

Friday 6th February 2026

2025/26 No: 19

 01904 768325 (option 3)

 www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

The following NHS page helps parents/carers by providing guidance on common childhood illnesses: [click here](#)

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Acting Headteacher's Message

LGBT+ History Month Assembly



Monday's assembly focused on marking LGBT+ History Month, which is celebrated each year in February. The assembly focused on helping children understand what the letters LGBT+ stand for and why it is important to learn about different people's histories.

We began by talking about how everyone is the same in some ways and different in others. The children shared ideas about the many ways people can be different, helping them to recognise and value diversity within our school and wider community.

The assembly then explained the meaning of the letters: L – Lesbian; G – Gay; B – Bisexual; T – Transgender; + – representing other people who are part of the community. This was done in a simple, age-appropriate way, with a strong focus on kindness, fairness and treating everyone with respect. The children learned that while most people today understand the importance of equality, this was not always the case and some people in the past were treated unfairly because of who they were.

We also discussed what a history month is and how it helps us learn about important people and events. The children learned that, just like Black History Month and Women's History Month, LGBT+ History Month celebrates achievements and raises awareness.

As part of this, the children were introduced to a few significant figures, including Alan Turing, whose work helped Britain during World War Two, Harvey Milk, who worked to improve rights and fairness, and Sally Ride, a pioneering astronaut. These examples helped children understand how people from all backgrounds have made important contributions to society.

The assembly ended with time for reflection, encouraging the children to think about kindness, respect and how we can all help make our school a welcoming place for everyone.

Events

Today Class 11 parents/carers have enjoyed sharing their special class assembly; it was fabulous. For a reminder of other remaining class assembly dates, please refer to the calendar on our school website ([click here](#)).

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes
Helen Stephenson



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Upcoming Events

Monday 9 th February	Young Voices - Sheffield
Monday 9 th February	Years 5/6 Joseph Rowntree Production - am
Wednesday 11 th February	KS1 (Year 1 & 2) Railway Museum Trip
Thursday 12 th February	PTA UV Discos
Friday 13 th February	Last day of term
Monday 23 rd February	All return to school
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 13 th March	Mother's Day Secret Room
w/c 16 th March	Year 6 Parents/Carers' Evening Week
Wednesday 18 th March	Lower Junior Production – Matinee @ 14:00
Wednesday 18 th March	Lower Junior Production – Evening @ 17:30
Thursday 19 th March	Lower Junior Production – Matinee @ 14:00
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 27 th March	Break the Rules Day
Friday 27 th March	Last day of term
Monday 13 th April	All return to school

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This Week's Attendance



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

Not going to school every day can make your child more worried about going in.

For more information on school absence in York visit:
www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance



World Book Day

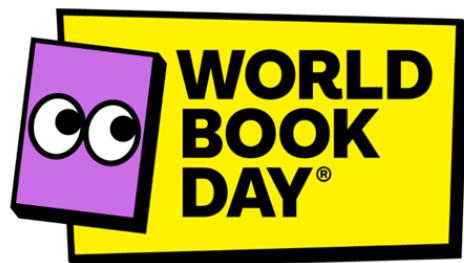
World Book Day Thursday 5th March

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading.

Throughout the week, children will be taking part in a variety of reading and English activities. On the day, your child(ren), may choose to dress as their favourite character from a book, giving opportunity to utilise a costume they already have.

Alternatively, they may choose to dress as a 'word' from a book e.g. blue: wearing all blue clothes, sporty: wearing their PE kit, freezing: wearing hat, scarves and gloves. This supports the use of items that you already have in a wardrobe. Please do not feel that there is any expectation for the purchase of a costume.

Thank you for ensuring that your child/ren does still wear footwear suitable for a day in school e.g. no slippers please.



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Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme, this week, we have journeyed to the African grasslands to meet safari animals. The children have enjoyed our text of the week 'The Ugly Five' and other safari themed stories and factual texts.



While learning about safari animals, the children have enjoyed exploring different animal patterns and matching these to the animal, creating their own stories with our small world animals and describing the animals by writing labels and captions about them.



Using their creative skills, the children made a pair of binoculars and decorated them with animal prints. Later in the week, they enjoyed going on a safari around the school grounds. They followed a map to locate safari animals that were hiding around school. This was great fun!

