

THE INEOS FORGOTTEN 40 PROJECT

YEAR THREE: ISSUE EIGHT



We have a role to play in shaping attitudes of young people

IN 2020, INEOS launched the Forgotten 40 project to help headteachers, serving some of the most deprived parts of the UK, alleviate the impact of poverty on their children.

Since then hundreds of creative poverty-proofing initiatives have come flooding in – and those initiatives are making a significant difference.

What we have also learned is that we cannot make things better for children if we don't take parents on the same journey.

We all know that, since 2020, more children are now living in poverty, conditions have worsened and the need for Forgotten 40 is stronger than ever.

That's why INEOS has agreed to continue trusting our headteachers to spend its annual cash gift on improving the life chances of their most disadvantaged pupils.

Funding schools for the full seven years will also allow for a comprehensive evaluation of the impact on children throughout their time at primary school.

We look forward to seeing how Forgotten 40 headteachers continue to use INEOS' gift to give families and children in their communities the best possible chance at life.

The Forgotten 40 team



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'Forgotten 40 is the best and most effective anti-poverty project I have ever witnessed in 50 years working with schools serving disadvantaged areas' –
Brian Padgett, former headteacher and Ofsted inspector

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PROUD AS PUNCH: Edmilson Semedo with his daughter Nicole. 'I am so proud of her,' he said. 'The whole family is. I did not expect her work to be like this.'

ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL | GREAT YARMOUTH

A DIFFERENT FOCUS

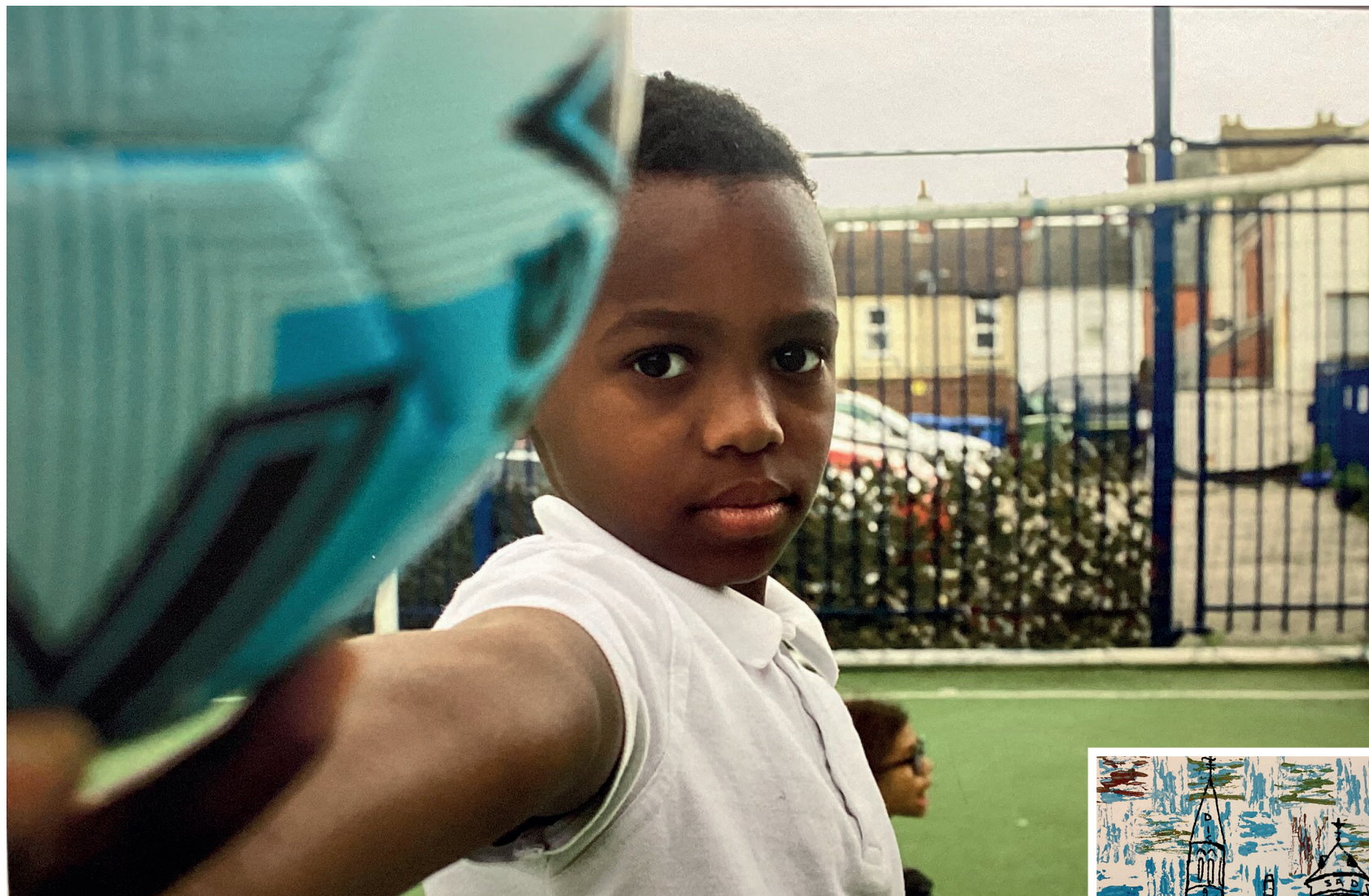
Photography and art classes didn't just capture the imagination of pupils at a school in Great Yarmouth. Those lessons opened their eyes to a world of opportunity and gave them a glimpse of a different future.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Joshua Childs was interviewed by a BBC reporter. 'It's the best thing I've ever done,' he said



