



**The STAR**  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



*We provide the best possible education in a fun and enjoyable learning environment.*

# THE NEWS LETTER



Sherburn Hungate  
Primary School  
*Learning through Experience*



SOUTHWELL  
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SENDING TOGETHER



## CEO UPDATE



It has been a delight to see, by and large, our schools return to normal school life over this term, with an ever-widening range of curricular and extra-curricular activities becoming available once again. I

trust that as we move into the Summer this will only develop further and see us able to have our students interact in cross-school events and opportunities which are always so valuable. Hopefully, this will also see us much more able to host parents and families to visit events and activities too as key partners in your child's learning journey.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent Trust-wide parental survey. This will be an annual process and every single piece of feedback has been read at both Trust and school level and is valued. Please watch out next term for news from your school and governing body on any actions being taken as follow up. We are a learning organisation; we want to respond positively and do the best by our communities and of course put our young people first in all we strive to do.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter when it comes.

Ian Yapp

Chief Education Officer

## From the Chair of the Trust .....



We have had another busy term at the STAR MAT. With schools now being more "back to normal" Trustees and governors have enjoyed being back in school to see the hard work that goes on to make our schools such wonderful, vibrant places to be in.

Trustees have employed 2 new Headteachers for Brayton and Riverside and look forward to working with them both into the future – they are very welcome. We have also recruited an excellent appointment into a new Trust central role of lead for Safeguarding, Equalities, Inclusion, Diversity and Wellbeing. This is a vital role which will hopefully drive forwards some of our planned strategies to ensure that the wellbeing of our students and staff is always our top priority.

We have also been concentrating hard on the financial and educational recovery from the pandemic which has had a huge impact on all our schools. Trustees are very well aware of the difficult period all our students and staff have undergone over the past 2 years and work hard to mitigate this wherever possible. We are very proud of the way our school communities continue to work together to ensure every young person within our Trust is given the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This is an ongoing focus for the next few months and the effective use of the 'catch up premium' is vital.

We are always on the look-out for potential governors for our schools; if anyone thinks they could give their time to help support our schools in holding them to account for the continued high quality of education our students deserve, please let me know. No previous experience is necessary as full training and support is given. All that is required is your time and willingness to learn.

Clare Thornton-Eckford

Chair of the STAR MAT Trust Board

For the first time in almost two years at Appleton Roebuck, we've been able to welcome our parents/ carers into school and the simple things in life, such as collecting children from the playground and talking to teachers, have been very much welcomed by everyone. The teachers have also had a smashing time too, developing relationships with both children and their families.

We also welcomed parents/carers into school for our first Open Classrooms event. This was where our children got the chance to showcase their work and amazing progress from over the Spring Term. In Mrs Commins' absence, I've really enjoyed getting to know the families of Appleton too, and they've been very welcoming.



As for learning, our children have been engaged in all sorts of exciting activities. Mrs Cato's class became surgeons for the day, when they dissected hearts as part of their human body science topic. Miss Brough's class made fruit kebabs, developing their fine motor skills at the same time. They were delicious! Mrs McMahon's class, like every other, had their first experiences of our new digital reading library, and this now forms part of everyday learning both in school and at home. Finally, Mrs Watts' class thoroughly enjoyed dressing up for Comic Relief, turning out as their favourite superheroes!



Next term, we're working with the team at Sherburn Hungate to develop a new style of project-based learning using Learning Journeys. It's going to be so exciting and we can't wait to reintroduce school trips and welcome our families back into school for the summer Open Classrooms event.

Brayton CE Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)



Praying for the people of Ukraine



This term at Brayton we have all enjoyed getting back to some whole-school activities like worship,

and joining with families for our Easter Services and an Open Classrooms session. And after 2 years, we have had our first sporting fixture: football vs Staynor Hall with a 1-0 win to Brayton!

We marked World Book Day with a whole-school 'Where's Wally' theme (including the staff) which caused lots of fun at lunchtime and worship when everyone was together! We had the full range of characters, including Whitebeard, Odlaw and Wenda and some very creative home-made costumes.



