

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

2025/26 No: 4



01904 768325 (option 3)



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

## Acting Headteacher's Message

### Enhancing Our Outdoor Provision

As part of our School Development Plan (SDP), one of our key priorities this year is to further enhance our outdoor play provision. We know that high-quality outdoor play supports exciting, creative and imaginative experiences for children, while also developing important life skills such as resilience, teamwork, problem-solving and independence. Outdoor play also contributes greatly to children's health, wellbeing and social development.

To achieve this, we want to make greater use of both our playground and school field, giving children more opportunities to play, explore and enjoy being outdoors throughout the year.

Our first step will be the purchase of a large shed to safely store the new resources we plan to invest in. To make this possible, we are looking for someone (or a company) who would be willing to take the lead in organising and carrying out the preparation work. This would involve clearing the overgrown garden/grassed area and laying the base for the shed. By leading on this project, you would allow us to direct more of our funds towards high-quality resources that will directly benefit the children, rather than having to pay for external contractors.

Our second planned purchase is outdoor wellington boot storage, which will allow the children to make full use of the school field in all weathers. Again, we are keen to find someone who could take ownership of this stage of the project — from design through to construction.

We would be delighted to recognise and thank any local businesses or individuals who take on these projects, including through our newsletters, social media and school website.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in leading one of these exciting projects, please contact the school office. By stepping forward, you'll be making a lasting difference for our children and the wider school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes

*Helen Stephenson*



## Harvest Festival

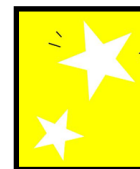
We are deeply thankful for the generous donations you have contributed to our Harvest Festival this year. Your donations have already been collected by a member of Carecent and will greatly support those in need within our community. We would also like to give special thanks to Hannah from YoYo for leading our Harvest Festival assembly and for her wonderful work with the children in EYFS and KS1.





A reminder that on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**, Ralph Butterfield Primary School is taking part in 'Hello Yellow' - World Mental Health Day.

Please still wear your uniform but add a little something yellow if you have it... like socks, clip, headband.



Please ensure that all school dinners are [booked and paid for](#) (if applicable), before 8:55am each morning. This avoids your child having any issues with receiving a meal. Thank you.

## Parking

Please park safely, respectfully and legally near our school.

Parking services, a department within City of York Council, enforce parking restrictions in the York area and take action against people who park illegally.

Vehicles are parked illegally if they are 'in or adjacent to' a number of things, to include:

- Yellow lines (waiting restrictions)
- Disabled bays
- Bus stops
- Dropped kerbs
- Zigzag lines outside of schools

Parking services can issue a [parking ticket \(penalty charge notice, or PCN\)](#) - a parking fine - for each of these offences.

### Parking Hotline

To report a vehicle, which is parked illegally, call the **Parking Hotline** on telephone: 0800 1381119

Please [click here](#) to view additional information



## Together we can make our streets safer

Crossing patrol vacancies are at an all time high. Are you free for an hour a day? If so, you can support road safety in your community, with starting pay of £12.80 per hour up to 8 hours per week.

Visit the council's website to find out how you can play a part in your community.

[www.york.gov.uk/SchoolCrossingPatrols](http://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolCrossingPatrols)

Or, for a chat about the role, call: 01904 555579



## Is your child registered for SCHOOL MILK?

**Child UNDER 5**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



**Child OVER 5**

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

## REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online  
[www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)



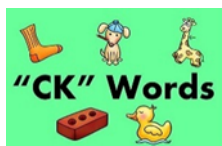
Need help?  
Send us a message  
at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](http://www.coolmilk.com/contact)  
or give us a call on 0800 321 3248

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOLMILKScheme

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Wow! What a busy week we have had in Reception this week.

Celebrating Harvest has been our theme for the week. We have enjoyed talking about all the food farmers produce and harvest for us to eat. We read the story of 'The Little Red Hen' as she harvested her wheat and made it into bread. At the end of the week, we had some special visitors from Yo-Yo who came to talk us about the ways in which Harvest is celebrated by the Christian faith.

