



LEADING LEARNERS

Guiding children to promising futures

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024



WELCOME FROM THE CEO

As we wrap up another academic year – where has the time gone! - I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable achievements and events that have taken place across our schools. From fundraising to national poetry competitions, wonderful trips and fantastic sporting accomplishments, we have much to look back upon and be proud of.

Each story in this newsletter represents our collective commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and values needed to thrive and flourish in our modern world.

Of course, none of this could have been realised without our incredible body of teachers and support staff who make our schools the special places they are, which is why celebrating National Thank a Teacher Day in June was so important for us as a Trust.

The summer term is also one of goodbyes and hellos as we wave off our Year 6 pupils to secondary

school and welcome our newest pupils into nurseries and receptions. We wish all our children the best of luck with the new chapters of their lives!

As we head into the summer break, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone—staff, pupils, parents, and our wider community. Your support and hard work have made this year truly exceptional.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and sunshine-filled summer!

Yvonne Brown
CEO

CELEBRATING THANK A TEACHER DAY 2024

On Wednesday 19th June, our Trust and our schools celebrated 'Thank a Teacher Day', a national event where teachers and support staff are recognised for their hard work and dedication.

At **Worth Valley Primary School**, children made cards for their teachers and parents left comments on the school's Facebook page, thanking staff.

At **Reevy Hill Primary School**, treats were left in the staffroom and staff had a digital thank you card sent from the headteacher and another from one of their parent governors. Children also sent 'thank you' postcards to their teachers and school staff.

At **Carrwood Primary School** they recognised National Thank a Teacher Day for all staff with an appreciation breakfast. Children were also invited to write a 'thank you' card with a message to a staff member of their choice.

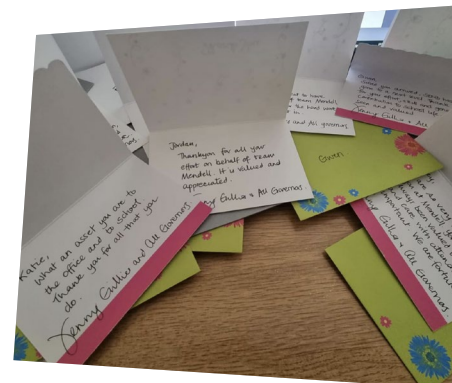
At **Mendell Primary School**, there were some very happy staff! Children and parents nominated staff to

get a star of thanks with some lovely personalised messages and Headteacher,

Mrs O'Neill Edwards, provided a bundle of sweet treats for her fabulous staff to say thank you, saying: "I am so lucky and privileged to be part of such a passionate team that puts the children at the heart of everything we do." The Chair of Governors, Jenny Gillies, also left some sweet treats in the staffroom and a personalised thank you card for every single member of the team.

Leading Learners CEO, Yvonne Brown, said:

"Thank a Teacher Day is a fantastic chance to recognise the hard work and passion of our educators. We extend our gratitude to all staff members who play a crucial role in helping our pupils thrive and grow."



LEADING LEARNERS' CFO FINALIST IN NATIONAL AWARD

Our Chief Financial Officer, Liam Knowles, was recently shortlisted for the CFO of the Year at the prestigious MAT Excellence Awards to recognise the significant impact he has on supporting the educational aspirations of the Trust.

While he didn't take home the award on the night, Liam's achievements since joining us in 2020 have had a significant impact upon the Trust, providing cost savings, efficiency and futureproofing efforts that helped make our ambitious educational strategies a reality.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: "Liam is an absolute asset to the Leading Learners Trust. He got stuck in right from the moment he joined us - problem solving, future planning and generally tackling both historical issues and coming up with innovative ideas to support our vision and plans for growth.

"His competence is only matched by his integrity, both of which mean that when he suggests a plan of action, you know it will have been well researched and thought through from the point of view of the Trust and our schools. We couldn't have anyone better in place to see us through the next phase of our growth and beyond."

