



LEADING LEARNERS

Guiding children to promising futures



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023

Welcome from the CEO

As we embrace the warmth and joy of the summer season, it brings me great pleasure to share wonderful stories and achievements across our schools.

From developing debating skills to exploring the fascinating world of minibeasts, championing sustainability and raising mental health awareness to creating memorable moments, our schools have been buzzing with incredible activities.

Each story represents our collective commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and values needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

It is also a time to celebrate all that has been achieved this year.

The accomplishments of our talented pupils, the support of our dedicated staff, and the collaborative spirit that defines our Leading Learners community. Together, we are shaping the future, empowering our learners to reach for the stars and make a positive impact on the world around them.

Summer term ends on a bittersweet note as we say farewell to all our Year 6 pupils as they move on to secondary school, and we wish each and every one of them the best of luck with their transition. We're also looking forward to welcoming the new nursery and reception pupils who will be joining our schools in September.

I wish you all a happy, safe, relaxing and sunshine-filled summer!

Yvonne Brown
CEO

LEADING LEARNERS DEBATING COMPETITION

Pupils from across the Leading Learners family took part in the very first Leading Learners Debating Competition this term.

The event, held at the Bradford Bulls Odsal Stadium, brought together children from all four schools to showcase some dazzling debating skills and teamwork. After a tough competition, where everyone gave their all, Woodside Academy proudly took home the title.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher at Woodside Academy, said: "Winning the Leading Learners Debating Competition is a fantastic accomplishment for our pupils. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication, as well as the guidance provided by their coach, Miss Weller.

"Debating skills are essential in today's world, and it's inspiring to witness the progress everyone has made. Congratulations to everyone involved in this fantastic achievement!"

Yvonne Brown, CEO, added: "We are thrilled at how well our first debating competition went.

"Each participant was a credit to their school and brought to life our values of pride, community, ambition, resilience and integrity in the way they worked so hard to prepare for the competition and the excellent sportsmanship they demonstrated throughout the event."

Well done everyone!



WORTH VALLEY READING CHAMPIONSHIP

Worth Valley Primary School celebrated its Reading Championship superstars this term, rewarding pupils who have reached reading targets of 140 times or 105 books, (depending on their Key Stage).

In recognition of their achievements, nine pupils were selected to go on a memorable train ride from Ingrow to Haworth on the Keighley Worth Valley Railway, before paying a special visit to the Wave of Nostalgia bookstore. The children's exemplary behaviour left a lasting impression, as the owner generously donated books to the school, provided book vouchers and extended an invitation for future visits.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said: "At Worth Valley, we believe in nurturing a love for reading and celebrating our pupils' achievements. The Reading Championship allows us to recognise and reward their dedication.

"We are so proud of how well our Reading Champions represented our school. This wonderful behaviour serves to reinforce the power of reading and the positive impact it has on both pupils' academic and personal growth."



REEVY HILL READERS

We were thrilled to see this brilliant picture of Katie, a Year 5 pupil at Reevy Hill Primary School, reading the always popular children's book, 'Owl Babies' to younger pupils as part of a recent Nature Club.

Pupils across the school have also been exploring a brand-new reading area inspired by The Chronicles of Narnia. What was once an old science cupboard on the corridor is now an incredible space for children to read or listen to a story.

Miss Lamb, Assistant Headteacher and English Lead, said: "By providing exciting and inspiring spaces for our children to enjoy reading independently or together, it helps to open up their imaginations and create a real buzz about the joy of books."



NEW CORE VALUES INSPIRE



Leaders at Tyldesley Primary School recently announced the launch of a brand-new set of core values to guide every aspect of life across the school.

The new values, **PRIDE, AMBITION, RESILIENCE, RESPECT** and **KINDNESS**, were the focus of a series of school assemblies and follow-up class workshops that encouraged lots of discussion about what each one meant and how it could be brought to life by pupils and staff.

Headteacher's Awards were also introduced to allow teachers to recognise any children who were demonstrating these values - over 50 children have received an award so far!

Janet Shorrock, Acting Headteacher, said: "The children have been phenomenal in their response to our core values, they are able to articulate them, what they mean and why they are important to us.

