



The Family of Learning Trust Newsletter

Message from Shameem Hussain, CEO

It has been another busy term across the Trust.

Year 2 Residential - Nell Bank

On Tuesday 19th November, year 2 children from Dean Field and Beech Hill embarked on their first ever residential. The children packed their bags and sleeping bags and set off to Nell Bank in Ilkley. They quickly made new friends by playing some circle games. After lunch, they explored the woodland area and took part in den building and a habitat trail with their new friends. They had the opportunity to play on the amazing adventure playground and then made their new friends a friendship bracelet. Before they knew it, it was bed time and they were so excited about trying out their new beds.



The next morning, they learned all about their new English text 'Owl Babies' and went on a hunt for owls and made them a nest. The children enjoyed the experience and really enjoyed making new friends who they look forward to seeing again. We look forward to some of the other children from across the Trust joining the Year 2s next year for this amazing experience!

Congratulations Shirley Manor!

Ofsted visited the school on 5th and 6th November to carry out a full section 5 inspection. The lead inspector was Liam Colcough. Whilst the school is judged as 'Requires Improvement' for the quality of education and Early Years, the report acknowledged that due to the support of the Trust, a lot of progress has been made since the school joined in Spring term 2024. The inspection team recognised the sense of urgency the Trust and current leadership have in driving school improvement and the impact they have had in a short period of time. They have judged leadership and management to be 'Good' which is extremely rare when the quality of education is not considered good. Ofsted commented, **"New leaders have introduced significant changes to the school. The rate of change has accelerated since September 2024. Governors and trustees have an accurate view of the areas of the school that need continued development."**

The school is now on a journey to improve the quality of education to ensure that pupils at the school are equipped with the skills they for high school life.

Dean Field children visiting Heptonstall!

Some of Dean Field reception children took a trip watch the Christmas performance at Heptonstall. The children enjoyed listening to the Christmas story and meeting some new children. All the children behaved impeccably and Heptonstall staff commented on how polite the Dean Field children were.



Beech Hill School

Supporting the Halifax Community Fridge

Members of the School Council visited the Halifax Community Fridge to see how they can support the community with their food bank. They got to serve the community and see how it works. Following their visit, The school council encouraged our families to support them by collecting essential items to donate to the Fridge. Thanks to our wonderful families, we had a fantastic response.



Cross-Country Success!

On Wednesday 4th December, Beech Hill School were represented by 26 children from across KS2 at the Calderdale Cross Country Finals. The races took place at Old Brodleians Rugby Club and over 50 schools in Calderdale attended!

Our runners performed admirably, showed great resilience and were all superbly behaved. All of our runners completed the races they entered, with one of our runners finishing as high as 13th out of 60 in the Year 5 girls' race. The event was extremely well attended by parents from Beech Hill School, who came to cheer on their children and the school and we would like to thank you all once again for your continued support.

14 children have been selected to represent Calderdale and will now be training for the next event. Good luck with the training!

Orchestra Performance

Some members of our current Music for the Many school orchestra performed with former members (who are now in year 7) at Dean Clough on Tuesday evening this week. This was followed by a wonderful performance by the Halifax Chamber Choir.

A representative of the Halifax Chamber Choir emailed school saying they were delighted that our children had joined them for the Christmas Celebration which was much appreciated and enjoyed by all. £300 was raised on the night which has been split equally between Music for the Many and Beech Hill School.



Dean Field Primary School

Orienteering



On Thursday, 8 children from year 5 and 6 attended the School Games orienteering competition. They had to use a map to find the different markers, which then allowed them to find the following markers.

The children came in 2nd place with a time of 19 minutes 27 seconds.



Young Writers Competition

Congratulations to Jessica in year 6 for her successful entry in the Young Writers competition! Jessica produced a poem about her six years at primary school and it is one of the poems that has been selected to be published. Well done, Jessica! What a fantastic achievement



Six Years

Year one was fun
Year two was cool,
Take a look at all the things we drew
Three and four was a war
Going to lunch was a hunch
Four had MTC on top of Bronte's trip
Five and six gonna be quick
High school coming like a boulder
Six had SATs
Don't try hacks
All this time making friends
I think I see the end
Wow, the past was a blast.

Jessica (10)

Dean Field Community Primary School, Quenden

Author Visit - Tom Palmer

This term we had a visit from the author Tom Palmer. He spoke to children about his journey as an author and shared his top tips about writing. He talked through the main themes in his novels which include football and war. He has written some very inspiring stories and we are really pleased about receiving some for our school library!



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Bradshaw Primary Academy

Exciting news!

