



Spring Newsletter 2023





Clayton Village Primary School

Part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire



Laycock Primary School

Part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire



Hollingwood Primary School

Part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire



Crossley Hall Primary School

Part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire



Grove House Primary School

Part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire



Farnham Primary School

Part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire



Words from the Chief Executive

Dear All,

I can't believe it has got to Easter already! Where did this term go? As the newsletter amply demonstrates it has been an action-packed term in Pennine Schools and after such disruption in recent years it has been nice to be back in the proper swing of things (Strike days and snow notwithstanding).

Our newsletter is a wonderful celebration of the great things that are going on throughout our communities. You will see great ideas and new inspirations. One of the significant advantages of being part of a multi-academy trust is the ability to learn from one another and support one another. It has been a pleasure to see the cross-school work that has gone on this term between our schools supporting one another with problems, staff development and school improvement. Whenever one school has a problem it is heartening to see the others rush to their support - a great sense of togetherness.

We also have significant partnership working arrangements with other Trusts and Organisations such as Exceed Multi-Academy Trust and Bradford Council. We work closely with Bradford Council in Special Educational Needs delivery and they have invested heavily in our schools.

As the days get lighter and longer it is hopefully bringing you a greater sense of optimism after a particularly hard winter. Please don't forget we are always here to support our families and even if we cannot solve problems directly we are pretty good at making sure you are signposted to someone who can.

Take care and enjoy your Easter Break with your children

Michael Thorp
Chief Executive Officer



Trust News - Parent Parliament



Pennine Academies Yorkshire appreciates that parents have an essential role to make all of our students successful. We have therefore had a Parent/Carer Parliament to ensure that parents have a clear voice in the way that the academy functions. It is an opportunity to discuss key topics with the opportunity to ask questions or raise any other concerns. If you are interested in becoming a parent representative then speak to a member of the school office to enquire about the process.

If you are interested in partaking in our Termly Virtual Meetings please get in touch with your child's school.



Trust News -Trust Talk

These sessions present an opportunity for any parent of any school to meet with the Chief Executive and or Members of the Central team to feedback on hot topics for academies. They are not for parents to pursue individual complaints as these would be dealt with via individual schools and their complaints policies. They do however provide an opportunity for parents to feedback on topics such as – Quality of School Meals, Relationships Education, Home School Communication, School Ethos, Inclusion, Developing Local Links, Pupil and Parent Voice.

Parents/Carers may book individual time slots to feedback by emailing: trusttalk@paymat.org

Trust Talk Session Dates

Date	Location	For the Parents of	15 min time slots
Friday March 17th	Crossley Hall	Any Academy	X 9
Wednesday April 19 th	Grove House	Any Academy	X 9
Thursday May 18th	Clayton	Any Academy	X 9
Thursday June 15 th	Farnham	Any Academy	X 9
Tuesday July 11th	Hollingwood	Any Academy	X 9
Tuesday September 12 th	Laycock	Any Academy	X 9
Wednesday October 11 th	Crossley Hall	Any Academy	X 9
Wednesday November 15th	Grove House	Any Academy	X 9
Thursday December 14th	Clayton	Any Academy	X 9

What's been going on at Clayton Village Primary?



CVPS Environmental Team – Keeping our school grounds clean and tidy!

Family Breakfasts



Celebrating World Book Day

Careers week – what do you want to be when you grow up?



Our lovely volunteers working the Mother's Day shop



The Amazing Plumber Drummer!

What's been going on at Laycock Primary?



The children and staff of Laycock Primary School have been very busy this term with trips, visitors and themed days which have been based around inspiring our children to go on in life and be whoever they want to be. In partnership with the Education Partnerships Team, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 engaged in a drama workshop with Freedom Studios and a dance session with Dance United Yorkshire.

They also had a session with poet Simone Yasmin where the children were inspired to write poetry as part of the West Yorkshire Poetry week.

We invited Simon Wilkinson, author of 'The Mammoth and The Moonstick' to talk to our KS2 children about his new publication, being an author and how to start writing a story. The children loved reading his novel and are excited to welcome him back for a writing workshop next term.

