



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

A message from Mrs Rowland CEO

Last October 2025, after a lot of careful thinking, I made the very difficult decision to step aside as Chief Executive of Focus-Trust. I will be leaving my role on 31 August 2026. This was not an easy decision at all, but I believe the time is right for new leadership to take the Trust forward, and for me to explore new part-time opportunities after thirty-six years full-time in education. I became a teacher in 1990 and over the last thirty-six years I've been a teacher, KS1 Lead, deputy head teacher and head teacher. The best job I've ever had, though, has been becoming Chief Executive of Focus-Trust in March 2013. It has been the best job because I've had the chance to meet so many of our wonderful children - 5800 with us now, work in partnership with our fantastic colleagues, families and partners and to help make our schools great schools at the heart of our communities.

I am incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together at Focus-Trust. I absolutely love our Pupil Parliament, our KS2 assemblies, our 7 Musts, the way our children speak so confidently and thoughtfully at Trust Board meetings, and the kindness they show every day by living out our values of Care, Dare, Fair and Share in our schools and communities.

Focus-Trust is a very special Trust - an amazing family of fifteen schools - and it will always hold a very special place in my heart. Thank you for all your support. I look forward to seeing you over the coming months.



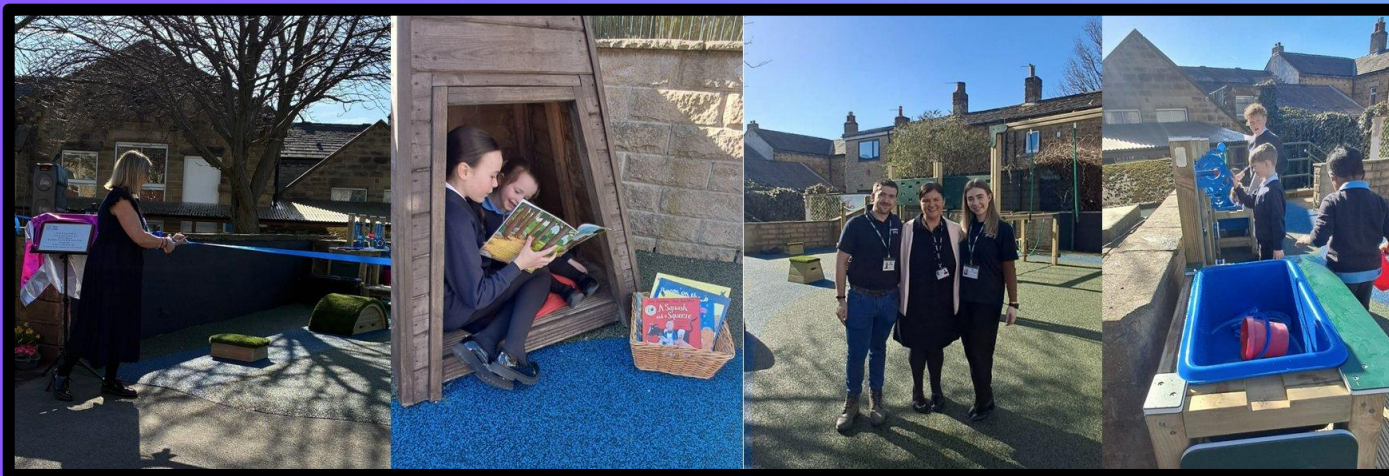
Our new CEO from 1st September

- Following an extensive national recruitment process, trustees have appointed Michael Rowland (no relation) as the new CEO from 1st September.
- We were delighted when Michael chose to bring his school, Thornhill JI in Dewsbury, Kirklees into Focus-Trust in 2016. Five years later, he successfully applied to become our Education Director. In July 2024, he was appointed Deputy CEO, and in September 2025 he began Forum Strategy's 'Being the CEO Programme' with Michael Pain and Sir Steve Lancashire.
- From September 2026, Michael will lead Focus-Trust, ensuring that our mission, vision and values continue to be upheld and the Trust continues to flourish.
- Congratulations, Michael, we are absolutely delighted for you.



Last term, we were delighted to celebrate the opening of our newly developed EYFS outdoor learning area. The ribbon was cut by our CEO, Mrs. Helen Rowland, marking a special moment in her final year of service with Focus Trust. We were also pleased to welcome several special guests with strong local connections, whose presence helped make the event a true community celebration. Carefully designed with trim trails, water play, mud kitchens and much more, this vibrant space supports physical development while inspiring creativity and curiosity. The outdoor area encourages hands-on exploration, collaborative play and imaginative learning, giving our youngest children rich opportunities to investigate, move and create. It is already proving to be a wonderful environment where learning comes to life every day.

Our thanks go to Focus Trust and Creative Play for their support in turning our vision into reality.



In February, 72 children from Key Stage 2 performed at Young Voices Manchester as part of a choir of 9,000 children. It provided them with an unforgettable moment of unity, confidence, and joy. Standing among thousands of other young singers, they became part of something much bigger than themselves, raising their voices together in powerful harmony. The excitement of rehearsals, the energy of the live band, and the glow of the arena lights all combined to create a magical atmosphere. For many, it was not just a concert—it was a memory that built self-belief, teamwork, and a lasting love for music. It was something they will never forget.



