

AUTUMN 2023

# NEWSLETTER

Lighting the Way Forward in Education



Northern Star  
Academies Trust



## RHS Campaign for School Gardening

The RHS Campaign for School Gardening's mission is to give children and young people opportunities to grow and connect with nature.

They do this by supporting school staff, home educators and youth group leaders with training, resources and advice so they can encourage young people to explore the outdoors and learn how to care for plants and our planet. All resources are free to enable as many young people as possible to benefit from the great outdoors.

They believe that nurturing a passion for plants and our natural world can improve young people's physical and mental well-being, confidence and self-esteem, team work and communication skills, literacy and numeracy skills, as well as their understanding of the environment and sustainability.

All schools that belong to Northern Star Academies Trust have signed up to the campaign, receiving certificates, seeds, books and gardening vouchers as they progress, to help them on their gardening journey. Alongside this Alison from RHS Yorkshire Community Outreach Team supports staff and students across the trust to develop their outdoor learning spaces for people and wildlife!

**Alison Varley**  
RHS Community Outreach Advisor – Yorkshire



*Kale, onion and garlic planting at Eastwood, ready for spring!*



*Strawberries from Greatwood's allotment*



*Edibles from the HHS garden*



*Skipton Girls' garden before...*



*...and after*



## Our Farm Twinning Programme

The Northern Star Academies website states that the “Trust’s vision is to nurture learning in a sustainable environment so that our whole community can thrive, aspire and succeed.”

Sustainability really is at the heart of Trust priorities with Trust Leaders driving, for many years, towards implementing a green curriculum to ensure that students are being prepared for a world far beyond the present, equipping them for one which will be more environmentally conscious.

As a result of this priority and vision, our CEO secured significant funding from what some may have considered to be a surprising provider. By thinking “out of the box”, funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes has enabled NSAT students to get outside into the Nidderdale Area, where they can experience outdoor learning, develop knowledge about the environment and see where our food comes from.

Schools have been granted the opportunity to twin with farms in the Nidderdale AONB, and embed the experience of a farm visit in classroom learning, coinciding with specific curriculum topics so that teachers can really bring the learning to life. Outdoor learning can provide a more stimulating environment, which children find enjoyable and motivating and of course, so many areas of learning can be linked to nature and environment - from numeracy, geography, science, art and so much more.

The farmers with whom we have partnered have been pleased to be able to provide an alternative to learning through books and computers, and instead allow children to explore their environment and the real world around them.



Learning about topics such as re-generational farming makes students aware of methods that are being implemented to help the planet and it teaches them the importance of their actions in their own environment. As farmers are having to diversify to supplement their income, each visit provides a welcome boost for the farmers and this also contributes back into our local economy.

Since I was appointed Project Manager for this project in October 2022, NSAT has run 155 trips and 1994 students have experienced a visit to an outdoor venue we have partnered within Nidderdale.

We intend to apply for further funding in the hope of prolonging this programme as the current phase is due to finish in March. We are also hoping to extend our links into the Yorkshire Dales.

**As well as linking with curriculum areas, and bringing learning to life, here are some examples of how a visit to a farm benefits our NSAT Young People.**

Students have learnt **life skills** at Fellbeck House Farm, helping with farm management, sheep shearing, cleaning out animals, preparing feed and working on the land. Young people have learnt **where their food comes from and to have a greater appreciation for food**. Schools have visited Little Seed Farm where they were initiated into the complex requirements of caring for cattle stock and the technicalities of milking. Students have been shown **how to care for animals** at Corn Close Care Farm where they had the opportunity to handle animals and learn about different breeds. Visits to Lime Tree Farm have provided an **insight into life cycle**, with pond dipping, visiting the bird hide and learnt about the awe-inspiring science of the skies with a visit to their planetarium.

Farming also teaches young people the **safety skills, problem solving skills and to have a greater awareness weather and mother nature responsibility**.

Meeting inspirational farmers also teaches young people that **hard work results in sweet rewards**. For examples, the Next Generation Board students heard from Neil Heseltine about the fantastic efforts he has implemented to put nature at the front and centre of his farming, and it is forging a new path of biodiversity rich pasture in the uplands. (Neil was on Saving our Wild Isles film which was narrated by Sir David Attenborough).

