

**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*



## CEO UPDATE



We are delighted to bring you this 'festive edition' of our termly newsletter.

As the world of education continues to struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic it has been wonderful to

see, by and large, on site classroom teaching and learning maintained for the vast majority of our young people this term.

Active learning, science labs, dance and drama studios, singing, group work... have all been more possible than previously over the past 18 months. Our students and staff have responded with combined passion as evidenced in these articles to really demonstrate the joy of learning we see every day across our Trust community.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment and dedication on behalf of our young people - students, parents and carers, staff - working together, **stronger together** as ever.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a great start to 2022.

Ian Yapp  
Chief Education Officer

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



As we come to the end of another Covid filled term, it is always good to reflect. Our schools continue to work extremely hard to try and ensure our young people remain safe and positive and we remain very grateful to every

member of the STAR MAT work force for their continued endeavour.

The development of both our People Strategy and our IT Strategy has been much of the focus of the Board and will continue to be. We see that a fulfilled work force is more vital than ever during these most difficult of times and we have all recognised the crucial role IT plays in supporting the work that they do to ensure the high standards of education we expect.

Whatever next term brings, we know that our schools will continue to be at the heart of our communities and will do everything they can to support, nurture and grow the children and young people we serve.

We wish everyone a peaceful and safe festive season and look forward to 2022, no matter what challenges it may or may not bring.

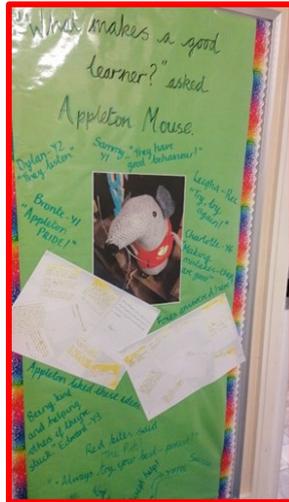
Kind Regards,  
Clare Thornton-Eckford  
Chair of the STAR MAT Trust Board



### Appleton Roebuck Pride

The word, "Recover" has come up so many times over the past months. By recover, the definition is to regain strength and get back to normal. As with all schools, this term at Appleton Roebuck has not really met the "normal" with numerous substantial Covid outbreaks and disruptions which we absolutely refuse to accept as normality. What I can wholeheartedly say though is that the school has regained some strength. With a sharp focus on teaching and learning to further help our children to "recover" from the impact of the pandemic, we have seen many positive steps forward. In order to do this, we started with our staff looking at how they could re-vitalise their passions and energy for teaching. They have been engaged in professional development, setting up a staff professional library, collaboration with other schools and work with Maths and English Hubs. We then rolled this out across the school to raise expectations and involve the children actively in the learning process. From school council to whole class discussions and collections of pupil voice, we have been able to work together to develop and introduce our initiative, "Appleton Pride"

We even have a new friend, "Appleton Mouse!" who has joined our community to help the children! (No need for Rentokil!)



limitless as long as we follow our core values and learning behaviours linked to PRIDE - Appleton Pride.



Appleton Pride is not something that you can touch, it is how we are and how we do things here. It is about the high standards that we expect of ourselves and each other. The high standards of presentation, behaviour and attitudes for learning. It is the high regard that we have for each other as a school community and the wider world. It is knowing that all that we will be and all that we achieve will be



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

At Brayton we have been working really hard on our personal targets and enjoying some practical topic work too. In Year 1 we had a visit from 'Neil Armstrong' who told us all about Apollo 11 and his moon landing. In Year 2 and 3 we had a visit from the Fire Service who came to put out our Pudding Lane Bakery Fire (that was very exciting!) In Years 4, 5 and 6 we have enjoyed several Scientific Investigations and the children are fast becoming experts in air resistance, properties of materials and the topical issue of Climate Change. This term has been filled with festivals and celebrations. We held a lovely virtual Harvest Service. We dressed in Yellow for 'Young Minds' Hello Yellow Day. The whole school showed respect on Remembrance Day. The children in Nursery have particularly enjoyed their Diwali celebrations. We all dressed in our 'Strictly' best for Pudsey Day and we all took part in Bonfire activities.



We have also collected a mountain of Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child. But we haven't just had fun and joined in with these events, we have studied them. We have learned why these events happened and why we celebrate them and what they mean to people around the world. We gave away a mountain of food to a homeless shelter and we have raised a good deal of money for Children In Need and The Royal British Legion this term, but we have also learned how our donations actually change people's lives. In our school we are learning all about Courageous Advocacy and what we can do as individuals and in groups to speak out against Social Injustice and actively support people in their hour of need. Foundation



Stage even set up their own pretend Food Bank and tried to imagine how it would feel to have nothing to eat at home and no money to buy food with. Now it is Advent and we are learning about how Christians all over the world celebrate this time of anticipation – looking forward to spending time with our families, eating wonderful Christmas food and hopefully unwrapping lots of Christmas pressies too! It's been a busy and fun term but we are ready for some rest and relaxation - and wouldn't it be great if we got some snow too?! We are very proud of how hard we have worked and how sensible we've been, even though many of us have had Covid cases in our families and classes this term. Our school motto is **'Together we shine as one'** and we really feel that we have done that this term. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our STAR MAT family members – it's great to shine along with you all too!

