

Friday 5th December 2025

2025/26 No: 12



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon

Visitors

This week we were delighted to welcome Tony Bower from YoYo, a much-loved local author, Rev Kathryn Jackson and Rev Alison Hutchinson, who spent time working with some children across both KS1 and KS2. Our KS2 children created poems inspired by the Christmas story, choosing either a key scene or writing from a range of perspectives, such as the star leading the way or the stillness of the crib. Their work was reflective, imaginative and beautifully crafted. Meanwhile, KS1 children produced creative and expressive artwork linked to the same theme. We are proud to share that some of the KS2 poems will be read during our upcoming Carol Services, and KS1 artwork will be displayed in St Mary's Church for our community to enjoy.



Christmas Cards



We are keen to continue strengthening our relationship with the residents of Haxby Hall and to help spread some Christmas cheer this year. If parent, carers or children are writing Christmas cards, we would be grateful if you could write an additional card and place it in an unsealed envelope. These can then be left in the basket at the office. We will then take some children to Haxby Hall to share the cards with the residents and brighten their day.

Choir

We would also like to offer a huge congratulations to those children in our school choir who recently performed in front of an audience of around 200 of York's older residents at their Christmas Cheer Reception, hosted by the Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of York. The feedback we received was wonderful: *"Your voices brought so much joy and festive spirit to the room. Many of our guests told us how brilliant your singing was and how it made the celebration truly special. You helped create a magical atmosphere, and your enthusiasm made everyone smile."* We are incredibly proud of the children for representing the school with such warmth, confidence and joy.



Parent Governor

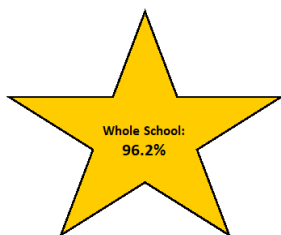
The deadline for parent governor nominations was last Friday. I am pleased to share that Miss Imogen Hill has been duly elected to the position of Parent Governor and we look forward to welcoming Imogen onto the governing board.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson

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



St Leonard's Hospice Reindeer Rush

This year, we have decided to support St Leonard's Hospice, a local charity, due to the support they have provided to family members of our whole school community. On Friday 12th December, all children in the school will be taking part in some exciting festive fun through a 'Reindeer Rush'.

Optional donations can be made by scanning the QR code below or via the online fundraising page for our school which St Leonard's Hospice have created

www.justgiving.com/page/ralphbutterfieldreindeerrush



Daily Christmas Post Box!

We are pleased to share that children can now bring in their Christmas cards for others in the school and post them in our special Christmas post box in the entrance area. Santa's special Year 6 elves will then sort and deliver the post around school on a daily basis.

To help the elves, it is really important that each envelope:

- Is clearly written
- Has the child's first and last name on it (if your child knows it)
- Has the child's Class on it e.g. Class 5

Thank you for your support with this.

First Post: Monday 8th December

Last Post: Wednesday 17th December





Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This week, the children have been enjoying finalising their roles in our nativity 'A Wiggly Nativity'. Thank you for your help in providing costumes and sending them in to school. Bringing together the acting, character lines and songs has brought the nativity to life and we are very much looking forward to sharing it with you next week. **Our performance is Wednesday 10th December at 2:45pm.**



In **phonics** this week, the children have applied their knowledge of the phonemes learnt so far this year, to continue to practise sounding out and blending words to both read and spell them. They have also continued to practise reading words which add 's', for example, cups – sings – fins.



Using our phonics knowledge has helped the children to write a short sentence about their role in our nativity story. When we write words, captions or sentences, the children plan what they are going to write and then say the sounds they can hear in the words, for example, d-o-g. Some children wrote 'I am a king'.

On Monday, some exciting visitors appeared in Reception. The Christmas tricky word elves have arrived! The children were introduced to the tricky word elf challenge. Each day, the children will be looking out for the Christmas elves and reading their tricky words. We will keep you updated!



In **maths** this week, we have learnt different ways of making 5. The children decorated Christmas trees with five baubles, for example, 3 red and 2 blue. Then they recorded their additions in a number sentence.