Places where we see an array of wildlife and nature live in harmony with grazing animals is what will be critical to saving the planet. Learning about this harmony is key to educating our future generations and is something our Trust is working hard to achieve.

**Catherine Wright**

*Project Manager*

*The NSAT Farm Twinning Programme 2022-23*

“EVERY BREATH OF AIR WE TAKE, EVERY MOUTHFUL OF FOOD THAT WE TAKE, COMES FROM THE NATURAL WORLD. AND IF WE DAMAGE THE NATURAL WORLD, WE DAMAGE OURSELVES.”

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

@ecoclubofficial





## Our Next Generation Board at Hill Top Farm

On Friday 10th November two members of the Next Generation board from each primary school and secondary school in the Trust visited Hill Top Farm.

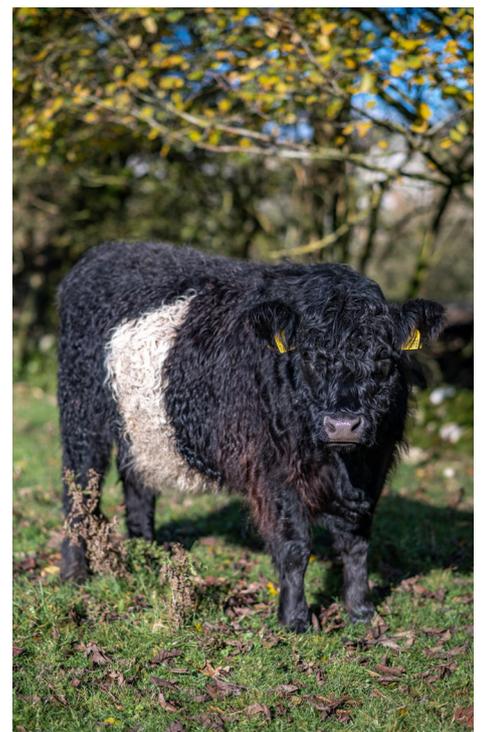
The Next Generation Board is a committee led by pupils and students representing all nine schools in our Trust. The prime aim of the board is to gather ideas and examples from their schools of the sustainability work that is going on and to share ideas of what can be done to push the green agenda in their schools. Neil Heseltine, the farmer who owns Hill Top Farm is chair of the National Park Yorkshire Dales Authority. He was awarded the National Trust's 'Farming with Nature' award in 2019. So there were a lot of excited pupils on the morning of the 10th November because they were meeting with somebody who was really making a difference to the local area and pupils recognized that they could learn a lot from Neil. Neil took NSAT members on an 'epic' tour of his working farm. He showed pupils the work that he is doing to actively encourage more sustainable and environmentally friendly production methods and was able to demonstrate to the students the different farming methods he uses to raise his Galloway cattle.

During the visit, pupils held and fed hens, admired and stroked his Galloway cattle as well as seeing stunning views of Malham

Tarn basked in beautiful sunshine. Students were also given a geology lesson with education officer, Rebecca Swift, from the Yorkshire Dales National Park explaining how Malham cove was formed and also discussing what is hidden underneath the cove. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the session and the end of the morning session involved students asking Neil many thought provoking questions as well as watching his appearance on the TV programme 'Save our Wild Isles'

During the afternoon, each pupil presented the work that they and their school have done in promoting the green agenda. They also talked through their plans for the forthcoming year. These presentations were very impressive and their teachers were very proud of firstly their amazing presentation skills but more importantly what in such a small period of time, the individual schools in the Trust have achieved. We are very excited for the forthcoming year and now recognise that as an academy we can make a difference and support the agenda in saving our planet and moving to a more sustainable way of working and lifestyle.

**Liz Woolley**  
*Science Learning Partnership*





## We are not alone

Science isn't always easy – but if we can unlock the scientist in ourselves and our young people we have the chance to make a massive difference to addressing some of this century's biggest challenges.

A great science education unlocks so much – all of our young people are entitled to access the super-power of scientific thinking. This means science teachers never stop thinking about how to get better.

NSAT leads the North and West Yorkshire Science Learning Partnership, which provides high quality CPD for primary and secondary schools in the area. We combine local expertise in teaching and learning in science, facilitating CPD, and providing school-to-school support.

