



ENHANCE ACADEMY TRUST

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2024

ENHANCE ACADEMY TRUST: A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

We have had another busy term here at Enhance Academy Trust. It all started when St Botolph's were inspected by Ofsted in the first week of October and judged to be a good school, with Early Years judged to be outstanding. This is a brilliant outcome for the school and shows the significant progress made since their last inspection in July 2022. Diamond Wood were then inspected a few weeks later and judged to have maintained the quality of education since their last inspection in April 2019. Well done to both schools; leaders, staff and most importantly, our children!

As well as Ofsted inspections, Highburton and Featherstone All Saints have also received their SIAMS inspections. As a Church of England Trust, the outcomes of our SIAMS inspections are extremely important to us and celebrate many different aspects of our work. I am delighted to tell you that through their vision and practice, both schools are living up to their foundations as Church schools and are enabling pupils and adults to flourish. Well done to both of these schools.

We will welcome St. Mary's Barnsley, Royston St John the Baptist and Dodworth St John's to our Trust family in September 2025. The Headteachers and staff of these schools will begin to work with us from January in preparation for September. The addition of these schools will take the Trust to 16 primary schools and CAPA College.

In January, we welcome Liam Colclough as our new Director of School Improvement. Liam has worked as one of His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) for the last three years and prior to that was Headteacher at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School in Sheffield. He will bring a great deal of expertise and skill to the Trust and is very excited to join us.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of our children on their brilliant performances in their plays and nativities over the last few weeks. We clearly have more than a few budding performers in our midst who we hope might go onto join CAPA College in a few years.

Thank you to all of our staff and governors for their hard work this term. Thank you also to all of our parents and carers for their continued support; without this support our schools would not be as successful as we are.

I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful and blessed Christmas and look forward to sharing more news with you in the new year.

Mark Randall

ENHANCE ACADEMY TRUST: LAYERS OF GOVERNANCE

In our last newsletter, we shared the details of our Members. This term, we would like to tell you more about our Trustees.

Trustees provide leadership for the Trust and have overall legal responsibility for the operation of the Trust. It is the accountable Board for the performance of all schools within the Trust and as such:

- Ensures clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Ensures strong educational performance of our schools and pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Oversees the financial performance of the Trust and make sure its money is well spent
- Complies with provisions set out in the Articles of Association of the Trust, Funding Agreements and the Academy Trust Handbook
- Determines a Scheme of Delegation

OUR TRUSTEES:

Helen Keeling

Helen is the Head of Health and Safety at Yorkshire Water and has responsibility for Health and Safety Governance as part of her role. Helen has worked as a Health and Safety professional for 20 years, and has gained extensive experience in the Construction and Utilities Sectors during this time. Her specialties include risk management, safety culture, behavioural change, coaching, training, engagement and leadership.

Joe Kinsella

Joe is a Corporate Policy and Projects Manager at London Councils, with six years of diverse experience at Calderdale Council. He has a background in project management, leading a range of public sector projects. Through managing a social work teaching partnership, Joe gained experience in ensuring educational settings meet national standards while catering to practitioners and employers' needs. His expertise extends to collaborating with colleges to develop student skills pathways and navigating the post-16 skills landscape in West Yorkshire and London.

Linda Maskill

Linda is a retired Headteacher of an outstanding primary/teaching school. She has a wide-ranging experience in education and has worked as an Ofsted team inspector, Consultant Headteacher supporting colleagues for Wakefield LA, and has served as a member of the Wakefield Regional Partnership for Initial Teacher Training Board.

Janet Milne

Janet graduated from Leeds University Janet has been a teacher for 30+ years, retiring in 2013 as a teacher and Head of Art at Airedale Academy. Janet currently provides support to the community of Wakefield in her role as Chair of Governors at a local primary school; a member of her Church PCC; and a Director and Trustee of the Eastmoor Community Project.

Kathy Smith

Kathy is the Company Secretary for Yorkshire Water and has responsibility for GDPR, insurance, audit, risk, compliance and legal at Yorkshire Water as part of her role. Kathy qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Deloitte in Leeds in 1998 and then went on to work for KCOM Group PLC in 2005 as the Head of Internal Audit and Risk. She took on the role of company secretary for KCOM in 2010 and qualified as a Chartered Secretary in 2012. She remained in this role for eight years before moving to Yorkshire Water in August 2018.