OUR TRUST VALUES

At Leading Learners, we have five values that underpin all that we do.

These are

- Community
- Ambition
- Resilience
- Integrity
- Pride

Our values lie at the core of everything we do within our Trust. They inspire our all our communities' best efforts and direct our actions when it comes to helping each and every one of our children be the very best they can be.

COMMUNITY

We recognise how important it is to help our children experience the world around them and become active, helpful members of their communities.

BRADFORD INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

At Carrwood Primary School, pupils from Amber Class, part of the school's resourced provision for children with autism, had a fabulous day exploring the Bradford Industrial Museum.

The visit provided them with a fantastic opportunity to explore different historical vehicles and machinery once used in Bradford during its industrial era.



COMMEMORATING BRADFORD CITY FIRE

Children at Reevy Hill Primary School have raised over £100 for the Burns Unit at the Bradford Royal Infirmary through a football kit themed non-uniform day.

This event was organised to commemorate the anniversary of the Bradford City fire in 1985. Well done, everyone!



YEAR 6 JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM RAISES FUNDS AND SPIRITS AT TESCO

At Tyldesley Primary School, the Year 6 Junior Leadership team recently raised **£548.20** by packing bags at Tesco in Leigh.

The comments from the staff and public were amazing, complimenting the children on their impeccable behaviour and manners and the way that they chatted with the local community.

The money raised will all be used to go towards developing the school's sensory room which is a vital space to support children in school. They even had time to speak to the mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, who was very proud of their efforts.

Well done to all involved!



ALPACA FARM

At Mendell Primary School, pupils are lucky enough to consider a nearby alpaca farm as part of their local community.

At the end of each week, Sue from the alpaca farm calls the school to see if there is any fresh food waste. If there is, this food is collected, and the alpacas have a lovely feast! This is helping the environment by reducing food waste and supporting the local farm in Prenton. How lovely to have an alpaca farm 'Belong' to our community!



LITTLE LIFE SAVERS

Year 2 children at Tyldesley Primary School participated in the Little Life Savers Course at the Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service Training and Safety Centre. This specifically designed course introduces six and seven-year-olds to essential safety practices and procedures.

During their visit, the children took part in various activities such as role-playing within the fire service, exploring a 999-control centre, and learning about road safety. They also practiced important skills like stop, drop, and roll.

Janet Shorrock, Headteacher at Tyldesley, said: "We are very proud of how well our Year 2 pupils



did during this course. This initiative not only develops the children's safety awareness but also nurtures a sense of responsibility and community engagement from an early age. This experience equips pupils with vital life skills and prepare them to be responsible members of society."



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Last term, Tyldesley Primary School was very proud to host their first ever community litter pick.

The sun shone as the team and lots of volunteers worked together to clean up the area around the school. It was a fantastic way for the children to be involved in taking pride in their local community, and it was attended by over 40 children and parents. The area around school looked fantastic after all their hard work!



MUSIC AT MENDELL

Children in Years 3 and 4 from Mendell Primary School participated in the 'AmaSing: Back Through the Decades' performance at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton.

This event brought together a wide range of schools to sing, dance and celebrate the performing arts. The children worked extremely hard in the lead-up to the event with numerous rehearsals, and it was wonderful to see their confidence flourish. This experience generated a love for music and the arts through opportunities for the students to 'Belong' in the wider community.

Catherine O'Neill Edwards, Mendell Headteacher, said: "Performing in a professional theatre with their peers and children from other schools was so exciting. The classes were even selected to perform on the front row of the stage, next to the live band! Overall, the children had an 'AmaSing' time and should be extremely proud of themselves."



SHINING SMILES

In Wigan, data shows that 31.9% of children suffer from tooth decay because of poor dental hygiene.