WORK OF ART: Enzo Sausa Pontes Frota painted this image of a tiger



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER: Maddison McGonigal took this photograph of her father Martin, who went on to paint this picture of a Greek church



A HEADTEACHER has helped children from one of the poorest towns in Britain to picture a brighter future for themselves.

Sharron Mitchell used art and photography to teach them skills that could help to influence their future careers and was blown away when she saw what they had produced.

"I felt as though I had gold in my hands," she said. "It was beyond all my expectations."

Others thought so too when the children's works of art were unveiled at an exhibition at The Priory 1101, a former monastery used by Oliver Cromwell to tether his horses during the Civil War.

"These are absolutely stunning," said Henry Cator, the High Steward of Great Yarmouth. "It is remarkable that primary schoolchildren have achieved this."

The Head of the Art Department at East Coast Sixth Form College agreed. "These would stand alongside our best sixth form photography work," she said.

Sharron had used funds, provided by INEOS through its Forgotten 40 initiative, to invite photographer Rebecca Woods and artist Stephanie Nile to run photography and art sessions with her year 5 pupils at St George's Primary in Great Yarmouth.



'Residentials are nice and give a nice memory, but this was about developing children's hidden talents, which they could use then they finally leave school'
- headteacher
SHARRON MITCHELL

Their brief? To treat the children as adults and have the highest expectations.

The end results? A collection of pictures that many deemed would not look out of place in The National Art Gallery.

"Every single person, who was at the exhibition, was astounded at the quality," said Sharron. "And the pride of the parents was overwhelming."

In fact, the school project has been so successful that the governing board has given Sharron permission to include photography as part of the Year 5 curriculum.

"Residentials are nice and give a nice memory, but this was about developing children's hidden talents which they could use when they finally leave school," she said.

One Year 5 pupil, Djeyson Lopes, said he had now set his sights on becoming a TV cameraman.

"I'm starting to understand and think about the world around me," he said. "I think about the endless possibilities. I didn't used to think like that."

Another, Joshua Childs, who was interviewed by the BBC, said it was the best thing he had ever done.

"I have never seen him so alive with enthusiasm and so confident to talk about his work," said his mum Leanne.

After-school art tutoring was also opened up to

the talented children's parents in Key Stage 2.

"We live in an area of high unemployment so it was an opportunity to help parents gain skills too," said Sharron. "It also meant families could spend some time together."

During the sessions, many parents rediscovered their own love of art – and produced paintings themselves.

"I used to do a lot of sketching when I was young because I was good at it," said Martin Riley, whose daughter Maddison attends the school. "But I didn't pursue art at all. Now I am drawing again at home."

It has also changed his outlook.

"It's made a real difference to the way I look at life," he said.

"I now notice more things in nature. Things that I just didn't see before."

Eugenia Afonso said it had also taken her back to her own childhood – a time when she loved drawing.

Under Stephanie's guiding hand, parents and children produced an impressive portfolio of images, which also went on public display at St George's Theatre Café and the Marina Centre in Great Yarmouth and the Yare Gallery in Market Gates.

The children's work is now on permanent display at the Time and Tide Museum until the end of the year.





ST CATHARINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
WIGAN

Whole school benefits
from visit to science centre



Pupils given chance to experiment with wonders of the world



IT'S not every day that a school trip involves the entire school

But headteacher Sue Pittendreigh knew a visit to the Eureka! Science and Discovery Centre on The Wirral would appeal to every single pupil at her school.

So she took the lot.

"We arrived in a fleet of coaches," she said. "And when it came to going home, they didn't want to leave."

In all, 30 members of staff escorted 178 pupils and a handful of parents to the centre where they spent four hours exploring the hundreds of hands-on exhibits.

As they played, the children learned about low-carbon, cutting-edge 21st century technologies, how the body works and how they can live more sustainably.

"With every exhibit, they were learning new things without realising it because they were having so much fun," said Sue.

The Burrow was filled with nature-inspired activities especially for the under 7s.

The nature zone exposed all children to the environment in which they live, and highlighted how we are all connected to nature. A giant cat welcomed them to the homes zone, an interactive city where the children could boil a kettle, make tea and toast and explore the chemistry of cooking.

In the bodies section, they were taken on a



"With every exhibit they were learning new things without realising it because they were having so much fun"
- headteacher
SUE PITTENDREIGH

journey through the digestive system. They walked through a pair of lungs, learned about the brain, the nervous system and how our senses experience the world.

The message, throughout, was clear: your body is unique, one of a kind, so look after it. And if that wasn't enough, they entered another world where they could tinker, invent, make and create. The only thing holding them back? Their own imaginations.