Continued

Claire Screeton

Claire is a qualified Chartered Accountant with more than 25 years' experience working in Yorkshire across a diverse range of private sector companies. Having qualified as an accountant in 2001 with Ernst & Young, she then spent a number of years doing a variety of accounting roles at two financial services businesses namely GE Capital and Yorkshire based Lowell Group. Having taken time out during 2012 and 2013 when her two sons were born, she has now spent the last 10 years doing a broad range of part time, interim and contract finance assignments providing her services as Finance Director across a varied range of local businesses.

David Selby

David is an experienced HR Business Partner with a training consultancy background. With more than 25 years working in the insurance and banking sector, David is an established and trusted advisor for management at all levels. Following 6 years at Liverpool Victoria, he joined RSA in 2017. His specialties include organisational design, strategic planning, talent management and executive coaching.

Jonathan Sharp

Jonathan has worked in the education sector for over 25 years as a teacher, Deputy Headteacher, Headteacher and school improvement professional. More recently, his work has involved collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations to develop and share effective and innovative ways of working, particularly the effective use of evidence informed practice. This has been primarily focused on developing leadership, curriculum and teaching practice for the benefit of all pupils, particularly those who face vulnerability and disadvantage. As an experienced School Governor, Trust Member and Director in primary, secondary and special school settings, Jonathan has a very good understanding of the expectations and challenges, as well as the freedoms and opportunities which trusts, schools and their leaders are afforded in the current educational climate. Jonathan has a strong understanding of the requirements of the Education Inspection Framework and its role in supporting and challenging schools and academies to raise and maintain the highest standards for all children and young people.

ENHANCE ACADEMY TRUST: POETRY COMEPTITION

Children across the whole trust have taken part in a poetry competition to demonstrate their superb poetry skills. Over recent weeks, our children have been busy practising and rehearsing a poem of their choice, to then perform for the competition.

A winning entry was selected from each school, which entered a pool of other entries from schools across the Trust. We then had the incredibly difficult task of selecting an overall winner. The quality of the performances were outstanding and we are very proud of each and every child that took part.

Our overall winners were Year 4 at Christ Church C of E Academy, who received our Enhance Academy Trust Poetry competition trophy.

Huge congratulations to each of you - your performance of "A Sea Creature ate my Teacher" was incredible.



HORBURY BRIDGE: CLASS 2 VISIT TO MERTON PARK

Earlier this half term, Class 2 had an exciting educational visit to Merton Park in York to launch their history unit on the Romans. The children stepped back in time and experienced life as Romans, gaining a hands-on insight into ancient Roman culture, daily activities, and historical context.

They participated in activities such as handling Roman artefacts, learning about Roman military formations, and trying out traditional crafts. The immersive experience helped the pupils understand what it would have been like to live in Roman Britain, from the bustling streets to the disciplined life of a soldier.

It was a fantastic day that enriched their understanding, left them with lasting memories, and sparked curiosity for the rest of their history unit.



OVERTHORPE: PADDINGTON PAYS A VISIT

Whilst we were out enjoying our break time, Woodpecker's class had a surprising visitor, who came and left us clues as to who it was.

To launch our writing, Paddington Bear came and left us some marmalade sandwiches and he made quite the mess!

'I'm sure I saw him just now, sneaking out of the classroom.'

'I was playing football with him earlier!'

'I saw him, when I was coming to school.'

'Will he come back and see us?'

Well, he certainly did, as you can see!

We can't wait to show our families, the retelling of Paddington at the Palace, linking it to our History Topic!



CHRIST CHURCH: FOREST SCHOOL WORK

Our Forest School program is in full swing, and the children have been enjoying hands-on learning experiences in nature. They've been building dens, identifying different plant species, and learning about the environment.

It's a wonderful way to develop teamwork and problem-solving skills.



OVERTHORPE: SPORTS UPDATE

This term, Overthorpe have been enjoying lots of different sporting opportunities.

Congratulations to our cross country runners for being outstanding at the recent North Kirklees cross country competition. We were so proud of the children who competed. They were focused, mature, competitive, alert and confident. They showed great determination and sportsmanship and secured some excellent team and individual results and have qualified into the next round.

