

## Lighting the way forward in education

Welcome to our November 2020 Trust Newsletter to Parents and Carers.

Our theme for this edition is HOPE, particularly apt as we approach the Christmas break and, in the true meaning of the word, 'an optimistic state of mind based on an expectation of positive outcomes', I truly believe that this is the feeling conveyed in the plethora of images presented in this newsletter that show school life across our Trust Partnership.

In what has been a very tough term for our schools, it is so heartening to see 'in action' the dedication, commitment and enormous efforts our school communities are going to, to deliver a well-rounded, exciting and meaningful curriculum experience.

Improving the quality of teaching – both how teachers teach and what they teach in schools has always been a significant priority for us as an organisation. We are immensely proud of our School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) which provides trainee teachers with a mix of academic and hands-on training, working to achieve the PGCE qualification and become the next generation of Primary and Secondary Teachers. We are extremely fortunate to work in close partnership with Leeds Trinity University and we offer school placements in both rural and urban schools located across North and West Yorkshire.

Whilst I am totally bias, I do believe Teaching is an incredible and rewarding profession – influencing, inspiring and shaping children and young people in their knowledge and understanding of the world they live in. Indeed, the actions of a teacher benefit society as a whole!

As we work towards the end of an intense Autumn term, I'd like to sincerely thank you for all your continued support.

With best wishes,

Jenn Plews Trust Leader (CEO)



## Pupil and Staff Wellness

In constantly changing times it is vitally important that Trusts and schools are sharply focusing on how best we can support the wellness of our pupils and staff. A core goal for Northern Star Academies Trust is to promote a whole organisational approach to wellness and positive mental health in a safe, happy and healthy school environment. We would like to receive feedback and listen to parents/carers views on what we do well and what constructively we could do to improve our support of pupil's wellness – **please look out for a short survey that will be sent out via your school offices.**

## Governance

Are you looking for a new opportunity to give back to the community? Would you like to make a difference for our schools? Then you could join a network of 70 volunteers giving exceptionally valuable support to NSAT's schools!

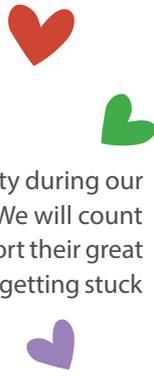
We are on the lookout for new governors across Keighley, Skipton and Harrogate. Our governors represent and champion the diversity of our school communities and we want that to continue.

To be a governor, there is no requirement to have a formal qualification, and you do not need to be a parent or carer connected to a school. We just ask that you have:

- ▶ a passion for learning and self-development
- ▶ the time and capacity to commit to six meetings per year
- ▶ a willingness to take on responsibility, support our schools and hold them to account for delivering excellent education

**If you, or somebody you know, is interested in finding out more, email: [governance@nsat.org.uk](mailto:governance@nsat.org.uk) or get in touch with your local NSAT school.**

# Children in Need Fundraising



Thank you so much to our families for their generosity during our COVID-safe collections for **#ChildrenInNeed2020**. We will count it up and send it off to this wonderful charity to support their great work. Below you can see our Reception Pudsey Bears getting stuck in to the fundraising efforts.



# Remembrance Day Commemorations

We are very proud of all our community this week honouring all those who have given, and continue to give, their lives to help keep us safe. **#RemembranceDay2020**



## Tinkering in the Tinker Tray

The Reception children have been fascinated by the new loose parts tinker tray today. Plenty of language, science, technology and fine motor development going on. [#howdoesitwork?](#) [#nutsandbolts](#) [#firsthandexperiences](#)



## Bonfire Night Colouring Competition

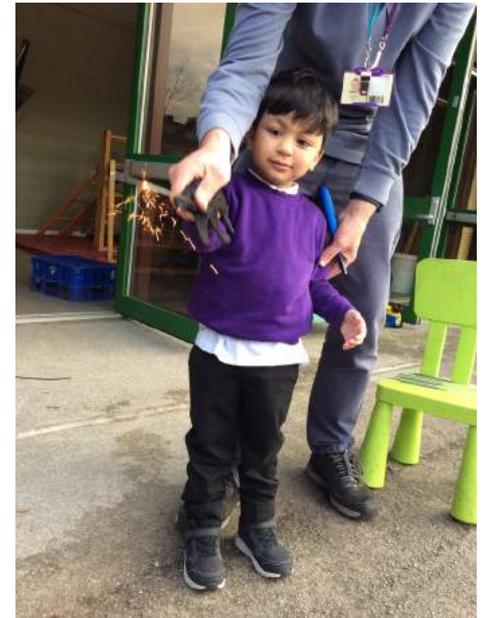
Congratulations to our Bonfire Night colouring competition winners. Many fantastic entries. The judges found it very difficult to pick the winners! [#creativity](#) [#beautifulwork](#)



