

Friday 7th February 2025

2024/25 No: 19

 01904 768325 (option 3)

 @RalphBPSch_York

 www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Hello

Attendance and Absence

At Ralph Butterfield Primary School we believe in the importance of helping all children form excellent patterns and habits in relation to daily attendance and punctuality. We believe that by helping children from a young age develop consistent daily routines, this sets them up well for future life and gives them the best chance of accessing a full and rich educational entitlement. Both Ofsted and the Government demand that schools closely monitor daily attendance and intervene early if any patterns of absence are beginning to form.

Our Attendance and Absence Policy has been devised with the safety of your children firmly in mind. The safeguarding of your child remains our number one priority. Both as a school and you, as parents, need to know where your children are during the school day. Therefore, I would like to remind parents of the procedures for reporting and requesting absence.

What to do if my child is absent from school

Unplanned: Please contact school before 8:30am either by calling 01904 768325 and leaving a message (option 1) or by completing the online absence reporting form [click here](#). **Please note that 'ill' or 'poorly' does not provide sufficient detail.**

Planned: Please complete a Leave of Absence request form, at least two weeks prior to the proposed start date of the leave of absence [click here](#).

Medical/dental appointments should be made (where possible) outside of school hours. Evidence of any appointment taking place in school time can be either shown at the school office or emailed to RalphButterfield.School@york.gov.uk. Permission for the absence requires a Leave of Absence request form completing as far in advance as is practicable [click here](#).

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that there is no entitlement to additional holidays outside of normal school holiday times. The Attendance and Absence Policy also makes clear the procedures required and what may be considered when a leave of absence request form is completed.

Our Attendance and Absence Policy can be viewed on our website [click here](#).


As a school, we are always available to talk through any concerns that you may have, please don't hesitate to call the school or speak with myself if you have any questions or concerns.

I hope you have a really lovely weekend.

Helen Stephenson



A New Arrival

We are delighted to be able to share with you that Miss Hodgson has welcomed a baby girl into her family. Tilly Mae was born on Wednesday of this week; both mum and baby are doing well. 

Governor Visit



What an absolute privilege I had last week when spending a full day in school. My governor tasks for the day had me visit every classroom, walk each hallway and I couldn't help but feel amazed by what I saw. I had the pleasure of witnessing children enjoying their learning, playing and being creative. Staff were leading lessons in a way which made me want to pull up a chair and listen.

In reflection, it's been a difficult year for the school community so far, with the absence of Mrs Clark; along with the governing board, I am very proud of the school's senior leadership team who have continued to maintain a steady course for the Ralph Butterfield ship. My personal thanks to the whole staff team, who have worked together to keep the school operating effectively, whilst ensuring a safe and magical educational environment for our children. I would also like to add my congratulations to all the children I met whilst in school, who were very positive, happy and genuinely excited to be at school.

Matt Dunn

Health & Safety and Educational Visits Governor



PTA News – Dates for The Diary!

Next Event: **UV Glow Disco** – Thursday 13th February

It shall be **£4 entry** which includes sweets and x4 glowsticks.



Bag2School

A Bag2School collection will take place on **Friday 28th February at 9am**. This is when we ask you to bring in unwanted clean and usable old clothes, sheets, towels, bags and paired shoes. These are then collected by Bag2School, which in turn raises money for school.

We will collect unwanted excellent condition logo school uniform too (polo, cardigans and jumpers) plus any unwanted winter coats.

If you are having a sort out – please do keep it for us!

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March



A message for all children **'You are a reader'**!

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.

This year, World Book Day have a fantastic selection of brand new and exclusive £1 books for 2025 that children and young people can get for FREE with their £1 token. We all want every child and young person to believe they are readers and to give them the opportunity to have a book of their own that they have chosen for themselves. The World Book Day £1 book tokens will be valid from **Thursday 13th February – Sunday 23rd March 2025**.

Find your nearest <https://booksellers.org.uk/wbd>

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



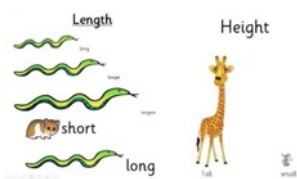
As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme, this week, we have journeyed to the African grasslands to meet safari animals. The children have enjoyed our text of the week 'The Ugly Five' and other safari themed stories and factual texts.

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



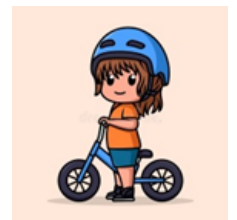
Using their creative skills, the children made a pair of binoculars and decorated them with animal prints. Later in the week, they enjoyed going on a safari around the school grounds. They followed a map to locate safari animals that were hiding around school. This was great fun!

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!

Next week, we are excited to inform you that, the children will take part in three Bikeability sessions with leaders from City of York Council's team. There will be 30 minute sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, practising cycling skills on balance bikes. The children will be wearing helmets and will be supervised by both qualified instructors and our school staff. We shall let you know how they get on via Tapestry.