The importance of mental and physical wellbeing continues to be a priority at Overthorpe. As a school, we are invested in the health of our pupils. With this in mind, we recently acquired a gym for a month and made it accessible to all Key Stage 2 children.

So, what were the key benefits of the Pupil Gym?

Not all students enjoy competitive team-based sports. By having the ability to offer an alternative that wasn't competitive and less intimidating helped increase participation and activity. During exercise some pupils encouraged each other and created new bonds that they might not have formed otherwise. The children also began to motivate each other and encourage one another to improve.



ST BOTOLPH'S: ANCIENT EGYPTIANS



Lower Key Stage 2 thoroughly enjoyed diving into their Ancient Egyptian learning with a visit from Nefertiti from Past Productions.

The children learnt all about the Gods and Goddesses and had the opportunity to dress up - role play and learn the stages of mummification.

They created their own neck collars and also cracked codes in order to unlock the hidden secrets inside the sarcophagus.



ST MICHAEL'S: ANGLO SAXONS



Children at St Michael's dug up some artefacts to find out about a key historical period of Great Britain.

They were finding out how archaeologists work and think as they dug up some primary sources from the time of the Anglo Saxons.

They had to make sense of what the artefacts are telling them about the people who lived during that time.



ST MICHAEL'S: OWL MAN



The Owl Man and his owls came to St Michael's to help our children understand how important it is to look after our environment so that all the beautiful creatures out there are safe and able to thrive.

This is an important aspect of our PSHE lessons and really helped with our Personal Development. Our children made friends with the owls.

They were amazed at how well behaved the owls were.



BATLEY PARISH: REMEMBRANCE DAY



Year 6 contributed to the local Remembrance Day Service by reading poems, prayers and helping to place a plaque to commemorate soldiers from the local area who have fought during conflicts of the past.

They conducted themselves with maturity as they developed their understanding of this day and the messages it involves.



BATLEY PARISH: GET SET 4 PE

Year 1 have been developing their ball skills. They have been practising their throwing and catching skills using our new PE scheme: Get Set 4 PE.

Staff have used their training to help successfully implement this scheme which has been warmly received.

Play leader training has been carried out and has helped to embed taught skills during lunchtimes. Year 5 have developed their dance skills by creating dance routines inspired by Ancient Mayan Gods.



DIAMOND WOOD: ECO COUNCIL

The Eco Council at Diamond Wood Community Academy are taking responsibility for recycling paper across school.

They meet every week to work on their priorities. Fair trade fortnight was a huge success and the Eco Council celebrated by having a tea party with Fairtrade tea. Our Eco Council are extremely passionate about caring for the environment.



ST HELEN'S: ONE LIFE

St Helen's began their One Life journey in September.

Children and staff love the morning routine, which includes a meet and greet, time to journal their thoughts, take a mindful minute and have a daily affirmation.

They also have a weekly One Life lesson where last half term they learned about the importance of being self-aware, caring friendships and eating healthily.



ST GILES: SCIENCE WEEK AT ST GILES - WHO STOLE THE CAKE? - MYSTERY SOLVED!

The excitement of Science Week has captivated our children at St Giles, with a variety of activities sparking curiosity and creativity across the school. The highlight? Cracking the case of the stolen chocolate cake! Using their scientific skills, our young detectives gathered evidence to uncover the sweet-toothed thief. Well, the results are in, and it turns out the culprit was none other than our very own premises manager, Mr. Keenan! He confessed he just couldn't resist the delicious cake - it was simply too yummy to ignore!

A huge well done to all of the children for their brilliant detective work, and thank you to everyone who helped make Science Week such a fun and engaging experience.



OVERTHORPE: ONE LIFE

At Overthorpe we have started the One Life PSHE scheme. We have found the start to the school day beneficial. When children arrive at school, they are greeted at the classroom door by the class teacher. The children choose a way to say 'Good Morning' using safe touch. Some of the ways are high five, fist bump or hug.

Children then write down their thoughts in a journal and decide whether they are helpful or unhelpful. This allows space in their minds to be free ready for the days learning. It also shows children that thoughts are not facts and that sometimes our thoughts can fool us. Children then focus on breath work and take in six deep breaths before saying positive affirmations, for example, 'I can cope with anything.'

The final part of the morning routine is reading and discussion around Words of Wisdom. This is to help children live their best life and be 'in the now' for the day.