This month, 30 teachers joined our online 'Special Schools Science Network', collaborating to share ideas on teaching and learning. Our sessions will provide updates from experts on the teaching of science in special schools, as well as giving opportunities for colleagues to network, share good practice and to support each other both nationally and locally.

Technicians are getting together to share their skills and knowledge in our annual 'Northern Technicians: Regional Conference' on 7th December at the National STEM Centre in York.

In January, primary and secondary science teachers and leaders will come together to think about how we can ensure "Science for All" learning the lessons from OFSTED's reports on Science (24th January at the Midland Hotel, Bradford).

If you are a teacher, for further information, please see our online brochure: [bit.ly/CPD-brochure-23-24](https://bit.ly/CPD-brochure-23-24) and if interested in booking onto any of our events or you would like to find out how we can support the needs of you and your school then please contact us on [slp-admin@sghs.org.uk](mailto:slp-admin@sghs.org.uk).

**Laura Hartley**  
North and West Yorkshire  
Science Learning Partnership



# Willow Tree Primary School



## Knaresborough Trip

A massive thank you to Steve and Matt at The Harrogate Bus Company for our free DOUBLE DECKER bus and amazing bus wash. We sang 'the wheels on the bus' all the way to Knaresborough!

We had a fantastic day at 'The Kiosk' in Knaresborough! Crazy golf, tennis, lawn games, hide and seek and tree climbing!

**We loved it!!**



## Marvellous Mosaics

Another amazing day in school with Artizan! Mosaic, making our school logo. So impressed with team work and perseverance!



## Sporting Superstars

So proud of these superstars who represented Willow Tree brilliantly at the Sport Influence girls' football tournament recently!



## Children in Need Fundraising

We really enjoyed celebrating Children in Need this year (albeit a week later than usual!) Our pupils came into school in their PJs, onesies, oodles and dressing gowns. A huge thank you to everybody who donated. School council helped to count and bag-up the money and we raised over £330!



## Whitby Trip

A brilliant time in Whitby exploring history, the seashore and the shops!



We also learnt about the magnificent Whitby Abbey.



# Hookstone Chase Primary School



## Marrick Residential Trip



# Open Day

It was lovely to welcome lots of families to our Open Day to have a relaxed look around our fab classrooms and terrific outdoor space. Lots of happy faces from little ones and helpful feedback from their parents and carers. Do book in for a tour in the school day as well: email [enquiries@hookstonechase.nsat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hookstonechase.nsat.org.uk) or phone 01423 886026.



# Owl Visit

Year 2 had a terrific visit from some owls to link to their class texts (*Owl Babies* and *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*). Their follow up writing and artwork was brilliant!



# Starbeck Primary Academy



## RHS Big Food Share



Our #RHSBigFoodShare day finally arrived and we were so pleased with our farmers market of fruit and veg, which was shared with parents and carers.

A great success. Our children have loved growing and nurturing a wide range of crops in our allotment and orchard.



## Fighting Fires

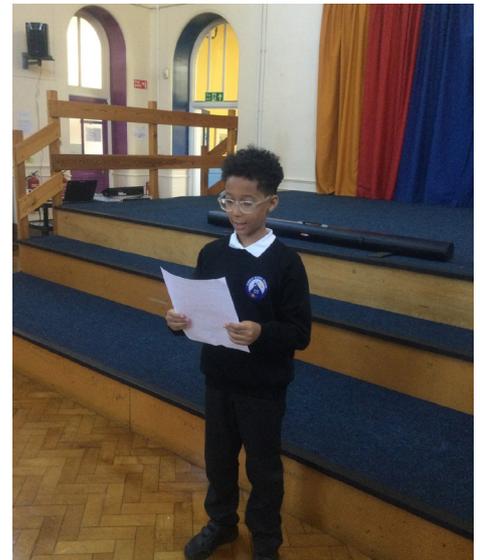
A big thank you to Harrogate Fire Brigade for visiting Starbeck Primary to deliver informative safety assemblies to our children as well as showing off the fantastic fire engine.

Our Reception children were fascinated and had some very clever questions to ask the firefighters.