We have been awarded Gold for our OPAL scheme, we had a special visitor in school to present us with our award.

We are the only school in Calderdale to have this! How good is that?

Massive thanks to Miss Lockwood and her OPAL Team

This is another thing at Bradshaw that wouldn't be possible without our fantastic families and community, we are very grateful

OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning CIC

<https://fb.watch/wnZSjhsnUA/>



Celebrating Our Year 6 Footballers!

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 football team, who made us incredibly proud during the Adam Heslop Cup. Competing against five tough teams, they showed remarkable determination, skill, and teamwork, securing an impressive third place finish.

Each player gave their all, and the way they represented our school was outstanding.

Bradshaw jumped on the band wagon of the BBC 500 Word Writing competition

Children of all abilities were encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to write a story they would love to read without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

We had 2 categories, Aged 5-7 and Aged 8-11.

Here are our winners!



Christmas spirit at Bradshaw, with our fantastic Choir

The Choir have recently performed at [Halifax Minster](#) with the Minster Choir and [The Hammonds Band](#). They then performed at [The Victoria Theatre Halifax](#) alongside [Black Dyke Band](#) and the [Halifax Choral Society](#). If you are ever lucky enough to, watch our Choir perform you are certainly in for a treat. Have a look at at this video, thank you to those who sent them in.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Baker, our Choir Master and Head Teacher who goes above and beyond for our talented choir, without her and her team of amazing helpers none of this would be possible

https://fb.watch/wn_NiUSaKr/

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Heptonstall Junior and Infant School

Heptonstall Forest School activities!

Our Sapling Class (Year 3 and 4) have had a great half term enjoying Forest School. They have taken part in a variety of activities including fire building, den making, nature hunts, tree identification and much more.

Our Forest School has already made a significant impact to our children here at Heptonstall, having supported us in promoting and developing our children's physical, mental, and social health and well-being. Our children have been actively encouraged to express their creativity through projects such as creating nature art as well as developing problem-solving, critical thinking and risk taking skills, for example, when using a variety of woodland tools to build fires. Whilst boosting self-confidence and independence, our Forest School has also helped improve social skills through teamwork and collaborative projects such as den building. Our Oak Class (Year and 6) can't wait to see what's coming up for them at Forest School after Christmas.



Happy Days Charity work

We had an assembly from Laura Whitham from the charity 'Happy Days'. She told us all about the charity that she works for and how they help homeless people and those who are in crisis.

We decided that we wanted to support this charity as part of Harvest festival. We collected and donated a variety of non-perishable foods and toiletries so we can help make a difference with helping those in need.

Thank you to all the families that supported us with this collection.

Celebrating 'Monster Kickabout Day'

Monster Kickabout is a nationwide school football initiative from Sports Direct and Nike, created to encourage more children to take up football, no matter their gender, age, race or religion. Our children enjoyed coming to school dressed in their sporty clothing and taking part in a variety of football themed exercises and activities.



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Shirley Manor Primary Academy



School Events

We have had a busy term welcoming our families into school to events organised by Mrs Cooper and Mrs Rice.

Back in October we enjoyed A Family Pumpkin Trail, families enjoyed walking through the trail gathering letters to solve an anagram. They also enjoyed toasting marshmallows around the fire pit. We had some amazing entries into the pumpkin carving competition and Miss Bailey had a tough time judging!

In November we enjoyed a Family Beetle Drive, Nana Ama and family won the game and received a cookie hamper. The family very kindly shared the cookies with everyone who attended. At the end of November, we held a Family Christmas Craft afternoon making Advent Calendar's, Baubles and everything that glitters.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Performances, EYFS and KS1 Whoops-a-Daisy Angel and KS2 are telling the Christmas Story amongst singing Carols and Christmas Poetry.

Children have visited the 'Secret Stall' to buy presents for mums and dads that the elves have wrapped for them to take home and put under the Christmas Tree ready for Christmas Day. In our final week we are looking forward to a Family Christmas Quiz, Christmas Parties, Santa visiting and a visit from a theatre company who are going to perform Jack and The Beanstalk.

Community Involvement

Year 6 and our School Councillors attended the Remembrance Event held at the local memorial. They showed their respects by laying a wreath and poppies. Special Thanks to Mr Deacon our Caretaker and Mrs Whittingham our Inclusion Manager for their help with making the wreath and poppies with the children. The children were commended by the community wardens for their exemplary behaviour.



Have a wonderful Christmas break and a happy new year!

From Mrs Hussain (CEO) and all the Trustees of The Family of Learning Trust

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