FEATHERSTONE ALL SAINTS: SCULPTURE UNVEILING

Children in Year 5 and 6 attended the unveiling of the new Featherstone Mining Sculpture; we learnt lots about the rich coal mining heritage of the local area and met the artist who created the masterpiece, Luke Perry. All pupils were impeccably behaved and they loved the sculpture!

The Hope and Heritage sculpture features one wheel painted red and the other in galvanised steel, with both laser cut with text written by members of the local community.

All of the local schools in Featherstone were part of the work early on in the project, and we were very proud to have contributed to this wonderful project!

Whilst we were there, we were treated to songs from the Featherstone Male Voice Choir, such as 'Working Man,' which is a tribute to miners by The Dubliners.



HIGHBURTON: CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

Well done to all of our children who competed in the Cross Country at Shelley College on Tuesday 17th September!

All of the children were fantastic! Everyone completed their race and has been given a certificate for taking part.



LEPTON: LOVING, LIVING, LEARNING VISION

We opened our doors to welcome families earlier in the term so that they could join in with activities to celebrate our vision - Loving, Living, Learning.

Children worked in mixed groups to produce sewn leaves and art work for contribution to whole school displays.

We were very fortunate to also welcome Bishop Smitha (Bishop of Huddersfield), who thoroughly enjoyed her time with the children.



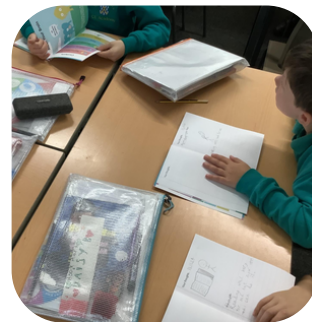
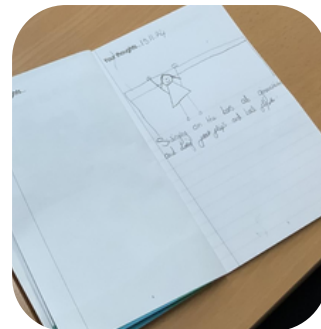
ST BOTOLPH'S: MYHAPPYMIND

The children at St Botolph's have immersed themselves in a new mindfulness program called myHappymind.

The children have loved learning all about their brains and how they work, so that they know why they are calm, anxious or stressed. Happy breathing has been a helpful tool in awakening parts of the brain, so the children can feel more relaxed and at ease.

Journaling has been a favourite activity across the school as the children remember times when they have felt scared or unsure - and what they can do to help overcome these emotions.

We are looking forward to seeing how the units progress over the course of the year.



HORBURY BRIDGE: ADVENT MASS



On Friday 29th November, we gathered as a school community for a special Advent Mass, celebrated by Fr Christopher. It was a reflective and uplifting way to begin this holy season, as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas.

The service was made even more special by the participation of our pupils. Class 1 took a leading role, reading the prayers with clarity, confidence, and reverence. Their thoughtful delivery brought a sense of peace and reflection to the congregation, reminding us all of the true meaning of Advent.

Thank you to Fr C for leading such a meaningful service. It was wonderful to see the church filled with the spirit of the season.



DIAMOND WOOD: YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE VISIT



Year 1 at Diamond Wood attended Yorkshire Wildlife park as part of their work around animals.

They had a wonderful time and saw so many animals. The Year 1 children have taken part in lots of follow up activities following their trip and are sharing their knowledge with the rest of the school.

This trip also linked to our value of respect and how we need to respect animals.



ST MICHAEL'S: BOOK CLUB



Children at St Michael's simply love reading! Here is a picture of our lunchtime book club, which is well attended and popular. The children read some of their favourite books and are introduced to new titles. They can read alone or share their reading experiences with a friend.

The fire in the background provides a lovely gentle atmosphere that helps with focus on reading.



ST HELEN'S: HARVEST FESTIVAL

St Helen's had a lovely Harvest Festival in October led by Father Robert.

Every class presented some work related to harvest, which included singing, poetry, art work and drama.

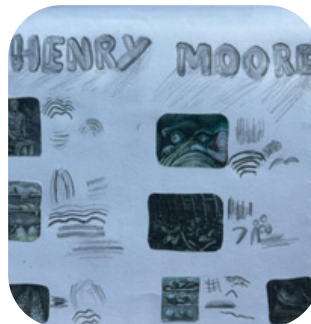
We received some fantastic donations from our families which were donated to Hemsworth Food Pantry.