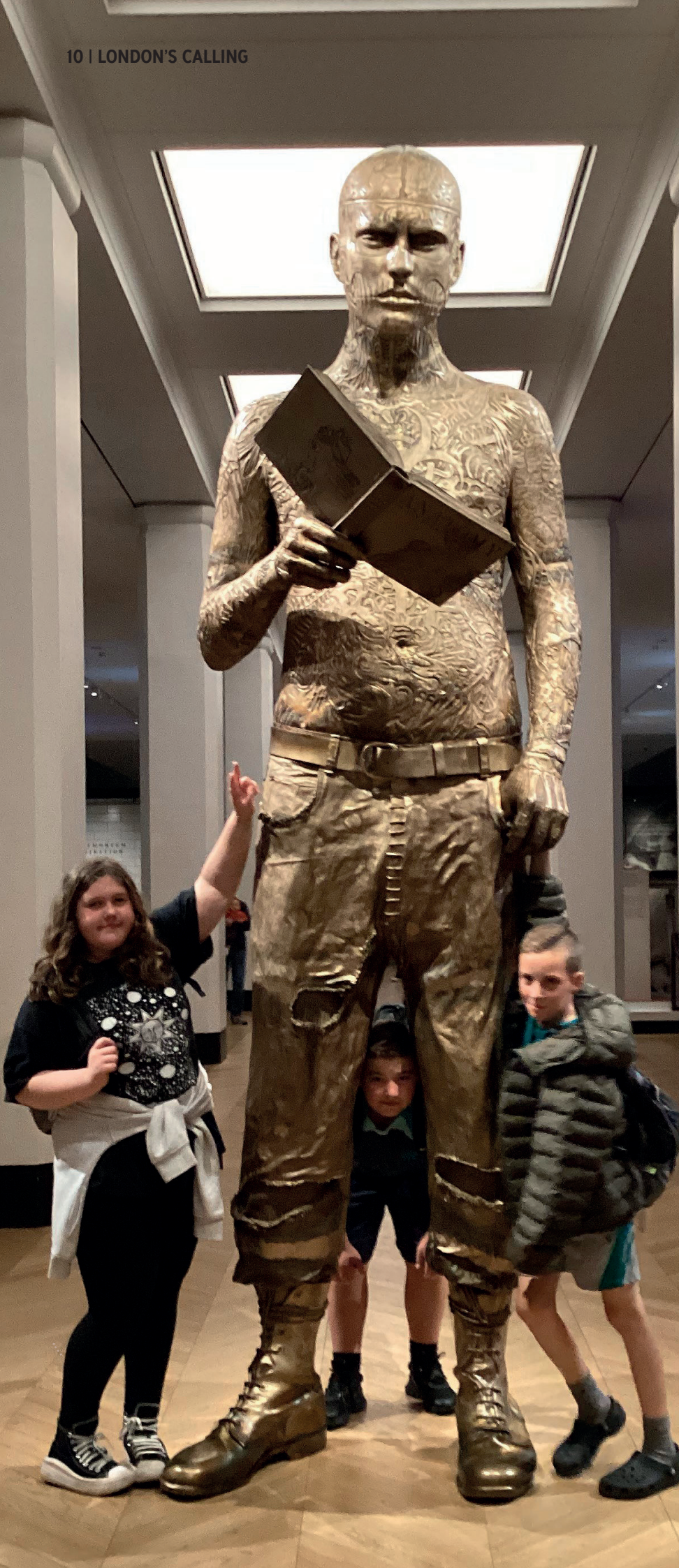
"It was a magical day," said Sue. "And since then, some of our parents have taken their own children back to the centre."

The school's visit to the £11.4 million discovery centre, which opened in November 2022, coincided with a week devoted to science at St Catharine's Primary in Wigan.

The aim of science week was to raise the children's aspirations by showing them the range of careers involving science, technology, engineering and maths.

To help do that, a host of speakers, including a pharmacy technician, an engineer from the Environment Agency and a science teacher from Rose Bridge High, spoke to the children about their own jobs.

"It was a way of enabling children to develop goals and aspirations and manage their futures," she said. "At the end of the week, our children started talking about how they wanted to be doctors, vets, teachers and accountants."



ST GEORGE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
SALFORD

London's calling for 30 pupils

TEACHERS know that experience and travel can be an education in themselves.

So instead of the annual year 6 residential to Winmarleigh Hall in Lancashire, head of school Lizzie Peters decided to invest Forgotten 40 funding in taking 30 school leavers on a mini-break to London.

"Only two of them had ever been before," she said. "So for the rest, it was the trip of a lifetime."

All, though, enjoyed a welcome break from their mobile phones, which were banned, as they soaked up the sights of a city that is home to almost nine million people.

"They couldn't get over the size of London, the height of the buildings and how busy it was," said Lizzie.

With so much to see and do, there was no time to waste once they had dropped off their luggage at the youth hostel on the banks of the River Thames.

First stop was the Science Museum in South Kensington where they held hands with Marc Quinn's 3.5-metre monumental bronze sculpture and explored the 2,500+ extraordinary medical artefacts spanning 500 years of history.