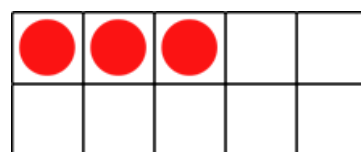


This week in **phonics**, we have learnt four new phonemes: ck, e, u and r. It was exciting to be introduced to our first digraph (2 letters that make one sound) 'ck'. We normally find this at the end of words. For example, duck, peck, sock.

Once children have an ability to sound out and blend words, we begin to read books with words. Some children will soon be bringing home these books. This will mean that your child has securely shown an ability to sound out and blend words together. Please don't worry if your child remains on books with no words for a while, as blending practise happens daily in school.



In **maths** this week, we have continued to explore the numbers 1, 2 and 3. This included counting and representing these numbers on a tens frame. We played a game which you could play at home too. Clap your hands and ask your child how many claps they heard or drop items into a pot and ask them to count the number of objects.



We have now started our REAL PE sessions in the hall each week. This half term we are focusing on ball skills including, controlling the ball with a foot and chasing a rolling ball. The adults are already seeing improvements in how independently the children are getting changed for PE. One thing which we would value your continued support with is practising to turn sleeves and tights/trousers legs the correct way round to put them on.

Next week, the children will be learning about people who help us in our community. As part of this, we would like to make emergency vehicles in our creative area. If you have any small boxes or clean bottle tops which we can use, please do save them and bring them into school.



### Reminder

**Monday** – please return Little Wandle Reading Book and Reading for Pleasure books

**Wednesday** – your child will receive their new Little Wandle Reading Book.

**Thursday** – Please bring homework folders (and keyword chains) to be updated.

**Mrs Robinson, Mrs Daniel, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team**



## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



It has been yet another busy week in Key Stage 1, full of learning and fun. This week, we enjoyed learning more about habitats and microhabitats in science. A microhabitat is a small -scale habitat for creatures, such as in a patch of long grass or under a log or large stone. We learned about how these provide shelter and protection for a wide range of creatures and explored some for ourselves, using maps to show where they could be found in the school grounds. We then made a habitat triorama (three-sided scene) in English and used what we knew about instruction writing to write a set of instructions for how to make one.

In RE, we continued to learn about the Islamic faith. This week, we were exploring Islamic artefacts and learning about their significance to Muslims. We looked at Qur'ans, prayer mats and other important objects and talked about their importance, symbolism and use. It was so fascinating to see them and to learn about how they are used in daily life.



In computing, we have been learning to access and navigate Purple Mash by searching for it and using our username and password to access the platform. These login details are now stuck on labels in both of your child's homework folders so they can access Purple Mash at home. This is a great resource, full of amazing activities and tools. Your child might enjoy sharing what they are learning in computing with you, but there are many other activities on there to support with learning in other areas of the curriculum, such as maths, spelling and English. In computing, we were accessing paint programs and writing tools and learning how to save and retrieve work. It can be tricky to be independent on the computer but our children have been doing so well and we are very proud of them

Well done Key Stage 1. You are working so hard and learning so much.

**Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall**



### This Week's Attendance



Thank you for supporting your child to attend school as much as possible.

Going to school **every day**  
is a great way for your child  
to make friends.

For more information on school absence in York visit:  
[www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance](http://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance)





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

Last week, as part of our 'Ancient Egyptians', 'All wrapped Up' history topic we designed our cartouches using hieroglyphics. This week, the classroom was filled with excitement (and a lot of mess!) as the children brought their designs to life using clay. After rolling out their slabs of clay and cutting them into the shape of a cartouche, they showed great concentration and skill while carving or moulding their chosen hieroglyphs. The results were absolutely fantastic; the children produced wonderful cartouches that they should feel very proud of!