"Some of our Reception class children have been so inspired that they have even been independently writing about our values using their phonics knowledge and creating their own Values Awards in the creative area.

"We are so PROUD of how the children have used these values to demonstrate their sense of belonging to the Tyldesley Primary School family."



GREEN FINGERED ACHIEVEMENTS

The Gardening Team at Reevy Hill Primary School has been recognised with the highest accolade from The Royal Horticultural Society, the Level 5 Award.

The dedicated team of children from Key Stage 2 have brought to life the school's values of pride and community through their exceptional gardening efforts.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "At Reevy Hill Primary School, we encourage our pupils to take pride in their surroundings and actively engage with the community. The Gardening Team's Level 5 Award is a testament to their hard work and commitment.

"They have not only nurtured beautiful tulips in our gardens and polytunnel but also shared their blooms with the residents of our local care home, Beeches. In addition, their collaboration with staff from Wibsey Community Gardens has allowed for the growth of shared skills and knowledge.

"Well done and congratulations to everyone involved."



EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

Worth Valley Primary School pupils showcased their commitment to looking after the environment by celebrating this year's Earth Day – a global event that brings together one billion people across 192 countries.

To mark the occasion, Year 1 and Year 5 pupils from across the school worked together to transform Worth Valley's central outdoor space as they diligently weeded and tidied the area.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said: "We want to encourage our pupils to take responsibility for our planet from the earliest age.

"It was wonderful to see the children working hard and taking pride in nurturing our environment for a sustainable future. Our collaborative activities during Earth Day show how even the smallest actions can make a positive impact and contribute to a greener community."



LET'S PLAY!

Five talented pupils from Tyldesley Primary School recently took part in a brand-new local arts initiative, 'Let's Play!'

The event brought together children from six local primary schools, showcasing their musical abilities through instrumental solos or duets to an audience of family and friends.

Janet Shorrock, Acting Headteacher, said: "Art, music, dance and drama provide children with a creative outlet to express themselves and develop an understanding of the world.

"Taking the arts curriculum beyond the classroom allows the children to learn new skills, fuelling their imagination, building resilience and developing socially too.

"We can't wait for the next performance!"



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Year 5 pupils at Woodside Academy have been learning about staying safe online during a series of themed lessons and activities this term.

In one lesson, pupils learnt about spam, which can be junk emails, communications and phone calls, and found out how to respond to receiving unwanted messages.

Some of the children even created a fantastic Esafety song to perform at the school talent show.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher said: "In an ever-changing world of technology, we regularly speak with children across the school about the importance of staying safe online.

"This includes teaching the children what to look out for and encouraging them to let a trusted adult know about anything suspicious they see or hear online."

HEALTHY MINDS CHARTERMARK

Pupils and staff at Reevy Hill Primary School were delighted to receive the Bradford Healthy Minds Chartermark Silver Award, in recognition of the school's commitment to promoting positive mental health and well-being within its community.

Through initiatives such as parent and carer coffee mornings, 'Zones of Regulation' in classrooms, and 'My Happy Mind' sessions as part of the weekly timetable, pupils are empowered to look after their own well-being everyday.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "We aim to equip our children with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of modern life. The Healthy Minds Chartermark highlights the efforts we have made to foster emotional awareness and resilience.

"We are proud of our school's commitment to the well-being of our children and their families, and the positive impact it has on their overall happiness and development."



LOCAL MP VISITS WORTH VALLEY

This term, Worth Valley Primary School welcomed the local Member of Parliament, Robbie Moore.

During his visit, he had the opportunity to witness firsthand the exceptional teaching and learning environment at Worth Valley Primary School, alongside a meeting with the formidable Year 5 Debating Club.

Mr. Moore talked with pupils about the role of a Member of Parliament, and how school allows young people to learn about the importance of forming ideas and opinions, as well as being able to articulate and debate them.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said: "Our thanks go to Mr. Moore MP for visiting our school. It was a valuable opportunity for him to see the incredible work being done by our dedicated staff and to meet our wonderful pupils."



CURIOUS CRITTERS

Reception pupils at Tyldesley Primary School had an unforgettable experience this term, during their exploration of their topic 'Minibeast Madness.'

Enthusiasm for learning reached new heights during a visit from 'Curious Critters', which offered pupils the opportunity to interact with a variety of minibeasts up close.