Next they got a chance to enjoy a cruise along the River Thames, before jumping on The London Eye to spot London's iconic landmarks from one of the rotating glass pods. "I used to be scared of heights but after The London Eye, it's not my biggest fear now," said Ali.

Later that evening, they were escorted to The Cambridge Theatre in London's West End to watch the award-winning *Matilda The Musical*, which tells the story of an extraordinary little



'They couldn't get over the size of London, the height of the buildings and how busy it was'
- head of school
LIZZIE PETERS

girl who overcomes a difficult start in life.

The children had been asked to dress smartly for the occasion so Lizzie and four other members of staff were pleasantly pleased when three of the boys turned up in suits.

Roald Dahl's much-loved story has been delighting audiences in London's West End for more than 12 years – and Lizzie's pupils were equally enthralled.

"They loved the scene where the children soar towards the audience on giant swings," she said. After a good night's sleep at YHA Thameside, they were off again, this time to The Tower of London, where they queued to see the world-famous and priceless Crown Jewels.

The tower was also where Guy Fawkes was imprisoned and tortured after failing to blow up Parliament during its State Opening on 5 November, 1605.

"They knew all about him," said Lizzie. What impressed Lizzie was the children's clear love of history.

"The children kept talking about how they were walking in the footsteps of kings and



queens from years gone by," she said.

But what also impressed her was the children's ability to cope with being away from home. "As the trip progressed, they became better at organising themselves to ensure they had everything they needed each day," she said. "They also learned how to conduct themselves in public."

And with no mobile phones to distract them, they made friends with classmates whom they had rarely spoken to during their final year at St George's Primary in Salford.

"I will remember this trip forever," said Lauren.



Southern adventure for northern souls ...

PUPILS from Mill Lane Primary in Stockton-on-Tees also ventured south by train – to spend two days in London. Many of them had never been on a train before, so the journey in itself was quite an adventure.

For one child, though, London was initially something of a letdown.

"His nanna had told him the streets of London were paved with gold, so he was a little disappointed to find they were paved with tarmac just like in Stockton," said headteacher Sue Skillcorn.

For two days, the pupils from years 3 and 4 took rides on the Underground and pounded the streets of London, visiting The Tower of London, The London Eye, The Natural History Museum and the Sealife Centre.

They also journeyed to Far, Far Away, as part of Shrek's Adventure, where they bumped into Puss in Boots, and visited Shrek's swamp, before taking a trip to The Apollo Victoria Theatre in London's West End to watch *Wicked*, the smash-hit musical which tells the story of the witches of Oz.

"It was fantastic for them to see the sights in person rather than just reading about them in a book or seeing them on television," said Sue.

MILL LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Magic of Disney delights pupils



WALT Disney believed that dreams really can come true if you have the courage to pursue them.

The legacy he left the world is proof that he certainly pursued his relentlessly.

"If you can dream it, you can do it," he said.

After a trip to Disneyland Paris, 40 children, from one of the most deprived towns in the UK, are now starting to see what's possible, if they too believe.

"Many of them never ever leave the area and can only dream of such a trip," said Sue Skillcorn, headteacher of Mill Lane Primary in Stockon-on-Tees.

"Now they understand the amazing things you can do if you work hard and get a good job. And they all want to take their own families."

The children's parents had been asked to contribute £195 each towards the trip to France. The rest was paid for by INEOS.

The children from years 5 and 6 had travelled by coach to Folkestone where they were whisked through the Channel Tunnel into Calais and then on to Paris.

"They all cheered when they saw the sign for France," said Sue.

After dropping off their luggage at the three-star Campanile Val de France Hotel, they caught the shuttle to the park.

As they arrived at the entrance and caught a



glimpse of Sleeping Beauty's castle, one child's eyes filled with tears and a boy, normally so streetwise, whispered to his friend: 'I can actually feel the magic. Can you?'

Disneyland Paris is Europe's most visited theme park and the children, who were accompanied by seven teachers, quickly understood why as they explored the 4,800-acre site.

"They had a hard time deciding where to go first," said Sue.

Among the 54 rides was the iconic Space Mountain and, despite the queues for every ride, the children behaved impeccably.

After a long, tiring, first day in the park, they headed back to their hotel for an all-you-can-eat buffet – before going to sleep.

"They were so excited to be staying in a hotel because so many of them had never been in one before," said Sue. Next morning, they were all

dressed and ready for breakfast at 7am. "They didn't want to miss a thing," said Sue. The second day was spent in Disneyland Park, where fantasy becomes reality. Where Disney tales and characters are brought to life like nowhere else on earth. They ate Mickey Mouse-shaped pizzas and greeted characters from some of Walt Disney's most famous films.

Later that evening, they headed to the Central Plaza for the traditional music and fireworks extravaganza, which lit up the night sky.

"They had never seen anything like it," said Sue. "But their faces said it all. They will talk about this experience for many years to come."

And then it was time to leave: to board the coach for the start of their 13-hour journey home.

"The teachers didn't sleep so well on the coach but the children did because they were all so exhausted," she said.



