

# Family Newsletter

Learning together, making the difference



Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Newsletter. We hope our first newsletter last term gave you a real sense of belonging to Focus-Trust and an insight into what is going on in our fifteen academies.

Over the past five years we are proud to have grown a strong sense of 'team' in the Trust. It starts with your Principals and Head Teachers who meet regularly and share their strengths and ask for help with any improvements they need to make; other leaders meet regularly at different forums we hold; class teachers meet at 'Improving Pupil Outcome meetings (IPOP)s'; support staff meet at various training meetings and events - every conversation centres around your children and how to make a difference for them; and children enjoy meeting other children at our Music Festival, Pride in the Trust Day and Choral Speaking (Poetry) events. Parents are valuable members of the home-school partnership and we encourage you to participate in any school events, attend parents' forums that are organised and please do contribute to any questionnaires or surveys that come home as this is the way your voice can be heard.

It is with great pride that on 6<sup>th</sup> July we will see our first cohort of Initial Teacher Training students 'graduate' with Focus-Trust. Many of them will become Newly Qualified Teachers in our Focus-Trust academies.

We are very proud of the difference which our Focus-Trust academies are making to our children, staff, families and communities and we'd like you to share this Newsletter with a family member or friend.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Focus-Trust Team

Best wishes,

Helen Rowland

Chief Executive

## Old Trafford Community Academy



Last half-term we marked the anniversary of the Manchester Arena Attack by designing and planting a memorial bee garden. Children from across school helped plant a collection of bee-friendly plants and flowers. The garden will finally be complete when our bee sculpture, also created on the memorial day, is returned from the art exhibition it is currently displayed in.

## Birstall Primary Academy



In conjunction with Save the Children, Birstall have been helping families through a grant programme which provides essential items to low income families with young children

In return, a local charity – Let June Make a Difference – helped support our most vulnerable pupils by funding interventions such as ESCAYP counselling etc.

Following the murder of MP, Jo Cox, we recognise our shared responsibility to provide support and make positive changes to help those in need.

## Manor Green Primary Academy



Recently, one of our Year 1 pupils has been diagnosed with leukaemia, thankfully it was caught early and she is responding well to treatment. Putting our core value of 'Care' to the test, parents organised a non-uniform day and cake sale to raise money to put a smile on Ava-Grace's face. We were MANOR ORANGE for the day (Ava-Grace's favourite colour) and raised an amazing £771.25!

## Rudheath Primary Academy

Rudheath's annual Sport's Day and Picnic took place on the Wednesday 23rd May in glorious sunshine for a change! The event is a highlight of our timetable and always well attended. At the end of the day Yellow team won taking the trophy from Red team for the first time in 5 years!



## Wilsden Primary School

Wilsden Primary recently held its first elections for the post of Head Girl / Boy. Seven brave volunteers from Year 5 stood in the elections. They presented their campaign speeches (very confidently) to the whole school.



Our new Head Girl / Boy (Emma & Josh) are very excited about starting their new role.

## Boothroyd Primary Academy

Ten excited children have been chosen for the Schools Tour de Yorkshire and will ride through West Dewsbury with the baton on 22 June. Special T-shirts and flags are at the ready!

The school council also entered and won the 'Bling a bike' competition run by the same organisers of this event. Their Yorkshire inspired bike earned us 5 free bikes!



The team will attend the celebration event for the last leg of the tour.

## Lyndhurst Primary School

Year 2 children at Lyndhurst have been learning about animal habitats during STEM week. Everyone had a great time making this amazing Bug Hotel. What a fantastic example of what can be achieved by working as a team! Now we just need to wait and see who moves in!



## Thornhill Junior & Infant School

We recently invited Andy Walker into school to speak to our Year 6 children. Every child who worked with Andy has benefited immensely. Many pupils now feel inspired to tackle their problems with a more positive attitude; many have been challenged to overcome their fears. Further to studying the power of a growth mindset, Andy's message is memorable, uplifting and challenging for all of us.



## Shibden Head Primary Academy

Each year group received £10.00 to buy materials to make items to sell e.g. bookmarks, cupcakes, ornamental flowers etc. These were then priced up and sold to parents after school. Each class chose a charity to donate their profits to. The year group in each key stage raising the most money received a reward.

Project organised by Jennie Crossley Design Technology Subject Leader.



## Fieldhead Primary Academy

The "Carry My Story" project sees schools from very different catchment areas link up and work together, sharing their histories and cultures.



Fieldhead's Year 5 children had great fun with their counterparts from Healey School in Batley, telling them all about how one of our class member's great-grandmother was something of a war hero in 1940s Warsaw.

## Thornton Primary School

In the summer term, we are very fortunate at Thornton to be working with the company 'Get Out More' to access some outdoor learning sessions in our local woodland. Our Reception Classes have been learning about the outdoor environment and local wildlife, making stick creatures and learning to share, take turns and work together.

As you can see, we have had lots of fun



## Freehold Community Primary Academy - Oldham

The pupils from Freehold were amongst the 2,000 who took part in the 34<sup>th</sup> Oldham Primary School Choral Speaking Festival, to develop their enjoyment of poetry, self-confidence and ability to speak in public. Year 2 Cerise were winners of the Infant Trophy and Year 3 Lime, the Lower Junior Trophy



## Deeplish Primary Academy



Congratulations to Laura Marcroft and Guy Oliver, two teachers at Deeplish who are going to get married over the summer holiday. Everyone at Deeplish and across the Trust wishes them all the very best for their future together.

## Coppice Primary Academy



Last Tuesday, Coppice hosted a **#LoveWhereYouLive** event after school to raise awareness of how the whole school community can look after the area around school.

Everyone had lots of fun and learnt about how we can reduce, re-use and recycle our waste even better. Great job, Coppice Eco Team!

## Roundthorn Primary Academy

In remembrance of the events that occurred in Manchester on 22nd May last year, Roundthorn dressed in black and yellow and spent the day thinking about the importance of 'Bee-ing kind'. The children had lots of opportunities to have fun and spread kindness across school and beyond.

