



The STAR
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



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

THE NEWS LETTER



CEO UPDATE



December 2023

As we approach the school holidays, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. The spirit of Christmas reminds us of the importance of unity, kindness and joy. In our Trust, each family contributes to the vibrant tapestry of our community.

May this holiday season bring you moments of joy, shared laughter, and cherished memories with your loved ones. As we reflect on the past year's achievements and challenges, I'm grateful for the collective effort of our dedicated school teams, supportive parents, and, most importantly, our students.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Together, we continue to foster an environment where every child can flourish academically and personally.

May the coming year bring new opportunities for growth, learning, and success.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Kind regards

Ian Yapp



From the Chair of the Trust Board: Nick Sheppard



I know for everyone - staff, and pupils - this has been a long term, but much achieved within it.

We've had Leaders being trained as Ofsted and SIAMs Inspectors (and many congratulations on their appointments), and we have also been subject to Inspection by Ofsted within more of our schools. We are delighted with the outcomes of these inspections which reflect the quality of both our schools and our exceptional staff.

We are a Trust rooted in the community. It is a privilege to have been appointed as Chair to the Trust Board and I look forward to serving in this role. I believe strongly in our Trust and that it will continue to positively impact those who attend our schools, now, and in the future, and our community more widely. In a time of change and challenge, schools provide a constant; a safe and supportive environment where young people are equipped for life - where horizons are broadened, young people are inspired, and futures shaped - all of our staff are exceptional and we are so fortunate to have them.

From the Trust Board, a huge thank you to each and every employee, worker, volunteer, and other supporters. Every day you make a difference to lives and create memories that will be cherished.

Whilst risking ridicule, I'm not ashamed to admit that my favourite films of Christmas are "Nativity" and "Love Actually" - whilst I think anyone would be hard pushed not to, at least, smile, and, quite probably, shed a tear or two at the unashamed sentimentality of these two, it is worth remembering both have key themes in or around schools. I think that's because that's where the magic really is done!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas - in a time and climate when many, close to home and much further away, won't get what they hope for this year, let's be kind in words and generous in thought, acts and spirit. I hope you stay safe and well at this festive time and my very best wishes for 2024.

The academic year has started brilliantly in both of our schools, with pupils once again engaged in great learning and fun activities. New children in both schools have made an impressive start and are really settled, and already feel a big part of our family.

Saxton School has an entirely new teaching team this year. We are delighted to welcome Mr Clayton who is Deputy Head of the federation, and Mrs Thirsk, Mrs Heneachon and Miss Campbell who teach the classes. They have already become a wonderful team and are making sure that our children receive the best possible lessons and make great progress in their learning. We are really pleased with the way that they are helping to move the school forward.

Both of our schools have done a lot of charity work this term. We had lovely harvest festival services in both of our churches, with children bringing in donations for the Selby Food Bank. These occasions allowed us to reflect upon where our food comes from, and to think about others. We also raised funds



for Young Minds, Children in Need, and Save the Children. One of our pupils started an initiative to sell bracelets that she had made in order to raise funds for the Pontefract Food Bank. She was able to purchase 50 selection boxes that were donated to this worthy cause.



Both schools in the federation are working towards Artsmark, and as part of this work we have started to deliver rock band lessons for some children, working with teachers from Rock Steady. Our children learn rock and pop songs playing real instruments, forming their own bands. Their instrument tuition qualifies for accreditation, and we look forward to hearing their bands play in a concert later in the year.



Across our schools, we have also been really active. We had Skip2bfit deliver skipping sessions, with the focus of the day being about 'beating yourselves'. These sessions provided all children with the opportunity to participate in physical activity, without the additional pressures of competition. All the children had a great time, and we saw some amazing progress over the two days.

Our community events have been great once again. We held a fantastic Beer Festival at Monk Fryston, and a Halloween Spooktacular that raised a great deal of money for the PTA. Saxton held a lovely Christmas Fayre in the church, with funds again going to the PTA (FOSS). All of this will benefit the children in our schools. We would all like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Riverside Primary ~ Visit us here

It has been a very busy term here at Riverside.



This term saw the return of our Y4 and Y5 residential visit. Both year groups went to Malham and were very lucky with the weather. They explored the cove



and its stunning scenery, but the greatest highlight was the ice-creams that were provided half-way around the walk!

Our Y3 and Y4 classes have had a Stone Age day at school, in



which they were detectives, warriors, artists and students all in one day! We have also come



together as a school community to help others who are less fortunate than we are. We had an amazing response to our Harvest Festival collection, which we shared

between the local foodbank. It was lovely to come together as a



community in St. Mary's Church and be thankful.

One of the most memorable moments this term was when we created our whole school poppy display as part of our remembrance activities.



