



# LEADING LEARNERS

Guiding children to promising futures



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

## Welcome from the CEO

**With lighter, brighter days on the horizon, it feels like there is so much energy and enthusiasm in the air as you walk around our schools.**

It's wonderful to read about all the exciting activities that have taken place over the course of the last term. As a family of schools, we truly believe that all children can achieve great things, and equally that each member of staff

can be outstanding in their role. The wonderful learning opportunities described in this newsletter are testament to how our schools are living up to this belief and providing so many enriching experiences for our pupils.

With Children's Mental Health Week recently raising awareness about the importance of meaningful connection, we're also proud of how wellbeing and mindfulness is becoming embedded within the school day.

Now, more than ever, schools are a place of comfort and belonging for so many and taking a holistic 'whole child' approach to education means that our pupils can truly thrive.

**Wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful Easter break,**

**Yvonne Brown**  
CEO

# WORLD BOOK DAY 2023



**Arguably the biggest event in every school's calendar - World Book Day - was celebrated in style this year across the Leading Learners family.**

At Worth Valley Primary School pupils were invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters. Each class also planned different book-based activities, including Key Stage 2 pupils pairing up with younger children to read and enjoy stories.

All 450 children at Tyldesley Primary School, plus staff, celebrated World Book Day 2023

dressed as crayons. The whole school based their learning for the day on the themes of the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt, ultimately discovering that with everyone's unique strengths and talents, we are stronger and can achieve more together than we can apart.

Children at Woodside Academy created their favourite book and film characters using hard boiled eggs, for a chance to win a voucher to use at the school's travelling book fair. Winning creations included depictions of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Finding Nemo and Minions. Pupils were also

treated to stories read over the school tannoy, so that all children could enjoy a range of book genres read by different adults.

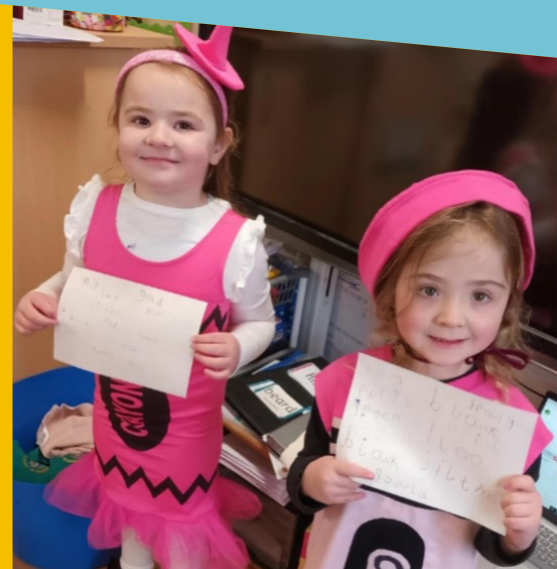
While some pupils at Reevy Hill Primary School went to the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford, as part of the Bradford Literature Festival's celebration of World Book Day. Lenny Henry, MC Grammar and various authors all read stories and children were treated to a free book each. Other pupils enjoyed practical activities such as baking recipes from well-known stories and early years children had a tea party where they retold the well-known tale of The Tiger Who Came To Tea using puppets.

**Yvonne Brown, CEO, said:**

"Across our schools, we celebrate reading each and every day, but it is fantastic to do something extra-special for World Book Day.

"Reading helps to develop and hone language and literacy skills, aiding self-expression, creativity and imagination. It also helps to build empathy and understanding for others, broadening perspectives, as well as developing critical thinking and analytical skills.

"We love seeing children discovering new worlds and picking up new vocabulary every time they pick up a book!"





# READERS GO FOR GOLD

**Woodside Academy's Year 2 Kestral Class** have been working extra hard on their additional reading this term in order to gain bronze, silver and gold badge status, with pages aplenty being turned at home, as well as at breakfast and after school clubs.

Most of the class have already achieved bronze badge status. This includes at least six children on silver and even some on gold. Some dedicated readers are also aiming high and aspiring to achieve their reading ambassador awards.

**Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said:**

"Congratulations to the children for all their dedication to developing their reading skills this term! We place a strong emphasis on the importance of reading here at Woodside Academy so it is brilliant to see the children finding so much joy in books."



The winning posters are also being commercially printed and distributed across all primary schools in the district.

