

OUR SCHOOL



Produced by pupils of The Ouseburn Learning Trust

» Our Learning Trust Heaton Manor students help local people



THE OUSEBURN LEARNING Trust is an innovative group of seven Primary Schools and one Secondary School in the East of Newcastle upon Tyne. Our schools include Benton Park Primary, Chillingham Road Primary, Christ Church C of E Primary, Cragside Primary, Heaton Manor Secondary School and Sixth Form, Hotspur Primary, Ravenswood Primary and West Jesmond Primary. In addition, we have six external partners who support the work of our Learning Trust as proactive Trustees. These partners are:



Heaton Manor students with their donation

STUDENTS FROM HEATON MANOR SCHOOL have been working closely with Elim Pentecostal Church and the Trussell Trust Newcastle East Foodbank to help local people in need.

Students have been working on projects about homelessness and poverty and really wanted to make a difference in their own community and to help local people that are in crisis and who would go hungry without the support of a foodbank.

A group of students decided to contact Elim Pentecostal Church to find out how they could help. After meeting with Alex

Morgan, the Youth and Young Adults Pastor at the church they were horrified to find out the extent of the poverty in the UK and in their local area. The children learned that 13 million people in the UK are living below the poverty line and that in 2013-2014 913,138 people needed a three day supply of food from Trussell Trust foodbanks to be able to eat. They were even more upset to learn that this included 320,205 children.

Phillipa Major, a Year 8 student who led the project told us; "When we found out how many children were going hungry through no fault of their own we realised we needed

to do something to help. We decided we wanted to collect food and clothing that could be given to those that need it urgently. We made flyers and delivered them around the local area to ask people to help us. We also asked people in school and in the local housing offices. We are really pleased with what we've collected in just four weeks and hope to do this again in future. We'd like to say thank you to everyone that contributed and helped us."

Students plan to collect for the foodbank twice a year so they can continue to help vulnerable people in the local community.

City Hall singing connections concert



Ouseburn Trust singing spectacular

EVERY YEAR ALL the schools in the Ouseburn Learning Trust take part in a spectacular singing concert during the Spring Term. This year it was also the official launch of the OLT, with an address by Sir Leonard Fenwick, CEO of Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust, one of our partners, and was attended by many important guests. In March 2015 we all joined together to present a wonderful evening of songs inspired by our chosen theme of making connections around the world. In the first half of the concert each school sings one or two songs on their own and then we all come together in the second half to make a huge chorus of young voices. Every year each school does something very different and there was a huge range of musical styles on show. The evening was conducted by Miles Wallis-Clarke and accompanied by Gary Wallis-Clarke, both headteachers in our Trust.

We sang some brilliant songs this year including some very tricky pieces as a round and in two parts. Some of the songs we continue to sing in our schools throughout the school year and West Jesmond are performing our Chinese song for our visitors from Wuhan this month. Our favourite song has become an anthem for the Ouseburn Learning Trust 'Ouseburn, my Ouseburn' written by local musicians Richard Scott and Ken Patterson.

By the school choir of West Jesmond Primary School

» To infinity and beyond



Children enjoying the outdoor play equipment

CHILLI ROAD'S EARLY YEARS playground is now open for business. Thanks to our successful One Family Foundation bid and the inspirational hard work of Katie Watson, we now have an organic oasis for our youngest learners.

We asked Katie to sum up what the project meant to her and she explained: "We saw an opportunity, we seized it, and we came together as a team to create something awesome for the children now and for all those who will follow."

If you were to stroll down Ninth Avenue, you would see an amazing wonderland including: the famous mud kitchen, a water wall, a reading den and many happy faces.

Can we say a huge thank you to everyone in our learning community who supported this bid and we'll see you soon!

By Iona Brooks and Leo Marshall Year 6

Chair of Trustees' 10/10



Chair of Trustees, Mrs Shirley Mills, during her interview

1. When did the Ouseburn Learning Trust start?

The idea of the trust came about around three years ago, it took a long time to get all of the paperwork done, so we became a legal charity in October 2014. There are now 22 trustees who are head teachers and governors from the schools and representatives from the partners too.