2 weeks later we were out of uniform again for Red Nose Day, with a superhero theme this time. We saw traditional characters like Batman, the Incredible (Inflatable) Hulk and a whole tribe of Wonder Women; but also real-life superheroes like emergency services workers, tradespeople and a suffragette. Keeping it close to home, some children came along dressed as their personal heroes: family members and even some school staff.





On February 4<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the NSPCC Number Day. Children and staff dressed up in outfits with a number theme and the children enjoyed maths activities and maths challenges throughout the day. It was a great way to raise money for a worthwhile cause and at the same time develop and consolidate the children's mathematical knowledge.



On Comic relief day we donated to the charity to dress in red. Each class had great fun running around our track in a 'nose and spoon race'.

In celebration of Mother's Day we invited our Kellington Mums to come and have lunch with their child before engaging in a craft activity. We had a great up take and our kitchen team cooked an extra sixty-three lunches throughout the week. For our nursery children, Mums were invited to join them at snack time, explore the nursery provision with their child and undertake a craft activity. It was a delight to welcome so many Mums into school after so long, in celebration of this special day. All of KS1 have enjoyed a trip to Ledston Estate to enhance their science learning in relation to plants and they have linked it to English through the book

'It starts with a seed' by Laura Knowles. Our Year 3/4 Class (Tulips) have visited Murton Park to spend a day as a Roman soldier as part of their history focused learning about the Romans.



Year 5/6 (Lilies) enjoyed an active visit to 'Clip and Climb' following a talk in school from a mountaineer to bring to life their learning about the geographical features of mountain.

With the arrival of spring we have also taken advantage of the clement weather to make full use of our outside provision supporting our teaching and learning. Using Henri Rousseau as inspiration, the child have created some wonderful pieces of art.

We have also launched our book vending machine this term. In celebration of reading at home children have the chance to win a visit to the vending machine to choose a book.



As we now prepare and look forward to the Easter break here at KPS, we are excited for the summer term ahead.



What a fantastic term we have had here at Kirk Fenton! We have really enjoyed welcoming Spring in with so much sunshine, which has meant that we have been able to make the most of our lovely school grounds. Several classes have been involved in planting dozens of new trees and other plants on our site, which we know will have a positive impact on

our local environment for many years to come . We were delighted to receive our Global Neighbours bronze award from Christian Aid in March, following lots of work from our school community in working towards being courageous advocates for change. Including a more global perspective into our curriculum, has ensured our children are developing a much better understanding of the challenges facing people around the world. We are now looking forward to working towards the silver award.

Year 5 spent this term working towards their own award: the Archbishop of York Youth Trust's 'Young Leaders Award.' This involved them developing key skills through practical activities and team building challenges, empowering them to be young leaders with the power to help change communities through their actions.

We were really proud of them for working so hard as a group to make our school and local community a better place to be.



British Science Week is always a highlight of the spring term at Kirk Fenton. There was a fantastic buzz around school all week, as children took part in all sorts of different STEM investigations and activities. We also found out about some inspiring scientists, who showed our children how many diverse and exciting roles there are in the different STEM industries. We definitely have some future scientists among us!

It has been particularly lovely this term to see some of the activities stopped by the pandemic resume. One of the things we were delighted to have the chance to restart, was the important bikeability training which our year 6 children took part in recently. They thoroughly enjoyed working with the NYCC instructors, finding out how to keep themselves safe on the roads.

All of us at Kirk Kenton would like to wish you a safe and peaceful Easter break.



Eco work in both schools has continued to flourish this term. We are incredibly proud of the actions that we have been able to take together to combat climate change and improve the environmental awareness of our children.

Both schools have worked hard to improve biodiversity. Children have identified 'no mow' areas of the grounds to encourage diversity of flora, dug and seeded new wildflower areas to encourage insect life, and planted new trees. At Saxton, the Eco Warriors put wildlife cameras in our woodland area to spot wildlife that was using the site. We were really pleased to find a hedgehog had hibernated in our hedgehog house.