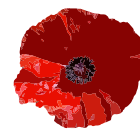
ST HELEN'S HENRY MOORE

Year 6 children at St Helen's have been working on Henry Moore's WW2 shelter drawing.

Building up their skills of line, tone and pencil control in their sketch books, they then completed a wax resist final piece.



FEATHERSTONE ALL SAINTS: ARMISTICE DAY COMMEMORATION



Our Year 3 pupils walked down to the Featherstone Memorial Gardens and paid their respects on November 11th. They made a wreath to take with them and our school counsellors were the children who laid the wreath.

All of the children respected this important event perfectly; they were full of respect and it was wonderful to be part of another community event.



CHRIST CHURCH: READING WITH THE THERAPY DOG



We continued our reading sessions with Ivy the therapy dog.

These sessions have been a huge success, helping to foster a love for reading and providing a calming influence for our children.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our furry friend, enhancing their reading skills in a fun and engaging way.



HORBURY BRIDGE: GRANDPARENTS SHARE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES WITH CLASS 1

This term, Class 1 had the pleasure of welcoming some very special guests as part of their history topic - their grandparents! The visit was a wonderful journey into the (not-too-distant!) past, as the grandparents shared fascinating stories about what it was like to be a child in their day. The pupils eagerly listened to tales of school life, playtime, and daily routines from years gone by. In addition to storytelling, the pupils had the chance to play traditional games that their grandparents enjoyed when they were young.

The pupils were bursting with questions, keen to learn more about the past. They asked about everything from the types of toys their grandparents played with, to what school meals were like.

The grandparents were delighted to share their experiences, and the pupils were equally thrilled to hear them. The morning flew by, and nobody wanted it to end!

We are incredibly grateful to all who took the time to visit and share their wonderful stories. Their visit brought history to life in a way that no book or lesson ever could, and it was a truly enriching experience for everyone involved.



CHRIST CHURCH: VISIT FROM A BISHOP FROM TANZANIA

We were honoured to welcome a special guest, a Bishop from Tanzania, who visited our school this term. The Bishop shared inspiring stories and experiences from his work, providing our children with a unique cultural perspective and deepening their understanding of global communities.



ST MICHAEL'S: REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



It's a lovely Autumn day, but the atmosphere is sombre. Year 6 pupils at St Michael's led the whole school in a Remembrance Service out on our school playground.

They offered prayers and poems – helping our whole school appreciate our fallen heroes and say, 'We will remember them'.

At the end, one of our Music Teachers played The Last Post on his trombone.

We all said a final prayer and Year 6 pupils led us back to our classrooms.



CAPA COLLEGE: SHINE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

It has been a busy half term at CAPA College as students across the Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre pathways performed at three prestigious events in Liverpool, London and the West End.

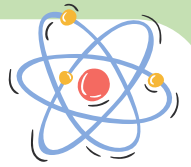
First up, the Can You Dance? Super Convention brings together over 6,000 people from across the world of professional dance for exclusive live performances and workshops – hosted by CAPA College patron Tom Shilcock. CAPA College students wowed audiences with two spectacular performances. A homage to Nile Rogers and Chic, Le Freak offered stellar vocals and powerful disco beats – much to the delighted of audiences. While Only Girl was a fierce, full out and ferocious commercial dance that celebrated female empowerment with a medley of Rihanna hits. What an incredible weekend!

Next, Musical Con is one of the country's most prestigious Performing Arts events with over 100 West End and Broadway stars sharing the limelight at ExCeL London over a jam-packed weekend in October. This year they were joined on stage by an outstanding cast of CAPA College students. Sparks flew when CAPA College presented their flawless Dolly Parton megamix (doing the Queen of Country proud on the Main Stage) and then students performed as backing dancers for legends of the West End stage Shanay Holmes (Oliver!), Layton Williams (Everybody's Talking About Jamie), Stevie Nicks (I Have A Dream), Tobias Turley (Mamma Mia!), Jon Robyns (The Phantom of the Opera), Sophie Evans (The Wizard of Oz), Desmonda Cathabel (Aladdin), Toshi Watanabe (The Lion King) and Alice Fearn (Wicked) for the spectacular closing ceremony. A once in a lifetime opportunity, we are so proud of everyone involved.