# WONDERFUL WORLD OF STEM

**Ellie, a Year 6 pupil at Reevy Hill Primary School has used her knowledge of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths - to win a 'Wonderful World of STEM' poster competition, beating competitors from primary schools all over Bradford.**

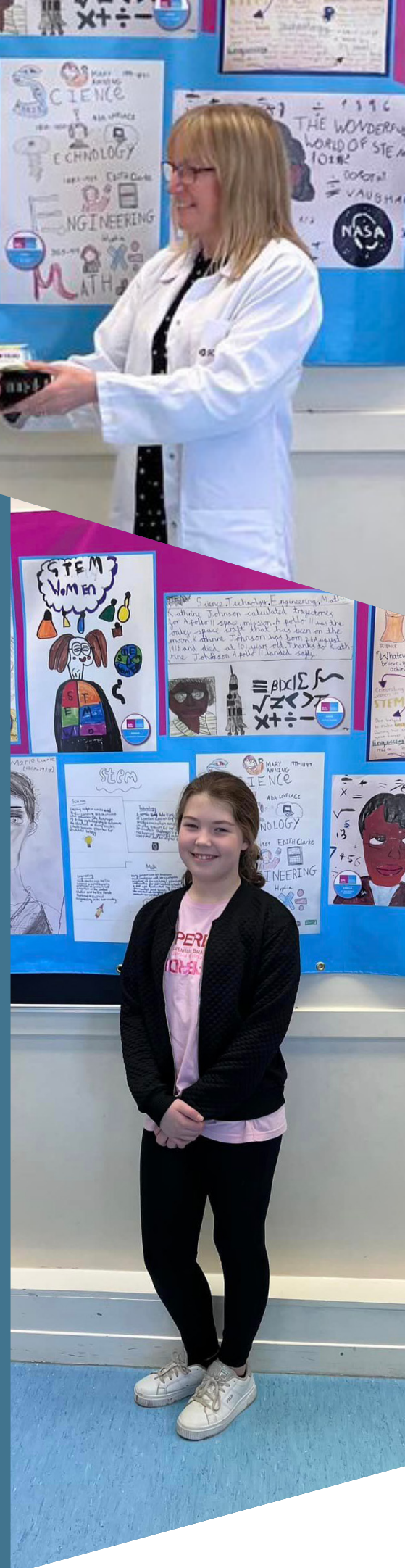
Ellie's poster which promotes inspirational women in STEM, was one of 10 winning creations in the competition run by SkillsHouse - a collaboration of organisations supporting skills and careers across Bradford.

**Gary Stott, Headteacher, said:** "Ellie produced a spectacular poster on inspirational women in STEM and we are all incredibly proud of her achievement.

"Encouraging an interest in STEM subjects from an early age opens up the pathway to exciting future study in science, technology, engineering and maths, producing the scientists and inventors of tomorrow."

The winning posters will now be commercially printed and distributed across every primary school in the district. Reevy Hill will also benefit from a half day whole school STEM workshop and six virtual STEM project workshops run by local women in STEM.

**Ellie was presented with her award at a special event at Bradford Museum. Congratulations Ellie!**





# GRAMMAR SCHOOL SUCCESS

**Worth Valley Primary School is celebrating the success of Year 6 pupil, Riley, who has recently been offered a place at Ermysted's Grammar School in Skipton, after passing the entrance exam.**

This prestigious school, founded over 500 years ago, is renowned for its academic excellence and selective admissions process. While awaiting confirmation of a place, Riley was so nervous that staff promised him that, should he succeed, they would publish a picture of him on the front page of the school's fortnightly newsletter!



**Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said:**

"If you've ever met Riley, you'll know he's a determined, confident and articulate young man with a wonderful character."

"Around this time last year, Riley decided he wanted to sit the entrance exam for Ermysted's. With the support of his mum, family and his teacher he did just that – and secured his place!"

"We are always so proud of all of our Year 6 pupils and look forward to spending our final term with them, making memories and preparing for their next exciting chapter at secondary school."



## FLAT STAN FIRST AID WORKSHOPS

**Year 5 and 6 pupils at Tyldesley Primary School learned some vital lifesaving lessons after taking part in Flat Stan First Aid training.**

The children learned about caring for cuts, bruises and burns, as well as how to perform CPR and raising the alarm in the event of serious injury.

**Janet Shorrock, Acting Headteacher, said:**

"Accidents can happen anywhere, at any time, and having basic first aid knowledge means that children can think fast and help out in the event of an emergency. These are life skills in every sense of the word, and we were proud of how well our pupils took on board these valuable lessons."



**FLAT STAN**  
FIRST AID

# STEPPING BACK IN TIME

**Year 4 pupils at Woodside Academy have travelled back in time for a Roman Day in school, dressing up in costume and acting like Roman citizens, gladiators and gods.**

The children investigated and explored artefacts from the period, finding out more about what each item was made from and what it would have been used for. Playtime involved games that Roman children would have played and modern maths and English was replaced by learning to write using the Roman alphabet and numerals.

Pupils even wrote a birthday invitation, as an example of an everyday communication that would have been written by average citizens during the time.

A highlight of the day for everyone was an investigation into Roman battle armour, with children constructing their own shields, learning battle strategies as well as finding out facts about life in the Roman army.

**Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said:**

**"It is fair to say that Roman Day was a total hit! The children really immersed themselves in the themes of the day, taking in so much knowledge and showing great enthusiasm for history."**







# GETTING BACK TO NATURE

**Pupils across Reevy Hill Primary School are exploring the natural world in a popular after school Nature Club and weekend Forest School.**

The Nature Club and Forest School provide an opportunity for children to learn about nature in a hands-on way, developing practical skills and learning to work as a team outdoors. Baking potatoes over an open fire, learning bushcraft skills and looking after the wildlife in the local area are all activities recently enjoyed by attendees.

**Gary Stott, Headteacher, said:**

“Wider curriculum opportunities are very important to us at Reevy Hill, and we are delighted that Nature Club is so popular with our pupils.

“Research has shown the positive impact of time spent in nature on children’s well-being and academic performance, and it’s highly enjoyable for everyone involved. The children are incredibly proud of the things they learn and do during their time outdoors and it’s wonderful to see how it helps to foster self-confidence and resilience within them.”

# MAP READING RECCE

**Year 6 pupils at Worth Valley Primary School visited the Yorkshire Dales National Park this term to develop their map reading skills and learn complex grid-referencing.**

Despite the chilly conditions, pupils battled the elements and had a fabulous time exploring the beautiful surroundings.

**Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said:**

“Map reading and complex grid-referencing are important life skills that can be valuable in a range of situations, from outdoor activities like hiking and camping, to further practical applications like navigation and logistics.

“Our Year 6 pupils had a great day wandering around the Yorkshire Dales practising these skills.”





# EASTER EGG- STRAVAGANZA

**Tyldesley Primary School has hosted two exciting Easter themed competitions to give the children the opportunity to get creative at home and share their work in school.**

EYFS & Key Stage One children were invited to create their very own Easter bonnets for a special Easter bonnet parade.

While Key Stage 2 children were tasked with decorating an egg, with no set theme it was a chance to think outside the box and design something magnificent.

**Janet Shorrock, Acting Headteacher, said:**

"As you can imagine, there were so many wonderfully imaginative creations, featuring an Easter bunny or two and taking lots of inspiration from symbols of the spring."



## YOUNG VOICES 2023

**The largest children's choir in the world, Young Voices, had its numbers increased even further with the addition of 'The Woodside Choir', made up of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 at Woodside Academy.**

The Woodside Choir helped to raise the roof during an incredible concert held at Sheffield Utilia Arena, where five thousand pupils from schools from around the UK joined together in song in front of an audience of over 13 thousand people.

**Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said:**

"The event was a wonderful opportunity for our children to perform. The atmosphere was amazing and everyone had a fantastic time with some children even saying it was the best night of their life!

"We are incredibly proud of our choir and can't wait for next year's event."





# CONNECTING OVER CAKE

**To mark this year's Children's Mental Health Week, Reevy Hill Primary School held a 'Let's Connect, With Cake' event.**

Based on the campaign's theme of 'Let's Connect', the event brought together over two-thirds of the school with parents and carers in the hall where they enjoyed chatting, playing cards, Jenga and a brew and some cake - the biggest family event at the school since 2017!

Pupils and staff also 'Dressed to Express', wearing something to represent their feelings about the day.

**Gary Stott, Headteacher, said:** "It was wonderful to see all the families at the school, especially ones new to our community, connecting and raising awareness of the importance of looking after everyone's mental health and wellbeing.

"Children's Mental Health Week was a great opportunity to remind us all that taking care of your mind is as important as taking care of your body. By prioritising children's mental health and promoting positive mental health practices, we can help children to develop resilience, cope with challenges, and reach their full potential."



# INTERNATIONAL HYGGE DAY

**Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes at Worth Valley Primary School celebrated International Hygge Day with a host of cosy and comforting activities for the children to enjoy.**

Embedding hygge - the Scandinavian concept of contentment and wellbeing in a school involves creating a warm and welcoming environment that promotes well-being, social connections, and healthy habits - something that has proven to be particularly beneficial for younger children.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in various activities including listening to stories, finding signs of spring, reading with friends in Year 6 and enjoying a hot chocolate and a biscuit.

**Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said:** "Hygge is a powerful concept that helps to create a sense of community and belonging, while engaging in positive mental health practices.

"Our younger pupils benefit hugely from these calm and comforting activities, making them feel safe and secure in the school environment. A lovely hygge-filled day was had by all!"



# SWIMMING GALA SUCCESS

**Eight children from Tyldesley Primary School recently competed in a local swimming gala, racing against 11 other schools in the borough.**

We're incredibly pleased to report that all eight pupils won either first or second place in their individual races, scoring a combined total of 116 points out of a possible 132 points and securing overall first place in the gala.

Well done everyone!





