

Lighting the way forward in education

Welcome to the Spring edition of the NSAT Newsletter and thank you for taking the time to find out what each of our schools have been doing over the last busy term.

Without a doubt the Spring Term witnessed our schools emerging strongly from the pandemic – that is not say we haven't faced many hurdles and challenges. But, to recognise the work of our school leaders, teachers, and associate staff in working collaboratively within and across our Trust Partnership to ensure the education they deliver is equitable and high quality for all learners.

A standout feature for me in this edition is the significant emphasis our schools place on learning from and in the environment and natural world. To see our Trust strategic priority of **environmental sustainability** lived out in each school's curriculum and enrichment offer is both humbling and exciting.

Northern Star Academies Trust vehemently believe that as educators we must lead by example: we must explicitly teach our children and young people how to live in a sustainable way, and to actively listen to their concerns and act up on them. **If as a parent/ carer or family member you feel you could support us with our work on sustainability and climate change, we would love to hear from you.**

I very much hope you enjoy reading about our brilliant and unique schools.

Jenn Plews
Trust Leader



(Above) New Park Primary Academy's wonderful new EYFS outdoor area is complete and ready for the children!



It was with great pleasure that on the **1st April 2022** we welcomed Willow Tree Primary School, Harrogate into our family of academies that makes up the Northern Star Trust Partnership.

Willow Tree have joined our learning community of **4000 children** and young people, supported by almost **700 staff**.

Welcome to NSAT everyone!



Welcome to the

Northern Star Trust Partnership

Willow Tree Primary School



Author Emma Carrol Drops in for a Visit

What a brilliant afternoon Year 5 and 6 have had!

Our persuasive letters worked and author Emma Carroll was persuaded into visiting us! Thank you for a fascinating and inspiring afternoon. We also took Emma to see Rowan's class door, which they decorated as one of her book covers.

The children loved becoming Graham Norton and interviewing Emma. There were more book orders than ever before.

It's official: Year 5 and 6 are Emma Carroll super fans!



Walk to School

Our children have almost become little activists and feel that environmental issues are so important that they wanted to play their part in getting people walking by joining in in the 'Walk to School Day' initiative. 🙌👏

@WillowPrimary @HarrogateTown

Walk to School 🚶🚶🚶🎥

#ProudToBeTown



Watch our pupils getting involved!



VE Day Street Party

The school hall was transformed into a VE Day street party, complete with bunting, balloons, 1940s-era music and even a taste of a Victoria sandwich!



On the Home Front

Year 5 and 6 celebrated the end of their History topic with an immersive World War 2 day. Here are some of the children's impressive costumes, which complimented our theme: the Home Front.



Eastwood Community School



Hiking in the Dales

It has been a very busy but exciting week in Year Five. We all enjoyed a beautiful day out hiking in Malham. The sun stayed with us all day and our legs managed to travel to Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar and then to the base of Malham Cove. **Amazing sights to end our week.**



A Trip to the Garden Centre



Nursery PM children went to Woodbank Garden Centre to bring back some beans and sunflower seeds as this term's theme is growing. But we ended up buying a goldfish which we named Simba for our nursery pet. **#50TTDBradford #learningoutsidetheclassroom #nurseypet #growing**



Minibeast Hotel



Nursery children have had a great time with Mrs Smith building a minibeast hotel. We created a hotel full of different natural materials, to provide hidey-holes for creatures galore! **#50TTD #minibeast #bughotel #wigglyworms #outdoorfun #learningoutoftheclass**



Starbeck Primary Academy



Our pupils 'no idling' message to drivers

Taken from the Harrogate Advertiser

Pupils from a Harrogate school have staged a new protest as part of a long-running campaign against air pollution near their school.

The Year 5 class from Starbeck Primary Academy took part in a 'No Idling' campaign at the Starbeck railway level crossing alongside members and volunteers from the Starbeck Residents' Association and Zero Carbon Harrogate.

Headteacher Garry de Castro-Morland said the event aimed to raise awareness among drivers on the congested Knaresborough Road that they should turn off their engines while stationary in queues.

"Our school is situated close to the railway crossings and pupils and staff continue to be concerned about the levels of air pollution caused by queuing traffic twice hourly, that builds up in front of their school each time the crossings close. The children designed informative leaflets and posters to explain the impact of vehicle emissions from idling engines."

It's not the first time the school has voiced its concern over the environmental impact of traffic congestion near the level crossing.

In 2019 pupils took part in a similar event as part of a short 'No Idling' campaign launched by Zero Carbon Harrogate, a non-partisan independent pressure group supporting the push to reduce carbon emissions in the Harrogate district.



Easter Bonnet Parade

The sun ☀️ shone on our first Easter Bonnet Parade since 2019, on the final day of term. So good to see our EYFS and KS1 children looking amazing in their hats and so many of our wonderful parents, carers and friends lining the high street to support us.



Whitby Residential

Thank you to all the year 5 children for being an absolute delight to take away on residential for three days. The comments on your attitudes and behaviour we received from the public today, whilst walking around Whitby, made us all very proud of you!



New Park Primary Academy



Eggwatch

Eggwatch 2022 begins! A very exciting day in EYFS. The children have been thinking about what might be inside and how they might get out - lots of thoughtful discussions!



