members of Reevy Hill's School Council visited Wyke Remembrance Service to lay a wreath and observe the 2-minute silence in honour of the fallen.

**Yvonne Brown,  
CEO of Leading Learners, said:**

**"Remembrance is an incredibly important date in the calendar for Leading Learners schools. Each year, across each year group, we discuss the bravery and sacrifice of all those who have served their country and died in wars across the world, in order to secure future peace for**

# Houses of Books encourage a love of reading

**'Houses of Books' have now popped up in the playground at Woodside Academy.**

The little wooden huts have been packed to the brim with exciting reads for the children to borrow and enjoy during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said:

"At Woodside Academy we promote a love of reading in everything that we do, so we couldn't wait to get our Houses of Books set up.

"It has been wonderful to see the children reading together and sharing their stories with one another."



# Outdoor Lending Library for families to enjoy

In a new and exciting initiative, Reeve Hill Primary School has installed a free Outdoor Lending Library on the playground.

The Lending Library includes books that are suitable for a variety of age groups, designed for all the family to enjoy.

Gary Stott, Headteacher at Reeve Hill Primary School, said: "We firmly believe that reading at home and enjoying reading together as a family is so important, so we decided to set up our very own Lending Library for children and their families.

**"Pupils and their parents are now able to borrow and share books through the library, which is already proving to be a real hit!"**



## What our parents say...

**We always value feedback from parents and carers, so it was lovely to hear comments from Worth Valley Primary School's recent Parents Evening.**

**Here are just some of the highlights:**

"My child is loving Year 2. He is growing in confidence and always comes home with a tale to tell us. He adores his teachers. Thank you for all your support."

"I'm so impressed with my child's progress. She loves coming to school and always wants to do extra work at home. Her reading has come on tons!"

**"My child is always happy and positive at school, this reflects a happy school environment."**

"I'm very proud of how well my child has settled and of her massive improvements with her reading. It's so lovely to see her being nurtured, it's exactly what I was hoping for."

**"I'm so pleased my child has had a positive year and it's all due to the hard work of his wonderful teachers and teaching assistants. Well done to all of you and thank you for all the support you give to me also."**

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher at Worth Valley Primary School, said: "Thank you to all of the parents and carers who provided such wonderful comments.

"Your feedback is so valuable to us and it has been so lovely to read your kind messages about our staff who work so hard every day to provide the very best opportunities for the children."

# Malham Cove adventures

**Year 3 pupils from Reevy Hill Primary and Woodside Academy were delighted to visit Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales.**

The children had to gear up in their wellies and waterproofs for the day exploring how the cove was formed and the characteristics of the rural village, as well as the features of the incredible landscape.

Throughout the day the children had a guided walk to the breath-taking cove before enjoying a picnic lunch by the beck.

**Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said:**

**“The children thoroughly enjoyed their day at Malham Cove, they felt very connected to the environment; a wonderful way to enrich their geography studies in the classroom.”**



## Brass Bands England

Pupils from Tyldesley Primary School have had the opportunity to take part in a special music workshop, led by Helen from Brass Bands England, a passionate advocate for inspiring the next generation of brass band players.

During the session, the children learnt about the foundations of playing a brass instrument as well as the many benefits that playing a musical instrument can bring.

**Mick McKenna, Headteacher at Tyldesley Primary School, said:**

**“Our thanks go to Helen for delivering such an engaging workshop for our pupils. They really enjoyed taking part in the session.”**

## Winnie the Therapy Dog

Pupils and staff at Worth Valley Primary School have given a warm welcome to Winnie the Therapy Dog.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher at Worth Valley Primary School, said: “Here at Worth Valley Primary, we have always been clear that the emotional health of our pupils and staff is a priority.

**“Therapy dogs have been active in schools for some time and have so many benefits for emotional and mental health, as well as providing physical, social and cognitive benefits too.**

“We know that they can also help to lift moods in the classroom, often provoking laughter, and offering friendship and a shoulder to lean on for pupils.

“I think it’s fair to say that Winnie is already a much-loved member of the Worth Valley family!”