Kim Leadbeater MBE,
supported the opening of our
Free Breakfast Club, allowing
all children to benefit from a
healthy start to the day
before learning begins.



‘It was such a positive start to the week visiting the brilliant Breakfast Club at Fieldhead Primary Academy. Thanks to government funding, the school has been able to expand its morning provision, giving even more pupils a happy and healthy start to the school day.

The children were full of excitement and clearly having a fantastic time, playing games such as snooker and draughts, chatting with their friends, and enjoying a nutritious breakfast together. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and full of energy.

The teachers and staff do an outstanding job, and said what a positive impact the club has had on punctuality and the children’s ability to focus after such a positive start to the day.

It is wonderful to see the difference it is making for pupils and families. Well done to everyone involved for such valuable and important work.’

Kim Leadbeater



Rock Steady at Lyndhurst!

8 children signed up for an extra music lesson!

The whole school are looking forward to the concert in July to see our budding musicians in action!



In February we introduced Rock Steady and we had a fantastic assembly to introduce the instruments!



We have two bands currently practising for a concert at the end of the year – the children love their Thursday lesson!



We have 4 drummers, 2 guitarists and four children learning the keyboard!

The children learned some familiar songs in the assembly – even staff joined in!



**ROCK
STEADY**

All children across school have exciting and meaningful experiences that bring their learning to life but this term, our Reception children have had such a wonderful time.



They had a wonderful time at Smithills Farm seeing all the animals. They learnt about all kinds of creatures and even got to feed the horses! Some children also enjoyed a donkey ride.



The children have also love watching chicks hatch. They learnt some fantastic new vocabulary and were sorry to see them go!



Wilsden children enjoying some highlights of our community engagement this year....



We loved hearing about keeping safe from the local fire service and our PCSO's. We joined in with their assemblies and then completed activities back in class to help us to think about any risks and keep safe.



We have strong links with our local churches and visit them regularly. We also enjoy Reverend Alison's visits each month during assembly.



Our visits to Laurel Bank Care Home are a highlight for us. The children enjoy showcasing their talents and the residents always join in.



It was an exciting activity when we collected cereal boxes for our local food bank in Bingley and set a challenge of setting off a domino cascade from Early Years right up to Year 6. It was a huge success and the food bank were really grateful for all the boxes of cereal.



We have been taking part in the Bradford initiative - 50 things before you are 5...

In our Reception Class, we have been busy exploring some new and exciting activities and we have incorporated them into our EYFS curriculum. We have woven these different experiences into our everyday learning, creating a classroom full of curiosity, adventure, and joy. From playing hide and seek and exploring outdoors, to planting seeds and watching them grow, the children have been active learners. Mixing potions and imaginative play have sparked creativity and language development, while group games have strengthened social skills, confidence and teamwork. These activities support physical development, problem solving skills, and independence while also being cost effective. This has been a great factor to help recreate these activities at home! We are proud of how our journey so far has enriched learning, making every experience meaningful and full of discovery!



50 Things To Do (before you are 5 and ages 5 to 11)

50 Things To Do seeks to help every child reach important health, learning, and wellbeing milestones, by providing 50 low or no cost ideas for play, to the people who care for them.

There are two helpful sets of ideas for play and learning - one for children under 5 and one for children aged 5 to 11, featured in an app, website, and printed resources. It is free to mums, dads, and caregivers.

50 Things to Do is based on the simple notion that quality time with family, indoors and outdoors, is a great way to support children's development. That's why we've put together 50 fun, low or no-cost activities for you to explore and enjoy at your own pace.

We recognise that what parents do with their children at home makes a big difference to their long-term learning and wellbeing. Every 50 Things to Do activity helps children learn, with a focus on relationships and playing together, supported by their most important teacher - you.



Caring for ourselves and others

Here, at Manor Green Primary Academy, we are aware that keeping our children and staff hydrated will aid them to perform at their very best throughout the day. As a result, we decided to invest in watercoolers from AquAid. Our unique relationship with AquAid has also given our Academy the opportunity to help those less fortunate than ourselves, because with each purchase an automatic donation is made to The Africa Trust. These funds are used to build 'Elephant Pumps' - a modified version of an age-old Chinese rope pulley system. One such pump is currently being installed in Africa on our behalf and it will be a much-needed source of clean and fresh drinking water for many.

Our Academy's name is now proudly displayed on our well.



Caring for ourselves to ensure we are safe!



Sean then returned to school to work through a mock trial with the children. The experience of how a trial works was a great but the theme of the trial was cyber bullying, which was also important learning for our children. Through playing out the mock trial, the children discovered the consequences of cyber bullying.



Earlier in the term, Sean from Greater Manchester Magistrates Association visited year 6 to talk to them about their role of a magistrate in society.



Watch the highlights of the trial on
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17ZB3LKO7T/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Science Week, World Book Day and Number Day Celebrations

Last term our classrooms were filled with excitement as we celebrated Science Week ! The parents dropped into classes to join in with some activities, which included learning about forces, testing designs for paper aeroplanes and investigating classification keys.



