Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

Providing an excellent education from age 2 to 19

Pathfinder **News**

The latest updates from across the Trust **December 2022**

Children from Rufforth Primary School lead Christmas carol service celebrations in the village church

Thank you for your continued support for our schools over last year and in particular during this busy term.

We are now in our seventh year as a multi academy trust and our successes and achievements during this time are thanks to the dedication and hard work of everyone in our school communities, including our families. Pathfinder was formed in August 2016, initially with just four schools. Today, we are ten schools strong, soon to be 11, with St Barnabas CE Primary School due to officially join the trust next year.

Poppleton Road Primary School is also in the early stages of exploring the possibility of joining Pathfinder. This is a really exciting time for the trust and we look forward to the knowledge and experience these schools will bring to Pathfinder and how we can work together for the benefit of all children.

I am pleased to say that in terms of outcomes, the summer key stage 2 results place us within the top 25% of trusts across the country. At key stage 4 and 5, Archbishop Holgate's is in the top 10% of schools nationally and is the strongest locally for student progress.

We say goodbye to Andy Herbert, Headteacher of Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School, who is retiring at the end of December. Mr Herbert has been Headteacher of the school since 2015 and has also worked across the trust as part of our school improvement team, sharing his knowledge and expertise. We wish him the very best for the future from everyone at Pathfinder.

I would like to wish all children, staff and families a safe and restful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Andrew Daly, Chief Executive Officer

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Pathfinder schools

Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust was formed in August 2016, initially between four schools. Today, we are ten schools strong, soon to be 11, serving more than 4,200 students and their families across York.

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

Archbishop Holgate's School
A Church of England Academy Founded 1546

Badger Hill PRIMARY SCHOOL

Clifton with Rawcliffe

Hempland Primary School

Heworth Church of England Primary School

New Earswick Primary School

Rufforth Primary School

St Lawrence's CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tang Hall Primary School

Leading the way

Recruiting and developing inspiring and effective leaders is essential to the continued improvement and progress of our schools. This term we have had colleagues take up new leadership posts after successfully securing promotions within their schools and across the trust. We are also looking forward to welcoming new colleagues to our schools who will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with them when they take up their posts in the new year.

At Archbishop Holgate's School, Alexis Green-Harding moved from Deputy Headteacher to become Head of School in September. Working alongside Mr Daly, Executive Head of Archbishop Holgate's and CEO Pathfinder, Mr Green-Harding will provide additional leadership capacity to ensure that students' day to day experiences within school remain outstanding.

Across the trust, Simon White took over as Headteacher of Heworth CE Primary School at the start of term. Mr White has previously worked at Acomb Primary School, as Deputy Headteacher then Head of School, and St Lawrence's CE Primary School, where he was Associate Headteacher. His experience and commitment to the school's Christian values will help to build on the achievements and hard work of Mr Carr and the staff, children and families at the school.

This term we have also appointed an Early Years Specialist Lead to work with and support our schools with the development of their Early Years curriculum. They will also help with the early identification of SEND needs within our Early Years settings.

New Assistant Headteachers have been appointed at Heworth and Rufforth Primary Schools and a new Deputy Headteacher will be joining Badger Hill Primary School in January.

Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School is also looking forward to welcoming Claire Fielding who will be taking over as Headteacher in the new year following Andy Herbert's retirement.

Archbishop Holgate's School
A Church of England Academy Founded 1546

An inspiring and unforgettable evening

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, leads the Christmas carol service at York Minster

Archbishop Holgate's celebrated their annual Christmas carol service in York Minster on Wednesday 7 December. In recent years this has become a popular community occasion and parents, governors, friends of the school and members of the public packed the Cathedral close to capacity. Almost 1400 attended, which is unprecedented in the history of the partnership between the school and the Minster.