The children showcased their bravery as they fearlessly interacted with the minibeasts, going above and beyond the teachers' expectations.

The visit not only left a lasting impression but also inspired the children to express their newfound knowledge through writing. Upon returning to the classroom, the children eagerly shared their experiences, with some wonderful descriptions of the activity.

Janet Shorrock, Acting Headteacher, said: "We know that hands-on learning experiences ignite a passion for knowledge, learning new skills in a fun and engaging way. The visit from 'Curious Critters' allowed our children to engage with the minibeasts, ask questions, and even handle the tiny creatures. It was a truly enriching experience."



EXPERIENCES TO REMEMBER

To celebrate the final term of the year, pupils at Woodside Academy have been treated to a series of special experiences.



Reception pupils grabbed their buckets and spades for a trip to Bridlington beach, while Year 1 pupils spent the day at Sundown Adventureland.



Children from Year 2 and Year 3 had the chance to visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Ponderosa Zoo respectively, spending time exploring the parks, seeing the animals and learning about their habitats.



Year 4 then spent time at Imagine That in Liverpool and Year 5 visited Eden Camp's Modern History Museum. While pupils from Year 6 celebrated the end of their SATs with a whole year-group trip to Airobounce in recognition of all their hard work.



Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said: "We wanted to offer some extra-special experiences for children across the school to enjoy, to mark the end of a busy year.

"It has been wonderful to see the joy in pupils' faces, to hear the contagious laughter and to witness them create memories together."

VISITING DEARNE VALLEY



Year 6 pupils at Reevy Hill Primary School recently embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Kingswood in Dearne Valley, where they spent three days and two nights taking part in thrilling activities and bonding with friends.

The trip offered the perfect opportunity for pupils push their boundaries and embrace new challenges. From canoeing on the River Don to conquering the Quick Zip Line and 'Jacob's Ladder,' they demonstrated incredible resilience, determination and ambition.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "It was brilliant to see everyone stepping out of their comfort zones, making their own beds and engaging in activities such as orienteering, campfire songs and the scrap heap challenge.

"The children's enthusiasm and positive attitudes reflect the values we uphold at Reevy Hill and we hope they will take the memories of their achievements and friendships with them as they transition to the next chapter of their academic journey at secondary school."



A ROYAL CELEBRATION

Schools across the Leading Learners family held a host of events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

At Woodside Academy staff and pupils had one big picnic in the playground, including a host of delicious treats.

This was followed by an afternoon of royal-themed activities, from creating crowns and flags to drawing pictures of the King and learning more about the traditions of this very British celebration.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said: "The children were fascinated by the Coronation and all the pomp and ceremony surrounding it. We enjoyed coming together to celebrate the historical occasion as a school community."



A collage of two photographs showing children riding green balance bikes. The top photo shows an adult and a child riding together, while the bottom photo shows two children riding independently. They are all wearing bright green helmets.

'BALANCABILITY'

The nursery team at Tyldesley Primary School has completed a 'balancability' course this term, obtaining certification to teach children the essential skill of balance.

With a focus on core strength and coordination, this training extends beyond riding balance bikes and positively impacts various aspects of a child's development, including their writing.

Janet Shorrock, Acting Headteacher, said: "We strive to provide our pupils with a wide range of fundamental life skills. The 'balancability' course equips our nursery team with the expertise to promote balance skills, benefiting our children both on and off their bikes.

"With a long-term goal to ensure every child leaves nursery capable of riding a balance bike and progresses to ride a traditional bicycle in Reception, we are building a foundation of confidence and physical competence for our young learners."



THE FLYING SCOTSMAN

The Keighley Worth Valley Railway was abuzz with excitement as the legendary Flying Scotsman made a rare appearance this term.

Worth Valley Primary School seized the opportunity to witness this historic steam train in action, waving at the train and passengers from their Forest School area.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said: "The visit of the Flying Scotsman allowed the children to connect with a

special piece of history and experience the awe-inspiring power of this iconic steam train."

The highlight of the day was a Year 6 pupil capturing a stunning photograph of the Flying Scotsman in all its glory, showcasing their talent and perhaps encouraging the creation of a few trainspotters in school!