## Kellington Primary School ~ [Visit us here](#)

Kellington Primary school started the autumn term with a whole school focus on festivals. Each class took this theme and addressed it through different learning foci across the curriculum. Our children's learning included; naming and discussing the festivals their family celebrate; discovering the Hindu festival, Holi, and exploring the book 'Leon and the Place Between'. At the end of the first three weeks it was wonderful to be able to invite parents in to school to meet their child's class teacher, explore what the children had been learning and for each class to perform a short piece on the stage to a live audience; for many of our younger children their first opportunity to perform to an audience due to previous restrictions.

We were also excited to elect our new Junior Leadership Team. Many of our children put time and effort into their



presentation before the whole school went to the polls and voted in the JLT for 2021/22. It gave us the opportunity to explore and discuss the British voting system and democracy. Throughout the autumn term we have made the most of the clement weather and our children have been enjoying the benefits of outdoor learning and exploring the changing environment as we head towards winter. We have also managed to deliver the majority of our PE sessions outside and our Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed being able to go swimming again.

To enhance their WW2 learning focus our Year 5 and 6 children (Lilies Class) enjoyed a trip to Murton Park, where they were evacuees for the day. All our Year 1 and Year 2 children visited the Bradford Transport Museum to support their learning in relation to transport



throughout the years.

November 19th saw us yet again have fun celebrating Children in Need Day and raising funds for this charity. Children and staff wore their pyjamas in return for a donation to CIN and as the theme was 'Together we can....', throughout the day every child contributed to our very own Kellington Pudsey Bear to show and remind us what together we can achieve.

We are delighted at how well the autumn term has gone at Kellington Primary School and applaud the hard work and excellent learning from the children. As we move into the last two weeks of term we are 'starting to feel a lot like Christmas' and we are all looking forward, after working so hard, to the Christmas celebrations

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



Our Kirk Fenton school community arrived back in September raring to go and full of enthusiasm for the year ahead. Over the summer we had moved our library into a new home, whilst giving it a much needed update, so it was fantastic to see children back in the library again, spending time together choosing and sharing books. Our new library needs some new books, so last month our newly appointed Reading Ambassadors held a cake sale to raise money to go towards the exciting literature on our wish list. It was a huge success and we are now busy investigating which authors we would like to include more of in our library.

This term we have been lucky enough to have a MUGA installed on our playground. It has been a great addition to our outdoor space, children have already enjoyed taking part in

FUTSAL, football, basketball, dodge ball and tennis sessions in this new area. Throughout the term, it has been a joy to hear music drifting through the school, as our key stage two children have started to each learn a new instrument. We are all looking forward to hearing how each class is getting on in a 'Music Celebration' at Christmas. Loud and proud singing has also been a daily feature at Kirk Fenton and we were delighted to be back singing in the hall together. We were thrilled to receive the Primary Science Quality Mark in September, which reflected the hard work we have put into improving science at our school. Our budding scientists were incredibly excited when we had the opportunity to 'Borrow the Moon' in October which involved us having moon rocks and meteorites in school for a week. Every child spent time investigating these incredible resources and it prompted lots of thought and questions about how incredible our



universe is. After half term, the important COP26 conference and UK Parliament Week featured heavily in our learning, as we found out more about democracy and how we need to work together to protect our planet's future. Year 6 met with our local MP who answered their questions on the work of parliament and our elected representatives, whilst the whole school made a 'Promise to the Planet' which went towards creating a national 'Forest of Promises.' Finally, our extra-curricular clubs have been a huge hit this term having been limited last year as a result of the pandemic. Children have enjoyed cooking, singing, gardening, science, forest schools, lego, crafts and much more! The buzz around school as children have enjoyed the many activities has put a smile on all of our faces, and we are looking forward to even more clubs starting in January.

We are delighted that following a great deal of hard work last year, both Monk Fryston and Saxton Schools achieved the Eco Schools Green Flag status at the start of this term.



This is a wonderful achievement, particularly considering the disrupted year that we had. The Eco Warriors in each school undertook an environmental review, set an action plan, and worked hard on themes that were chosen by them to make an environmental difference in their school. They are, understandably, very proud of their achievements and the green flags can be seen flying outside both schools.



