February 2021

NEWSLETTER

Lighting the Way Forward in Education

Northern Star Academies Trust

Lighting the way forward in education

Welcome to our February 2021 Trust Newsletter to Parents and Carers.



Our theme for this edition is **RENEW**, as we notice the first signs of Spring, we lift our heads up and look and plan for the coming months and term ahead.

For the second time in less than a year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to again close for most children. Since the beginning of the crisis our Trust Partnership - pupils, staff and parents have faced unprecedented times, be it a disrupted Autumn Term, cancelled exams and now a second school closure. I'm immensely proud of our schools and the way they have soaked up the curve-balls and very rapidly been able to deliver bespoke home learning through a wide variety of means, be it digital, online or offline methods. All your child's home learning plans can be found either on their school's website or through the Parent Apps that we have in place.

We know that none of what we are asking of parents/ carers is easy, many of us are parents ourselves, juggling very similar experiences. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's school should you need any support, help or guidance – staff are on hand to always help.

A poem for this moment in time...

'This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

***Try as best you can**, not to let*
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
Time will come good
And you will find your feet

Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.'

- John O'Donohue









With warmest wishes,

Jenn Plews
Trust Leader (CEO)

COVID Testing, Testing, 1,2,3!

skipton girls' high school
an engineering academy

As an additional health protection measure to help keep pupils and staff safer in schools, the government announced just before the Christmas holiday a plan to run voluntary COVID testing from January in secondary settings and for primary schools to follow on later in the term.

Research has suggested that up to a third of people who have the virus do not display symptoms, i.e. are asymptomatic, so testing in schools could help identify individuals who are infectious, needed to isolate and, therefore, break the chain of transmission of the virus.

The tests used are Lateral Flow Devices and are self-administered. These devices do not need to be processed in a laboratory and are considered safe and easy to use for non-clinicians.



(Above) *Member of the SGHS testing team in PPE*



(Above) *Harrogate High School testing site*



(Above) *Skipton Girls' High School testing site*

Testing in Secondary Schools

Secondary schools are considered as an "administered testing site" for pupils and staff, but how did we set not one, but two up at Skipton Girls' High School and Harrogate High School? There were so many questions around what was expected; how to keep everyone safe?, how we were going to resource it?, where is most appropriate for a testing site and lots more! At the core of the planning was care and thought for our amazing young people and staff, we were keen to ensure that this was done properly, safely, with the correct governance and compliance to give everyone the best experience we could.

As lockdown was announced, plans changed to test those who were currently attending school. Pupils attending are tested on return to school and then 3-5 days later. Staff have access to twice weekly testing, depending on when they are in school. With dry runs of both operations underway it provided a chance to fine tune the operations before going live.

So far, both NSAT secondary schools have undertaken approximately 300 tests between them. Well done to the testing teams and those being tested!

If you want to see what's involved when visiting the testing sites and undertaking a test, go to the NSAT website to take a look at a short video.

Testing in Primary Schools

Testing, again, is voluntary, and is only for staff who are currently attending school. For primary school staff, the Lateral Flow Device tests are administered by staff at home. Testing will commence over the next couple of weeks when communication and training has happened.

Thank you!

We are proud of what we have achieved since the start of term. Thank you to all our talented teams involved in setting this up with gusto and passion on top of their "normal" roles. Thank you to pupils, parents and staff for the overwhelmingly positive support and participation. We salute you all and we are proud to be part of such a wonderful, warm, caring Trust and School community.