# Election Day at Starbeck



Election day at Starbeck Primary, with our 'Head Pupils' being chosen for this year. The candidates have been busy canvassing and made their final speeches to the school in a special assembly this morning. All the children had great ideas, so voting was close!



# Design Technology



Our Year 1 children have loved their Design and Technology project to design, make and evaluate an alien model. A key part of this was communicating ideas through talking and drawing, then to select and use tools for cutting and joining.



# New Park Primary Academy



## Corn Close Farm Visit

Year 5/6 have had an incredible time at Corn Close Care Farm! It's been a wonderful day of animal petting, crafting, tree hugging and sheep walking to name a few things!



# Collaborative Art

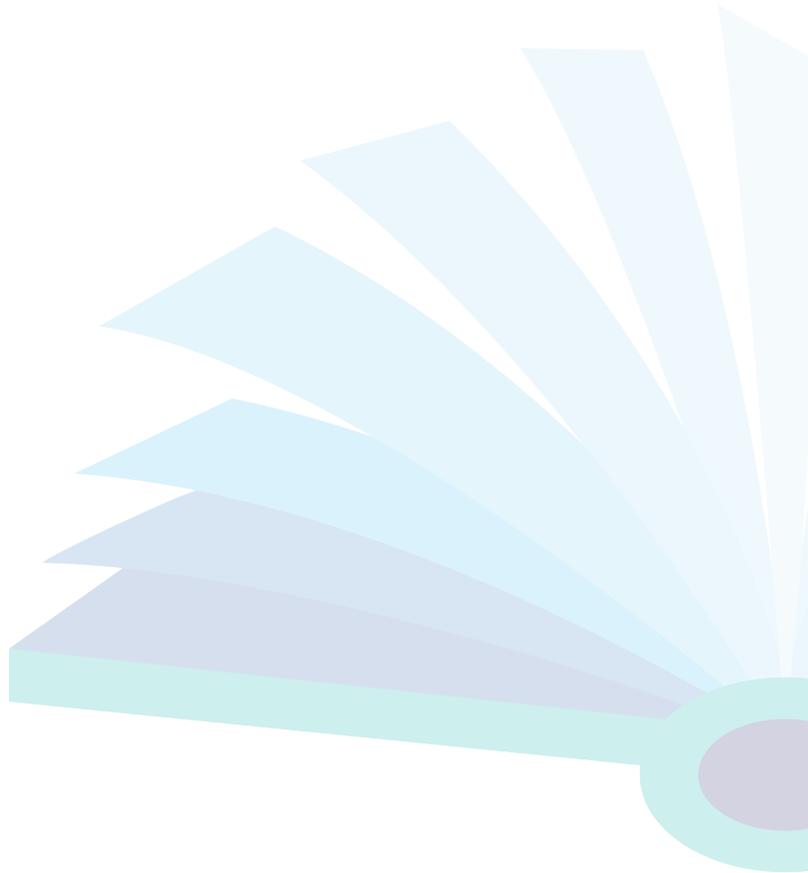
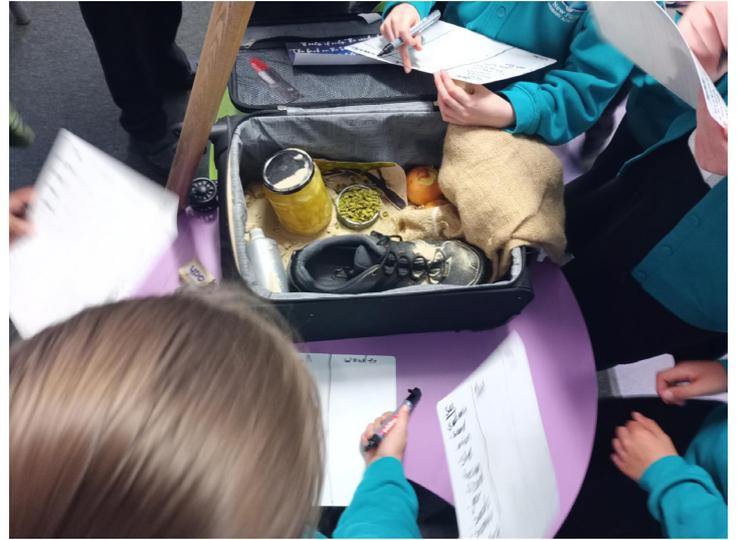
We have been blown away by this incredible piece of collaborative artwork by our KS1 pupils and cannot wait to hang this on the wall for everyone to see.