## 50 Things to Do in Bradford

We are so proud to be participators, supporters and champions of the 50Things approach. Great to see the roll-out of this fab programme across other authorities. Our pre-school children have been having fun with bubbles and water play - our No 26 of 50 things.

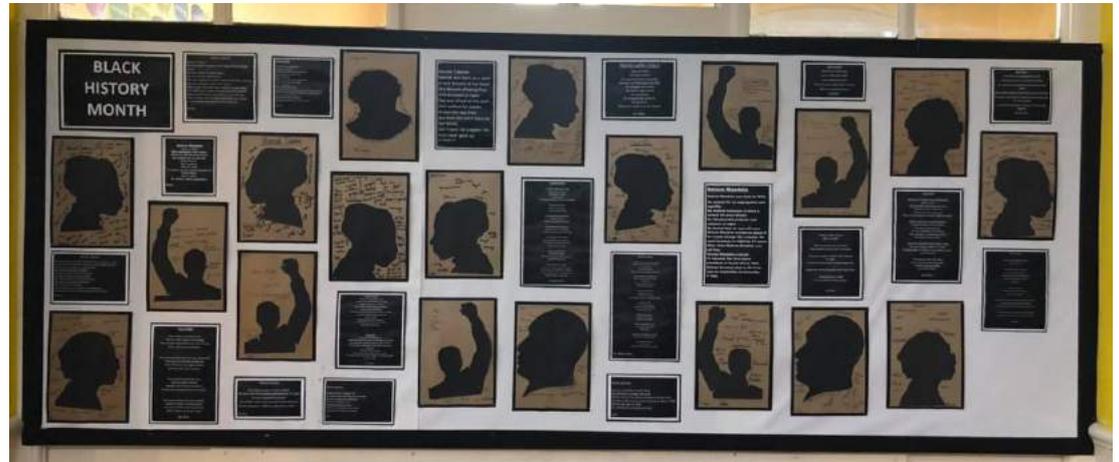
[#splishplashsplish](#)  
[#50ThingsToDoInBradford](#)





## Black History Month

Year 5 learnt about key figures such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Mary Seacole during their Black History Week. They were inspired to write poems on the figures and create silhouettes surrounded by inspirational words.



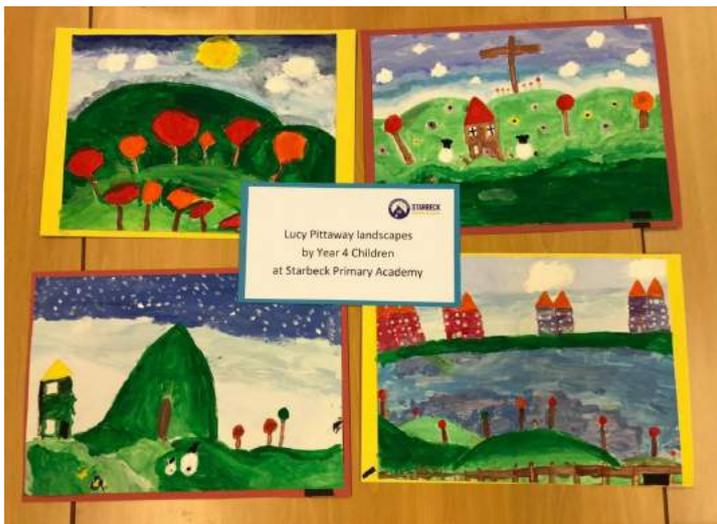
## Ancient Greeks Day

Just another normal day in Year 6! Ancient Greeks day. Fancy dress with a real purpose after a half term of great learning - the day included drawing Archimedes' spiral, making warrior peg dolls, a Greek feast and taking part in a 'alternative' Olympic Games in City State teams.



