



NewsLetter

December 2024

Welcome



Welcome to the December edition of our Trust newsletter for parents, carers and wider stakeholders! I would like to extend a special welcome to the pupils, staff and families at St Hild's College CE Primary School in Durham who recently joined Melrose Learning Trust at the beginning of December. As a result, the Trust has now grown to 10 schools and almost 2300 pupils.

This term has flown by with so many fantastic things happening in our schools, especially over the last few weeks as the festive season fast approaches. I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the Christmas activities that have taken place across all our schools including nativity performances, Christmas fairs, craft sessions and carol services. It has been lovely to spend time in schools in recent weeks, seeing the excitement for the festive season build.

I have continued to enjoy my regular visits into our schools this term and seeing first-hand the positive impact the staff in our schools are having on the learning and development of your children. This newsletter, as ever, celebrates just some of the highlights from each of our schools, as there have been too many to capture this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do to support our schools too, especially at this time of year, making the time to support the events in school.

I hope you all have wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Best wishes,
Roger Ward, CEO



Our Schools

-  Abbey Infant and Junior Schools
-  Easington CE Primary School
-  Esh CE Primary School
-  Greatham CE Primary School
-  High Coniscliffe CE Primary School
-  Prior's Mill CE Primary School
-  St Mary's Cockerton Primary School
-  Wynyard CE Primary School

Welcome to our newest school, St Hild's College CofE Primary School, who joined us on 1st December 2024.



St Hild's



A warm welcome to St Hild's College CE Aided Primary School!

St Hild's College CE Aided Primary School, based in Gilesgate, Durham, joined Melrose Learning Trust on 1st December, becoming our ninth school.

The school's vision reflects a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners so that everyone can 'Shine Bright' just like St Hild did herself. It is driven by a desire to offer the best possible education for pupils in partnership with parents and the wonderful local community. This was supported in the school's recent Ofsted inspection in July 2024.

'Pupils of all ages at St Hild's exemplify the school's motto of 'Shine Bright'. They embody the school values, which include community, forgiveness and love. Pupils are polite, considerate and understanding. They have commendable attitudes towards their learning. Pupils are proud to be part of this caring school.'

Recently, the school enjoyed a joyful Christingle together with families as everyone gets ready for Christmas.



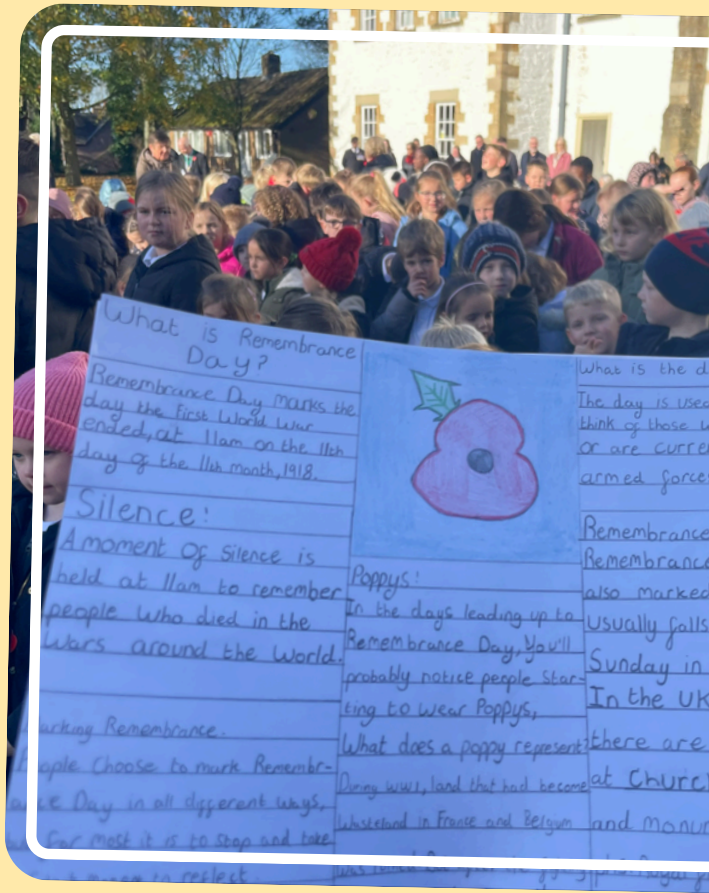
Easington CE



Lest We Forget

On this Remembrance Day, pupils and staff at Easington paused to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

On Monday 11th November, the school joined the local community at Seaton Holme to take part in a Remembrance Service. The children observed the two-minute silence impeccably and showed respect and thankfulness. The service ended with a very moving playing of 'The Last Post'.