Yayoi Kusama's vs Year 1/2's Pumpkins!

# An Intriguing Case...

Year 5 and 6 had an intriguing morning exploring the contents of this case... I wonder what their new novel study is going to be?



# Eastwood Community School



EYFS & KS1 vampires and zombies.



## Pumpkin Trail

Our pumpkin competition winners went to Bolton Abbey's pumpkin trail today. They used their maths, phonics and critical thinking skills to solve the clues. They enjoyed looking for wildlife and exploring nature. [#LoTC](#) [#LearningWalks](#) [#Spook-tacularPrize](#) [#backtonature](#)



Dem bones, dem bones, dem...dancing bones ... Doing the skeleton dance.

# Walking Bus

Thank you to the children, parents and staff who joined us for the walking bus.

#walkingbus

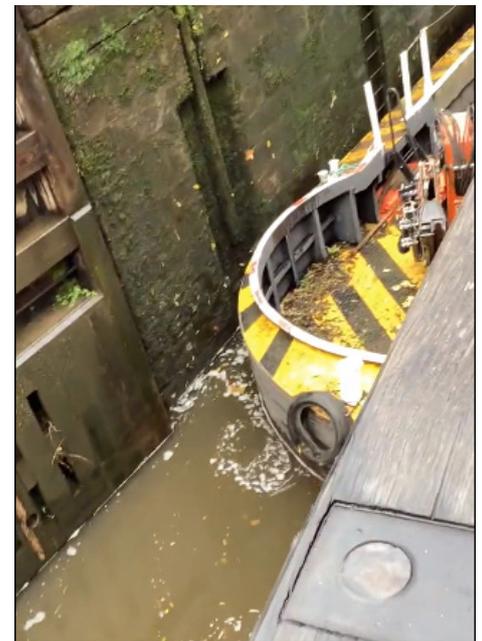


# Great Outdoors Open Fire



# Five Rise Locks

Another fantastic outdoor learning experience for Year 4. The children were asked to help with the locks at Bingley Five Rise, we discussed the power of water, the importance of the canal and kept a look out for habitats and wildlife living near by. Thanks to the **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom** and the **Canal and River Trust**.



# Holycroft Primary School and Nursery



## Historical Association Quality Mark

We are delighted to have been awarded the Historical Association Quality Mark Silver Award which recognises the excellence of history provision in schools. Thank you to the hard work of staff and children and the support of the Historical Association.



## Jack and the Beanstalk Production

The children at Holycroft Primary School enjoyed the amazing production of Jack and the Beanstalk this afternoon. Thank you to M and M Theatrical Productions for a fantastic show.



# Harrogate High School



## Blood Brothers

Mrs Hastings and Miss Mistry organised a Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama student theatre trip to see Blood Brothers.

It was an excellent production and was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to them for organising this experience and helping to bring the text to life. It is such a benefit for students to take part in trips like this, so thank you!



*(Above) A cheeky performing arts teacher selfie of Mrs Hastings and Miss Mistry*



## Careers Event

Our annual Careers Event to support and inspire students into thinking about their future is always a highlight of autumn term. The whole school is involved and this year, parents were also invited to attend in the evening. This event exposes students to careers they may not have imagined and encourages students to think about option choices and to begin to think about narrowing down the career areas they want to pursue in the future. It is a buzzing event and we are grateful to all the businesses that come to support us.



## Restart a Heart

We were pleased to welcome paramedics from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service and Community First Responders to Harrogate High this week.

Three of the representatives have a strong connection with the school as ex pupils or teachers, so we were delighted (and proud) to welcome them back!

The Restart a Heart training was given to every Year 7 student. It raises awareness about cardiac arrest and helps people to learn CPR, giving them lifesaving skills and the confidence to use them.

More than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen every year in the UK. Sadly, less than one in 10 people survive. Early CPR and defibrillation can more than double the chances of survival in some cases.