The children also enjoyed taking part in World Book Day where they came to school dressed as their favourite character from a book and became authors for the day. We also took part in a 'Rocking Red Nose' day where children and staff came to school dressed as Rock Stars which culminated with each class performing a rock song in the assembly!

All classes enjoyed taking part in a range of activities during British Science Week, with a theme of 'Connections'. One of the highlights was KS2s bridge building competition where they developed their engineering skills and how to work as part of a team.

Years 3 & 4 have visited Cliffe Castle as part of their Science topic 'Rocks and Fossils' where they became Geologists for the day studying the largest collection of rocks and minerals in the North of England.

We had a visit from Nathan, The Plumber Drummer, who makes music using his handmade pipe drum kit. He played us some of his creative and energetic music whilst also answering questions from the children about how he created such a unique sound. We were all memorised by his musical ability and how he started at a young age by drumming on his pots and pans at home.

As a final flourish to our busy half term, we held an Easter Egg competition where children and their parents created some fantastic entries which were displayed in a gallery after school for parents and children to visit.

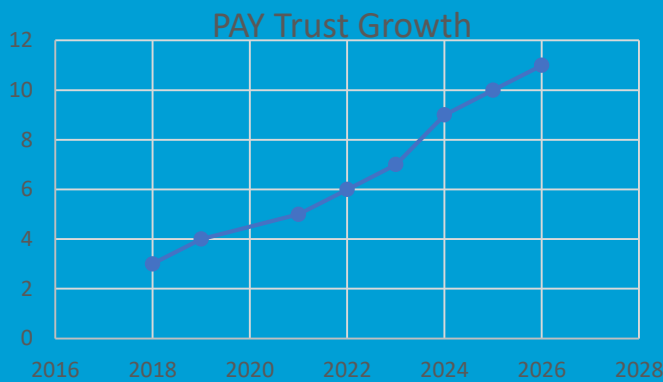






Trust News – Trust Growth

How big a Trust is has real significance as to how it operates. Size is usually judged by number of pupils rather than number of schools. We currently educate around 2400 pupils. Once we get to 3000 pupils we will attract significantly more funding. It is important that growth is not too fast as we need to make sure we have the capacity to support schools that join us. We have grown steadily since 2018 and now number 6 schools. We are excited to let you know we are currently in consultation with Lidget Green Primary School to join our trust. Lidget Green is a great local school similar in character to many of our schools. We have been working in partnership with them for a while and we would like them to join us by September this year. First of all, we need approval from the Government which we are currently awaiting. Ultimately, we would like to be around 10 primary schools so we are always looking to attract new partners.



Trust News –The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees are a highly effective, transparent and skilled group of professionals who work with the executive team to set the visions and values of the Trust. They hold the Executive to account and delegate the correct duties to scrutiny committees without giving away their responsibilities for standards. They define and articulate the values and beliefs of the organisation and these are embedded in the schools and scrutiny committees.



Nick Briggs (Chair)



Brent Fitzpatrick OBE



Penny Silson



Rizwan Rehman



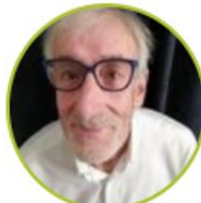
Dianne Richardson



Scott Crosby



Roger Butterfield



Hugh Figgess



Jumaima Iqbal



Emma Lister



Deirdre Bailey

What's been going on at Crossley Hall Primary?



We have all had a very busy Spring Term at CHPS!

Parents of our Year 1 and 2 children came into school to watch Phonics and Early Reading being taught - we had a fantastic turnout and the parents loved being back in the classroom. One mum told us she came to Crossley Hall as a child and would 'love to come back now because it's brilliant!'

Our Year 1 children visited Abbey House museum in Leeds as part of their learning about the Victorian era and Year 2 visited St Saviour's church, our children were amazed that it was just over the road from us!

Year 3 were visited by local artist William Norman (also known as Chicken Wire Guy!) who taught them how to sculpt with recycled materials...including chicken wire!



This half term, Early Years have had a wonderful time inviting parents in for some Stay and Play sessions in Nursery and a Phonics session about Read, Write, Inc. in Reception.