Esh CE

Robinwood Residential



This term, Year 5 and 6 pupils at Esh had the opportunity to attend an exciting residential at Robinwood Outdoor Activity Centre.

Pupils developed their team work and communication skills, as well as building their resilience and perseverance during a non-stop three days. They enjoyed zip lining, braving the giant swing and practising their sharp shooting during archery amongst many other activities.



Abbey Infants and Juniors



Year 6

Enterprise Event

In teams, Year 6 pupils at Abbey were given a loan of £5 each to spend on resources to make items that they could sell at a Christmas Fayre. During a series of lessons as part of the project, they learned about important business skills such as managing money, marketing and selling. They were also able to develop the key skills of listening, teamwork and leadership. The children showed great creativity in designing and making their products and were amazing at selling them in a very busy environment. The total amount of profit they earned was an impressive £1152!



Greatham CE



Greatham
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Primary School

School Council Fundraising

Greatham have a very active school council who are involved in projects to further develop school but also projects which positively impact or benefit the local community.

Recently, the school council planned and hosted a school disco to raise money for the PFC Trust campaign UChangeLives. They raised a fantastic £410.

Founder and President of the charity, Frances Connolly, came to Greatham to thank Mrs Morrison and the school council for their hard work.

A huge well done to them all!



High Coniscliffe



Children in Need Fundraising

Pupils and staff at High Coniscliffe enjoyed a fun-packed day of fundraising in aid of Children in Need this year.

Everyone dressed up as their favourite characters and the day started with a House Team Assembly where everyone joined in with the BBC Gladiators Live Assembly. It was a celebratory 20 minute join-in moment full of energizing, moodboosting, fun for everyone. Throughout the day, children then enjoyed a range of other activities. Flavoured popcorn was cooked and packed by the school councillors and children enjoyed the taste of salty, sweet or caramel popcorn during their afternoon Pudsey Playtime! Classes enjoyed games of Pudsey bingo, and many Pudsey maths challenges were tackled throughout the morning. Explorers enjoyed some Pudsey crafts and made (and ate) Pudsey biscuits too.

A grand total of £370 has been raised for the 'Children in Need 2024' charity this year.



Prior's Mill

Visit to Wates Group



As part of their careers related learning in school, Year 4 pupils at Prior's Mill were given the opportunity to engage with a local employer in Hartlepool, Wates Group. They are a large construction company, who are building the new Highlight Active Wellbeing Hub in Hartlepool.

As part of this encounter, Year 4 pupils learnt about careers in construction and pathways into the sector through activities on site at the new Wellbeing Hub. The activities were designed to break down the misconceptions of working in the construction industry whilst highlighting the exciting opportunities and diversity in roles available, as well as promoting STEM subjects, linking these to construction activities.

The visit allowed children to experience first-hand what a multi-million-pound construction development site looks like whilst also learning from an inspiring construction organisation and its leaders about career paths and other topics including biodiversity, planning, quality, teamwork, and sustainability.



St Mary's Cockerton



200th Anniversary!

2025 marks 200 years since the opening of the Darlington to Stockton railway line AND the opening of the National School in Cockerton which is now St Mary's Cockerton CE Primary School!

To mark these two significant anniversaries, every class will visit the newly opened Hopetown Darlington attraction over the course of the next academic year and work with their amazing education team to link their work across History, Geography and Science to these two significant events. Already Years One, Two and Five have visited to find out more about the town's railway heritage and the history of the school. The children even had a chance to play in the amazing Wagon Woods!

Some of the children also visited Hopetown to see their Lego models on display after they were chosen by the designer of 'Brick Journeys' to be part of his Lego installation!



Community Christmas Events

The children at Wynyard CE Primary School have taken part in a number of Stockton Borough Council and community events over the festive period. The Key Stage 2 Choir performed at the Mayor's Carol Service and also sang at a Stockton Sparkles event. They did an amazing job of entertaining the crowds!

A number of children were also involved in creating lanterns for the annual Stockton Sparkles Lantern Parade, which takes place through Stockton High Street each year. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled this year due to the weather; however, the school is planning their very own Lantern Parade with music and dancing to showcase the children's creations and to celebrate a wonderful term!

