



A message from Rebecca Meredith

Wow! I have been blown away with the incredible work both staff and pupils have been doing since the new term began. I can't believe what has been achieved in the first few weeks - well I can because you're all brilliant but I am so thankful you are sharing these stories with me. There's been a lot of positive stories on Twitter too so thank you for showcasing what your school is doing. Have an incredible half term break, make sure you get plenty of rest but do take part in some activities and we'll see you in November!



Stories of the month

Edale Rise Primary and Nursery School

For World Mental Health Day **Kirsty Bradley**, assistant head at Edale Rise worked with staff and children to raise awareness of mental health issues both within school and across the community. The children spent time reflecting and discussing mental health and how individuals can look after themselves and others. Together, the children created postcards which on one side, had details of WMHD, charities and organisations which can be contacted for support and on the other, positive messages and affirmations written by the children to encourage people to 'take care' in their local community.



Groups of children from across the school created cakes that depicted **#WMHD** as part of a care package to let people know 'we're here for you'. The aim was to raise awareness of places you can go to for help and support and to spread some joy across the school's community. Kirsty was delighted with the end results and said: *"It was an absolute pleasure to see the smiles on everyone's faces as we handed the postcards and cupcakes out. And in return, those receiving the parcels offered support for our school going forward."* Community spirit at it's finest!

A huge well done to all involved in this fantastic initiative. It's great to see others being put first!





Parkdale Primary School

Year 6 are currently on an introductory journey into using QR codes around school which has been implemented by Digital Lead, Jenny Hinton. They are currently being displayed on the reading working wall and these will be updated and changed to keep sharing new reading material, videos and web addresses with our pupils.

The children have loved going out into this area (Y6 shared space) to explore what's 'behind' the QR code and where it will take them too. It's created a lot of interest! There are some linked to Black History Month and Human Rights videos for children and finally to ensure the school is including diverse representation. For pupils who are more reluctant as readers, it's helped to engage them through the use of technology. The response so far has been positive!



Ravensdale Junior School

Around 50 pupils from Ravensdale Junior School went on an historic adventure where they were able to go back in time and dress up as local villagers and workers. The class took a trip to Richard Arkwright's Mill in Matlock. The mill is a water-powered cotton spinning mill and they were even lucky enough to ride on a canal boat too. It's been great to put everyone's newly learnt historical knowledge to good use!

School trips like these are vital to keep pupils engaged while also supporting local history sites. It's a great conversation starter for children to go home to their guardians and families and share their experiences.

Education news updates

October's education news.

Financial Times - [Children need action not warm words on learning poverty.](#)

The Guardian - [Not enough black headteachers in England, says Nadhim Zahawi](#)

Irish Times - [Covid-19 exposed a decade of neglect in primary education. It's time to reverse it](#)

Financial Times - [Now for the 'hard part' of achieving quality education for all](#)

Leicestershire Live - ['Stop kids watching Netflix series Squid Game' Leicester primary school urges parents](#)

TES - [What we've learned from Nadhim Zahawi's first month as education secretary.](#)

Huffpost - [Lisa Nandy Promises 'No-one Could Be Worse Than Ex-Education Secretary Williamson](#)

TES - [9 in 10 teachers say Reception baseline assessment is 'waste of time'](#)

Daily Mirror - [Pumpkin trick helps primary school teachers explain maths to kids](#)

Rebecca Meredith's article
The Headteacher - [We give every child equal opportunities](#)

South Wilford CofE Primary School

The pupils at South Wilford have been extremely busy baking delicious treats to raise money for a Children's Cancer Charity. A whopping £520 was raised and we're so proud of everyone that took part in this after school event. We'd also like to say a special thank you to local parents and supermarkets for their generous cake donations too.

Your charitable work will help change a child's life and this is an incredible way to give back to someone in need.



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