One proud parent even said,

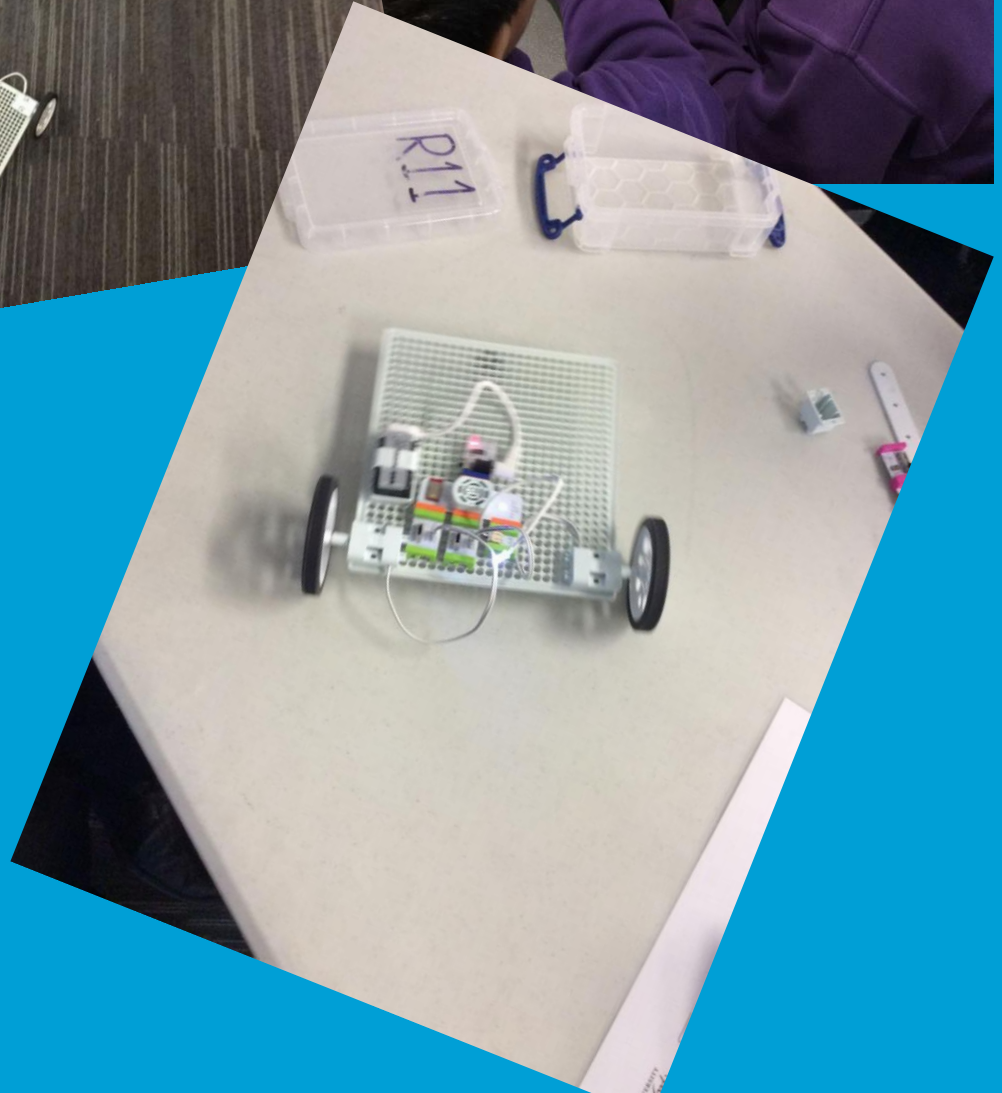
'They learn so much while they are here...can we have some more sessions please!'



What's been going on at Crossley Hall Primary?



Year 5 went on a visit to the Astrocampus at the University of York as part of their science topic. During the visit, the children had a go at programming robots, making meteors and creating their own rocket ships that could be used for a space landing! While they were there they also had a tour of the University!



What's been going on at Farnham Primary School?



World Book Day - The children and staff had a fabulous time celebrating World Book Day by coming to school dressed as a word. As part of our celebrations, our reading ambassadors shared stories with the reception children and spent time reflecting on why reading is so important to them. We invited our parents along to listen to a story with their children. Some classrooms set up 'book-tasting' cafes so children could sample different types of books so see what caught their attention.