Cindy Haymes
NSAT Data & Compliance Director

Eastwood Community School

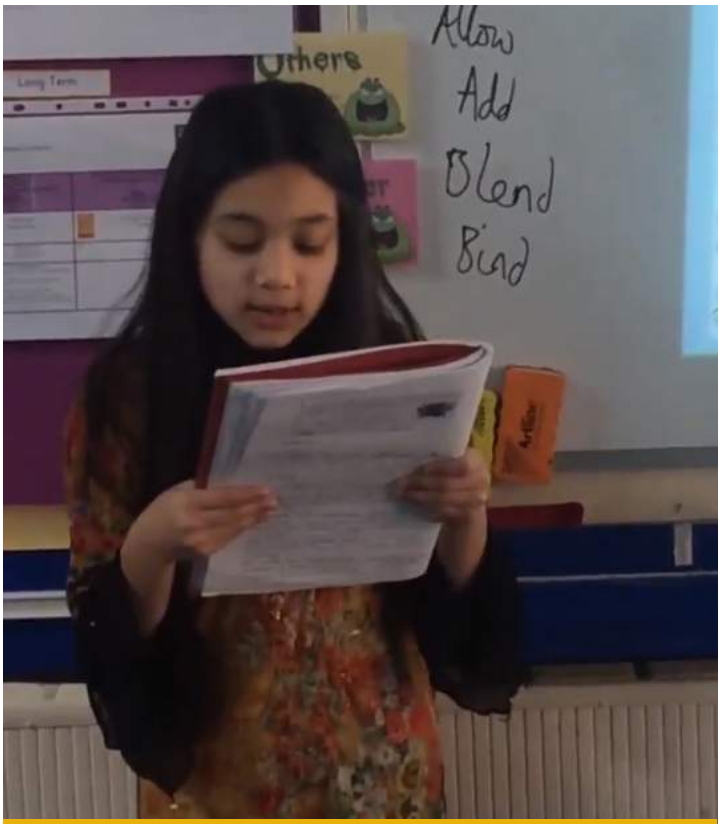
Year 5 Poetry

Year 5 have been inspired by the writing of Benjam Zephaniah and especially his work 'The British Poem', and have been trying their hands at writing in a similar style.

Hanifa presented her poem about Eastwood school.
#poetry #TheBritishPoem #TheEastwoodPoem #Equality

Benjamin was kind enough to respond to Hanifa's work on Twitter:





Click to watch Hanifa's reading

50 Things To Do Before You're Five

Here at Eastwood, we love and embrace the 50 Things To Do Before You're Five initiative and have recently been asked to produce some content to be included in a promotional video detailing our commitment, which has now been published across the District.

The video features interviews with parents discussing why they love '50 Things' and how using the app has provided some excellent suggestions for things to do with their children outside of school like walking, baking and painting.

We invite our families to Foundation Theme days, where we showcase a range of activities for parents to join in with their children. Below you can see our Summer Picnic, The Great Outdoors and Splash Day events.







Big Schools' Birdwatch

We have successfully completed the UK Schools Birdwatch again this year and have been filmed for a case study for them too.

Here you can see Year 5 on their bird watch. We saw lots of different birds, a tree creeper, redwings and long tailed tits to name but a few of the unusual ones.
#outdoorlearningbirdwatchingicycold







If I Was Mayor of Keighley

We have been learning about **'change-makers'** and here are some of the posters that our students have created showing what they'd do to make Keighley better - something which ties nicely to the fact that Eastwood are one of 3 Trust schools leading on the NSAT Year of Waste Challenge!

We look forward to seeing the posters being created at home
#IfIWasMayorofKeighley #visionary #pupilvoice

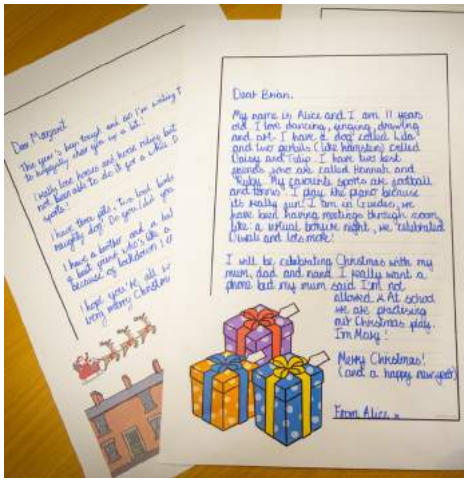


Starbeck Primary Academy

Housebuilder and Youngsters Help to Combat Loneliness

We recently teamed up with housebuilder 'Barratt Homes' to create Christmas letters of well-wishes for the residents of Granby Rose Care home in Harrogate to try and help combat loneliness. We were thrilled to take part and try and provide some comfort to residents who have spent the majority of the year away from their loved ones.

On receiving the letters,Gillian Allatt, home manager at Granby rose care Home, said: *"All of the residents loved reading the letters from the children at Starbeck Primary Academy, it was a much needed morale boost this year!*





Lapland Challenge

At the start of December we began our health and fitness focussed **'Lapland Challenge',** in which we attempted to reach Lapland through collective miles covered by walking, running, cycling and scooter riding!

By the end of Week 1 of the challenge we had already almost reached our destination, which was an amazing accomplishment. After Week 2, we had clocked up a massive 2498.5 miles, easily reaching Lapland and by the end of the challenge we had done the return journey as well!