# Feel Good Artwork

Our children painted some amazing 'bright and feel-good' pictures for Vida Hall Care Home in Starbeck. These will decorate their new pod, that enables relatives to visit residents in a safe and socially distanced way. I am sure all who visit will enjoy these wonderful pictures.



# Harvest Festival

WOW WOW WOW! A huge thank you for your very generous donations for our Harvest Festival before half term. In these difficult times it's wonderful to see such compassion and generosity from our Starbeck community. The Harrogate Foodbank will be very grateful! 



# Greatwood Community Primary & Nursery School



## Gone Fishing

We had a thoroughly enjoyable, educational and relaxing afternoon spent honing our fishing skills with Mark Lee Smedley from MS Angling and education. The children loved learning about varying bait, depth, shotted patterns and feeding patterns in order to entice the fish. A very well organised and COVID-safe fishing experience and just what our Outdoor-Ed group needed! Mr Magee and Mr French are also improving their techniques! [@NorthYorksSport](#) [#outdoored](#)



## Hanson Box

We are delighted to have received our Hanson Box once again and we cannot wait to open it and find out what's inside! Many thanks to the Philanthropist Don Hanson, who's work is having such a huge impact on children's lives. [#empowered](#) [#curiosity](#) [#drive](#) [#inspired](#)



## Nursery and Reception Journals

Our Nursery and Reception Learning Journals are looking fantastic, so many observations, photographs and parental contributions for all children. [#handwritten](#) [#journal](#)



## Lest We Forget

Our beautiful hanging poppies gently turning in the breeze...



# Hookstone Chase Primary School



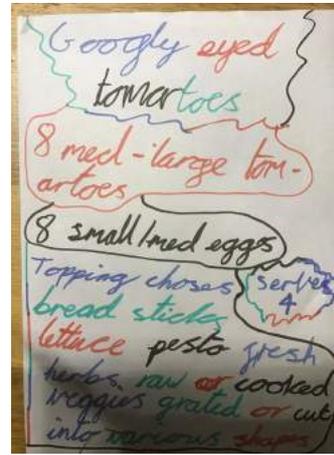
## Using Nature to Make Skeletons

Hawthorn class have been looking at the human skeleton and part of their homework was to create one using natural materials. You can see the major bones have been included for support, protection and movement.



## Homework Recipes

If you are looking for some cooking inspiration then look not further than some of Hawthorn's tasty homework recipes! These have been inspired by our work on healthy living and the human body.



## Otto the Nurture Dog

Hard day at the office for Otto, Hookstone's happy little nurture dog. He's still learning the ropes but can't wait to work with many of our children. Otto has even played a part in our 'Welcome to Hookstone' film.



## Homework Challenges

The children in Hawthorn have been completing their homework challenges over half term. Here is a selection of some of their spectacular work so far!



# New Park Primary Academy



## Getting Children Cycling Again

It's been fantastic to have Bike Futures at New Park repairing children's bicycles FOR FREE! What an amazing service with a smile! Thanks so much to you and Cycling UK for your support.



## Black Dog

*"Black Dog is a book about being scared. It is also a book about not being scared. It all depends on how you see things" - Levi Pinfold*

Year 3/4 have been examining the theme of fear in Black Dog, freeze framing, exploring vocabulary and talking about their own fears.



## Great Fire of London

KS1 have mixed red and yellow acrylic paints and used sponges to make these fabulous moody images of the Great Fire of London!



## Children in Need

Over £150 raised for BBC Children in need this year and loads of fun in the Winter sunshine - what a brilliant way to end a week!