Those present heard the Christmas story retold through music, drama, bible readings, prayers and carols. This was done with a particular focus on the unique kingship of Jesus and how the Christmas story is one of Hope and Gods presence here on earth. More than 150 students from Archbishop Holgate's participated in the service as singers, readers, actors, musicians, ushers and technical crew. This year, the combined Primary School Choir consisted of more than 300 pupils from 12 local primary schools. There was also a Community Choir of parents, governors and staff from Archbishop Holgate's and others from Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.

The preacher for the service was the Most Rev. and Right Hon. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York. Archbishop Stephen spoke of how the birth of Jesus is a story of God coming to earth to experience human existence in all its joys and hardships, to walk among us through the Incarnation. With a seamless blend of humour and seriousness he reminded all who were present that this message is one that brings hope today in a challenging world and is one that demands a response from each one of us.

The school was delighted that the new Dean of York Minster, the Very Rev. Dominic Barrington, and the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff, as well the Lord Mayor's consort, attended the service. The civic party spoke to the Year 12 School Captains and expressed how impressed they were with the whole evening.

News from our schools

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were thrilled to welcome Indri from Hinduism Education Services to Acomb Primary School. Prior to his visit, all classes had been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali and his visit was timed to enhance and consolidate our children's learning.

The day started with the staff helping to set up Indri's fantastic, colourful displays and resources in the hall ready for the children's arrival. Our EYFS and KS1 children enjoyed a practical Diwali workshop and storytelling session with Indri, with children taking on the roles of Sita, Rama and Hanuman from the story. After that, Indri welcomed our Year 3 and 4 children into the hall with the greeting 'Namaste', explaining its meaning and encouraging the children to also greet each other this way. The children then explored the Diwali story through active participation and dressing up.

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed longer workshops with Indri, discussing the basic concepts of Hinduism through use of his artefacts, as well as learning about how Hindu people's worldview informs their lifestyle and morality. The highlight was definitely the photo shoot session where they learnt how to tie a turban and put on a sari – as well as choosing their own costumes and props linked to the Diwali story!

Badger Hill PRIMARY SCHOOL

We really have had a wonderful term at Badger Hill with our whole school theme of 'The Great Yorkshire Show'. This has involved fabulous Ignite Days, creative learning and whole school events with the children engaging in a range of activities. This has included a trip to York by the Year 3 class. They followed a trail and gathered information about the city. This resulted in them writing a persuasive letter.

This term saw us hosting our first 'Espresso Yourself' coffee morning. This was organised by our wellbeing team and was an opportunity for parents to have coffee and cake whilst meeting other families.

We love sport at Badger Hill and have enjoyed having Mr Wood teaching us this term! Year 5 also enjoyed a multi-sport competition at Archbishop Holgate's School! Billy Bob loved the opportunity to wear his new tracksuit.

Our school values of Achieve, Believe and Create have been our focus over the term. In order to embed them even further we have been looking for children who embody these values each week. These children are then celebrated in our achievement assembly.

We also love art at Badger Hill and this half term we held a Yorkshire Art Competition and lots of classes have also linked their art work to the novels and texts they have been studying!

News from our schools

Clifton with Rawcliffe

Christmas has definitely come to Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School with a wealth of activities and nativity performances taking place over the past couple of weeks. We love to learn outside, and this year we have turned our Forest School into a fantastic Winter Wonderland. All of the children have been able to visit and take part in the Christmas activities and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate around the fire.

Our children in Foundation Stage 2 and Year 1 have been performing on stage in their nativity plays, with every child taking part. It is amazing to see how confident the youngest children are in learning their lines and remembering the song words and actions! We have also been thinking about the meaning of the Christmas story using Christingles. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year from everyone at Clifton with Rawcliffe!

Hempland Primary School

Our Autumn term has been packed full of experiences and opportunities to enhance our curriculum and create memories for all children in school.

As part of their 'People who help us' topic, Early Years had visits from firefighters from York Fire Station, North Yorkshire Police and a nurse. Children had the chance to sit in the police car, the fire engine and even use the water hose!