We have also celebrated our 'Diversity around the world' week, in which every year group learned about a different country. Our Reception classes got to enjoy some African drumming!



All this and we still have Nativities, panto trips and Christmas Carol Services to go! The Autumn term always covers such a wide variety of activities and events. Merry Christmas everyone!

The Autumn Term at Appleton Roebuck has been packed full of exciting learning experiences that the children will never forget. The children have enjoyed visits to Murton Park, the Viking Centre, locality walk to Bolton Percy to name just a few. These valuable visits make the curriculum come to life and help our children to know more and remember more of what they are

learning.

On top of this, a full range of exciting clubs have been very well-attended. Activities such as football, netball, craft clubs, environmental club, garden club, yoga; I could go on and on. In total, 89% of our children regularly attend these after-school clubs, led by our teachers and parents. They really enjoy them.

Our PTA continue to make an extremely positive impact on our school, supporting us to put on a range of experiences (Specialist Skipping, Netball experience Day, the Halloween Disco) and most recently, a trip to the pantomime at York College; a wonderful unforgettable experience for all children.



We're working hard to encourage everyone to be a leader at Appleton, and our children have really taken this on. Playtimes are always fun with activities led by our play leaders from Years 5 and 6. Our librarians have worked with Osborne Books to replenish the texts in our library too, and the entirety of KS2 enjoyed working with Reverend Lucy with the 'Love in a

Box' project, providing Christmas presents for children in other countries where they are less fortunate than ourselves.



We can't wait for the Spring Term. It's going to be a blast!

Merry Christmas everyone, from all at Appleton Roebuck

It's been a fun-packed Autumn Term at Sherburn Hungate as our Learning Journeys got into full swing. There has been a range of exciting visits (Eden Camp, Stockheld Park, Cannon Hall Farm, to name a few) and the annual Y6



residential visit to Low Mill in Bedale. The children have had a



wonderful time.

On top of this, the staff team have provided a wide range of exciting extra-curricular clubs that our children have really enjoyed. These included Yoga Club, Football Club, Story Club and Astronomy Club. No wonder there's such a buzz for learning at Sherburn Hungate.



I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work this term and also thank the Parents, Friends Association for their support with a range of activities that have fully engaged our community. The Halloween Disco, Tuck shops and the Christmas Market have been just a few of the highlights.



It has also been a pleasure showing so many prospective parents, for September 2024, around the school. They are always amazed at the learning taking place and the way that our children live out the school values as they become well-rounded individuals.



We can't wait for the Spring Term. It's going to be a blast!

Merry Christmas everyone, from all at Sherburn Hungate

What a fantastic first term we have had at Kellington Primary School!



Our Year 6 children began the year by taking part in a much anticipated residential with South Milford Primary School. It was wonderful to see our oldest children building new friendships, pushing their limits and having a serious amount of fun.

Our children took part in Children in Need's 'Spotacular' day where we raised £85. The children loved hearing stories of who inspired our teachers and some were brave enough to share their inspirational stories.

The children have taken part in a few tournaments this half term, from Tag-Rugby to Nerf Tournament resulting in our first trophy for sometime!

Our children are proudly the winners of the first Inter-School Nerf Tournament held in the Selby area and our team will go on to represent the school in the national championships early next year.



As we headed towards the end of term, our KS2 braved the cold and walked to our local church, 'St Edmund King and Martyr', where they took part in this year's Christingle service. Our children represented the school beautifully and respectfully.

To finish the year, our KS1 and KS2 children combined to perform a nativity extravaganza, 'Do the Christmas Rock' where they not only did themselves proud, but made every adult present gain that warm, Christmas glow. Well done Team Kellington - you are amazing!

All at KPS would like to take this opportunity to wish all a happy holiday season and send best wishes for the new year.

Kirk Fenton CE Primary School ~ Visit us here

It has been a fantastic Autumn term at Kirk Fenton. The term got off to a great, musical start with the KS2 children taking part in a day's singing workshop with a choir master, culminating in an enthusiastic performance to the rest of the school. Our KS2



children also started learning their new instruments, and enjoyed sharing their new musical skills with parents and carers at a Christmas performance to finish the term.



It is always exciting to welcome our new starters to our school community at the beginning of a new year. Our year 6 children were very excited to meet their new reception buddies in September, and they have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and helping them settle into their new school.

Every Friday they meet together to share a book, which is definitely one of their

favourite times of the week! A big focus for us this year is the work we are doing in order to achieve the Christian Aid Global Neighbours silver award, an award that recognises and celebrates a culture of global citizenship, and the work children do as courageous advocates. As part of our work towards this, we have started to think more carefully about what we can do to promote positive changes both locally and further afield.

Our year 6 children have been investigating child poverty and were very surprised at some of the data they uncovered, so requested a meeting with our local MP to ask him what he is doing to address this issue. They prepared some great questions, and found out some interesting things about the work of MPs and what happens in parliament.