# We Will Remember Them



# Holycroft Primary School and Nursery

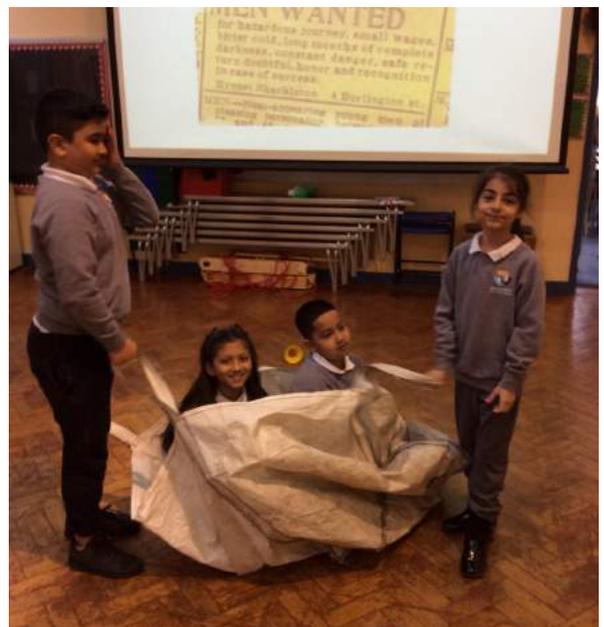
## Why Recycling Is So Important

Some wonderful ideas from our children on why recycling is important and how we can keep our world perfect.



## Shackleton Adventure

Year 4 really enjoyed taking part in their Shackleton Adventure earlier in this half term.



# Harrogate High School



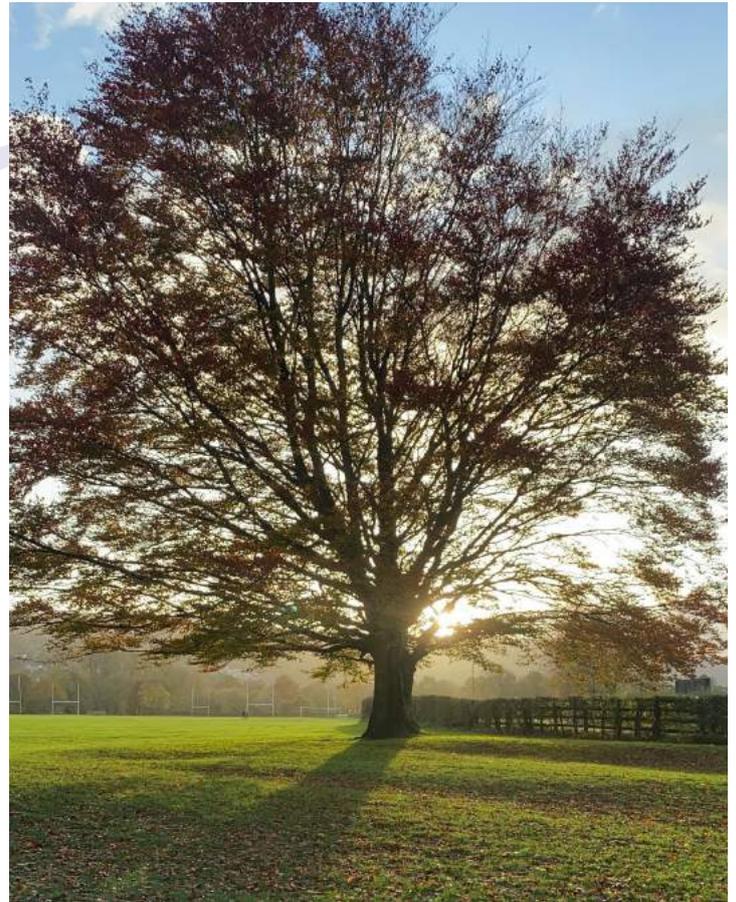
## Food Donations

Thank you so much to Morrisons in Harrogate for supporting our students with their food donations. We really appreciated it!



## Get Out and Take Notice

One of our recent Wellbeing Wednesday topics was all about taking notice of the world around us and we asked students and staff how they could get outside as a family.



## Sponsored Run

Thank you Harrogate Hospital & Community Charity for providing individual letters to all the students who ran the Sponsored Run last half term. The students were thrilled.



## Outstanding Attendance

We have recently spent time recognising students who achieved 100% attendance in half term one. Every student with 100% has received a small gift. A big thank you to Mowbray Community Church for supporting us to provide these rewards.