MAGICAL MOMENTS:
Pupils from Mill Lane
Primary didn't want to
leave Disneyland Paris



GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRESTON

Cheaper transport gives children
the freedom to explore the area



Minibus opens doors to another world

A SCHOOL has been
clocking up the miles to
expose pupils to what
life has to offer.

So far, Grange Primary School in Preston has covered more than 1,000 miles since it used Forgotten 40 funding to lease a 17-seater minibus.

"It has significantly increased our access to activities," said deputy headteacher Jack Thackway. "And that exposure to new experiences and places helps children to develop so they can confidently engage with the world, discuss local and national issues, and express themselves effectively."

Thanks to the funding, children have been able to attend sporting tournaments and swimming sessions, visited farms and the seaside, explored the Beacon Fell National Park and enjoyed field trips to Fleetwood, Blackpool and Cleveleys.

Others have used it to visit butterfly farms and the James Hall & Co's distribution centre. "Everyone has benefitted from this minibus," said Jack.

Previously the school had relied on coach companies and private taxi firms.

But the cost was proving astronomical with one private taxi firm once poised to charge the school £160 to transport eight pupils on a 10-mile round trip.

"We sometimes missed out on events because of the cost," he said.

But INEOS' generous funding has opened



**'Everyone has
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JACK THACKWAY**

doors. "It has meant we can offer children opportunities we otherwise would not have been able to provide due to the high cost of transport," he said.

The school's year 6 pupils recently enjoyed a professional coaching session at a golf driving range.

The children loved it so much that their parents agreed to take them again.

"Sometimes our parents might lack ideas of where to take their children or haven't had much exposure to areas beyond their local community," said Jack. "So we want to support them in venturing outside their comfort zone."

But a shortage of ideas is only part of the problem.

A lack of time and money is also a concern.

"Working parents on low incomes often struggle the most," he said. "These parents don't qualify for government support and are often too proud to ask for help."

To try to address this, the school wants to ensure all parents also get to join their children on at least one outing per year – so they can open their eyes to the world beyond their own community.

"We know we cannot shift attitudes by focusing purely on our children," he said.

"They need to start to get a broader sense of the world through their families. That's why we need to engage and excite parents and show them what is out there, what they can afford and how to get there."



MONTREAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEATOR MOOR

PUPILS BLOSSOM AMONG BEES



CHILDREN were buzzing with excitement after a close encounter with 40,000 bees.

Far from being afraid, the reception and year one pupils from Montreal Primary School in Cleator Moor, Cumbria, started to see them as allies, not pests.

"They began to realise that bees are an important part of our eco system," said assistant headteacher Laura Freestone.

The visit to the bee apiary at Westlakes Science Park, near Whitehaven, had been organised by the school.

INEOS' Forgotten 40 funding paid for the children to get to the science park where Whitehaven Bee Keepers Association keep their honeybees. Money was also used to provide books about bees.

During their visit, the children – all wearing protective suits – learned how the bees work together as a team, spread pollen to other flowers and only sting when they feel threatened.

Beekeepers also showed the children how the honey was collected from the hive – and then allowed them to sample it.

"Lots of them had never tasted honey before," said Laura. "But they loved it."

Afterwards, the children were buzzing with ideas of how to protect them, not only from the Asian hornet, which can pose a big threat to bee colonies.

One initiative saw 25 children – plus 16 parents – take to the streets of Cleator Moor to clear litter from the local square, hedgerows and parks.

After a day's work, they had filled 20 bin bags full of rubbish with everything from discarded vapes, broken glass and cigarette butts to crisp packets and plastic bottles.

"It was not only a great way of teaching the children from a young age to respect our local community, but they loved it and want to do it again," said Laura.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL
STOCKTON-ON-TEES

David proves that not all
classrooms have four walls

Mother Nature weaves her magic

PUPILS have been getting back to basics to help them understand what life is all about.

But these lessons haven't been about maths and English.

Instead, former headteacher David Sims has been teaching children from St John the Baptist Primary in Stockton-on-Tees how to build fires, make water safe to drink, erect shelters and forage for food in the wild.

"A couple of generations ago, this was the norm, but it has been lost," he said.

"New technology has chipped away at their attention spans and children no longer have the space for using their own imagination so it has been replaced by someone else's."

Up until four years ago David, who has four children, was working as a headteacher.

But the former scoutmaster wanted to make a difference to those children who don't always shine in the classroom.

The result? Sylvan Lore, an organisation that reconnects young people with nature and the outdoors.

The result in the classroom? Improved confidence, self-esteem and resilience. And children with stories of their own to tell.

Initially, David worked with all KS2 children from St John's to help bring the National Curriculum to life.

The children chose an overgrown spot in the school grounds, and then began clearing trees, building benches and making a firepit.

"They made it their own safe space," he said.

But working with the school, staff decided he should work solely with those children

who had benefitted most from his Monday morning sessions.

"One child, in particular, could be quite challenging out of school, but he was impeccably behaved when he was working with David and was always on time for his session," said deputy headteacher Kathryn Irwin.

David believes his lessons appeal to children who wouldn't normally engage in the classroom.