Reminder

Next Thursday, **Class 1** will be visiting Haxby library to return their books before the Christmas holidays. Please remember to put the books in their book bag. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

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





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

We are heading into one of busiest and most exciting times of year in Key Stage 1. The children have been getting festive this week as we prepare to perform our nativity. There has been much fun and excitement putting the show together and it has come together marvellously. We were very excited to try on our costumes and do a rehearsal in them. And it was very exciting to perform in front of the rest of the school on Friday when we did our dress rehearsal. For many of us, it was the first time performing in front of such a large audience and we were all so proud of the amazing job the children did and how they shone on stage. We can't wait to perform to our families and friends when we do the real thing.



In English, we have been writing our own stories inspired by "The Runaway Iceberg", which we enjoyed last week. In our version of the story, two polar bear cubs were playing on an iceberg when it cracked and floated away. They had adventures drifting in the sea and were helped by lots of other characters before they eventually found their way home to their families. The children followed the familiar structure and wrote their own stories, including ambitious adjectives and exciting vocabulary. The results were amazing! We were thrilled and delighted by the exciting stories they wrote.

On Thursday, the author Tony Bower, Reverend Kathryn and Alison Hutchinson came into school and worked with a group of children, talking about the Christmas Story. They acted out part of the story with the children and asked us to think about how the shepherds felt at different parts of the story when they were visited by the angels and given the important news. We then made pieces of artwork of scenes from the Christmas story, which will be shown in our carol service in church and then displayed. The children were so respectful and took lots of care to create wonderful pieces of artwork.



We are looking forward to welcoming parents, carers, families and friends to our nativity performances next week. We will be performing to the families of Year 1 on Monday afternoon and to the families of Year 2 on Tuesday afternoon. **Due to time limitations, the performances need to start promptly at 2.30pm. Therefore we ask that anyone coming to watch please takes their seat by 2.25pm.** Because of the timings of the performance, it is very important that we start on time. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you supporting our wonderful children!

Well done Key Stage 1. We are in a very interesting and exciting time of year and we are so proud of how well you are meeting every new experience and challenge.

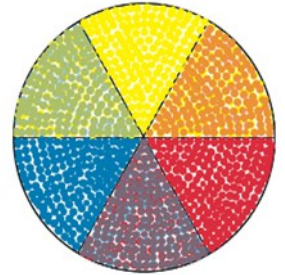
Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

In art, the children have explored the colour wheel and investigated how the primary colours, red, yellow and blue can be mixed to create secondary colours. After experimenting with colour mixing, we revisited the painting technique pointillism which was introduced during our artist study on Georges Seurat. Using cotton buds as their painting tool, the children created their own vibrant colour wheels made entirely of tiny dots. Creating our own colour wheels really helped consolidate the children's understanding of how different colours blend together and we can't wait to use this knowledge to paint our own river scenes using the pointillism technique.



Throughout the autumn term, the Year 3 and 4 children have been using TT Rockstars regularly in class to practise their times tables. They have thoroughly enjoyed challenging themselves to beat their previous soundcheck scores while the studio section has helped them improve the speed and accuracy of their recall. It has been wonderful to see so many certificates awarded and to watch the children rise through the Rockstar ranks. Keep up the fantastic effort, everyone!

This week we reached the exciting finale of our class novel 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover'. The ending certainly kept us on the edge of our seats, with a dramatic chase through the museum as Mo and Debbie devised a master plan to stop the fake professor from escaping with the precious treasure. They even managed to trap Draven, the professor's partner in crime, inside King Tut's coffin! As part of our reading activities, the children wrote short book reviews, sharing their favourite parts of the story and how much they have enjoyed the mystery and suspense that kept them guessing until the very end. Luckily, Mo and Debbie did succeed and the Professor (Maria) was caught red handed with the treasure whilst dangling from a tree!



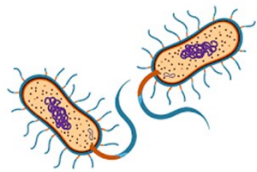
As always, please do come and speak with us if you have any queries, questions or would like to share any news with us.

We hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, Miss Clapham and Miss Hodgson

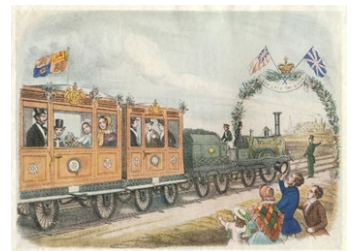


Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



This week in science, we explored the incredible world of microorganisms. We discovered that these tiny living things are everywhere - in the air, on surfaces and even inside our bodies - yet we can't see them without a microscope. We began by learning how scientists classify microorganisms into groups such as bacteria, fungi and protists. As we looked at magnified images, we compared their shapes, how they move and how they feed. It was amazing to realise how different they all are, even though they are so small. We understood how classification helps us make sense of the microscopic world and we were left with a new appreciation for the helpful - and sometimes harmful - microorganisms all around us.

In history, we explored how the arrival of the railway changed life in Britain, and it became clear just how powerful this invention was. The impact was felt everywhere - from the way people travelled to the food they ate and the jobs they worked. As part of our work, we mapped out some of the early railway lines connecting major cities and considered some of the benefits that rail travel brought to the UK. When the first railways were built in the 1800s, journeys that once took days could suddenly be completed in hours. For the first time, ordinary people were able to travel quickly between towns and cities. This meant families could visit distant relatives, workers could find jobs further from home and businesses could grow faster than ever before. Railways also transformed trade. Fresh food such as milk, fish and vegetables could now be transported across the country before it spoiled. This changed diets and made previously local products available nationwide. Coal, iron and manufactured goods could be moved cheaply and in huge quantities, helping factories grow and boosting Britain's economy. We learnt that, overall, the railway's arrival marked the beginning of a faster, more connected nation, and its impact can still be felt today.



This week in PSHE, we explored the importance of respectful listening - a skill that supports our learning, strengthens our friendships and helps us grow into thoughtful members of our community. We discussed how listening means showing that we value the speaker by facing them, keeping our bodies still and giving them our full attention. We also talked about how respectful listening helps everyone feel safe and confident to share their ideas. Additionally, we explored a range of scenarios linked to the 9 Protected Characteristics and considered how someone might feel if they were not treated with respect. We followed this by discussing the different ways we could show respect in each situation and what this would look like in our behaviour and choices.

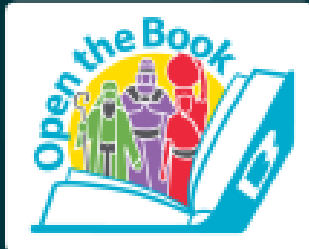
Children in UKS2 are also preparing for our Carol Service which takes place at 9:30am on Tuesday 16th December, at St Mary's Church.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod

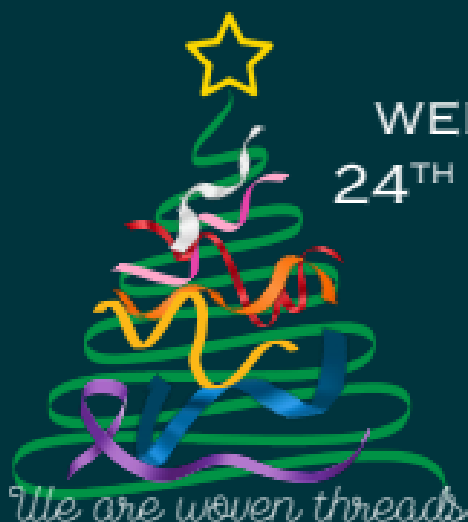


HAXBY &
WIGGINTON
METHODIST CHURCH



TURN UP & TAKE PART NATIVITY

Come dressed up or borrow one of our 'Open the Book' costumes, or just sit and enjoy the story and watch the beautiful chaos unfold!



WEDNESDAY
24TH DECEMBER
4PM

**celebrating
the gift of
love &
community
this Advent**