In **phonics** this week, the children were disappointed to find out that they weren't learning a new phoneme! Instead, they have continued to practise the **digraphs** (two letters that make one sound) and **trigraphs** (three letters that make one sound) that have been taught this half-term. The children have also learnt how to read longer words by splitting them into syllables. These included words like, sun/set – sunset, pic/nic – picnic and chick/en – chicken. Some of these words need us to practise saying them with different phonemes, for example, lem-on (lemon). When this word is sounded out and blended, it doesn't quite sound how most of us pronounce the word lemon!

In **maths** this week, we have explored the length and height of objects. The children have used words like short, longer, shortest and tall or tallest. They practised comparing lengths by looking at them and measuring them with cubes. There was also much excitement about the competition to see who could build the tallest tower!



The children really enjoyed their visit to St Mary's Church in Haxby. They met Rev Kathryn Jackson and some members of the church community who showed them around and talked to the children about how the church is used by Christians. They all walked very sensibly to the church and were respectful while learning about this special place of worship for Christians.

Reminder

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

Thank you for your continued support.

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



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Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

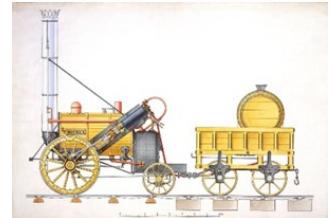
The children in Key Stage 1 have been hard at work and enjoying their learning yet again. In English, we have been getting creative as we have been inspired by the story 'The Old Toy Room'. We created our own adventures in which Lottie made new friends and had to help the toys. We have thoroughly enjoyed this story and were excited to create our own versions, in which we thought of more problems and how they could be solved. From holes in the track to toy dinosaurs sitting in the way, the children's imagination was in full flow as we thought of all manner of plots. The quality of the writing was superb and the children displayed their knowledge of word types and conjunctions as they wrote fabulous adventure stories.



In PE, the children have loved pretending to be toys in our gymnastics warm-ups. Each week, we have opened the toy box and released toy soldiers, jack-in-the-boxes, spinning tops and more. The children have had great fun moving like the different toys and thinking about body shapes and movement types. Then, we practised balances and gymnastics shapes such as tucks, pikes and straddles. To start with, these shapes and balances were on the floor. But we have built up our skills to use them on both small and large apparatus too!

This has been really exciting but we have all been impressed by how safely the children have been using the apparatus, as well as how creative they have been when applying their skills.

In history, we have continued learning about the Victorians and some of the amazing changes and innovations that shaped our world during the Victorian era. This week, we were learning about transport and in particular, the invention and development of the train. We learned about how railways have changed over time and the impact they have had. We also learned about famous railway engines, such as George Stephenson's Rocket. We were fascinated by these amazing machines and the people who were behind them. Next week, of course, we shall be visiting The National Railway Museum, where we shall see these incredible machines up close and learn more. We can't wait!



Well done, Key Stage 1. Your passion for learning is always amazing. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

Well done on another incredible week, Key Stage 1. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all next week.

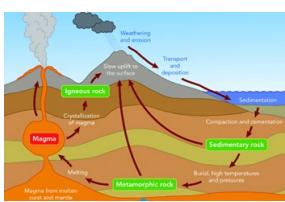
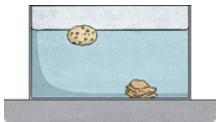
Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall

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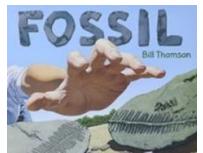
Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

 Last week in science, the children became geologists as they explored six different types of rocks: limestone, sandstone, granite, marble, chalk and slate. They tested each rock to find out whether it was hard or soft, permeable or impermeable and also explored its durability and density. The children were fantastic scientists, carefully recording their results in a table and used their findings to sort and categorise the rocks based on their properties. They showed great teamwork, curiosity and attention to detail throughout the investigation.



 This week, the children continued their rock topic by learning all about the rock cycle. They enjoyed discussing how rocks change over time and explored the different stages of the cycle, from weathering and erosion to melting and cooling. The children also recapped the three main types of rocks (sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic) and learnt how each type is formed. There were lots of thoughtful questions and brilliant discussions as the children deepened their understanding of how rocks are constantly changing.