One of the highlights of this term were the Forest School days enjoyed by every class. The children spent their time lighting fires, cooking, making wooden Christmas decorations with tools, building dens and much more. It was a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the amazing natural world all around us on our lovely school site, and it was great to see so much great perseverance, resilience and fantastic teamwork on display. We have big plans for our forest school area on our school field, and are already looking forward to our spring Forest School days.



We will sadly be saying goodbye to our Headteacher Mrs Williams at the end of this term and would like to say a huge thank you to her for all that she has done for Kirk Fenton. We wish her lots of luck as she starts a new adventure as Headteacher of her new school.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

There is much to celebrate at Sherburn High School. The school continues to be at the heart of a growing community, with increases in the numbers of students applying to be a part of our school community in Year 7. Our open evening in October was a huge success with record numbers of people coming through the doors to see what we have to offer! Year 5 and 6 students were treated to a mediaeval apothecary in History, word challenges and games in English, explosions and experiments with fire in Science and designing and creating items in Product Design! Our success as a school was recognised in the recent Ofsted inspection, with inspectors stating that 'This school has a strong ethos of 'achievement for all'. Pupils study a curriculum that is fully inclusive and prepares them for their future well.' Our Maths department welcomed Year 7 parents and carers into school over the course of two mornings. It was an opportunity for the department to share how students learn Maths in Key Stages 3 and 4 and for parents and carers to get to know the staff and the school. This important event has been running for many years and goes from strength to strength.

Students were able to show off their skills to their parents and carers and test their knowledge of Maths. We continue to achieve sporting success with our teams in rugby, football and netball.



Extra-curricular sports activities are run every week seeing our students taking part in competitions and matches, with our U14 boys winning in cup games and the Sherburn Sharks rugby team swallowing their opposition in a one sided score fest!

Post-16 students have been visiting universities, with the A level



History group experiencing life at Leeds University. Our Year 10 Drama class is going to be taking in the magic of London, watching fantastic musicals and seeing what our capital city has to offer. After studying hard for the PPEs, Year 11 have the opportunity to visit York and will also be taking part in a careers' day. Suits at the ready as they focus on the next steps, ready for

life in Post-16 and beyond!

Mrs Hannam who led the library for 26 years, left at the end of the summer term and we welcomed our new Learning Resource Centre Manager, Mrs Law. It has been brilliant to see so many students accessing the library and its services! Books are

being borrowed, homework is being completed and competitions are being entered. We have seen staff and students entering the non-fiction November



competitions, donations being made to the Dogs Trust as part of our charity drive and Post-16 students applying to be library ambassadors. From all of us at Team Sherburn, we wish you a very happy Christmas and all the very best for the new year.

Brayton CE Primary School ~ Visit us here

The children have really enjoyed being able to take part in inter-school competitions organised by the sports leads across the schools. So far they have competed in the KS2 cross country at Riverside; hosted a KS1 benchball tournament and, most recently, the KS2 tag rugby event at Knottingley Rugby Club (coming away with a 1st and 2nd place). These events are giving more and more children the chance to participate in sports events across both key stages. Huge thanks to all the PE & sports leads who are working together to organise the events over this year. We have been involved again with the Selby Spirit of Christmas volunteers www.spiritofchristmas.info to offer families the chance to go and 'shop' at their Christmas pop-up shop. Thanks to the work of the volunteers and the donations, families are able to go along and choose gifts for their children and to have these specially wrapped ready for Christmas. For the first time this year we have a box in school for donations to their toy appeal, and this has been extremely well supported by families who want to support others in this way.



The Brayton Christmas lights switch-on event took place on Friday 1st December, with refreshments and craft stalls organised by the PTA and raising over £500 for the school over the 2 hours. Some of this money is being used to buy crackers for all the children for our school Christmas Dinner, and to fund the Christmas parties. Huge thanks to the PTA for their hard work in putting this together, and for the work of the Parish Council who unveiled some new Christmas lights based on designs from the children.

This is a very sad end to the term as we also say goodbye to Rev Pete Watson as he moves to a new role this month. Rev Pete has been a true friend to the school for many years, joining us to lead worship and to join the children for lunch, and in his role as a Foundation governor. We said our school goodbyes at the Christmas Services in church, and wish him all the very best as he moves on from St Wilf's: he will be very much missed.



Everyone at Brayton would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We have had a very busy term so far this year, at South Milford Primary School. We begun this school year with our Year 6 children visiting the Kingswood Activity Centre for their residential and were joined in this venture with pupils from Kellington Primary School. Everyone had a fantastic time, even the grown-ups



Pupils from across school have taken part in a number of different tournaments and visits so far this year including; Tag Rugby, Cross-country, visiting the holocaust museum and a very cold visit to Lotherton Hall for Reception and Year 1.