2. Why was it important to set up the trust?

You can do more together than on your own so we would like to continue the progress and extend the trust, working in an official way with our partners. Teachers and children can all work together and learn from each other, sharing ideas.

3. What do you hope to achieve in the future?

We hope to keep improving and building on our success in music, make sure we have better transition from primary to high school and for the staff and students to be happy, healthy and to prepare students for the future.

4. What experience do you bring to the Trust?

I've had a lot of experience with Heaton Manor and also West Jesmond as

a parent and a governor. I was also part of the Friends of West Jesmond. I think I have learnt a lot about how schools work and what they need to do to help children learn.

5. Where do you see the trust in 5 years time?

It will be stronger, a more vibrant trust with students going into amazing jobs, providing more equipment and possibly offering residential trips across the Trust.

6. Why not make it a super trust with even more schools?

We want it to be right for our schools – if there are too many, we will lose touch with some people.

7. What do we need to do as children within the Trust?

Children need to realise the importance of working hard, and we need to help children understand that they need to be flexible and punctual and develop other life skills.

8. What are your interests outside of the Trust?

I love walking, sailing and live music; I also like reading.

9. Do you have any children, and how have they inspired your work with the Trust?

I have two children, they both attended West Jesmond and Heaton Manor. My son is an orthologist aged 27 on a PHD. My daughter is 24, she went to a university in London then went to Oxford. I hope that the children within our Trust can go on to be as happy in whatever they want to do as mine are.

10. How will you get parents involved?

There is a new website being launched, and we would like to see a Friends of The Ouseburn Learning Trust being set up across the different schools. We have a charity of the year, the Great North Children's Hospital, and we want to continue working with parents to share their own experiences and knowledge with the children.

By Eleanor, Benton Park Primary School, Christian, West Jesmond Primary School, Yaseen, Heaton Manor Secondary School

» Relationships promoting success



Buddies enjoying a good book

AT RAVENSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL we love it when older and younger pupils play and create friendships between them. Recently we have introduced a Buddy system where younger and older pupils develop relationships and basic skills.

During our Buddy sessions, our eldest and youngest pupils are encouraged to read, play and interact with one another. Each Year 6 child is given a Reception pupil to play with as their buddy. Year 6 pupils benefit from this by learning how to look after smaller children. The Reception children benefit as their playing, sharing and reading skills improve tremendously. It's also great fun!

Our school motto, Relationships Promoting Success, is certainly in action at Ravenswood!

By Kate Lievesley, Iola Wood and Megan Darwood

» Circus comes to Christ Church



Unicycling on the Quayside as chicks and ducks!

MY FAVOURITE CLUB is unicycle club because it's fun to ride a unicycle. Well we don't just do unicycle. You do lots of things like Roller-Bowler, play ball games, stilts etc.

Unicycle club is on every Wednesday 4:30pm-5:30pm in our school hall. I've been going to unicycle club for a year and I have enjoyed every second.

To begin with I found it scary when I first started because I'd never done it before and I wasn't confident with my balance. However, after about a month I could ride about one metre but now I can ride around the hall lots of times and I can find my balance and ride confidently.

I don't just do unicycle in club. Once I rode on the Quay-side to support the BBC Wall of Sound event. We were dressed up as chickens and ducks; it was amazing.

By Engracia Ndlovu

Next week:

Ouseburn Learning Trust
Newcastle upon Tyne

Together everyone achieves more!



Year 6 staying afloat! Students from Benton Park trying to stay afloat on their Northumberland residential

LAST WEEK, 43 Year Six children from Benton Park went to Hawkhirst, a residential camp in Kielder. Hawkhirst gave us the chance to learn more about each other and experience new things. We did a wide range of exhilarating activities designed to challenge us in different ways.

During the week, we built on our teamwork skills with tasks like boating and raft building.

In order to succeed, we had to communicate, collaborate and cooperate. There were many of us that feared some of the activities, but with the right encouragement and determination, we were able to complete them. The sense of achievement we felt is something we will never forget. In future we will definitely feel more confident to try new things and rise to the challenges we will face.

Ever since we came to Benton Park, we have been taught about the importance of teamwork and supporting each other so we were very well prepared for Hawkhirst. It was brilliant!

By Tanhar Ali and Eleanor Quinn, Year 6, Benton Park Primary School

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