Due to this statistic, Tyldesley Primary School has started the 'Bus Brush' initiative in their EYFS classrooms. All EYFS children brush their teeth to the tooth cleaning song every day after dinner to ensure their smiles are sparkling white. Great work and great smiles everyone!



AMBITION

We have the ambition to not only to create aspiration and be the very best we can be, but also a passionate ambition to improve the world around us and leave it better than we find it.

PEDALLING TOWARDS CLEAN AIR

At Worth Valley Primary School, promoting environmental sustainability and enriching pupil experiences is a priority.

Recently, the school successfully secured a Clean Air Schools Grant which enabled the launch of lunchtime, during, and after-school cycling clubs designed for all abilities. With the grant funding, the school has invested in new bikes, helmets, an adaptive trike, and a bike shelter, which improves facilities and accessibility for all pupils.

Ceinwen Lodge, Worth Valley Headteacher, said: "This is a fantastic way for us to encourage and promote a healthy, active lifestyle which also benefits the environment and provides all children with the opportunity to experience cycling. Everyone is so excited to take part!"



SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

The pupils of Overchurch Junior School have received an international accreditation, the Eco-Schools Green Flag, for their exceptional work in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness among their peers.

The Eco-Schools programme provides a simple, seven-step framework for schools to start tackling

environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity-loss, or plastic pollution, while empowering young people to make a difference in their school, local community and beyond.

Anne Sheridan, Overchurch Headteacher, said: "Winning the Eco-Schools' Green Flag Award marks our dedication and ambition to create a better world and leave it better than we found it."



WORTH VALLEY SCHOOL COUNCIL VISITS HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

This term, the school council from Worth Valley Primary School visited the Houses of Parliament for a workshop on democracy and law-making, followed by a sightseeing tour of London.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher at Worth Valley, said: "Helping our pupils understand the complexities of governance is a really important part of developing their sense of citizenship on a local, national and global level. This visit was really memorable, especially in a general election year, and the children's behaviour was impeccable."



MY BIG FUTURE PROJECT

Year 5 pupils from Manor Primary School and Mendell Primary School took part in the 'My Big Future Project' this term, visiting the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool and the Village Hotel in Bromborough respectively to learn about employment opportunities in the hospitality industry.

Organised in partnership with the Johnson Foundation, the project aimed to prepare pupils for the world of work.

Manor pupils wrote CVs, underwent job interviews, and took part in a range of activities at the hotel, including a behind-the-scenes tour, mocktail-making class and planning for a school prom.

Mendell pupils received a tour of the hotel, created their own restaurant menus, and had the opportunity to question the regional manager about his job.

All children gained valuable insights into various real-life skills and were inspired by the different job roles available in the hotel industry. They learned about positions such as receptionist, chef, leisure manager, events manager and housekeeper.

Nicola Lightwing, Manor Headteacher, said: "It was a fantastic, inspiring day for the children, showing them the many different exciting roles available

in the hospitality industry and building essential life skills for the world of work!"

Catherine O'Neill Edwards, Mendell Headteacher, added: "The pupils represented the school exceptionally well and were able to see how our school vision of 'Dream Big' can be brought to life. A fantastic day was had by all."



VISIT FROM THE STORIES BUS!

Children from Reception Y1, Y2 and the Resourced Provision at Carrwood Primary School were lucky enough to have a visit from the Bradford Stories Bus, a vintage American school bus that has been converted into an incredible book haven and exciting event space by the National Literacy Trust.

With seating areas, bookshelves, a 'selfie space' and soft furnishings, it is a space devoted to running literacy-based events for children, young people, families and communities with the aim of improving access to books and promoting reading for pleasure in communities across Bradford.

Pupils also welcomed author Susannah Lloyd, who told them all about her new book 'Here be Giants'.

Nicola Malt, Headteacher at Carrwood, said: "This was a fabulous experience for the children and they were all very excited to get on the bus and get reading! It was wonderful to hear from a real life published author too and we now have many budding writers and storytellers in our midst."