The Year 1 children had a fantastic trip on the York Sightseeing tour bus where they travelled around York and hopped off at the Minster.

Captain Burwash spent the day with the Year 2 children and told tales of his life as a pirate. The children enjoyed making pirate flags and recruiting new crew members.

A trip into York and a visit to York Chocolate Story was a great way to kick of Year 3's topic on Chocolate. They enjoyed learning all about York's important role in chocolate making and had the best time making (and tasting!) delicious chocolate.

A very informative and enjoyable day was had by all of the Year 4 children as they headed to Leeds and visited the Sinai Synagogue. They learnt about the Hebrew alphabet and the language of prayer and were shown the Ark where the Sefer Torah are kept as well as looking at other artefacts and making their own scroll.

The Year 5's dance curriculum was enhanced through taking part in a rock and roll workshop with Rayner's Rock and Roll. The children learned lots of dance steps and performed with partners to some excellent tunes! They even ended the day with a flashmob in the playground!

Discovering more about the First and Second World Wars was the key focus of our Year 6 visit to the Imperial War Museum in Manchester. They followed events through from 1914 to present day, experienced the extremely moving 'big picture show', and some even met and spoke with a veteran.

News from our schools

Heworth Church of England Primary School

The Autumn term has come and gone in a flash here at Heworth CE Primary School and it has been one filled with exciting opportunities for all. Such opportunities have come in the form of local and regional trips as well as welcoming specialist visitors in to ensure that the topics we are teaching come to life.

Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children had such an opportunity when they welcomed a visiting theatre company to lead a Medieval Day that supported their topic on castles. Throughout this day, children embedded the knowledge they had learnt whilst also having some amazing fun in the process. They were able to handle real artefacts from the medieval times including armour worn by knights. This allowed the children to fully understand how strong knights needed to be in order to wear this armour and carry the weapons they required. They were also taught how to joust, recognising the accuracy that was needed in this game as well as learning the skills of sword fighting. As the day progressed, the children also got to dress in clothing from the time, designed their own coat of arms and were even knighted as a 'Knight of Heworth' - with a real sword!

Key Stage 2 have also broadened their grasp on the topics they have been taught. This has included visits to York's Chocolate Story and The Yorkshire Sculpture Park as well as Mayan food creation days within school. Our Year 5 and 6 children have also been able to access Outdoor Learning provision at Dearne Valley and Bewerley Park. Such trips have included opportunities to canoe, rock climb and zip wire. As well as being fun, these activities took children out of their comfort zones and taught resilience, teamwork and endurance in the process - traits that are so very important as they transition to the next phase of their learning.

New Earswick Primary School

We have truly embraced the seasonal celebrations at New Earswick Primary School this term. The children and families have enjoyed wreath making sessions; our staff even made their own wreaths accompanied with pizza and festive music. We held our first 'live' nativities since lockdown and the children in Key Stage 2 held a magical carol event outside. With candles and fake snow, it really was a little bit of magic. The Christmas festivities could not be complete, however, without Christmas jumper day and a special visit from the reindeer! We have worked hard to make Christmas affordable this year.

We ran a second hand Xmas jumper shop where we gave away free jumpers and staff held a pj/Christmas day with donations going to charity instead of gifts for teachers. Dunelm also donated gifts which were given away in a free draw at the end of term. Even our Christmas tree was donated to one of our families at the end of the week!

News from our schools

Rufforth Primary School

We have had lots to celebrate and be proud of this term at Rufforth Primary School! The highlight has been our 50th birthday celebrations. There has been a school in our village for over 100 years, but our current building (the 'new' school) was opened in 1972. The children spent time learning about life in the 1970s and comparing the old school to the building in the 1970s and 80s, and to the school as they know it today. The celebrations culminated in an open school morning; pupils, staff and families past and present joined us for a coffee morning to reminisce over photos, books and other memorabilia and to visit classrooms and speak to current pupils. It was a wonderful morning to share special memories.