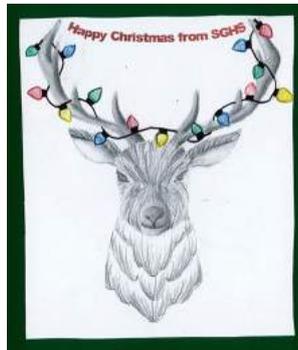
# Skipton Girls' High School

skipton girls' high school  
an engineering academy

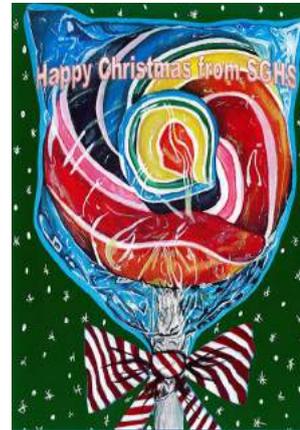
## Christmas Card Competition

A big well done to all the students who entered the School Christmas card competition, there were lots of superb entries, which meant the judging was very difficult!

We have three winners, who each received a £25 voucher for the Skipton Art Shop.



Caitlin Booth - Year 8



Tia Eyles - Year 12



Clemmie Swiffen - Year 10

## Sustainable Travel Calendar Competition

We are delighted to announce that the designs of four of our students; Emma Charlton, Scarlett Smith, Emily Wood and Adelle Tuck, for the North Yorkshire County Council sustainable travel team calendar competition, have been chosen to be printed in their calendar. Their work is also being printed and framed to go up on the walls in County Hall.

The students have also won a £25 shopping voucher and a copy of the calendar. School will also receive a copy of the calendar once printed.



Emily Wood - Year 12



Emma Charlton - Year 10



Adelle Tuck - Year 7



Scarlett Smith - Year 10

**Fantastic!**

# Northern Lights School Centred Initial Teacher Training



## Trainees Going Above and Beyond!

Our largest cohort of trainees (29 in total) have made an excellent start to their teaching careers this term!

They have made an outstanding contribution to support the children of a wide range of Primary and Secondary partnership schools across Craven, Keighley and Harrogate. Rising to the challenges presented to everyone this year and staying creative and resilient.

We are very proud of their contributions and the fantastic progress they have made already...



(Above) Trainees at South Craven School after their first week.



(Above) Trainee teachers enjoying a well-deserved lunch break before afternoon lessons in Biology and English at Skipton Girls' High School.

# Northern Lights Teaching School Alliance

**NORTHERN LIGHTS**  
Teaching School Alliance

Northern Lights has been finding its way through the COVID undergrowth and moving online with our Continuing Professional Development Programmes. For example, this term we have picked up after lockdown and:

- ▶ Supported 15 MFL teachers on the Teacher Subject Specialism Programme (TSST) to build skills in a second language. Moving entirely online, we have recruited delegates from the Lake District to London. We are working with the TES Institute - a global organisation – to give the best blended experience – alongside our own MFL teachers and Foreign Language Assistants
- ▶ Supported 15 non specialist Science teachers in TSST Physics
- ▶ Introduced the Early Career Framework entitlement for both Bradford, as an early roll out area, and Craven as an expansion area. Northern Lights are acting as a Hub for the National Provider, the Educational Development Trust – an organisation with a global commitment to educational development. Our SCITT leads are training mentors and Early Career Teachers in the ECF entitlement and on the strength of their feedback, have been asked to run the regional training supported by Northern Lights hosting the sessions. This will give our schools an insight into the programme before the statutory changes to induction which will be introduced in Sept 21.
- ▶ 19-20 Equality and Diversity programmes postponed owing to COVID are now completing, including Leadership 2020 and our national LGBTEd Conference. In addition, our position as a Hub for the East Midlands and North allow us to support a wide range of provision addressing the lack of diversity in school leadership structures.
- ▶ Commenced NPQ delivery through joint 'clusters' with Exceed – our own leaders are delivering on these programmes.

Northern lights are also delighted to have agreed an extension to the Bradford for Teaching contract, focussing on ITT recruitment and to build a sustainable recruitment strategy for the L.A.

Northern Lights working with our very own Science Learning Partnership were excited to win a bid to support the COVID Recovery in Bradford. This will involve both delivering remote Secondary Science Tuition to complement the National offer and distributing 2000 Primary Science kits. Materials generated in this will also be able to support our own schools as they build on core Science 'big' ideas.



# North & West Yorkshire Science Learning Partnership



## Fantastic Futures and Where to Find Them

North and West Yorkshire Science Learning Partnership, working with the TransPennine STEM Ambassador Hub put on a series of 10 webinars for primary schools featuring engaging STEM professionals. With over 7500 pupils attending, these workshops sought to inspire children in STEM related careers.