Adventures at Marrick Priory

Teamwork, encouragement, bravery and resilience in spades this afternoon on our trip to Marrick Priory!

Amazing efforts from all the children!



Planting Supplies from B&Q

A brilliant trip to [@BandQ](#) with Year 2 this morning! The children used their shopping lists to make sure they had all the seeds and plants they needed. Special thanks to the parents who helped supervise and the [@BandQ](#) Harrogate staff for being so helpful!



Next Generation Board

A brilliant assembly from our Next Generation Board members - the children challenged their peers to think about how we can make our school and our homes greener and more environmentally friendly!

[@NSATgreen](#)



Hookstone Chase Primary School



Importance of Air Quality

A huge thank you to Performance In Education for their production of 'Air Quality' on Thursday to Year 5. A hugely engaging show that brought the importance of air quality to life.



Wonderful Book Donations

A huge... massive....ENORMOUS thank you to all the families who donated books to revamp our library. Over three hundred books were donated. According to one of our children, "the library has come back to life!"



Artistic Landscapes

Oak and Maple ventured outside this morning to capture landscapes in charcoal and pastels.



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Some of our talented Reception and Year One artists in Sycamore Class have been creating artwork based on 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.



Holycroft Primary School and Nursery



HOLYCROFT
Primary School and Nursery

Amazing Library Bus

The AMAZING library bus came to Holycroft this week! Our Reception and Year 1 children got to spend some time inside the cosy library, listening to stories and reading some new, exciting books. @Literacy_Trust

"The best thing was getting to read another story." - Reception



Living Things

In science, Year 5 are learning about Living Things and their habitats and our first lesson was learning all about how plants and vegetables grow. In the picture we are growing potatoes and daffodils



The Gruffalo

This half term Reception are studying different books written by the wonderful author.....Julia Donaldson. The first book we are learning about is **The Gruffalo!**



Nebulas

Reception have loved learning about Space the last few weeks. This week we made Nebulas in jars!

"A nebula is a big colourful cloud in space";

"its gas and dust"



Harrogate High School



Dukeshouse Wood

Students had a great time on the Year 8 Residential to Dukeshouse Wood. It provided a wonderful opportunity for students to try new things, break down barriers/step out of their comfort zone, develop social and emotional skills and unplug from technology.



Karting Success

Congratulations to Year 11 student Rhys! After a successful race weekend at Kimbolton, Rhys set the new Senior X30 Lap Record!



Professional Recording

It was only nine months ago that Ellie T, Year 11, didn't have the confidence to sing in front of anyone. This afternoon Mrs Southern was proud to watch Ellie lay down 2 tracks at a professional recording studio. **The stars shine bright for this young lady!**



School Production

Congratulations to all the students who performed in the school production. *"Lights, Camera Action!"* was a great showcase of all your dedication and hard work. Mrs Hastings was very proud of you all!



YV Concert



The bestest of friends having the bestest of evenings, singing, dancing, smiling and most importantly, being children!

@YVconcerts @UrbanStrides
@TheRealTBC @rutimusic

#singing #choir #happiness
#experiences #opportunities



Greatwood Community Primary & Nursery School



Ripon Museum

We had a wonderful time at Ripon Museum. In the morning we re-enacted a court case and found out whether the defendant was guilty or innocent.

@RiponMuseums
#handson #history



River Survey

Our Year 1 children are in Airton carrying out a river study as part of their Outdoor-Ed curriculum. What will they find? #experiences #opportunities



Bee Keepers

Many Congratulations to our three staff members who are now certified bee keepers. Take a look at the photograph below, can you spot the Queen bee?

#beekeeping #beesinschool



Skipton Girls' High School

Skipton Girls' High School



Duke of Edinburgh

Year 10 students completing their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award spent a day out in the Yorkshire Dales for a training day. We walked in a circular loop from Embsay through Draughton, Halton East and Eastby.

The walk was challenging with a lot of hills to climb, but we really enjoyed walking in the lovely weather with our peers. We are therefore all looking forward to the proper expedition that we will be completing, on different dates, from May to July.

Although we have spent time learning how to read maps in class, it was good to get some proper experience over navigating in the countryside using only our map skills. I would say this was the most challenging part of the walk, but it was brilliant to see how capable we are at navigating our way on a route.

Engineers of the Future

We are currently thinking 'big' on the engineering curricular and supra-curricular front at SGHS after the NSAT 'Green Conference' opened our eyes to the need for our engineers of the future to prepare us for a more sustainable world. This forms the basis of our new 'Engineers for the Future' supra-curricular club.

Its aim, for future engineers to use their innovation and skills to invent, design and build additions to the school that will reduce the carbon footprint. The first and current project is the "Generate Gym". We are fundraising and upcycling to achieve our vision. Not only are we learning about structural engineering through completing the actual build, but we are collecting used bicycles that they will turn into energy generating bikes.



CyberFirst NCSC Competition

On Saturday 5th February our team of Year 8 cyber sleuths took part in the National Finals of the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) Girls Competition. Isabelle Murray, Layla Hudson and Evie Garton spent weeks preparing themselves for the competition, giving up lunchtimes to partake in cryptography and coding challenges.

After a challenging and inspiring day Evie, Isabelle and Layla came 3rd overall. This is an incredible achievement and I look forward to seeing them pursue their interest and talent in this area in future competitions and opportunities.

