




# Ralph Butterfield Primary School

## School Newsletter



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

2021/22 Newsletter No: 2

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 [www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk](http://www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk)

### Headteacher's Update

Hello

I do hope this week's newsletter finds you well and coping.

I will keep you informed of any significant changes regarding numbers of positive Covid-19 cases in school. We currently have 6 members of staff isolating; thank you for bearing with us if it takes a little longer at the moment to have everything up and running that you would normally be expecting at this time of year. Our priority daily, is ensuring that the children are well educated and cared for both in school and for those undertaking remote learning. We are still working within phase one of our outbreak management plan and this will be reviewed next week.

Most important is that our children and staff are not significantly suffering with virus symptoms or becoming seriously ill. Check-ins with our affected families and staff members have shared that symptoms are mild but prolonged, with lethargy being a common factor. We do really wish all of our school community who currently have Covid-19, the very best, and we hope you feel much better and brighter soon. We are thinking about you lots, and missing you.

Please do have a low threshold for PCR testing. When there has been a positive case in a class, the more positive cases that are identified quickly, the better chance there is of limiting the spread. Lateral flow tests are not enough to identify all positive cases. We have experienced many instances where children or staff have tested negative on a lateral flow but a PCR test has confirmed a positive result. If your child is a close contact or displays any symptoms, please take them for a PCR test; these are readily available and at many different times to suit different working hours. I am reliant on parents/carers remaining in line with the guidance around testing and tracing to support any limitation of transmission and I am grateful for your support with this.



Amidst the challenges, there has also continued to be joy and an evident love of learning throughout our school. Our children are wonderfully creative; we really encourage this as we know you do. In order to celebrate this important life skill, some children have been recognised for being especially creative in their celebration assemblies this week.

Please be aware that next Thursday and Friday (30<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October) I am out of school on a training course. Mrs Stephenson, our Deputy Head, will be deputising and available to support you in my absence.

I hope you can have an enjoyable weekend.



Liz Clark



### Upcoming Events

06/10/2021	PTA Coffee Morning—School Hall (9-10am)
07/10/21	Year 6 Robinwood - Parent/Carer Information Evening (5:30pm)
08/10/2021	Break The Rules Day
11/10/21	Parent Teacher Association (PTA) AGM (9am)
w/c 11/10/21	Parents' Evening Week - online appointments
w/c 18/10/21	Parents' Evening Week - face to face appointments

## Harvest Festival

Donations for our harvest celebrations will be welcome on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September. These donations will support the work of 'Carecent' in York. This organisation has been running a breakfast centre for homeless, unemployed or disadvantaged members of our community for more than 30 years at the Central Methodist Church in York (more information is on their website at [www.carecent.org.uk](http://www.carecent.org.uk)).



If you choose to bring donations into school, we ask children to please bring them in a plastic bag and to take them to their classrooms when they arrive at school. The bags will then be collected from classrooms.

Thank you very much for your support.



## EYFS

This week we have learned about jellyfish. An interesting fact for you...jellyfish don't have brains. Ask your child if they can remember any other facts about jellyfish.

We made 3d jellyfish too using paper bowls and cellophane streamers. Be sure to look out for them if you are ever in the cloakroom area. We used lots of different words to describe them.



We talked about the texture a jelly fish may be and were very excited when we saw the aqua beads expand in water. They started small and hard and grew big and squidgy, we really enjoyed playing with them in the afternoon. We thought this may be what a jellyfish feels like.



We were also very impressed this week with how well the children wrote their names using our school precursive letters. They all gave it a good go and we are very proud of them.

## Jigsaw request

Please keep us in mind when sorting through your toy cupboard. Reception classes would love some new jigsaws for all abilities for our new challenge table. Any complete jigsaws would be gratefully received.



Thank you EYFS team



## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

We continue to be impressed by the Year 1 and 2 children. Within all 3 classes, the children have settled well, continued to develop their independence as well as their resilience. It is wonderful to see everyone approaching lessons with enthusiasm and a positive attitude.



This week in English, we have been focusing on the story book 'The Runaway Iceberg', a lovely story about two adventurous penguins. The penguins, Gasper and Rossi, get stranded on an iceberg but with help from their Arctic friends find their way back home. From reading the story, to sequencing the order, to developing text maps, the children showed a great understanding of the story and then what is needed to develop their own. Using the sequenced pictures, everyone did an amazing job of rewriting the story and building in description throughout... as well as thinking about different punctuation to use as well.

We've dived deeper into our Geography study this week by looking at geographical features of the Arctic and how they appear throughout the seasons. Everyone did a fantastic job of labelling features: coastline, iceberg, mountains, glacier, river and lakes. We will continue to use our geographical knowledge throughout the topic to learn more about the Polar Regions, as well as the world.