As part of our history and English sessions over the last couple of weeks, the children looked at a set of gruesome mummification instructions that explained how the mummification process was carried out. To bring this to life, the children took on the role of a scientist and had a go at *mummifying* apple quarters. They created their own version of *natron* by mixing salt and bicarbonate of soda, then buried their apple pieces in the mixture to see how well it preserved them. When we checked the results, there was a real mixture of outcomes, some apples were soggy and unpleasant, while others were amazingly well preserved. Although the outsides had turned black, many of the insides looked surprisingly fresh.



After writing their own set of brilliant mummification instructions, the children have moved on to reading the story 'The Gold In the Grave' which is based on King Tutankhamun. We have spent some time reading the story and creating our own story board of the main events and included key vocabulary to help us really understand the structure of the story.

In PSHE this week, we revisited the Zones of Regulation to deepen the children's understanding of their emotions. We talked about how our bodies respond to different feelings. For example, nervousness might give us butterflies in our stomach. The children were very reflective and thoughtful as they discussed their own experiences. They also recognised that everyone responds to emotions differently, and they showed great respect for each other's ideas.



Please do come and speak with us if you have any queries, questions or would like to share any news with us.

**We hope that you have a relaxing weekend.  
Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, and Miss Clapham**

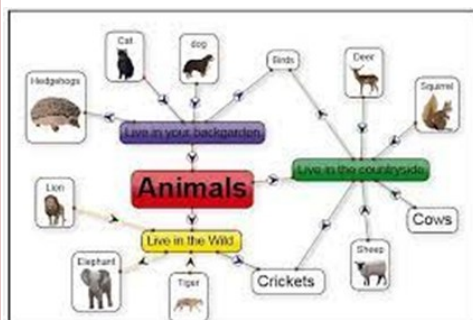


## Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



As part of our RE learning this week, we reflected on Christian beliefs about the creation of the world. We explored both the biblical creation story and scientific ideas, such as the Big Bang theory. As a class, we discussed how Christians can hold different viewpoints. For example, some believe that God initiated the Big Bang, while others interpret the creation story in the Bible literally.

In our PE sessions this half term, we have been learning about invasion games. We were introduced to a simplified version of netball, where we worked with our teammates to move the ball into the scoring zone. Through these lessons, we developed our ball control and handling skills by practising different ways of passing and catching, while also improving our coordination and control of the body when in possession of the ball.



This term, we have begun to learn how to use 2Connect - on Purple Mash - as a tool to help us organise our learning and to collaborate. By creating boxes, we can organise information much like a thought shower. 2Connect will also allow us to connect web links and further information to some of our ideas. We can also link different boxes with arrows and, should one side begin to look crowded, reorganise the entire document by moving the information around. Additionally, 2Connect has a collaborative setting which allows the whole class to contribute their ideas to one document. This is especially useful when we are discussing a new concept or wish to share our ideas.

The Year 6s thoroughly enjoyed their trip on Tuesday to the Merchant Adventurers' Hall to give the children a chance to recall important dates and events in British history. They took part in a debate to decide who should be admitted to the hospital and role played at being entrepreneurs in the 1850s.

Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any news to share, questions or concerns.

**Mr Bennett, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod**





*'A place where children are at the centre of everything and where they are allowed to thrive'*

## Headlands & Ralph Butterfield Preschools

### WHAT WE OFFER:

- ✓ Highly skilled team of staff
- ✓ Expertise in Speech and Language
- ✓ Outdoor learning & Forest School
- ✓ Real life experiences
- ✓ Supportive transitions
- ✓ Term time only
- ✓ Inclusive learning environment



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**Flexible sessions available**

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hl@haxbyplaygroups.org.uk  
rb@haxbyplaygroups.org.uk



For more information visit:  
[www.haxbyplaygroups.org.uk](http://www.haxbyplaygroups.org.uk)



## JOGA OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMP

25% Of the Net revenue generated on this camp is donated to Easingwold Town FC

**DATES:** 28<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup>

**YEAR GROUPS:** YEAR 1 - 7

**TIMINGS:** 10:00 - 15:00

**PRICE:** £60

**LOCATION:** OUTWOOD ACADEMY, EASINGWOLD

**REGISTER HERE**