We were also particularly pleased to be awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark at Monk Fryston this term. This recognises the high profile that the subject has within the school, and takes into account a number of initiatives that have been led by our science leader, Mrs Walsh. The assessor commented: "Thank you for sharing your PSQM year with me. It has been a pleasure to witness the passion and enthusiasm you have for science. The science subject leader

*should be commended on the dedication they have given to improving the teaching and learning of science at Monk Fryston C of E Primary School. The children are very lucky to go to a school with such enthusiastic and committed staff. Well done on a great submission!"*

This beautifully reflects the important part science plays in our school curriculum and we are delighted that this has been formally recognised. This year, we are working with the Royal Society this year on a project relating to important animals.



## Riverside Primary ~ Visit us here

We have been very busy this term navigating through some necessary adjustments for managing Covid cases but we have been enjoying our learning as well as supporting our communities.

We have stayed in touch with our local community by holding virtual and in school events that have raised approx. £1000 for charity including Children In Need and The Poppy Appeal.



Children in Need Day! – we raised £800!



Year 4 Tudor Day



Harvest Festival

Amazing donations from our community



We also decorated the Tree in our Methodist Church in Tadcaster. Christmas is well underway with secret door surprise decorations as well as our Christmas Nativities and shows!. We wish you all a very merry Christmas from all our Staff teams!

As the leaves fall and the first frost settles at Sherburn High, we reflect on a really positive first term, particularly for our Year 7 students who have made such a great start to life with Team Sherburn.

We held our annual Open Evening for prospective students and their families at the end of September and we were so impressed at the turn out on the wettest night we've had in a while! It was wonderful to see so many new faces and with lots of 'Do you remember me, Sir/Miss?' from parents of the next generation of Team Sherburn!

Year 8 students learnt a whole new range of survival skills whilst camping in the woods at Castle Howard with The Bushcraft Company. Quite a few brave souls slept the night in their bivvy shelters and even managed the

Bushtucker Trial; not one for the faint-hearted that's for sure!



Our long-awaited new gym and changing rooms were opened by Jason Qareqare of Castleford Tigers on the same night that his brother Marcus Qareqare signed his scholarship programme for Leeds Rhinos U15! We also enjoyed performances from our talented gymnasts and musicians



alongside celebrating the success of our Year 7 and Year 8 football teams. Hazlewood Castle provided the Autumnal backdrop for the 2020/2021 Leavers' Prom as we welcomed our ex-Year 11 and ex-Year 12 students to celebrate their achievements in all their finery! A lovely moment for staff and students to share after such a long wait for the Prom right of passage.

The Creative department judged our House Competition and we are delighted to share

very talented Poppy H in Y10! The festive spirit is in full swing at Team Sherburn with lights on every tree and our whole-school Christmas Dinner plans in place! From all of us at Team Sherburn, we wish you a restful holiday and a healthy and happy 2022.



For a full round up of school news and events, please visit [www.sherburnhigh.co.uk](http://www.sherburnhigh.co.uk) or find us on Twitter @sherburnhigh

## Sherburn Hungate Primary School ~ Visit us here

Despite the challenges we have all faced this year, Sherburn Hungate is thriving and our quest to educate more and more pupils as we expand, is firmly underway. We've focussed on high quality teaching and learning experiences as our team of fantastic staff gets bigger by the year.

Without the help of our fantastically supportive parents, children and staff, Sherburn Hungate wouldn't be what it is today; A warm, friendly and exciting place for your child to learn.



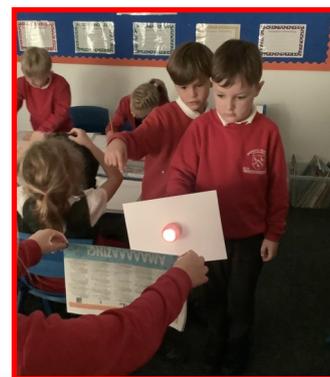
In September, we launched our new school values (the A-Z of SHP). This was timed to match the opening of our new classrooms and learning spaces. Each week, we focus on one of the key values and you can see what we have covered so far on our 'values' webpage.

In Early Years, we have invested heavily in our new outdoor learning area, making the first learning steps for all pupils extra special. Our team of dedicated staff have got to grips with the new EYFS framework and are supporting other colleagues across the STARMAT.

In Key Stage 1, their learning journey (brilliant birds) began with a bang when the classes were visited by a variety of birds of prey. What better way than to spark the imagination.



In Key Stage 2, the children have been enjoying their wonderful new classrooms and beginning their 'Tempus Fugit' (Time Flies) history learning journey. They've had a blast!



We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Team Hungate.