Safer Internet Day - from gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2023 was on 7th February and was celebrated with the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Children learned about the risks of talking to children online and completed a questionnaire to test their knowledge on the risks of using the internet.

Year 5 Danelaw visitor - Year 5 had a wonderful visit from Gary, also known as Whaldred, who came to show them what life was like for a viking in England.

Reception children had the opportunity to ride a balance bike. The day focused on co-ordination, concentration and balance. During the session the children worked on stopping, balancing, manoeuvring and steering, they loved it.

Nursery children have been talking about keeping their teeth healthy. The children know that we need to brush our teeth twice a day. They sang a rhyme to help them to remember to brush their teeth.



What's been going on at Farnham Primary School?



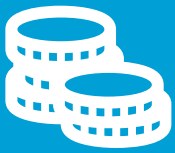
Year 1 have been learning about plants. They have been identifying and naming common wild plants, garden plants and trees. They have also been describing the basic structure of flowering plants.

In history, the children in Year 2 have been learning about The Great Fire of London. In DT we designed, planned and made a moving fire engine and discussed how we could improve our designs. In computing we created surveys of the staff cars in the car park to create pictograms. We are loving using our new iPads to support our learning and we have been researching wolves to write a non-chronological report.

Year 3 made wild boards in art using clay as part of our learning about the Bradford Boar in history. We researched our local history and Saltaire and are really looking forward to our trip in Saltaire after Easter. In English, we have created performance poems and performed them to each other and created songs to help us to learn our times tables. We really enjoyed our trip to the synagogue this term.

In Year 4 we have been learning about circuits in Science. We will be using our learning to create a light up robot as part of our DT project. We went to Bagshaw Museum as a pre-learning opportunity ready for our learning about Ancient Egyptians in the summer term. In Geography we have been looking at land usage in our local area and learning about how brilliant Bradford is! We enjoyed our trip to the Hindu Temple as part of our RE curriculum. Children created posters about how different faiths and believers can get along in the community and we will be sending these posters to the Hindu Temple.





Trust News - Finances



It has been a challenging year financially for everyone and schools are no different. It was good timing that our new Chief Financial Officer, Lindsey Denton started with Pennine Academies Yorkshire in 2022. She has over 15 years' experience in finance, initially in industry before transitioning to the education sector in 2014. She is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Her previous experience involved leading the finance function of an educational Trust with an income of £38m.

The Trust is in financially good shape but we are having to be very cautious with the degree of uncertainty at the moment. Nonetheless the Trust hold modest reserves and we have avoided staff redundancies at all costs.



Trust News - Successes

- The roll out of a continued professional development programme for all our teachers - STEP (Stronger Together Education Partnership) - led by our Director of School Improvement Rebecca Cradock
- Securing £165,000 for Crossley Hall to improve outdoor play facilities for the Resourced Provision. This funding came from Bradford Council
- Our ICT lead has secured a place for all our schools in Connected Classrooms (see below) this will direct around £350,000 of IT funding to the Trust.
- 3 successful Condition Improvement Fund bids bringing £267,000 to the Trust
- Secured a highly competitive Utilities contract that ensures a greater degree of predictability of fuel prices for the next 5 years
- 3 Successful Ofsted's where schools maintained their current ratings.



Trust News – Connect the Classroom

Our IT lead, Kerry Mulroy has secured Connect the Classroom funding for all our schools. This initiative is provided by the Department for Education to ensure schools are provided free of charge with seamless and future proof wireless networks. This means all the wireless networks in our schools will be replaced with state-of-the-art equipment that will make incredible savings for our schools. We estimate this has saved the Trust about £250,000 in equipment we will not have to replace ourselves.

What's been going on at Grove House Primary School?



A number of visually impaired pupils at Grove House have piano lessons with the "Amber Trust" charity. The charity was set up to provide musical opportunities for children who are blind, partially sighted or/and have complex needs. Recently, Channel 4 produced a programme called "The Piano" which featured one of Amber Trust's pupils, Lucy, who went on to win the show. Lucy had been taught since the age of two by Daniel Bath from the Trust. Following the success of "The Piano", the production company is creating a new programme to follow Daniel and his pupils to highlight all the fabulous work he does. Three pupils from GHPS have their lessons in school with Daniel. We were delighted when the company wanted to film the children in school to showcase everything Daniel has achieved with our children.