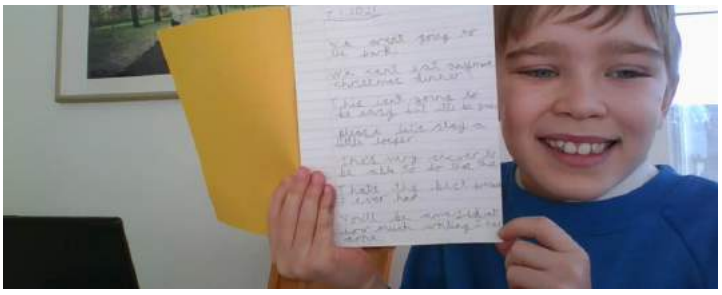
Remote Learning

We have been seeing some fantastic effort so far with remote learning. Our teachers are reporting enthusiasm and resilience while getting used to the different tasks both on screen and transferring to lovely book work. Here are some great examples so far which we will keep sharing.

Thanks to parents and carers for all your support and a big well done to all children. 👏👏











Christmas Nativity

We were proud to present our first virtual whole school nativity back in December, performed by all children from Nursery to Year 6 .

Watch the performance



Ice Hangings

Our keyworker children have been enjoying the recent cold weather. The younger children have experimented with ice and created these amazing natural ice hangings - they looked beautiful hung up in school!







Greatwood Community Primary & Nursery School

Snow Day Fun

Many thanks to all of our families who sent in their wonderful Snow Day photographs, it really did brighten what was a very tough week. Here are some of our favourite photographs that were sent in!













Books Abound

We have recently received **£960** of Usborne books thanks to our magnificent whole school sponsored reading event. **Many thanks to everyone who took part, our FROGS group and to Mrs Finch for making this happen!**



Home Learning

The standard of remote learning that has been taking place is exceptional, we would like to thank the incredible Greatwood team, they are working tirelessly to ensure that the standard of remote learning in place is Outstanding, that work is responded to and approved quickly.

They are also ensuring that the children of critical workers, children with EHCPs and vulnerable children are also receiving an Outstanding offer within school. The superb Admin team have worked tirelessly to set up rota's, contact parents and ensure that all families in receipt of FSM are receiving their food vouchers. Our catering and cleaning team are ensuring that children who are in school have hot meals every day and that the building is clean and safe to be in.



Skipton Girls' High School

skipton girls' high school
an engineering academy

Virtual Art Exhibition

We were very sad not to be able to showcase the amazing talent of our Art and Photography students at the end of last year. We have put a video together which shows a snapshot of what they produced. We hope you enjoy it.

Well done Year 11 and Year 13!

Video Link:
https://youtu.be/eOXA5Qz-T1c



Click to watch

#teampoetlaureate

At the end of last year, the English Department held an inaugural competition to find a group of students to become Poet Laureates within the school. We were inundated with wonderful entries from all year groups on the theme of 'The New Normal' and choosing the final eight for the team was incredibly hard.

Having read the poems, discussed the entries and taken feedback from members of staff in other departments, we are thrilled to inform you of the students who make up the first ever SGHS **#teampoetlaureate.**

Our poets have already been very busy with their first commission: *'A Review of 2020'.* Their poems were outstanding and brilliant pieces of art.



Congratulations to:

Isabelle Mitchell -
Poet Laureate Leader - Year 12

Sahar Shahzad -
Poet Laureate Leader - Year 10

Rosa Birks -
Year 10

Sai Chinmayee Naresh Kumaar -
Year 9

Emilia Simons-Gray -
Year 9

Holly McBeth -
Year 8

Hafsa Abdus-Sami -
Year 8

Adelie Tuck -
Year 7

Hookstone Chase Primary School

Antarctica Projects

Hawthorn have been really getting into their Antarctica projects! Looking forward to seeing how these inspire further research into the coldest, windiest and most formidable continent! ❄️ ⛄

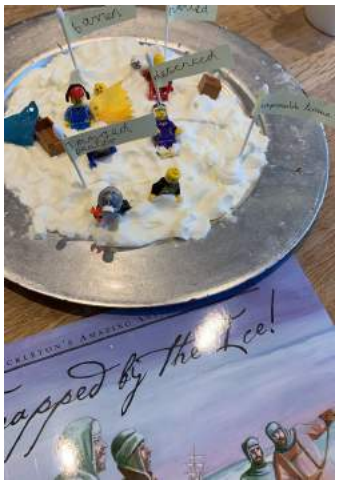
Silver Birch class also thoroughly enjoying their project on Antarctica and found inventive ways to display their work. Well done everyone, keep up the hard work! 😀











Lovely Gifts from our Parents

What a lovely surprise for our in school staff from lovely parents thanking us for our work in difficult circumstances. Otto clearly thinks he qualifies for a delicious scone.