Schools from across England and Wales attended (see map below) with some sessions attracting more than 1500 pupils at a time – one of the benefits of using technology! We had sessions from the RAF, the Environment Agency, Microsoft, Lockheed Martin and many more – including our own local company JB Springs – we found out that they have made a 21metre long spring for an oil well!



The Fantastic Futures event – attended by schools from across England and Wales, also included some of our NSAT pupils – including Year 6 at Starbeck Primary Academy, who enjoyed seeing the session on springs, which fit nicely with their current ‘Steampunk’ topic...



## Our Fantastic Futures Social Media Round-up

Teachers have been tweeting the impact of these sessions, using the hashtag #fantasticfutures



WOW - we had over 2100 pupils joining our #FantasticFutures workshops today! We hope you found it truly inspirational and learnt about the amazing #STEMcareers there are. With @ChapelfordPri @ChirtonSchool @ChuterEPrimary @CHLPrimary

19 Nov



Year 6 are enjoying a @STEMAmbassadors zoom talk this morning all about how we can get jobs in technology with an ambassador from Microsoft :) #fantasticfuturesandwheretofindthem

16 Nov - Llansannor Primary School



Year 5 are loving finding out more about careers in #materialsandmedicines linked to their Hocus Pocus (History of Medicine) topic!! #fantasticfutures

19 Nov - The Grove Primary School

Lots of questions including "If the cancer drugs don't work what will; they do? (Darcie). Kadie says she wants to be a scientist because she wants to be involved in top secret projects! Daisy wants to be a mathematician and Jack a computer engineer/programmer. Great inspiration. 👍

20 Nov - Phoenix Primary



@MicrosoftUK @metoffice @STEMLearningUK We have enjoyed joining the Fantastic Future STEM Zoom meeting. Look how many schools also joined us all over the country. We are feeling very inspired by the Met Office and Microsoft speakers

17 Nov - Mabs Cross Y6B

This afternoon Year 3/4 have been zooming scientists! Thanks for our school shoutout and answering our questions. Did you know the centre of the earth is about 30x the temperature of your oven when cooking roast potatoes! #amazing

19 Nov - Steeton Primary School



Tweet

# Upcoming STEM Conference

Coming up we have a new and exciting collaborative STEM Conference, featuring two weeks of sessions for Primary, Secondary, FE, Teachers, Technicians, Governors and more!

This remotely delivered cross-phase STEM conference is suitable for STEM teachers and science technicians, regardless of their experience. With a selection of 92 sessions across the following strands: leadership, pedagogy, enrichment and digital technology as well as closing the COVID gap, together with Keynote addresses from renowned speakers - make this the one Conference you go to this autumn!

## STEM Conference

Two weeks of sessions for Primary, Secondary, FE, Teachers, Technicians, Governors and more!

Featuring Claire Grimes, Prof. Louise Archer, Dr Sheila Kanani, AQA and Pearson

Mon 30th November - Fri 11th December



### Inspire and Engage

Register your school on one of the below packages – you will then receive information on how select the sessions you (or other colleagues from your school) would like to attend. Once selected sessions have been booked, joining instructions for each session will be sent to you to distribute to colleagues attending each session. Note: It does not need to be the same person attending all the sessions.

**6 'PREMIUM' SESSION PLACES - £150\*\*\***

Booking: <http://bit.ly/STEM-SIX>

**12 'PREMIUM' SESSION PLACES - £250\*\*\***

Booking: <http://bit.ly/STEM-TWELVE>

**UNLIMITED 'PREMIUM' SESSION PLACES - £495\*\*\***

Booking: <http://bit.ly/STEM-UNLIM>

\*\*\*UNLIMITED PLACES ON 'ADDITIONAL SESSIONS' INCLUDED IN ABOVE PACKAGES! COSTS ABOVE ARE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS.

#### SPEAKERS



**Claire Grimes**  
Author of Rosenshine's Principles in Action workbook



**Prof. Louise Archer**  
The Karl Mannheim Chair of Sociology of Education at the Institute of Education (UCL)



**Dr Sheila Kanani**  
Education, Outreach and Diversity Officer at the Royal Astronomical Society