We have also researched bee-friendly plants and designed areas of new planting to ensure we have a sustainable habitat for bees. New bulbs, seeds and plants have been introduced during the Spring term in readiness for a bee hive to be brought onto the site for the summer. At Monk Fryston, we have created a new pond and wildlife habitat. This has been planted and is being left to establish.



We hope that new creatures will move into the area soon and we are purchasing new equipment that will allow us to study them.

We have also done a great deal of work to reduce our energy use and replace our fossil fuels. Children at Saxton check the electricity meters every week and have found ways to reduce energy waste, which has improved our consumption. Monk Fryston has applied for a grant to replace the gas-fired boilers with sustainable ground-source and air-source heat pumps this summer so that we can move closer to net zero carbon emissions. The award of funding is the result of two years' work on the project, where a number of obstacles have had to be navigated to achieve success. It is part of a wider scheme that aims to install additional energy conservation measures to achieve carbon neutrality. Further funding is being sought for the installation of solar panels and LED lighting, as well as fitting newer windows and doors for better thermal insulation.

Both schools have signed the 'Let's Go Zero' pledge and Monk Fryston has featured as a 'trail blazing school' in a national campaign including a case study of the achievements to date.



## Riverside Primary ~ Visit us here

We have enjoyed a lovely Spring term so far at Riverside. The children, parents and staff continue to show resilience and positivity, working hard together as a school community to enjoy our community events and outdoor learning.

World Book Day: The children had a fun-filled day when they brought in their favourite books and shared them with their class as a book tasting event. Some children made puppets of their favourite characters.



The Woodland Trust kindly donated 100 tree saplings to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. Groups of children from each class planted a tree at the bottom of the field to create a new woodland area once they begin to grow. This

was a fantastic experience for the children to be involved with and will be a lasting reminder of this prestigious event. We plan to celebrate the event in style in the same week.



As Easter approaches, there is much to celebrate in the return to normal at Sherburn High. After Arctic blizzards curtailed our Sixth Form geography trip to Iceland in February, excited staff and students



departed safely on March 21st. Geysers, lava flows, glaciers and craters fascinated everyone on this action-packed journey of discovery. Our Year 12 and 13 students embraced the chill, got out the ice-axes and donned the crampons to tackle the might of the Solheimajokull glacier, whilst staff wrestled with harnesses, were ecstatic about a lump of lava and kept a watchful eye on our students!

Our sports teams have been busy competing with great success in a return to sports fixtures. Football, netball and rugby games have been played at home and away and we've had some fantastic wins so far – our Year 7 and Year 9 netball team secured a double victory in recent games as did the Year 7 and 8 football and rugby teams.



World Book Day saw a flurry of activities with inter house competition quizzes during assemblies, the launch of Readathon and Extreme Reading, and a whole school shared story – Lamb To The Slaughter – read in every



lesson to all students, which generated not only excitement and anticipation but also a shared appreciation of the written and spoken word!

A buzz of excitement echoed through the corridors at the much-anticipated World Maths Day event. All students from Years 7 to 10 participated in the online global maths competition. Over a period of 24 hours, more than 160 countries took part with over 1.9 million students competing against each other. The enjoyment of maths dominated computer rooms and the library throughout the day as students demonstrated their competitive edge and team spirit. At different times during the day there were over 30,000 students competing to be the Global Winner! We're yet to discover if we have a Global Winner so keep your eyes on our Twitter feed where we'll bring you updates. From all of us at Team Sherburn, we wish you a very happy Easter.



Sherburn Hungate Primary School ~ Visit us here

We've had a wonderful Spring Term at Sherburn Hungate so far, with a range of magical learning for everyone, including the teachers! Here's a just a brief snippet of what we've been up to. It's been so wonderful to get our first school trips back up and running; a crucial part of our exciting curriculum at SHP. Our children in KS1 visited the farm as part of their 'wonderful animals' learning journey and they had a blast! To see the faces returning into school at the end of the day was truly magnificent. Meanwhile in school, StageKidz, led by one of our parents who is a specialist performing arts teacher (Claire Moses), gave our children in Year 2 and Year 5 an experience like no other, as they took to the stage under her expert watch.