"They realise that they are good at something and that does wonders for their self-esteem," he said.

The school had used – and continues to use – INEOS' Forgotten 40 funding to run David's outdoor sessions where the children are also taught to safely use saws, hatchets and knives.

For Kathryn, these 'lessons' are invaluable. "Many of our children spend a lot of time playing out on the estate and often end up in anti-social behaviour," she said. "Learning about fire safety in a real setting has enabled children to have a conversation about fires and starting them and the associated dangers."

For David, it's the chance to make a difference.

"It's been wonderful to see the children grow as they watch the stuff grow that they have planted," he said.

And in his book, there is no such thing as bad weather.

"The weather rarely stops us," he said.

"Mostly, it just gives us more opportunities to learn, explore, and have fun."



'New technology has chipped away at their attention span and children no longer have the space for their own imagination so it has been replaced by someone else's'
- Former headteacher
DAVID SIMS

GRIMES DYKE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEEDS

Headteacher spends weekend in the countryside with parents and pupils

Families given time to enjoy quality time

A HEADTEACHER decided the best way to improve relationships with some of her parents was to go on holiday with them.

So she did.

Louise Hill carefully selected 10 families and booked them all in for a two-night stay at Lineham Farm, a 17th century farmhouse surrounded by 120 acres of unspoilt countryside.

For two days, parents, their children and members of staff from Grimes Dyke Primary in Leeds built shelters, lit fires, went rock climbing, learned to shoot like Robin Hood, played board games and went for a night hike in the woods.

"I thought I would hate it," said Rose Salvidge, whose son George attends Grimes Dyke. "But I didn't. I was also shocked at what he was capable of because he doesn't like water or mud."

Bex Bland, who runs her own catering business, said it was lovely to spend so much time with her daughter.

"I am always so busy at home so it was lovely to do something as a family," she said.

By the time, they all left, Louise, who has

been headteacher at Grimes Dyke for 14 years, said she had a better understanding of their lives – and parents started to see her staff as human.

"Parents just need to see that we are all people just like them," said Louise.

Since they returned, relationships have improved and parents now text Louise directly rather than vent their anger on social media.

Those improved relationships have also rubbed off on their children.

One boy in particular, who had struggled to maintain friendships, had been on the verge of being permanently excluded.

But Louise said the family residential – funded by INEOS – had changed his outlook. "He is so much happier and more relaxed now," she said. "We think it could be due to the improved relationship we now have with his mum. She's happy and is talking positively about the school, so he can relax and enjoy it too."

During the long weekend – described by Donna Johnson as her only holiday – the children were banned from bringing their mobile phones.

All the families ate together at set mealtimes and teachers expected the children to be in





‘The Daily Mile is a brilliant example of a cost-effective and practical measure we can promote now’
- Labour MP
KIM LEADBEATER

Easy way to help inactive children

INACTIVE children are more likely to be disruptive in class, new research has shown.

They are also more likely to switch off in lessons, which ultimately affects how well they do in school.

The research was conducted in the run-up to a national TV campaign calling on schools to adopt The Daily Mile, a simple initiative which has been scientifically proven to improve fitness and concentration in class.

“The benefits of physical activity for children are beyond dispute,” said Gordon Banks, global director of The Daily Mile Foundation. “Active children are healthier and happier and we know that leads to better learning outcomes in the classroom.”

Last month Kim Leadbeater, Labour MP for Spen Valley, took part in The Daily Mile with children from Liverpool.

“With the state of the public finances, it

is more important than ever to look at cost-effective and practical measures we can promote now,” she said. “And The Daily Mile is a brilliant example of that.”

The Daily Mile, which encourages school children to run, walk or jog the equivalent of a mile every day, was founded in 2012 by former Scottish headteacher Elaine Wyllie. Since 2016, it has been supported by INEOS, which has enabled it to grow globally.

Today more than five million children in over 98 countries take part.

But the recent research, conducted by The Daily Mile, highlighted declining levels of physical activity among Britain’s primary schoolchildren with 52% of teachers admitting that more than half of their children would struggle to run a mile.

Many of the 501 questioned were also concerned that their pupils actively avoided doing anything physical, even during breaktimes.



PICTURES: NICK JONES



Labour MP Kim Leadbeater was in Liverpool to take part in The Daily Mile, which was founded by former Scottish headteacher Elaine Wyllie. Recent research has highlighted declining levels of physical activity among Britain’s primary schoolchildren

The ITV campaign, Thrive, is aimed at encouraging all schools to adopt The Daily Mile and reap the many positive benefits.

“Not all schools run The Daily Mile, but, if they can, the benefits are huge,” said Elaine, who is also a member of INEOS’ Forgotten 40 team.

And it seems those benefits also extend to the teaching staff.

A recent survey in America found many teachers, struggling to cope with job-related stress, felt energised and better equipped to teach after completing The Daily Mile.

“It has helped me both mentally and physically,” said Rhonda Conrad-Jaufre, a teacher at St Michael Special School in New Orleans. “I feel great. It has given me a lot more energy and I have been sleeping a lot better.”

bed by 9pm.

“The idea is that parents see the benefits of having a routine and boundaries,” said Louise.