What a super term, it has been wonderful to return to a little normality, and where possible, safe to have some whole school events! It has been brilliant to reinstate our children's leadership roles across school. This term we have seen the return of our Junior Leadership Team, House Captains, Shine Leaders, Office Angels and Heroes, along with our very popular Year 6 buddying systems.

We started the term with an enterprise theme, where all classes were given £50 to produce a well-being themed item to sell at our 'welcome back fair' at the end of September. It was amazing to welcome back our families to the school site for this event. The children and staff worked incredibly hard to prepare their goods and stalls. The children were excellent sales people; they worked their magic on the customers and raised £590. Our Junior Leadership Team used the money to plan a whole school treat, which included a visit from Ian's mobile farm, pizza for lunch and sweets to finish the week off. The PTA went the extra mile to make the event a success by working hard to plan and organise a whole host of activities and stalls.

At the end of September, our Year 6 pupils went on their residential visit to Kingswood in the Dearne Valley. They spent their time challenging themselves to fly down the zip wire, learn new games such as aeroball, develop their navigational skills and have fun in the kayaks.

As wellbeing is a focus at SMPS, we ended our first half term with a whole school Thrive Day. All the children spent the day working

working together in their house teams, completing a variety of activities, such as being outdoors on a nature hunt, yoga and arts and crafts, fully embracing everything that was on offer. We explored the reasons why each activity was important and understood how it can help us with our emotions.

For Anti-Bullying Week, we focused on ways that we can interact with one another in positive ways. We celebrated the things that make us unique and tried to be kind to everyone. Key Stage Two enjoyed a 'One Kind Word' workshop, where they played games to explore different types of bullying and ways to confidently speak up for themselves. Every class learnt about being different and ways to celebrate individuality in PSHE over the course of the week.

Year 6 were incredibly lucky: they were visited by 92-year-old Trude, a Holocaust survivor, who talked about her incredible journey from Czechoslovakia to England when she was only ten years old. She shared details about life in Europe in the 1930s, what it was like to flee to Newcastle, only able to speak Slovak and German, and how she eventually managed to make a new life for herself. The children were incredibly respectful and listened carefully to everything she had to say.

We are ending another tricky term with lots of festive treats and celebrations. We have Christmas light switch-ons, carol concerts and productions, a whole school trip to the panto and a visit from the big man himself all planned to ensure SMPS shines during the festive period.

## Tadcaster Grammar School ~ Visit us here

### Year 7 make an Impact

We are so proud of how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at TGS since September. It has been heartening to see so many Year 7 students want to get involved in our student leadership programme, as either Form Reps or the Year Captains, so that they can be a part of Student Voice and make a difference to the school community. We have also managed to include lots of opportunities for team building through the various house competitions that have been launched.



Year 7 Year Captains Emily and Ferdie

### Magnificent Artistic Talent

In the absence of being able to host a real life Art exhibition, the Art Department has created their own website to showcase the

students' wonderful creativity.

[Click here](#) to view the amazing work.



### Reading Buddies

A big thank you goes out to all our Sixth Form students who have become Reading Buddies for our new Year 7 students. We have trained our Sixth Form Students to help mentor and support



Year 7 students throughout the year. This has been successful so far and the feedback from both Year 7 and Sixth Form students has been amazing.

### Business Sustainability Project

Year 10 GCSE Business students took part in the Festival Challenge as part of their first unit of the courses. The Festival Challenge is designed to get students thinking



like an entrepreneur and how they can upcycle items often left at festivals. Their challenge was to design and create a unique product that could be used at a

festival and to prepare a presentation to pitch their idea to their peers. The professional way in which the students presented their ideas and worked together was outstanding.

We also have five teams from years 10 - 13 participating in the coding challenge 'The Lighthouse

Conspiracy' It was fantastic to see the year groups collaborating and the competition is definitely heating up in school, Mission 1 complete.

Everyone at Kirk Fenton would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



# Merry Christmas

From all The STAR MAT schools



Merry Christmas from Kellington Primary School

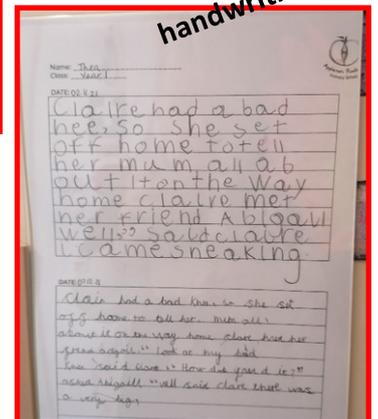
Merry Christmas from Appleton Roebuck Primary School



Great Fire of London Day



handwriting challenge



Fingers crossed for a brighter and safer 2022.



Best wishes

Mrs Lawrence  
South Milford Primary School