We have learnt all about being kind as part of Anti-Bullying week and celebrated this by finishing off the week hearing about people who have inspired us. We also used this as an opportunity to raise money for Children in Need and raised £197. Our fantastic PTA have also continued their fundraising efforts and held a spooky halloween disco which the children loved!

To finish off the term, we held not only one, but two Christmas nativities this year. Our pupils in Key Stage 1 wowed their families with their rootin', tootin' production of 'Prickly Hay!' Pupils in Key Stage 2 rounded off the week with their show stopping performance of 'It's Chriiistmas!' We are so incredibly lucky to have so many talented children at SMPS! To complete this year, we enjoyed a whole school trip to the pantomime in Doncaster to see 'Beauty and the Beast'. We cannot wait to see what the next term brings.



All at SMPS would like to take this opportunity to wish all a happy holiday season and send best wishes for the new year.

Tadcaster Grammar School ~ Visit us here



Earlier this term, 39 Year 9 and 21 Year 11 students enjoyed taking part in the Leeds United Football Leaders Award. The Award offers young people the opportunity to learn some of the skills, qualities

and values of a sports leader.

In October, Sixth Form Charity Leaders Rosie and Kat organised the fundraising event in aid of the Breast Cancer Now 'Wear It Pink' day...

Student donations on the day raised almost £200, however additional donations made later and via ParentPay increased that total to a massive £854.59! Thank you to Rosie and Kat for organising the activities, all those who took part and TGS families who donated to this

worthwhile cause.

A Year 11 student has taken the deep dive of a lifetime - swimming with sharks on a new TV show. - 'Deadly Mission Shark' presented by Steve Backshall,



After being selected for interview he was then chosen along with 11 other 14 year olds from around the UK to attend a



'Boot Camp' last November where they swam in a lake, abseiled and a variety of other activities, as well as meeting Steve Backshall.

Ahead of Armistice Day, TGS fell silent for two minutes to pay our respects at 11am on

Friday 10th. STAR MAT colleagues, staff and some students gathered outside Toulston

Lodge. Beneath the Union Flag, trumpets (played by Mr Rodaway and two Year 10 students) signalled the start of our silence with Last Post. The musical call to silence in a school that is usually so vibrant and full of life, echoed around the grounds in the sunshine which made a very moving moment to witness.



We are very much looking forward to the Christmas Concert on 20th December. Mr Rodaway and Mrs Yau are working hard with our students in preparation for an evening of fabulous performances by our bands, ensembles and choirs. It will definitely get everyone into the Christmas spirit! Students are also rehearsing and helping with scenery production ahead of our whole school production of High School Musical. Please look out in our Headteachers Updates, and our social media for more information and ticket sales.

Estates

Over the summer we have continued to refurbish and improve our buildings and grounds across the Trust, this has included continued success with external bids to the government funded carbon reduction scheme, 'SALIX'. Kirk Fenton has benefited from funding to remove the burning of fossil fuels and install ground source heat pumps and Solar panels. This technology will heat the school and provide hot water whilst reducing our carbon footprint.



We have replaced failing roofs and old windows across various schools, improved heating controls and replaced hot water systems for energy efficient solutions.



Again we continue to invest in improving school security by installing external fencing and gates across numerous school sites.

Finally we have invested in classroom chairs across all our schools and improved external surfaces on paths, carparks, playgrounds and soft surfaces.

STAR EATS.....

As always, we would love to hear if you have any suggestions and welcome any feedback; please contact us at stareats@starmat.uk

Finally if you are interested in joining our team please follow this [link](#)

Rob Holah – Head of Facilities & Estates

STAR EATS Calendar 23-24



STAR EATS.....

On the first day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
An ode to 2023!

On the second day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the third day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the fourth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the fifth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the sixth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the seventh day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Seven (00) Christmas turkeys
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the eighth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Eight new staff this year
Seven (00) Christmas turkeys
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the ninth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Nine primaries serving
Eight new staff this year
Seven (00) Christmas turkeys
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the tenth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Ten veggies tasted
Nine primaries serving
Eight new staff this year
Seven (00) Christmas turkeys
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the eleventh day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Eleven theme days a year
Ten veggies tasted
Nine primaries serving
Eight new staff this year
Seven (00) Christmas turkeys
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

On the Twelfth day of Christmas

STAR EATS gave to me
Twelve dazzling puddings
Eleven theme days a year
Ten veggies tasted
Nine primaries serving
Eight new staff this year
Seven (00) Christmas turkeys
Six thousand meals (a week)
Five gold stars (of hygiene)
Four suppliers local
Three new meals
Two sparkling ovens
And an ode to 2023!