Parents were expected to join in with all the activities – and they did, some overcoming their own fears of heights.

In the past, Louise said she had tried to entice parents into school by running, for example, phonics sessions so they could understand what their children were being taught in class. But that hadn’t worked.

“We did it once, but only two parents turned up and that was only because they didn’t really know what it was,” she said.

Parenting classes are also a no-no due to the stigma attached.

“In essence, we would be saying that they are not doing a good job,” she said.

Instead, Louise has concentrated on running open days and picnics

“We can always get parents in for the fun stuff,” she said. “If we organise an open day or their kids are performing, they will be here.”

The family residential has also been such a hit that she now has a waiting list of parents wanting to go to Lineham Farm.

“I know it’s not for every headteacher, but I see it as just a weekend out of my life,” she said.

Tales from the past

THE trip was an eye-opener for headteacher Louise Hill.

For she suddenly understood why some of her parents might feel justifiably angry at the world. Donna Johnson, 33, told Louise that she had been taken into care when she was three.

By the age of 18, she had lived in 37 foster homes, seven care homes, and been expelled from school.

“I regret how I behaved in school,” she said.

But history is repeating itself, with her teenage son now facing being expelled from high school for being disrespectful and violent.

“I have tried to tell him that he doesn’t want to end up like me, but he doesn’t listen,” she said.

Clare Collier, now 40, said she became pregnant at 15 but still went on to graduate from university with a degree in performing arts.

“I just took my baby with me,” she said.

After graduating she worked as a PA at a solicitors’ firm, but was forced to give up work after the birth of her daughter Tilly, who has additional needs.

Her son is now 25, though, and works for Novus Property Solutions in York.

Lisa Dibb, 32, had been working at a jewellery store in Leeds and loved it, but she became pregnant. Her baby later died at birth but she has since had another child and is now a stay-at-home mum, managing on about £1,000 a month.

“Often my daughter wants to know why her friends have more money than her or can go on holiday more than her,” she said.

Rose Salvidge, who claims about £3,000 a month in benefits, says, by comparison, she feels blessed.

Donna says she would love to one day get a job.

For now, though, she is trying to look after her four children and husband Jonathan, who is awaiting surgery for fusion in his spine.

Headteacher turns 40 tons of sand into a giant sandpit for all to enjoy

Life's a beach at inner-city school



Recipe for success

FAMILIES have been given air fryers by a school in County Durham to help with the rising cost of living.

Dean Bank Primary believes the time-saving and energy-efficient kitchen gadget will help parents make healthy meals for their children at a fraction of the cost of a conventional oven. Each family has also been given a copy of Pinch of Nom's recipe book, featuring popular dishes made perfect for air frying.

The air fryers and a goody box of non-perishable ingredients were presented to families at the end of a four-week cookery course run by school cook Lorraine Harrison.

Money for the initiative had been provided by INEOS' Forgotten 40. "When this initiative ends, 36 families will own an air fryer," said headteacher Craig Brown.

WHEN headteacher Louise Hill realised that a good chunk of her pupils had never been to the seaside, she decided to bring the beach to them.

She persuaded a local company to dig a pit for free, then filled it with 40 tons of sand to bring a touch of Filey beach to Grimes Dyke Primary in Leeds.

"They love it," she said. "They can now dig, build and create art to their hearts' content and it's much cleaner than mud."

INEOS' Forgotten 40 funding was used to buy the sand from a local quarry. "My partner and I did all the preparation work and raked it ourselves to save money," she said.

The sandpit is proving popular with all the children, but especially those with behavioural issues.

"They often head for the sand when they need to calm down," she said.

The school is blessed with huge grounds. There is a mini Brands Hatch race track, a vegetable garden, a meadow and a mud kitchen.

Pupils can roam wherever they want within the extensive school grounds,



building dens, climbing trees, swinging on ropes and wallowing in mud.

When the weather's bad, they simply grab a pair of wellington boots from the welly station – and head off into the wilderness.

Louise's mission to ensure every child has an amazing playtime was recently recognised by Outdoor Play and Learning.

OPAL, as it is known, awarded Grimes Dyke platinum status.

"We are the first school in the whole of Leeds to achieve this," she said.

The accreditation is awarded to schools that invest in high quality play opportunities for pupils.

School recognised for making difference

A WELSH school that devised a clever way to raise attendance is now being championed as an example to others.

Penrhys Primary had been bottom of the cluster league table for years.

But an initiative, dreamed up by headteacher Andrew Williams and funded by Forgotten 40, has led to record attendance – and a pat on the back from the local authority and Central South Consortium.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council praised the strong work of leaders, governors and school practitioners for the rapid improvement.

But Andrew said it would not have been possible without INEOS' financial help.

"INEOS' gift has played a large part in giving the school the opportunity to move forward," he said.

Pupils in each class were set an attendance target each week. If they hit their target, they earned a letter for their 'washing line'. The first class to spell the word 'ATTEND' won a trip, paid for by Forgotten 40.

The local authority and consortium had been monitoring and scrutinising the school for two years.

"For us, as a school, it is amazing to be commended for our rapid progress and it was the best news that we could have received going into the holidays," said Andrew.