STEAM CAREERS FAIR AT MENDELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mendell Primary School is excited to be hosting their third STEAM careers fair this year.

After feedback from pupils requested more inspiration for 'Dreaming big' and future careers, the school set up the fair to expose pupils to a diverse range of professions.

Throughout the event, classes and visitors from other Leading Learner schools will rotate through the hall, engaging with volunteers stationed at different stalls.

The fair includes female STEAM professionals to challenge gender stereotypes and inspire pupils across different career paths, from pilots to reflexologists, and from the air ambulance team to veterinary nurses.

Catherine O'Neill Edwards, Headteacher, said: "We hope this initiative motivates our pupils to consider all possible futures and continue to 'Dream Big!'"

RESILIENCE

Our children have shown their resilience and determination this term in the classroom and the community.

NAVIGATING ROADS SAFELY

Pupils in Year 3 at Woodside Academy had a great time taking part in road safety training facilitated by professionals from Bradford Council. They discussed the important rules they need to remember when walking next to a road and the steps they should take before they cross.

During the session, the children were instructed on safe crossing techniques near parked cars, dropped curbs, and junctions, along with guidelines for passing driveways safely. They then practiced these skills both in groups and individually, using what they had learned to ensure this was done safely.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said: "This was a really important session for our pupils and I am proud to say they were all extremely attentive and took on board their training. Well done, everyone!"



WHEELS EXTREME

Sandbrook Primary School invited Jen and Neil from Wheels Extreme for an exciting day of wheel sports. They delivered inspiring stories during an assembly, motivating the pupils.

The day continued with everyone participating on scooters, followed by a choice of in-line skates or skateboards. Then, ramps came out to ramp up the pressure! Everyone had a great day, pushed themselves and demonstrated the school's values.

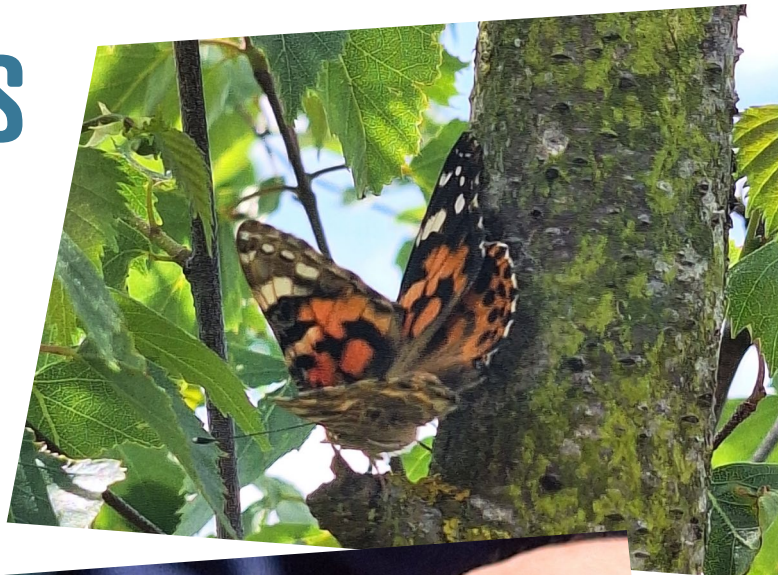


FLUTTERY FRIENDS

In Reception at Tyldesley, the children were sent some friends by The Very Hungry Caterpillar to nurture and care for.

For weeks, pupils watched as these tiny caterpillars grew into big, fat caterpillars and watched them transform into cocoons before they emerged as beautiful butterflies. Pupils used their observations as the basis for their literacy skills and understanding of the world. They were very excited when they released them into their forest school area. Look how beautiful their butterflies were!

F2 pupils at **Mendell Primary School** also had the amazing experience of hatching their own butterflies! The children experienced this magnificent metamorphosis and enjoyed learning about the life cycle of caterpillars. They observed as their tiny little caterpillars transformed into chrysalides and eventually emerged as beautiful Painted Lady Butterflies. They enjoyed caring for and feeding the butterflies before releasing them into the wild.