Finally, CAPA College students joined Patron Shanay Holmes for West End Musical Halloween at the Lyric Theatre in the West End over the half term break. Dancing with the likes of SIX the Musical's Erin Caldwell, Grammy Award-winner Zachary James and Hamilton's Nathania Ong, students got their first glimpse at life on the West End stage and gave a series of ghoulishly good performances.



ST GILES: MAGNA SCIENCE MUSEUM VISIT



Last half-term, our Key Stage 2 students had an exciting and educational experience at the Magna Science Adventure Centre! The trip offered them a full day of exploration, learning, and hands-on activities that left everyone buzzing with excitement.

Magna's interactive exhibits were a huge hit! Students had the chance to immerse themselves in the four elements of science—earth, air, fire, and water. From the towering fire tornado to the fascinating water simulations, each area had something new and thrilling to explore. The hands-on activities helped bring scientific concepts to life, allowing students to touch, see, and feel the elements they usually only read about in class. The massive industrial setting of Magna, located in a converted steel mill, gave everyone a sense of the incredible history of science and industry in our region.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the forensic science workshop. Guided by Magna's expert staff, our students learned about forensic investigation techniques. They worked in teams to analyze evidence, solve clues, and unravel a mock mystery, using critical thinking and problem-solving skills to crack the case. It was an engaging and fun way to introduce real-world applications of science and helped foster teamwork and cooperation.

We'd like to thank all the staff and parent volunteers who helped make the day such a success. Key Stage 2 returned with a deeper understanding of the incredible power of science in the world around us.

What a day to remember at Magna!



HIGHBURTON: BIKEABILITY



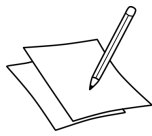
Year 5 have taken part in their bikeability course, they started off in the playground to gain confidence and practice their signalling and manoeuvring before moving out on to the roads.

The children have really enjoyed riding their bikes around the village.

Well done to all of Year 5!



SANDAL MAGNA: DRAWING SKILLS



This term has been a full of learning and fun at Sandal Magna.

Year 5 have been working hard to develop their landscape drawing skills. They are building up to creating some prints and we are going to use them as their Christmas cards.



CHRIST CHURCH: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM VISIT



The Year 6 pupils had an educational trip to the World War II museum.

They had the opportunity to explore exhibits, learn about the history and even participate in interactive sessions. The visit brought history to life and sparked a lot of curiosity and discussion among the students.



SANDAL MAGNA: CHILDREN IN NEED

We have been active members of our wider community and raised money for Children in Need by holding a yellow and spotty day.



CHRIST CHURCH: YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

Our Year 6 students embarked on an unforgettable residential trip this term.

They had the opportunity to explore new environments, develop teamwork skills, and create lasting memories.

We are incredibly proud of how well they represented our school and embraced the adventure.



Thank you to everyone for their continued support this term.

We hope you have an enjoyable Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2025.



SOCIAL MEDIA ACROSS THE TRUST



CAPA College
@CAPACOLLEGE

Follow

Students from our CAPA College Christmas Tour had the pleasure of performing on [@BBCRadioLeeds](#) this morning and were interviewed by the wonderful [@gaylelofthouse](#) 🎄🎵
If you missed it, you can listen back to them on [@BBCsounds](#) 📻
[#CAPACollege](#) [#ChristmasTour](#) [#Student](#) [#BBCRadio](#)



St Helen's CE Primary School
@StHelCEPrimary

Follow

Hot chocolate and a good sing-song around the fire while learning fire safety rules this week in Year 1 Forest Schools.
The children will be building and lighting fires independently next week!
[@Oakforestschool](#)
[#lookingforwardinfaith](#)



St. Michael's
@st_michaels_ce

Follow

🎅 This morning, our 'Musical Madness' groups performed some beautiful Christmas carols for people in the local community 🎄 They did a superb job and were warmly received by the residents.



St Giles Academy Pontefract
@stgilesacademy

Follow

We had a fab time at The old quarry in Knottingley 😊
❤️🎄 we toasted marshmallows, made reindeer food 🦌 played on the zip wire and saw Santa 🎅 it was a great morning ❤️ thank you so much to The Addy we definitely will be back 😊
[#stgilesark](#) [#theoldquarry](#) [#inclusive](#)

