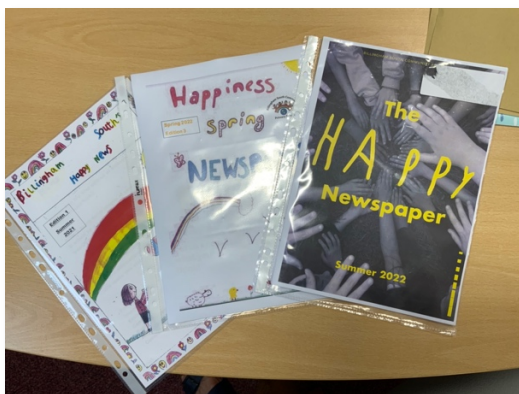


Question: when is a school not a school? Answer: When it is Billingham South Community Primary School. Don't get me wrong, it does all the things a typical school does (teaching, learning, that sort of thing) but so much more besides. This report attempts to capture not just something of what it does, but its *raison d'être*. Because being at Billingham is about enjoying *being* at your best and learning to *be* your best. For you, for the school and for the wider community. It's a school with a conscience and a heartbeat. It's a school where Brilliant things happen, day-in day-out. It's a school that knows itself and knows there should be no limits to what is possible, whoever you are.

Billingham South is *still* an **Outstandingly Happy School** – and that's official. But, of course, you already knew that.



You knew that, because the headline news is that positivity and wellbeing are already a priority. The children don't just wait for the news, however, they create it!



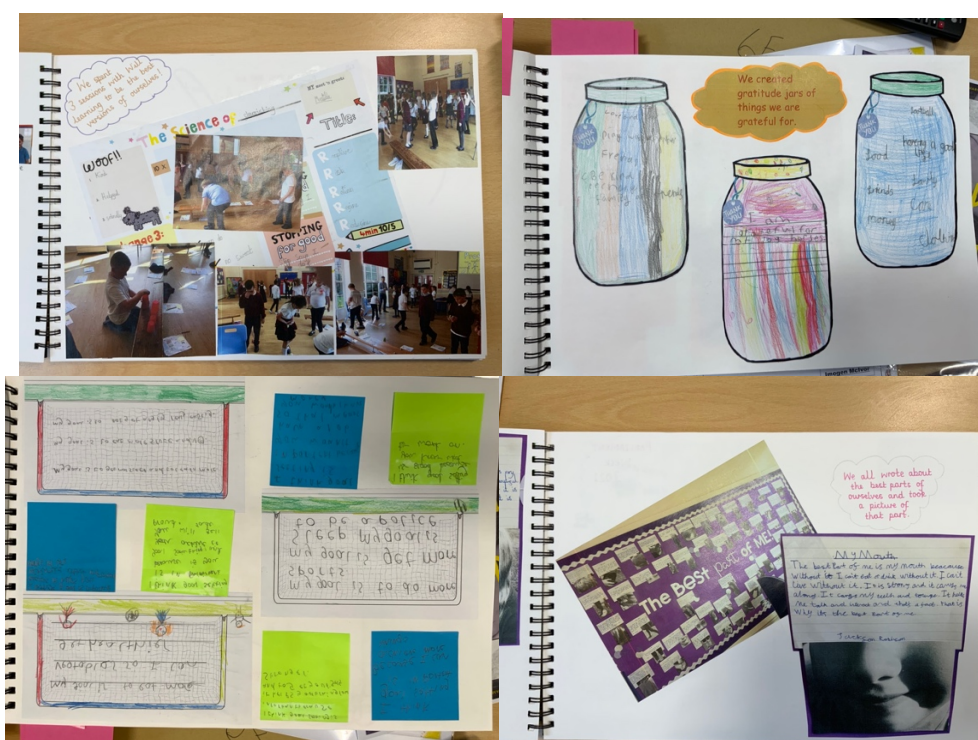
The Happiness News editorial team were keen to share some recent editions of their in-house publication. Owen, Isla and Imogen explained how they utilise pockets of free time to share the highlights and spread the word. They understood that positivity is contagious,



and the world needs more of it. The paper is the result of parents, pupils and teachers collaborating and pulling in the same direction. They do a lot of this.

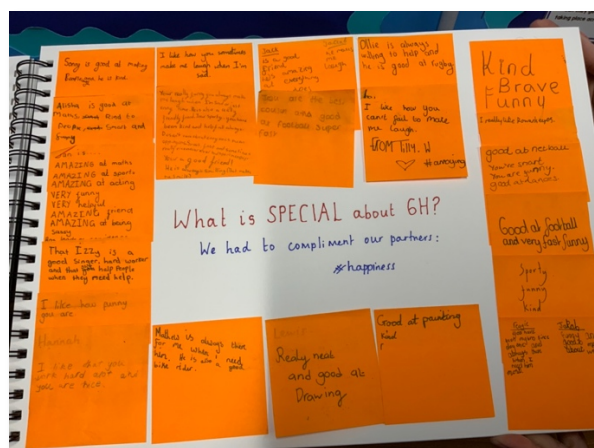
It's fair to say, the school works in harmony with the community. Parents trust teachers to meet the needs of their children, and in return, the dedicated staff exceed their expectations. This is a school that aspires to do things 'better than they have to. Indeed, because they want to'.

Every class has a scrapbook of activities they have engaged in to bolster wellbeing. The scrapbooks showcase a celebration of individuality, and a belief that knowing yourself is key to making good things happen. In fact, every child is encouraged to recognise that 'they are enough'.

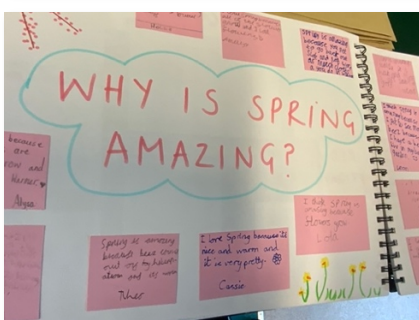


Children at Billingham South understand their impact. They have learnt to positively empathise with others, and are integral in bringing the best out of each other.





Whatever the weather, whatever day it is, there is always good reason to attend Billingham South. There is a wonderful blend of the familiar and the unexpected, where children are kept on their toes – and reach high as a consequence.



Staff at Billingham really care. They truly aspire to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum (and extra-curriculum) because... just because. Sometimes it's more important to ask the questions than it is to find the answers. Experience underpins the Brilliant culture of the school. Both staff and pupils are encouraged to immerse themselves in the new, unless there is good reason not to.



Billingham South is quite a place. But don't take my word for it. There is far too much going on to be captured in the two dimensions of several sheets of A4. I'd advise you to visit yourself and make your own mind up. You would be warmly welcomed and might even begin to view the world slightly differently. Perhaps a little more positively.

As the summer recess approaches, pupils and staff will be looking forward to some well-earned rest and recuperation. Only I have a sneaking suspicion, they'll be itching to get back into the classroom after a week. The school is *that* sort of place, and I can't speak highly enough of it. Although I've tried.

Billingham South continues to set the standard for Outstandingly Happy Schools, staff, pupils and communities.





\*Valid until July 2025

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Cope".

Dr Andy Cope  
Founder, The Art of Brilliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Hussey".

Will Hussey  
Brill Schools, Head Learner