LEARNING ABOUT AGRICULTURE

At Worth Valley Primary School, pupils from Year 5 and 6 attended a countryside day at the Yorkshire Showground near Harrogate.

This day out fitted in perfectly with their geography curriculum, offering hands-on experiences in UK farming and agriculture. Throughout the day, pupils took part in various activities that provided insights into what life is like in the farming industry.

INTEGRITY

We recognise the importance of instilling strong moral principles in all of our children.

WOODSIDE ACADEMY VS REEVY HILL - FRIENDLY DEBATE

Woodside Academy and Reevy Hill Primary School practiced their oracy skills this term in a friendly debate.

The motions were 'Bullies should be excluded from school' and 'Children should show ID when buying energy drinks'. Children tried really hard to respond to each other's ideas and use sentence starters.

Gary Stott, Headteacher at **Reevy Hill Primary School**, said: "We were very proud of all our pupils who took part. They worked hard to prepare for the debate, and this was evidenced by their well-structured arguments and use of debate techniques. We look forward to further debate challenges with our Leading Learner school community!"



DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

Sandbrook Primary School took part in Drowning Prevention Week this term.

This is an essential initiative for schools on the Wirral Peninsula, a location surrounded by water on three sides and with small streams and two marine lakes that draw people to them during the hot weather.

The week focused on educating pupils about water safety, teaching them crucial skills to stay near water and how to respond if they see someone in trouble.

Claire Temple, Sandbrook Headteacher, said: "Educating our pupils on the risks involved with any type of body of water isn't the most pleasant of topics but it is essential due to our location. I was really pleased to see our children listen well and take on board the information and advice given across the week."

FANTASTIC FUTSAL FUN!

Leading Learners' first class futsal player!

June saw the end of the national FA futsal season, and with it came a lot of national recognition for one of the teachers within our trust.

Laura Tobin, the PE lead and teacher at Tyldesley Primary School, plays weekly women's futsal for tier 1 team, Bolton Womens. This year, she helped her team win the National Futsal League! Bolton were also named team of the year.

In doing this, Laura herself won player of the season for the tier 1 National Futsal League. Laura is also a coach for Bolton and her coaching skills were also recognised with her being named as coach of the year.

Everyone within the school is very proud of Laura and are keen to see where her futsal journeys takes her next.

Years 3 and 4 pupils at Tyldesley Primary School demonstrated outstanding skills and sportsmanship as they represented their school in a futsal competition.

Throughout the four leagues, they remained undefeated, securing a place in the final.

In a display of remarkable teamwork and determination, the boys stepped up their performance for the 2-0 win. Well done, Tyldesley!



MENDELL PRIMARY SCHOOL DREAMS BIG

Mendell Primary School has revised its school vision this term, launching the updated statement and meaning behind it to pupils and parents.

Catherine O'Neill Edwards, Mendell Headteacher, said: "Our previous vision of 'Aspire - Challenge - Achieve' needed a bit of updating and we believe our new vision is more in line with our core beliefs.

"We are proud to announce that our new vision is 'Dream Big - Work Hard - Belong'. Our pupils are big fans and are already showing us how they can bring this to life throughout the school day and at home. Thank you to our school community for supporting this change!"

PRIDE

We take pride in our achievements and growth, both as a Trust and as individuals.

PALACE VISIT

Sandbrook Primary School Headteacher, Claire Temple, received an invitation to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party this term after a visit from the Lord Lieutenant's deputy, as a thank you for her outstanding contributions to the school community.

The honour recognises and supports outstanding educators who make a significant impact on their communities.

Leading Learners CEO, Yvonne Brown, said:

"Claire's invitation is a well-deserved acknowledgment of her exceptional leadership and commitment to educational excellence.