We are so grateful that this training has been delivered to our students and hope that they now have the knowledge and feel empowered to help if it is ever needed.



## CARES Champions

We have a new group of students, our CARES Champions, who are looking at ways to improve and support the well-being and mental health of students. They have lots of excellent ideas so look out for what they will be implementing!



# Curriculum @HHS

The school year so far has been very busy at Harrogate High School. The Staff Pledge, Student Charter and Parent Pledge have been revisited as part of our journey to continually improve. The purpose of this is to reinforce the school's CARES values as these are at the heart of everything we do in school. The academic curriculum is at the core of the school's wider framework which ensures academic progress occurs alongside increasing the confidence and resilience of our young people. We are always striving to improve and encouraging our Learning First motto.



# Green Fingers

We were delighted that we were able to share some of the vegetables we grew in our school garden with Resurrected Bites in Harrogate.

#FoodShare



# Skipton Girls' High School

Skipton Girls' High School

## Gardening Club

In 2023 the gardening club undertook a massive project for the RHS Tatton Park garden design show. They grew all their plants from seeds and designed a garden that would encourage diversity by providing habitats for insects, pollinators, birds, amphibians and larger mammals.

The plants were all transported to Manchester and planted by the students for the show in July.



## Dairy Farm Visit

The Year 11 Food students had the opportunity of visiting a working dairy farm (Castiles Farm, Ripon) in the Yorkshire Dales to learn about Food Provenance.

They took a tour of the farm which included learning about the importance of grassland and the management of soil for the production of milk and using slurry as a natural fertiliser.

They explored some of the farming machinery used to manage the grass and soil and discussed low impact methods of modern commercial farming.

Students ended the day with a tour of the dairy parlour learning how milk is collected and processed and turned from a primary product into secondary products. Along the way they had the opportunity to meet the animals.

Students had a fun day out with new experiences and plenty of learning.



## Sports at SGHS

Students from Years 7-13 have also competed in a Regional Swimming Competition at The Grammar School in Leeds. It was wonderful to be able to offer competitive Swimming through school again for the first time in a few years, and we are proud of the effort shown by all competitors.



The Cross-Country teams have been busy having already competed in three races in Harrogate, Skipton, and Keighley. Our Junior and Intermediate teams have made it through to next month's Regional Finals of the English Schools' Athletics Association Cross Country Cup.



## Sculpture Park

On the 26th Oct the Art Department took Year 12 Art Students to the Yorkshire Sculpture we had a superb trip. We witnessed some cutting edge contemporary Art from the quirky, humorous work of Erwin Wurm, to the turbulent and chaotic installations of Leonardo Drew. As ever Damien Hirst, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore's sculptural works did not disappoint.

The Yorkshire Sculpture Park is something special, memorable and game changing for Yorkshire's growing art scene.



# Greatwood Community Primary & Nursery School



## Balanceability Session

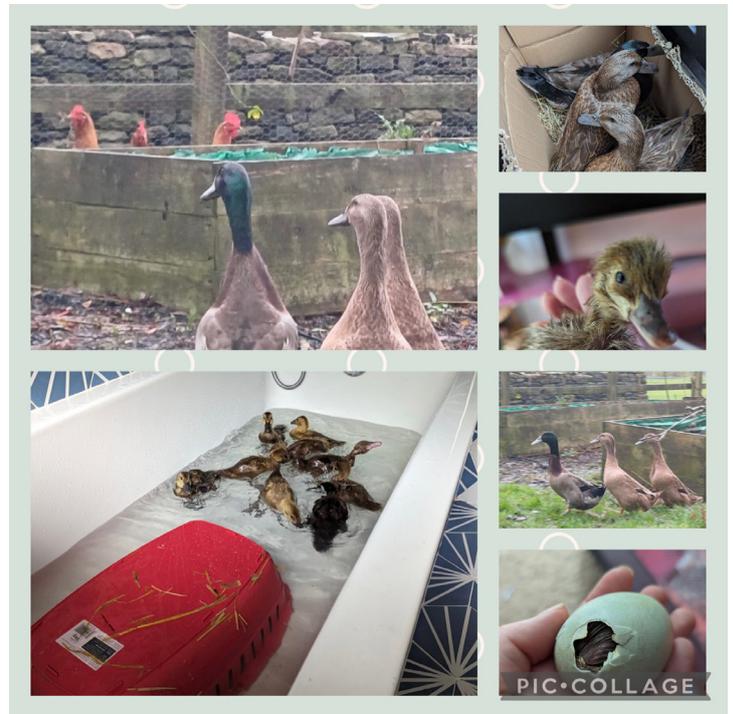
Our Year 1 children have made fantastic progress this half term with their balanceability sessions. We are so proud of the progress that they have made.

