

Selby Educational Trust Newsletter

Shaping Futures through Education

Date: November 2025

Vision

Shaping futures through education, giving everyone in the SET family the opportunity to flourish and thrive, to develop their lives and transform the communities that they serve.

Trust News

In October, all the schools in the trust got together for our annual training day. As part of this day we handed out some special awards to the SET team in our annual awards.

The winners this year were:

Director of the Year – Jane Tupper

Governor of the Year – Mary Lumley

Leader of the Year – Naomi Smales

Teacher of the Year – Alisha Edenbrow

School Support of the Year – Becky Staveley

Support Staff of the Year – Nikola Whitehead

Special Recognition Award – Trudy Searle and Mike Rudd

Parent nominated winners:

Aberford – Sarah Goddard

Carlton – Jon Watson

Cliffe – Roxanne Rose

Fairburn – Lindsey Pearce

Selby – Di Lomas

Strawberry Fields – Joanne Tovey

My thanks to all of you who made nominations. Every member of staff with a nomination received a special email with your wonderful comments in it.

We are looking forward to the big build up to Christmas that is now starting in all schools. There will be lots of events coming up, so please keep a check on your school's newsletter for the dates for the diary.

School News

Here's a round-up of some of the news from each of our schools!

Strawberry Fields Primary School

Autumn term at Strawberry Fields was filled with excitement and community spirit as we celebrated our annual Harvest Festival. Cereal boxes donated by our wonderful families were transformed into an incredible domino track that wound its way through the Forest of Knowledge and into the school hall. The whole community gathered to cheer it on, creating a joyful and memorable moment that perfectly captured how much we can achieve when we come together—both for fun and for a good cause. It was a fantastic visual reminder of our shared generosity and teamwork.

Our Key Stage One children, supported by their teachers, led the harvest celebration with confidence and enthusiasm. Following the domino track, they proudly delivered the cereal donations to local care homes as well as St Mary's Church and Tesco Garforth, where they were collected by the Leeds South and Outer East Food Bank.



Fairburn Community Primary School

Like everyone else, we have had a busy term so far. All of our children returned to school and have settled well including our 15 new foundation stage children. So far this term, there has been a Neon disco, two visits to our local library bus; Harvest Festival; a whole school Bake off competition with lots of cake! A pumpkin picking trip; play and stay for Foundation Stage parents; Halloween lunch; bulb planting in the village and a village Remembrance Service.

One of our many highlights however, was the village Scarecrow Festival that we organise and run over a weekend in late October. This year we were delighted that there were 28 scarecrows on the trail around the village; a further 20 pumpkins in the Pumpkin Competition and three apple pies entries in the Apple Pie Competition. We were really lucky with the weather and all the school and village came out to support us. We managed to raise £1,500 for school fund which was brilliant!



Selby Community Primary School

This autumn term, our Year 4 children have been taking turns to visit Tudor House, a local residential home on Leeds Road. What began as a project to offer residents a change to their usual timetable and some extra company has grown into a truly special partnership.

The visits have become a highlight for everyone involved. The children gain just as much as the residents—sharing stories, laughter, and a few competitive moments over games of **Buckaroo** and **Uno**, which have quickly become firm favourites!

The transformation during each visit is remarkable: smiles grow wider, conversations flow more easily, and the room fills with energy and warmth. By the end of the session, the children leave beaming, and the residents are ready to relax with a well-earned cuppa and a biscuit.

Further sessions are booked and this will also include crafts and our choir sharing their new Christmas songs.



Aberford Church Of England Primary School

Our Early years team in class one have been working on many projects this year already in order to give our nursery and reception children the very best start to school life and help them to be ready for Key Stage 1. Mrs Sharp, our fantastic Class 1 teacher, is part of an Early Years Movement project with Leeds which is looking at how the development gross motor skills and core strength leads to essential writing skills as children mature. She is also part of a EYFS Maths Hub working party this year to look at developing secure understanding of number at an early age.

The whole team in class one work hard every day supporting children in developing their skills and we were delighted to see beautiful writing from some of the boys in class, with tricky letters, such as d and b formed correctly. Well done class 1!



Cliffe Voluntary Controlled Primary School

We are incredibly proud of how our Reception children have settled into school life this term. From day one, they have been engrossed in their learning, and the Early Years area has become a wonderful hub of curiosity and discovery. Mrs Dodson and Mrs Allison have done a fantastic job helping the children feel happy and confident in their new environment, and they are already making great progress in phonics. The children have also begun *Drawing Club*—taking their mark-making on an adventure while immersing themselves in story. Writing has taken many exciting forms, from using magnetic letters and whiteboards to lying on the floor and creating on huge sheets of paper. A highlight of the term was learning to make their own bread, which they thoroughly enjoyed tasting for snack the next day! It's a joy to see them playing together outside, learning valuable life lessons about sharing, taking turns, and resolving conflicts. They have become part of the life and soul of our school—joining in with events such as the Halloween Disco and taking part in our two-minute silence for Remembrance Day. The relationship they have formed with their Year 5/6 buddies has been particularly special, as the older children have guided them with kindness

and care, showing them *The Cliffe Way* and helping them to settle in beautifully.



Carlton Primary School

Just before half term, we held our annual Carlton Conkertition — a fun and friendly school tradition! Each year group took part in in-class rounds before the grand finals in the hall. It was a brilliant end to the half term.

The finalists:

- Reception Ben Nevis – Robin
- Year 1 Giant's Causeway – Harrison B
- Year 2 Jurassic Coast - Julia
- Year 3 Lake District - Bella
- Year 4 Loch Ness – Emily
- Year 5 Snowdonia – Ella
- Year 6 White Cliffs of Dover - Ella



Semis:

Emily vs Ella and Harrison vs Bella

Final: Emily vs Bella

Overall winner Emily Y4

Congratulations to everyone who took part, to our superb finalists, and to our 2025 Konkertition Champion, Emily!

On Sunday 19th October it was the Carlton Scarecrow festival. Our 'Cinderella scarecrow ensemble for the Disney themed event were outside of school over the weekend for everyone to enjoy.



What's Happening Soon

A new heating system is being installed at Fairburn Community Primary School. This will help us reduce energy costs over time.

Our SET pupil leadership team will be meeting to talk about the ways each school can work together on our first joint theme of 'Community Service.' I hope to get them to write a short piece about their joint work in the next SET newsletter.

Best wishes and thank you for your continued support of our SET family of schools.

Ian Clennan

CEO