In other celebrations, a group of KS2 children won gold at a panathlon event organised by North Yorkshire Inclusive School Sports Partnership. Our children participated in a sponsored Reindeer Rush raising over £600 for St Leonard's Hospice along with funds raised for Children in Need. For Anti-Bullying Week, children thought about their wellbeing and being kind by writing compliments and positive messages on their 'positivity t-shirts'!

In October, our Year 5 and 6 pupils had a fantastic day trip to London. Children enjoyed travelling by train, visiting the British Museum and then having a tour and workshop in the Houses of Parliament. It was a fantastic experience to sit in both Houses during debates and to learn about democracy and voting. Other trips this term have included local visits to our church and post office for Early Years; Grasslands Farm for Years 1 and 2; Murton Park for an Anglo Saxon experience for children in Years 3 and 4, and Leeds Museum's Egyptian workshop for Years 5 and 6.

St Barnabas CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term has been a busy one, full of enjoyable learning and opportunities to live out our values of creativity, courage and compassion.

A few weeks ago, children took part in a sponsored 'Reindeer Dash' to raise funds for St Leonard's Hospice. The event started with a fun packed assembly with representatives from York Mix and St Leonards, including mascots Lenny and Mixy. The whole school community came together for this event with parents and carers enjoying refreshments whilst watching the children chase Santa around the playground. Children certainly enjoyed their delicious hot chocolate reward after all that activity! We were thrilled to raise over £650 for St Leonard's Hospice.

We were so proud of our dance club who gave a confident and engaging performance in the Yorkshire Schools Dance Festival held at The University of York. The piece was entitled 'Every segment of everyone' and reflected the individual personalities of the performers.

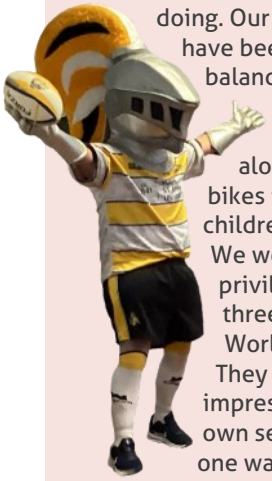
As part of a local history topic, children have learned about some of the people commemorated on our local war memorial. They discovered that one of the soldiers killed in the First World War, Richard Kew, used to be a teacher at St Barnabas School. Each class contributed to a book about Mr Kew which was then presented to his great niece who still lives in York. In addition to all of this, children have taken part in pedestrian and cycle training, sporting events, visited York Explore Library and the Astrocampus at the University of York.

We are looking forward to performing our whole school nativity, taking part in our carol service at St Barnabas church, enjoying Christmas dinner and parties in the last week of term.

News from our schools

St Lawrence's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have started 2022-23 with a bang this year! The children have been involved in lots of activities in school and out and we are super proud of their behaviour, commitment and attitudes to what they have been doing. Our youngest children have been tackling all things balance! We had some visitors early in the term who brought along some balance bikes to try and the children loved it.



We were also very privileged to have all three Rugby League World Cups in school. They were very impressive and had their own security guard. No one was allowed to touch them, not even the York City Knights mascot. Not only did we welcome the three cups, but one of our Reception children got to meet the King! During the King's visit to York, James Guy presented him with a bunch of flowers. This was a very proud moment for James' family as well as St Lawrence's school.

We also took part in the Dance Festival again this year. Our children performed a dance all about colours and how these represented feelings. They showed what it was like to feel different emotions and that we all felt sad or lonely sometimes. However, after the show, there was no one who could possibly feel anything but joy as they performed so well and were a credit to the school.

Visitors into school have included YoYo, a MEG drumming workshop – that was incredibly loud but wonderful – and a visit from Animated Objects who performed the Magic Lamp and Tales of the Arabian Nights. St Lawrence's children thoroughly enjoyed this experience as well as all the Nativities that we are currently performing for our families.