None of this would have been possible without Mrs Hailwood, from Balanceability for her patience and brilliant demonstrations.



## New Family Members

We recently welcomed three brand new members to our Greatwood family. Three Indian Runner ducklings who hatched on the 20th July. Our chickens wondered what was happening this afternoon! Many thanks to Katie from Willow Tree Community Primary School, we absolutely promise to look after your ducklings.



## Metal Detectorists

It is not every day that two metal detectorists visit your school!

Year 5 found so many hidden treasures on our Greatwood field this afternoon. What a superb opportunity. Many thanks to the Two Dales Metal Detecting Club.

[#history](#) [#metaldetector](#) [#handsonhistory](#)



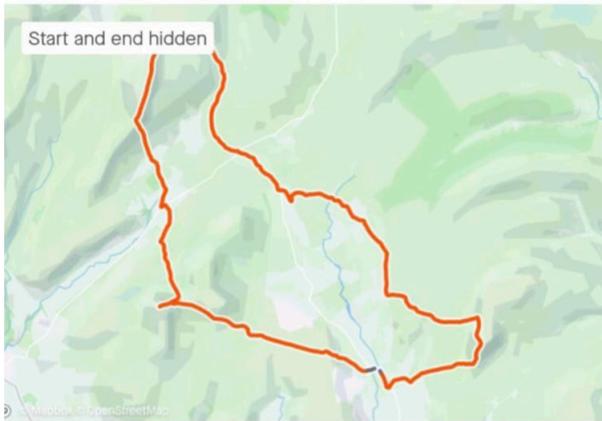
# Three Peak Challenger

Whilst we have all been busy with our day, Freddie, our Year 6 pupil has been busy completing the Three Peaks. What an achievement and what a time. We are so proud of you Freddie

#proud #tickledpink

## Three peaks 2023

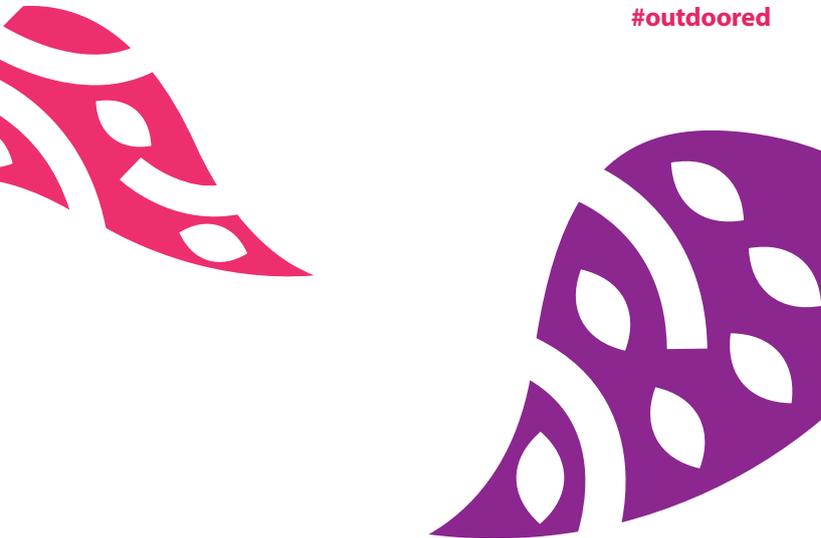
Distance 24.74 mi | Time 8h 22m | Achievements 🏆🏆🏆 12



# Harewood House

Our Year 6 children have had an inspiring trip to Harewood Estate with a focus on sustainability and environmental studies. Another incredible opportunity for our children and the first of many trips working collaboratively with Harewood House.

#outdoored





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