We look forward to welcoming parents/carers into school to see the performances soon.

The children have been learning about themselves and how the acceptance of others is really important to our culture in school. We've had many visitors and almost everyone has commented on the natural inquisitiveness that is abundant in our children.

It's not just the children that have been learning either. Miss Mackay, our Deputy Headteacher and Mastery Teacher led some amazing professional development for our STARMAT Early Career Teacher network, and we welcomed new teachers from across the Trust into school for lesson study and professional dialogue.

Collaboration is part of our core values in the STARMAT and it was great for me to see it in full swing. We wish everyone a lovely Easter break and are really looking forward to the summer term and all the community activities it brings.



This term has been one of two halves. We spent the whole of the first half term working in single year group bubbles, due to a high number of Covid cases, and then this half term we have been able to meet as a whole school, welcome visitors and go out on trips.

Our Reception children welcomed their mum, grandma or aunty into school for a Mother's Day Event. The Reception children were so excited to invite them into their classroom, for some this was the first time they



had been in our school since new starter visits last summer. The children had made cards and gifts. They were also treated to an 'afternoon tea' style party. We are so looking forward to inviting

the fathers and grandfathers in too, in June.

We have been very lucky to be able to get out and about this half term and have taken our children on several trips. Year 2 have visited Lotherton Hall and Fairburn Ings to support their work in science. Year 6 have visited The Yorkshire Wildlife Park to enhance the work they have been doing in science. They took part in a workshop, linked to learning about adaptation in the classroom, and found out some information about the animals on site.

They were also able to handle some pretty interesting creatures (a cockroach, whose adaptations have enabled it to survive longer than dinosaurs, and a python, with its camouflaged skin and recurved teeth) - not so cuddly, but interesting all the same!



On Wednesday 16th March, our JLT organised a day for us to show our support to the people of Ukraine. We all dressed in blue and yellow, and made sunflowers with words of support. These are on display on our school fence. We were incredibly proud to raise £464 to send to charity. We also showed our support for Comic Relief by taking part in games and activities planned by our Y5 children. They raised an amazing £424.



Our most popular visitors this term have been our six fluffy chicks, who hatched in our Reception classroom and drew interest from the whole school. All classes were very excited by their arrival and loved seeing them grow.

We are hopeful for an exciting and busy summer term - with lots of opportunities to be together and welcome our community into school.

## Tadcaster Grammar School ~ Visit us here

Sending our support to Ukraine: As a school community the generosity of our students, families, friends and staff never fails to astound. As always, we have been totally overwhelmed by the generosity and support. We have so far received £1282.00 in monetary donations and a significant amount of clothing, toiletries, medical supplies, sleeping bags and baby essentials. Such has been the overwhelming response from our school and local community that Vulnerable Citizen Support Leeds has to do more than a few trips to collect everything. When confronted by such bewildering and upsetting news, what a wonderful way it has been for our students to learn and be part of the goodness and humanity in the world.



Environmental Leadership: As part of our school Eco Group's mission to achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, they are beginning to tend to our school grounds in areas such as the greenhouse, pond and gardens so that they can be further used and cherished.

Their efforts will increase biodiversity, improve the environment, and enhance the general wellbeing of students.



The Oxbridge team recently visited school to present Years 10,11 and 12 students about aspiring to university and to discuss what Oxford and Cambridge offer. The feedback from students was very encouraging and they appeared to greatly value the chance to explore the opportunities higher education offers. The photo shows our visiting speakers.





## Be a STAR Governor

**Our vision is to create outstanding education within our schools to enable every young person to realise their full potential.**

**The STAR Multi-Academy Trust** is looking for motivated individuals to join the Local Governing Bodies of our high performing schools.

Being a governor is a substantial but rewarding role, one that will allow you to develop new skills and networks, as well as use your existing skills and experience to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.

Support and training for this role will be provided.  
Please visit the STAR MAT website for an application form

<https://web.starmat.uk/governance/governor-information/>