We introduced our PROUD ethos in school this year. We want our children to know how proud we are of them every day and for them to be proud of their achievements as well. We have displayed signs around school and the children demonstrate these qualities in their work and play. Even the youngest know what diligent means!

Tang Hall
Primary School

In November, we were incredibly lucky to be visited by the Australian Women's Rugby League team, nicknamed 'The Jillaroos'. The Jillaroos were in York as they were competing in the Women's Rugby League World Cup and their three group games, as well as their semi-final, were played at the York LNER Community Stadium.

They took time out of their busy schedule to come into school as they were aiming to inspire the next generation of sports stars. They led a whole-school assembly where they talked about their experience of sport and rugby as they were growing up before answering questions from the children. They then presented our Head Boy and Head Girl with an Australian rugby kit that the whole squad signed to mark their visit.

The Jillaroos then ran a rugby training session for our very lucky Year 6 children. The children used their catching, throwing and dodging skills in a number of different games and it is fair to say that the whole of the Jillaroos squad were very impressed with them all.

Following their visit to Tang Hall, the Jillaroos then successfully qualified for the Women's Rugby League World Cup Final where they defeated New Zealand and were crowned World Champions. This was a truly inspiring visit and something that the children of Tang Hall will never forget.

Creating inspiring places to learn

Replacement sections of roof at Acomb Primary School constructed during the summer holidays

Ensuring schools are well-maintained and provide students and staff with the best possible learning environment is a key priority for the trust. With buildings ranging from just a couple of years old to almost 150 years, maintaining our schools requires varying levels of work and investment to keep them warm, safe and dry and fit for providing the excellent education we strive to deliver.

As an academy trust, we have access to School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding from the government to invest in improving the condition our school buildings and grounds. We commission independent surveys of each school to identify and prioritise the projects most in need of work and allocate the funding and resources accordingly. During the 2021-22 academic year, we invested almost £1.5 million into refurbishment and improvement projects across our schools, including:

- New early years play equipment, toilet refurbishments, reception area improvements and roof works at Acomb Primary School.
- Science block and chapel roof works and replacement boilers at Archbishop Holgate's School.
- Toilet refurbishments at Badger Hill Primary School.
- Repairs to external decking and upgraded boilers at Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School.
- Toilet refurbishments at Heworth CE Primary School.
- Boiler works in the nursery, alterations to the reception class, new fencing around the school, toilet refurbishments and roof works at New Earswick Primary School.
- Upgraded alarm system, asbestos survey and remedial works and roof repairs at Rufforth Primary School.
- Upgrades to the automatic vehicle gates, building management system, external play equipment, boiler and pipe work at St Lawrence's CE Primary School.
- New boilers for the kitchen and nursery, remedial tarmac works, classroom alterations, toilet refurbishments and corridor works at Tang Hall Primary School.
- MAT central office refurbishments.

School Rebuilding Programme

We are delighted that two of our schools have made it on to the government's £1 billion flagship School Rebuilding Programme. Hempland Primary School is set to have a brand new building and plans are already underway on the design for the new school. Feasibility studies are currently taking place at Tang Hall Primary School to determine whether the school should be rebuilt or refurbished. We look forward to updating our school communities with more information as each of these projects develop.

Train to teach at Pathfinder

Are you interested in training to become a teacher? The Pathfinder Teaching School Hub provides Initial Teacher Training for both primary and secondary trainees through the Schools Direct programme. These courses combine in-school training with the latest research-led practice delivered by our partner universities.

We currently have vacancies on our teacher training courses starting in September 2023 and are looking for people who have a degree, a passion for teaching and who want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential. If this sounds like you, contact us to find out about the teacher training opportunities we have available. Call 01904 806900 or email info@tsh.pmat.academy. You can also find out more on our website pathfinder-tsh.co.uk.

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