"Her dedication to the school community serves as an inspiration to us all and sets an outstanding example for the schools across the Trust."



NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION FINALIST

Following his success in the inaugural Leading Learners Poetry Competition, Worth Valley Primary School pupil, Elijah, was selected as a finalist in the National Poetry by Heart Competition!

The final took place at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on 1st July. Elijah proudly performed his poem in front of hundreds of people, including Children's Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

All finalists got to watch 'Much Ado About Nothing' and had a guided tour of the Globe before enjoying a full day of fantastic poetry performances from pupils and teachers from across the country.

Ceinwen Lodge, Worth Valley Headteacher, said: "We could not be prouder of Elijah and his amazing poetry! While he didn't win this year, his outstanding performance was exceptional and we can't wait to see him perform again. Well done, Elijah!"



STORYTIME WITH BETHAN WOOLLVIN

Well known author and illustrator, Bethan Woollvin, visited Worth Valley Primary School this term to share her books with younger pupils.

Reception children enjoyed creating their own illustrations inspired by Bethan's style and, after school, children had the opportunity to purchase signed books. What a fantastic day for everyone!



MENDELL PRIMARY EARNS PLATINUM IN H&S AUDIT

Mendell Primary School recently scored 100% and achieved Platinum Status in its latest Health and Safety audit, an amazing achievement!

Guided by Mrs Mansell, the school's fabulous Business Manager, the audit was conducted by Mark Melvin from Jeanne Fairbrother Associates. The audit was very thorough, with a detailed review of extensive evidence.

This is an accolade that only one other school in the Wirral currently holds, reflecting the team's hard work and commitment to the school's vision of 'Working Hard' and the rule 'Be Safe.'

Auditor, Mark Melvin, said: "All coordinators are keenly aware of their health and safety responsibilities and have excellent attitudes towards health and safety in school. All members of the health and safety team were very keen to do well in this audit and have worked hard to keep the school's health and safety compliance at the very high level it has attained under their stewardship.

"It should be noted that this was the best performance during an audit by any school I have visited. Well done!"



FERRY 'CROSS THE MERSEY ANNIVERSARY EVENT

This year marks 60 years since the recording and release of 'Ferry 'cross the Mersey' by Gerry Marsden. To honour that anniversary, Overchurch Junior School's choir were delighted to be selected to sing on one of the iconic Mersey Ferries. Led by Issy Connolly, the music lead, the choir performed in perfect harmony. The children were also accompanied by Sarah Elwill and Tilly, the school dog!



Anne Sheridan, Overchurch Headteacher, said: "We have music in our hearts at OJS! What a special experience this was. Our choir sounded wonderful and represented the school beautifully. We were proud to be joined by Yvonne Brown, our CEO for Leading Learners Trust and Becky Bridges, Director of Learning for our Wirral LLT schools. It was magnificent to have the support of our wonderful Trust family, as we know how much the trust values contribute to opportunities for children to develop their musical talents.

"Special thanks must also go to parent volunteers, Lauren Crilly, our School Office Administrator, Dianne Brown our School Business Manager, and Stacie Bowers from Mersey Ferries for making this experience possible."



CELEBRATING WELLBEING AMBASSADORS AND THE EXCELLING AWARD

Manor Primary School's Wellbeing Ambassadors were honoured at a special celebration event held by the National Children's Bureau.

Pupils joined around 100 children from various schools for a day filled with activities promoting mental health and wellbeing. The event began with collaborative efforts to decorate a hand with the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing', followed by treats and interactive games led by secondary school pupils. After a mindful session, the children received goodie bags and returned to school.

Manor Primary School received 'The Excelling Award' for its Whole School Approach to Mental Health during the celebration event. This recognition highlights the dedication of Mrs Sparks, staff, children, and governors, all of whom contributed significantly to the school's achievement and ongoing commitment to mental health awareness.



**Leading Learners
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