We also enjoyed a wonderful celebration of World Book Day, which brought our community together through a shared love of reading. Residents from the local care home came into school, and we also had a visit from the author Mario Ambrosi. Children in Y6 read the book as part of their intergenerational project. Residents from Rose Cottage shared stories with the children which we really enjoyed !



We had a fun number day with children and staff dressing up and taking part in a range of creative maths activities throughout school whilst raising money for the NSPCC.





Year 5 had a wonderful trip to the Waterpark in the Lake District. The weather was varied - from boiling sun to torrential, wind-driven rain over the week but we had a fantastic time.

As well as all the outdoor activities the children had to wash dishes, wipe down and set the tables!

Essential skills for everyone!



Rudheath
Primary Academy
and Nursery



On Friday 6th March, our Y6 team visited London for the day. Considering the adventure we had had last year on our journey home, we were definitely living out our Trust value of being 'brave' by doing it again!

We had an amazing day walking through the streets of London and exploring some of their beautiful green spaces. We enjoyed our tour of the Palace of Westminster and saw a speech live in the House of Lords. We saw London from an aerial perspective on the London Eye and then wandered down the South Bank for dinner at Pizza Express, overlooking the twinkling lights of the city.

It was a fantastic day and our children have been so inspired to visit our capital city again. They enjoyed navigating the Underground system and it was so lovely to receive such positive feedback from members of the public.





Year 5's trip of a lifetime to London!



Boothroyd's Year 5 pupils enjoyed a truly incredible and unforgettable trip to London, packed with excitement from start to finish. The day began bright and early at 6:30am and ended with a late return to school at 9:00pm, but spirits remained high throughout!

Travelling by train and tube added to the sense of adventure as the children explored some of London's most famous landmarks, including Westminster and Buckingham Palace. Highlights of the day included soaring above the city on the London Eye and taking a boat trip along the Thames, giving pupils a unique view of the capital and bringing their learning to life. The perfect end to a busy day came with a delicious and well-deserved pizza at Pizza Express!

It was a magical day full of smiles, awe and unforgettable memories, and one the children will remember for years to come.



As it is the National Year of Reading and our focus on reading this year, I'm pleased to share that here at Old Trafford Community Academy, we have our very own author at our school. RiNaya has written her own book which she has had published on Amazon. RiNaya, is another example who shows the talent and aspirations that the children at Old Trafford Community Academy have.

With many of us having read the fantastic book Matilda, our Year 4 children had a fantastic time this half term watching Matilda the Musical at the Palace Theatre! 🎭 ✨
The children were completely captivated, and it was a truly memorable experience for everyone.

More books have been brought to life as our Year 2 had a fantastic time at Manchester Z-Arts. The children were immersed in Wonderland where they experienced, the Mad Hatter's tea party, completed a search for the Cheshire Cat and played croquet in the Queens Quarters. We then went on to complete a drama workshop to help us retell the story.



We were delighted to welcome invited families to our School Mother's Day event, bringing together parents and children for a fun and relaxed celebration. The afternoon included an "All About Mum" quiz, which sparked lots of smiles and laughter, followed by Mother's Day-themed bingo with prizes to be won.



Families enjoyed spending quality time together, and everyone went home with special treats to mark the occasion, making it a lovely and memorable event for all involved. We were delighted to welcome invited families to our School Run Mother's Day event, bringing together parents and children for a fun and relaxed celebration. The afternoon included an "All About Mum" quiz, which sparked lots of smiles and laughter, followed by Mother's Day-themed bingo with prizes to be won. Families enjoyed spending quality time together, and everyone went home with special treats to mark the occasion, making it a lovely and memorable event for all involved.



Roundthorn is proud to take part in 'Oldham School Linking Project' which supports schools to participate in activities that provide meaningful interactions between children in Oldham Primary Schools. The project promotes community cohesion and aims to give children opportunities to understand similarities and differences and celebrate diversity within the Oldham community.

Our link school is St Thomas' Leesfield and Years 3 and 5 enjoy various shared activities over the year. So far in February, Year 3 have visited Gallery Oldham together and Year 5 have hosted St Thomas' Leesfield in March. In May, our Year 3 children are looking forward to visiting St Thomas' School for a day of fun activities and Year 5 are excited to be going to Castleshaw Outdoor Activity Centre.



Year 3 had a wonderful time making friends during our Linking Project with St Thomas' Leesfield.

Together, we explored Oldham's historical mills, explored the Gallery Oldham and even produced our very own banners which will be proudly displayed in each school!



**The Linking
Network**



**Roundthorn
Primary Academy**

Community of Learners

Year 5 were delighted to welcome children from St Thomas' Leesfield C of E Primary School. Children enjoyed a range of engaging and collaborative activities, including Forest Fun, Sports and a workshop with an artist!

Children worked together, shared ideas, and built new friendships. The day broadened children's experiences where they learnt from one another, and celebrated diversity.

It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, cooperation, and respect demonstrated by all involved, making the day both memorable and rewarding.