In English, the children have been writing their own 5 part story based on the picture book 'Fossil'. They have brought the setting and characters Tom and Lola to life by using fantastic descriptive vocabulary. Whilst writing their stories, the children have focused on using a variety of fronted adverbials, subordinating clauses and speech in their writing which has added extra detail to their stories.



A huge thank you to all of the parent/carers, grandparents and siblings at home who have been helping the Year 3 and 4 children practise their song words and lines - your support has been amazing! Rehearsals are going brilliantly; the children are growing in confidence with each



rehearsal and have become more familiar with their characters. Their acting skills are improving rapidly and they are doing a fantastic job of following the stage directions. The excitement is really building!

You will receive more details about tickets for the performance next week. We are so proud of all the hard work the children are putting in and can't wait to share the final performance with you!

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 you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham, Miss Hodgson and Mr Merrall

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Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

This week in Religious Education, UKS2 have been learning about Zakat, one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Zakat is a special form of charity that Muslims give to help people in need and to support their community. We learnt that Zakat is not just about giving money; it is about fairness, kindness and responsibility. Muslims, who are able to give Zakat, donate a portion of their wealth (2.5%) to help those who are less fortunate, such as the poor, the hungry or people who are struggling. To deepen our understanding, we worked together to create an informative poster about Zakat. We made strong links between Zakat and values we all share, such as helping others, showing compassion and making the world a fairer place.



In PSHE, we have been learning to understand that some media can promote stereotypes. Together, we discussed the question "What is a stereotype?" and developed our own definition, recognising that stereotypes often fail to reflect people as individuals and can lead to unfair assumptions. We explored a range of examples from television, advertising, games and social media. We considered how certain characters, images, or stories may present limited or unrealistic views of gender, culture or abilities. We also reflected on how repeatedly seeing these messages can shape attitudes and influence the way people treat one another. Through these discussions, we are now learning to think critically about what we see and hear online, helping us to become more respectful, open-minded and responsible digital citizens.



In geography we took part in an engaging lesson to develop our understanding of Fairtrade and its importance. We recalled what Fairtrade means and how it can positively impact the lives of farmers and workers around the world. During previous lessons, we discussed and learnt about some of the challenges (climate problems, crop diseases and unfair contracts with large buyers) farmers face and we reflected on what felt fair and unfair. We worked collaboratively, sharing ideas and listening carefully to others. To conclude the session, pupils completed a diamond ranking activity. We then thought critically about different actions they could take to improve awareness of Fairtrade. By ranking these ideas, we discussed which actions would be most effective and agreed on ways we could help promote Fairtrade.

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

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod

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

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



SCAN ME

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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

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This week at
SEND CENTRAL



9th February- 13th February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along
Wellbeing in Mind- Elective Home Education Workshop 11am -12- Understanding Sensory Differences- no need to book just come along.	Drop in with the Vision Impairment Team 9am - 12pm. These are parent/ carer drop ins - you can turn up and wait to be seen or pre book a time by emailing: Abi.hall@york.gov.uk	Early Years SEND Playgroup Portage 9.30am - 11.30 am All welcome no booking required	SEND Casework Duty Worker 10am-2pm Advice and information bookable slots. Please book via SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	York Council Specialist Teaching Team Hearing Support- pre school playgroup Invite only from the hearing support team.
Monday 9 February 1pm- 2pm How to Best Support Your Child with Reframing Demands when Life Feels Overwhelming. No need to book just come along	Portage Music Group 1.30pm-2.30pm Workshop- Invite only	Think Together Workshop 10-11.30- see separate sheet for the week's theme- No need to book just come along.	YIKS Parent/carer SEND drop in 9.30am-11am All Welcome no booking required	NHS Preparation for Adulthood 10am - 2pm Drop in - advice and information- All welcome no booking required.
Wellbeing in Mind- Elective Home Education consultation appointments available throughout the day for parents/ carers and professionals - please email SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk to book an appointment.	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm-6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKs	5 week course Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs 12.45-2.45pm. This is a free course and includes child care. Enrol online: https://yorklearning.org.uk/family-learning/	Healthy Child Team 9am - 12pm Drop in 2pm -3.30pm 4 month workshop- invite only.	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKs
YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKs	YIKS Siblings Group 6.45pm- 8.00pm		YIKS Post 16 Group 6.30pm -8pm	

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