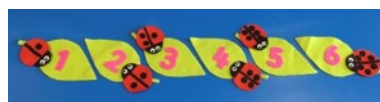


Reminders

- 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.
- On Thursday, we shall also be visiting St Mary's Church in Haxby. The children will be learning about the church as a special place of worship for Christians.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

This week in Key Stage One, there has been lots of hard work and exciting learning taking place. We have continued to be fascinated with our new history topic about Florence Nightingale. We started to look in more detail at the life of Florence and the circumstances that led to her



becoming such an influential figure in history. This week, we learned about her early life and how she defied the expectations of rich women at the time by following her drive to be a nurse rather than marry and have children.

Florence believed that God intended her to help other people and she even defied her own parents in order to do it. We thought about how hard it must have been for her and what we would have to do to follow our own dreams.

In science, we have been conducting practical investigations using our knowledge of materials and their properties. We tested different samples of material for absorbency so that we could select the best one to design a new mop for Florence to clean Scutari hospital. We used our observations to draw conclusions and select the material that was most effective at soaking up water. We also designed new coats for the soldiers to wear. We wanted them to stay as dry and warm as possible, so we tested material samples to see which ones would help to do that. After testing, we picked the most waterproof material as the one that should be used to make the coats.



In English, we took the role of Florence Nightingale herself and wrote letters in-character. We received a letter from Queen Victoria herself! The Queen had heard of Florence's amazing exploits and was offering her support. She was interested in the conditions in Scutari hospital and wanted to know what she could do to help. We used our historical knowledge to plan and write a response, ensuring that our letters were suitably formal. Our letters answered all of the Queen's questions and we are looking forward to seeing if she writes back.

On 31st March, we are offering the chance for family and friends to come and experience this history topic for themselves. We shall be inviting parents and carers into school from 3 o'clock so that they can see the amazing work that the children have done as part of their learning. You will also get the chance to meet Florence herself, as she will be in school that day. We can't wait to see as many of you there as possible!

In the meantime, well done Key Stage 1 for wowing us yet again with your enthusiasm and hunger for learning.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

It has been a super week in Lower Key Stage 2!



This half term our RE topic is titled 'Why is the Bible important to Christians?' In previous weeks, the children have discussed and learnt about how the Bible is a sacred book and a guide for Christians. They then went on to look at how the Bible is divided up into different sections and how it uses lots of different stories to guide Christians. This week, the children focused on the creation story. To begin with, they recalled the story using picture prompts of the seven days. Then, in groups, they used dance movements, actions and percussion instruments to symbolise each day. The children's creativity shone through and they retold the story through dance and music brilliantly.



In computing, we have started our new topic 'Branching Databases' this week. A branching database is used to classify groups of objects such as fruits or musical instruments and helps us to identify objects by answering 'yes' and 'no' questions. The children were introduced to the topic by forming questions with yes and no answers for a group of fruits that would separate them into two groups. They then formed their own questions to separate musical instruments and animals into different categories.



Throughout the week, as part of Children's mental health week, the Year 3 and 4 children have taken part in assemblies and a variety of activities around the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. The children have identified their feelings well and have shown a good understanding of strategies that they can use linking these to the Zones of Regulation. They have also talked openly about when they find things challenging and how to change their mindset to a 'can do' approach.

There has been a real buzz in Year 3 and 4 around our performance this week. The children have been amazing during our first few rehearsals and we are extremely impressed with how well they are getting into character, learning the dance routines and following the given stage directions.



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

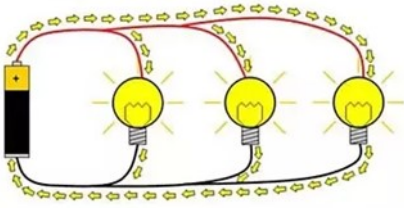
We hope that you have a fabulous weekend.

Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham and Mr Povey



Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

Parallel circuit



We have completed our science unit on electricity. In our final lesson, we learnt about parallel circuits and, through investigation, identified the impact of adding or removing bulbs from the circuit. We then discussed the reasons why, and where, parallel circuits are used in everyday life. We recorded our findings within a conclusion, thinking about what we had learnt and what future experiments we might conduct.

In English lessons, we have been learning about the various types of persuasion. We have looked at a variety of examples and have identified the key features of persuasive texts: catch phrases, slogans, emotive vocabulary and rhetorical questions. We then created a word bank and utilised this to write our own persuasive sentences. We considered which aspects of Year 5 and 6 writing we could include, such as subjunctive form and passive voice, and utilised these in our writing.



We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to see 'Mary Poppins' at Joseph Rowntree School this week. We were in awe at the standard of the performance. It was so lovely to see some familiar faces in the cast and supporting crew. On our return, it was nice to receive compliments about how the children conducted themselves as we walked to and from the school.

As always, if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Mr Bennett, Mr Carpenter, Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr Tod



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



BACK AT THE LNER



LADIES

YORK CITY LADIES V MIDDLESBROUGH FC WOMEN
WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
LNER COMMUNITY STADIUM, YO32 9AF
7:45PM KICK-OFF