Who doesn't love a book and a bagel??

The Amazing Plumber Drummer!



Fantastic Story Spoons

What's been going on at Hollingwood Primary School?



We are very proud to announce that Nursery are now an Accredited Hygge in the Early Years setting.

Nursery is joining in with the Big Garden Birdwatch 2023. We explored nest making with clay, meadow grass and natural materials we collected.



Reception have been learning about snowflakes and have enjoyed using different mediums to design their own. They have also loved exploring the topic of "Space". We have created our own aliens and space rockets! We have learnt all about the planets of the Solar System and about the moon.

Year 1 started the January term by joining Paddington in making his favourite, marmalade sandwiches.

Year 2 are enjoying their Mastery Maths lessons. We have been problem solving and looking at grouping as one method of division.

In Year 2, we have been looking at local habitats in Science. We decided to make some habitats for local wildlife, thinking about their needs.

World Book Day - we all had a wonderful day.



What's been going on at Hollingwood Primary School?



KS2 Cooking Club commenced in January. The children learned about food hygiene and knife skills. They made a delicious strawberry smoothie and even churned own butter, which they enjoyed very much on toast!



What a treat - Year 3 and 4 were invited to a music extravaganza at Dixons Kings Academy. They were entertained by a range of musicians and singers. It was wonderful to see some of our past pupils performing.



We decorated Easter eggs in Nursery. We love getting our fingers busy by using very small resources to challenge our pincer grip.



For Autism Awareness week Year 2 have been thinking about how our differences can make us special. We made posters to show things that we are good at and things that we find challenging

Year 3 had a fabulous, but rather soggy time at Forest School. They were absolute stars.





Trust News - Buildings



Because our schools are part of a Multi Academy Trust we can bid for Condition Improvement Funds. This means that money from our main budgets that might have to be spent on buildings upkeep can be directed to your children's education. So far, we have been awarded £287,487. including £169,651 for Hollingwood's roof, £68,308 for safeguarding improvements at Crossley Hall and £49,528 for site safety at Laycock. We currently have bids to the tune of 4.1 million pounds in this year. Fingers crossed!

We have been working in conjunction with Bradford Council to improve the outdoor areas for children with additional need at Crossley Hall. Working in partnership with the Central Team and BDMC we proposed a scheme that would transform the outdoor areas. The work will begin in Summer 2023 and be finished ready for the start of school in September. The council kindly contributed £164,000 to the scheme which will make an amazing difference to our children. Here is a sneaky peek!

PROPOSED PLAY AREA
Area One

3m x 3m CAMBRIDGE SHELTER

BENCH SEAT

EXAMPLE MUSIC PANELS

CONSTRUCTION SITE

@CreativePlayUK
/CreativePlayUK
/Creative-Play-UK





Trust News - Buildings



PROPOSED PLAY AREA



TALK TUBES



MUSIC PANELS



TIMBER SANDBOX



DART ACTIVITY CENTRE



OCTAVIA SHELTER



BASKET SWING



SPINNER WITH SEATING



A-FRAME TUNNEL





Trust Talk sessions with the CEO

As parents, you are invited to book a time at any one of the sessions available in the schools.

Simply email trusttalk@paymat.org for an appointment time with the CEO:

MAR 17 th	Crossley Hall Primary School	SEP 12 th	Laycock Primary School
APR 19 th	Grove House Primary School	OCT 11 th	Grove House Primary School
MAY 18 th	Clayton Village Primary School	NOV 15 th	Clayton Village Primary School
JUN 15 th	Farnham Primary School	DEC 14 th	Farnham Primary School
JUL 11 th	Hollingwood Primary School		

The Trust Talk Sessions are being offered as an opportunity for any parent, of any school, to meet with the Chief Executive (and or members of the Central Team) to give feedback on "hot" topics for academy trusts, such as the school ethos, inclusion, home school communication, developing local links, relationship education or the quality of school meals.

The discussion is about offering parents a voice and what the academy trust can improve in the educational experience for their children.

(They are not for the pursuit of individual complaints, which should be addressed through the Complaints Policy available in school)

