

February 2024



## Celebrating Learning

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Green Meadows Academy Newsletter. It feels like this half term has really flown by and is coming to an end just as it has started.

School is closed on Friday 9th February for the Wellspring Trust Festival of Learning. This is an annual event where all the staff in our academies come together to share practice, learn from each other and celebrate our community of schools. This is part of our commitment to ensure that the staff working with your children have access to the best training and development opportunities available. Investing in our staff leads to well trained teams in classrooms, meaning better learning and a better experience in school for your children. Our commitment to our staff is a commitment to all our children. School is closed the following week for February half term.



**Scott Jacques - Executive Principal**

## Communication

Developing communication skills is at the heart of our academy improvement plan this year and one strategy we have been developing is the use of intensive interaction. Intensive interaction is an approach that helps people relate better to each other and enjoy each other's company more. It helps our pupils to develop their communication abilities. In intensive interaction sessions the adult focuses on being a better communication partner and so supports the pupil to develop their confidence and competence as a communicator. Heather Andrews has led a successful parental workshop focusing on intensive interaction and if you would like to find out more please contact the school office.

On Thursday 8th February we will be hosting a coffee morning at Bradford Road. It will be lovely to see you if you can attend. Every coffee morning is an excellent opportunity for parents to connect, share stories, and build a friendly community as well as ask questions and talk with staff. Look out for the details regarding our next coffee morning.

If you are reading this as a printed copy you may notice a slightly different font is being used this year. I am dyslexic and amongst other things using a dyslexic font is something that supports my ability to communicate effectively. The font used is Lexend and is free to download and use through google platforms. Other fonts are also available.

**Vicky Paver - Associate Principal**

## Introducing Sarah Parker-Walton



We are delighted to introduce you to Sarah Parker-Walton who has joined the leadership team at Green Meadows, working across all our sites until the end of the school year. Sarah is a SEND expert and an experienced school leader. She has written this message ....

Hello, my name is Sarah. I am really pleased to be currently working with the Senior Leadership Team at Green Meadows. I am from sunny Dorset and I started my career in public houses and retail management. After starting a family, I then

worked for the ambulance service managing improvements to the service along with marketing.

At the age of 29, I changed career and trained as a secondary science teacher starting in special educational needs and challenging mainstream schools. I then moved to Bedale as a secondary science teacher delivering biology, chemistry and physics whilst contributing to the PE department after studying a sport science degree. Being passionate about developing young people's personal skills and social and emotional preparation for post 16, I led pastorally as Head of Year and for teaching and learning as Head of General Studies in a mainstream.

Nearly 10 years ago, I joined Forest Moor School a specialist social, emotional and mental health provision, as a senior leader leading the school's culture to embrace relational practice and the understanding of supporting social and emotional development through current research. My experience includes managing change in and out of education and extensive experience both pastorally and in teaching and learning. As an experienced SENCO my passion is in



understanding the needs of staff and pupils and empowering them to make progress both academically and equally, socially and emotionally, in preparation for life.

## Maths News

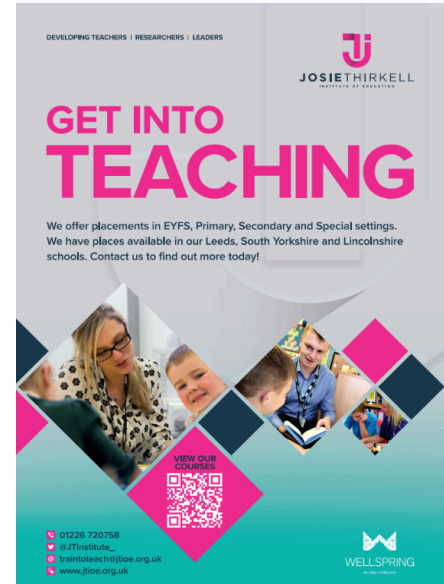
This half term the staff have been focusing on developing pupils' mathematical strategies and resilience in problem solving. We have written a new calculation policy which clearly sets out the stages of development for each of the four number operations and the methods pupils will use when they are solving problems with larger numbers. Matt Cullen, our maths lead, will be sharing this information with parents at one of our coffee mornings in the second half of the school year.

## Get into Teaching

Ever considered becoming a teacher ? Wellspring Academy Trust through The Josie Thirkell Institute of Education, is a vehicle of professional development that runs Initial Teacher Training, CPD, apprenticeships, leadership development programmes, coaching and mentoring.

The Institute offers placements in Primary, Secondary and Special school settings across eight different Local Authorities.

As a trainee, you will become part of the team allowing you to train alongside experienced and specialist teachers, offering you support and guidance throughout your training year.



For more information visit: <https://jtioe.org.uk/get-into-teaching/>

## Tell us Your Views

Your views as parents / carers on how we are doing as a school are very important to us. We would like you to take 2 mins of your time to complete this very short survey about you and your child's experience at Green Meadows.

Click here to start

<https://forms.gle/5mh7eWBQWXDfnaY7A>



The survey is anonymous and does not collect personal information or email addresses.

## Safer Internet Day Focus

Safer Internet Day takes place on Tuesday 7th February. This year the theme is;

**Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.**



At Green Meadows we will be completing assemblies focusing on who the pupils can talk to/approach when something changes online that makes them unsure or uncomfortable. We will support pupils to identify the key people in school and out of school who can help them understand and manage online situations that may make them feel uncomfortable.

On Tuesday itself we will be building on these messages with some further work in individual classrooms to raise awareness of how to keep safe online.

**Online Safety Newsletter** - February's online safety newsletter should be dropping into your inbox very soon. This month's newsletter has some specific information about setting up parental controls on mobile phones for both Android and Apple device. I hope you find this informative and if you require any further support please contact our pastoral team who will be happy to provide you with further information and guidance.

## Holocaust Memorial Day



On Friday 26th January, pupils across all our sites marked Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for this day was 'The Fragility of Freedom'. Pupils discussed the freedoms they experience and the danger of them being withdrawn. Each site has produced a 'Freedom Tree' where pupils wrote their 'freedom wish' on a leaf and added it to the tree.



## **Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 8th February - Parents Coffee Morning (Bradford Road)

Friday 9th February - all sites closed for staff training

Monday 12th - Friday 16th of February - all sites closed for February Half Term

Monday 19th February all sites re-open

Thursday 28th March - all sites close for Easter Holiday

## **Keep up to date**

Follow us on X (was Twitter) - @GreenMeadowsWAT

Our website can be found at:

<https://greenmeadows.org.uk>

Contact us:

[info@greenmeadows.org.uk](mailto:info@greenmeadows.org.uk)