Class 3, 4 and 5 continue to enjoy our PE lessons with Mrs Topliss from Real PE. Everyone is learning to develop their personal skills through fun and active ways. So far we are developing awareness of our body and the space around us, as well as how we can move in different ways.

Thank you for all your continued support, please do come and speak to any of the class teachers if you have any questions or queries.

**Mrs Robinson, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Reeves and Miss Keith.**

## Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

It has been another busy and interesting week for Year 3 and 4. We have completed a whole range of activities and learning opportunities.



Our history and English this week have been merged together. We have been finding out about the discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb, by the archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922, and looking at some of the diary entries written by the great archaeologist himself. We have marvelled at the treasures that were in the tomb with the young pharaoh and have relived some of Howard Carter's memories of that historic time.

We have then used this to help us learn about diary writing and inspire us to write our own exciting diary entries full of fabulous word choices.

Music lessons have also been a hit. The Year 4s have enjoyed their second clarinet lesson with Miss Freitas as part of the school's WOPPs (wider opportunities) provision. They have been learning the different parts of the clarinet and how to fit them together correctly, as well as how to make a sound blowing through the reed - all harder than it sounds!



Meanwhile, the Year 3s have been having music lessons with their class teachers. They have started a unit called 'Three Little Birds' which is based around the song of the same name by Bob Marley and the Wailers. They have learned background information about the song and the style of reggae music. As part of this, they have been learning to sing the song and have also had great fun joining in with related singing and rhythm games. The lyrics of the chorus have a great message of positivity - 'Don't worry about a thing, 'cos every little thing gonna be alright...' - which the children have loved singing along to.

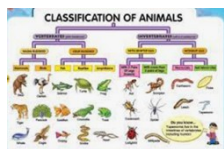
Keep up the great work, Lower Juniors, you have done really well in a busy and different week.

We hope you have a lovely, relaxing weekend.

**Miss Hodgson, Mrs Greenwood and Miss Clapham**

## Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

We have been incredibly proud of all our Year 5s and Year 6s (both in and out of school) for how they have handled the different ways of working this week and we hope that everyone who has been feeling unwell is beginning to feel better.



In science this week, the children have sorted animals into their classification groups: reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, mammals and insects. Did you know that the duck-billed platypus is one of the few mammals to lay eggs?

Using secondary sources, the pupils researched what life was like in the 1750s as part of their history topic. They recorded information about work, farming and education - hopefully conditions will improve for the people living in those times as the children begin to find out what life was like at the start of the Industrial Revolution!



Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns, especially regarding children returning to school after their isolation period.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please come and speak to us.

**Mr Daniel, Mrs Stephenson & Mr Tod**

## PTA



Unfortunately, we have decided to cancel the Disco, planned to take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, this is because it would require year group mixing, which isn't possible in school at the moment. We are sorry if your children are disappointed. As soon as it's possible, we will organise another!



Instead, we have planned a '**Break The Rules Day**', back by popular demand, on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**. Get the nail polish out, hair chalks prepped and orange squash ready....

For every rule broken, you need to pay 50p. A letter will be sent out soon with all the rules that can be broken and how to pay. We hope the rule breakers have fun!!

At the moment we still hope to hold a **Coffee Morning** to welcome all our new parents / guardians and carers with children in Reception, on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October** at 9-10am in the School Hall.

It will be a very relaxed event where you can get a tea or coffee and meet other new parents. Mrs Clark and her senior leadership team will join us. We hope you can join us and younger children are very welcome too!



Finally, please join us at our **PTA AGM** which is planned on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October** (not November which was a mistake in the last newsletter) at **9am** in the **School Hall**. It will only take around 30 mins. We need people to join the PTA to ensure events can take place which raises money for school. Please join us either as a team member or officer position – you can all make a big difference to the school and meet lots of lovely people



Last December, Lindsey, our wonderful PTA Vice Chair applied to the Tesco Community Grant Scheme to be part of their in-store Bags of Help Scheme to help us '**Rejuvenate Outdoor playtime**' at Ralph Butterfield. We requested their support to win up to £1,500 to purchase outdoor equipment and games for RB's, promoting how outdoor activities can support our children's mental and physical health when they need it the most.



**We need your help!** All of the York Tesco stores (Clifton Moor, Tadcaster Road, Strensall, Huntington Road plus others) will have a voting box with our cause on and the more Blue Coins we have the more likely we are to get the maximum amount of £1,500.



Please tell your family and friends to use the Blue Coins for us. Our cause will be in store from 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December

Thank you for your support!

**Joanne – PTA Chair**