Pupils unite on night out

IT might have been a frustrating night on the pitch for Manchester United, but it's a night that 11 pupils from Meadowbank Primary School in Atherton will never forget.

For all 11 of them walked out onto the pitch at Old Trafford as the players' mascots ahead of the club's game against Twente in the Europa League, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

One of the children had recently lost his 41-year-old dad, a huge United fan, who had died from cancer. He told headteacher Nichola Hill: 'I just wish my dad was here to see me because he would be so proud.'

Meadowbank is one of the 100 schools selected by INEOS' Forgotten 40 team.

Share your story

If you would like to share a successful, completed Forgotten 40 initiative from your school and see it in the next edition of the magazine, please email Sue Briggs-Harris at briggsharris@live.co.uk or email your INEOS contact.

Report highlights effects of poverty on schools, pupils and teachers

When teaching is the easy job



Basic human needs

A CONCEPT, developed by American psychologist Abraham Maslow in 1943, is still as relevant today.

He argued that every human's basic needs – air, food, water and shelter – had to be met, before they could even think about striving for more.

It is known as Maslow's five-tier hierarchy of needs with self-actualisation – reaching one's full potential – at the top of the pyramid. Louise Hill, who is headteacher at Grimes Dyke Primary in Leeds, said many of her families were stuck on the bottom rung.

"They cannot think of achieving anything else until we help them with their basic needs," she said.

THE pressure on teachers, serving some of the most deprived communities in the UK, is now greater than ever.

But the pressure is not just coming from government demanding higher standards and better SATs results among those from poorer homes.

It is also coming from desperate, hard-up parents seeking emotional and practical support from staff at the school gates.

"Education is the easy part," said Brian Padgett, a former headteacher and spokesman for INEOS' Forgotten 40 team. "It's all the stuff that stops kids being in the right place to learn that holds them back."

But it doesn't just affect those children who may not have eaten or slept well before school.

Earlier this year, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that getting tired, hungry and upset children ready to learn was eating into resources and classroom time, which affects every child in a class.

At Rift House Primary in Hartlepool, classrooms now have spaces where children can sleep.

"We see little ones coming in worn out," said headteacher David Turner.

The school also provides children with

breakfast and equipment.

"A lot of schools have become an important hub in the community," he said. "For a lot of our families, we're the first point of contact in any crisis."

His school is part of INEOS' Forgotten 40 initiative, which has been giving 100 headteachers the financial freedom to support and react to families and children's needs.

"The funding has enabled us to make important improvements that have positively impacted our pupils," said Nicola Edwards, headteacher at Beever Primary in Oldham.

The foundation's report, which highlighted the impact of hardship on primary schools, was published earlier this year.

It found that the additional pressure on schools had exacerbated the existing challenges – workload, resources and



funding.

At this year's Forgotten 40 conference in London, headteachers spoke about those challenges with some fearing that parents' demands were becoming more and more unreasonable.

"We do not want children to suffer so we have no alternative but to provide," said one.

Many Forgotten 40 headteachers say reception staff now regularly have to change children's nappies because they aren't toilet-trained.

The foundation said many primary schools in Britain were staggering under the weight of hardship.

"It has reached a shameful level in our country," said Katie Schmuecker, Principal Policy Adviser. "There are now almost four million people finding themselves in destitution in a single year – unable to keep themselves dry, warm and fed. We

need our politicians to address hardship at source."

Labour's new Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, who grew up surrounded by hardship, said she was determined to 'deliver the biggest transformation in education that we have seen for a generation'.

But teachers believe she must first understand what it is like for schools serving the most deprived parts of the UK.

"I don't think politicians understand what teachers have to do for their children and communities today," said Alison Burden, who has been teaching for 33 years, and is currently headteacher at Dunn Street Primary in Jarrow, South Tyneside. "They are just not aware of the challenges that schools, like ours, face."

Her school is also part of INEOS' Forgotten 40 initiative. In school, there is a washing machine

'Lives are shaped by opportunity'

EDUCATION Secretary Bridget Phillipson was surrounded by hardship as a child but her family valued a good education and prized learning.

They encouraged her to read from an early age and took her to museums.

"I know that I was very lucky," she said. "But life shouldn't come down to luck. Lives are shaped by opportunity. Sadly too many people simply don't have the opportunities to succeed. But background should be no barrier to getting on."

She spoke about the lack of access to music, sports, arts and drama among children from poorer homes.

"I don't think that should be the preserve of those whose parents can afford to pay for extras on weekends and after school," she said.

Many schools, which are involved in INEOS' Forgotten 40 project, have introduced their pupils to music, ballet, tennis, basketball and the theatre as a way of raising the children's aspirations.

so staff can wash the children's clothes. The school also provides free breakfasts, salvages food that would go to landfill, liaises with local and national charities to support parents, and works with the Citizens Advice Bureau to help parents in debt or with visas.

"A large number of our families are seeking asylum," said Alison.

She said the financial freedom to employ more family workers in schools would be better than the government promising free breakfasts for all.

"We need more early intervention and more partnership working with children's services," she said.



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