Thanks Mr and Mrs Spence. This kindness made our day! 🧁



Dolphin Vocabulary

Some of Hawthorn and Beech's wonderful vocabulary dolphins created using Word Art. The words were chosen by the children using Chapter 4 of 'Song of a Dolphin Boy'









New Park Primary Academy

Christmas Lunch

We were treated to a delicious feast back in December by our wonderful cooks, Jane and Paul.

It was so lovely to have the children all together (socially distanced, of course) and in their Christmas jumpers.

What a fantastic way to end the term!






EYFS Detectives!

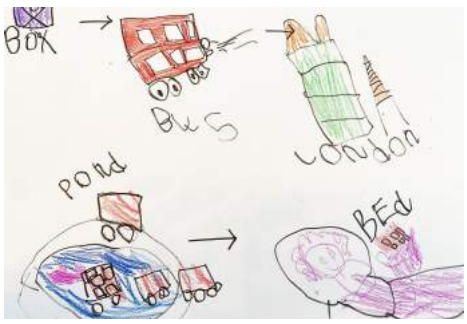
Some very strange goings-on in the EYFS classroom. We have found some track marks, a smart hat, a mysterious bus ticket and a strange note! The children have been using their detective brains to work out who they think might be responsible for this chaos!



Story Maps

We love these story maps that Reception have made to retell the story of 'The Naughty Bus' and remember all the different places it visits! **What's your favourite destination in the story?**





Celebrating our NHS Heroes

What. A. Superstar!

Miss Watson recently encouraged all the children to make and send something wonderful to our local NHS heroes.

We are blown away by this masterpiece - such a beautiful piece of artwork that I am sure will bring a smile to all the doctors and nurses!





Holycroft Primary School and Nursery

HOLYCROFT
Primary School and Nursery

Chocolates for Everyone

A big thank you to one of our Year 6 pupils and his older sister -an ex pupil, who have saved up their spending money to buy chocolates for the whole school! They have also bought biscuits for 'families in need' this Christmas. **We are so grateful for their kindness.**



Christmas Cards

Each of our classes made these Christmas cards for the amazing students at Skipton Girls' High School. We did however have to apologise in advance to Mr Turner for the all the extra glitter!





Party Afternoon

We had a fantastic party afternoon in December. It was lovely having all the children together, dancing in their class bubbles.

A great chance to be together again as the Holycroft family!



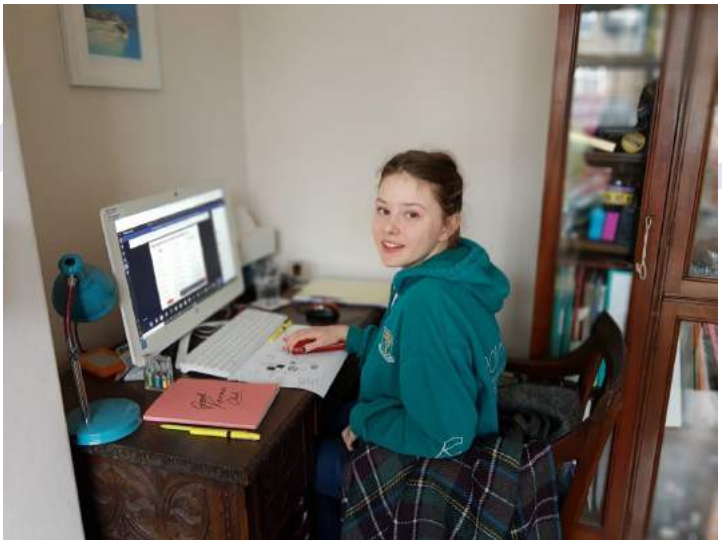


Harrogate High School

Home Learning

It is lovely to be able to see what our students are getting up to in lockdown in addition to home schooling. #HHSSchoolfamily

Giorgia working hard home learning.



Edward has taken over his sitting room! He brings logs in and lights his fire every morning to keep warm, then gets down to home schooling (great job Edward!)

Apparently he has also set up a movie cinema for the evenings! Sounds rather lovely!



Ethan received a blacksmithing forge for Christmas and after he has finished school for the day he gets out in the garage and makes things from metal. How wonderful! We look forward to seeing some of your creations Ethan!



Frankie has been working hard, enjoying live lessons and really happy to see friends in form time. After school the other day she made scones. They look absolutely delicious Frankie! Next **#juniorbakeoff** perhaps? Keep up the good work!



Great to see what Nathan is achieving in his Friday morning PE lesson! Impressive!

Well done Nathan and thanks for sharing.

