

## Acting Headteacher's Message

It has been a joy this week to see the Reception and Year 1 and 2 children delight their audience with their Nativities. It was just wonderful to see such confidence and joy in the children's performing, as well as listening to the fabulous singing. Thank you so much to all of the children for undertaking their parts so beautifully, to the parents/carers for supporting costume provision and to the staff for teaching the songs and creating such a lovely Nativity.



### Christmas Celebrations at St Mary's Church

At St Mary's church, the children will be singing/sharing readings with you and there will be opportunity for parents/carers to join in with some Christmas carol singing too.

If you are able to join us for your child/ren's Christmas celebration at St Mary's church, please be at the church in good time and please fill up pews from the back. We are also asking that, where possible, only one member of the family attends the service, to comply with the church's fire regulations. Thank you.

The children will walk to the church from school, with a good ratio of adults to children. We also have additional adults specifically supporting our crossing of Usher Lane.

If we need to seek your permission for your child to take part in our Christmas celebrations at St Mary's church, your child's class teacher will be in touch. This will only be where your permission was not given at the start of the year as part of the local area plan, in which we received your permission to take your child/ren out of school for local area visits. **However, if you do not wish for your child/ren to take part in the visit to St Mary's, please let your child/ren's class teacher know as soon as possible.**

Date	Time	Year Groups
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am	5 & 6
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1:30pm	1 & 2
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1:45pm	3 & 4

### Festive Singing in the Playground

Next week, our children will be entertaining you with festive songs on the playground, at the start of the day. We are very excited to be able to share with you some of our Reception and Key Stage One Nativity songs and Key Stage Two have chosen their favourite Christmas songs to perform.

When bringing your child(ren) to school in the morning, they will take their bags into school and gather in their classrooms, ready to perform for you at 9:00am on the large playground (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) and small playground (Reception).

- Monday 16th December – Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)
- Wednesday 18th December - Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6)
- Thursday 19th December - Reception



We look forward to seeing you next week and spreading some festive cheer.

## Phase Christmas Parties

Please rest assured that there is nothing that parents/carers need to do or provide for these; class teachers are simply planning for all children to enjoy some fun and party games in the hall, with their friends and peers. Please send your child in non-uniform on the day of their party. However, please make sure that your child has suitable shoes to wear throughout the rest of the school day and out on the playground. Where possible in relation to available staffing, a quiet space, will also be provided for any children who prefer a quieter environment, with calmer activities. The parties are in school hours and do not impact the end of school time.

Date	Year Groups
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1 & 2
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	3 & 4
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	5 & 6



Best wishes

*Helen Stephenson*



Going to school **every day**  
can help your child experience  
new things.

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











This Week's Attendance



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

## Seasonal Celebrations

<p>w/c 16<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p><b>Christmas Jumpers</b></p> <p>We welcome children to replace their school sweatshirt/cardigan (only) with a Christmas jumper throughout the week.</p> 
<p>w/c 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 8.55am</p>	<p><b>Christmas Singing each morning</b> (8:55am)</p> <p>Parents/Carers are welcome to wait in the playground, after drop off, and listen to their child(ren)'s year group sing on the following days (weather permitting):</p> <p><b>Reception:</b> Thur 19<sup>th</sup>    <b>Year 1 &amp; 2:</b> Mon 16<sup>th</sup>    <b>Years 3 - 6:</b> Wed 18<sup>th</sup></p> 
<p>w/c 16<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p><b>Christmas Parties</b></p> <p>Please send your child in non uniform on the day of their party</p> <p><b>Reception:</b> Weds 18<sup>th</sup>    <b>Year 1 &amp; 2:</b> Tues 17<sup>th</sup>    <b>Year 3 &amp; 4:</b> Tues 17<sup>th</sup>    <b>Year 5 &amp; 6:</b> Thur 19<sup>th</sup></p>  
<p>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p><b>Grandparents' Christmas Craft Morning</b> (9:30am -10:30am <i>or</i> 10:50am - 11:50am)</p> <p>We are really excited about this special craft morning! More information to follow.</p> <p>Please send your child to school with something old and long  to cover their regular uniform. <i>An old long sleeved top or an oversized shirt would be perfect.</i></p>
<p>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am</p>	<p><b>Upper Key Stage 2 Carol Service</b> (Yr 5 - 6)</p> <p>At St. Mary's Church, Haxby</p> 
<p>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p><b>Christmas Dinner</b></p> <p>Bookings are now closed. Your child will need a packed lunch if a meal was not pre-booked.</p> 
<p>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30pm</p>	<p><b>Key Stage 1 Carol Service</b> (Yr 1 &amp; Yr 2)</p> <p>At St. Mary's Church, Haxby</p> 
<p>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.45pm</p>	<p><b>Lower Key Stage 2 Carol Service</b> (Yr 3 - 4)</p> <p>At St. Mary's Church, Haxby</p>



Reminder: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 is the last day of the school term.

Children return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

### Reception classes



We are so very proud of all the children's performance of I-Spy Christmas, they certainly put on a sparkling performance. Their singing was beautiful and they have done an amazing job of learning their roles. Thank you again for all your help with the costumes and your kind messages after the show.

In **phonics**, we have been revising and consolidating the learning of the forty sounds taught since the beginning of the autumn term. What an achievement! We continue to work very hard to learn how to blend words so we can read words and segment words into different sounds that we can hear when writing.



In **literacy**, the children have used their fantastic segmenting skills to write a list for Father Christmas. Some children have also written captions and sentences, for example, **a red hat** or **It is a rag doll**. They are becoming much more confident at segmenting words to spell them and recognising sentences/phrases. Maybe they could write a Christmas list for you at home!



Christmas activities have continued in the Reception classrooms this week and we have enjoyed lots of Christmas learning in our independent play. The most popular activity this week has definitely been a scissor control activity where the children had to cut Father Christmas' beard following the lines carefully.

We are looking forward to lots more Christmas activities next week, including our Grandparents' Christmas craft morning (on Monday), and of course Christmas dinner and our Christmas party (on Wednesday) and don't forget Christmas singing on the playground (on Thursday)!

We will collect all reading books in next week for the holidays. Please return all **Little Wandle** reading books and **Reading for Pleasure** books on Monday. Thank you.



### **Reminder**

Next Thursday, **Class 2** will be visiting Haxby library. If families in **Class 1** would like books returning before the holidays, please also bring them in on Thursday. Please remember to put the books and library card in their book bag. Thank you.



Thank you for your continued support.

**Mrs Robinson, and Mrs Greenwood**



## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Key Stage 1 but the children are still working hard and having a great time on their learning adventures.

First of all, wow! What an incredible job our children did with their nativity! After weeks of tireless preparation, they performed to the school on Monday morning and to friends and family on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Anyone who saw it, agreed that it was a marvellous show with excellent performances from our children: beautiful singing, graceful dancing and confident speaking, not to mention the stunning costumes. Well done everyone, you did yourselves (and us) proud. We were particularly proud at how confident the children were when performing to a live audience. Super job, everyone!



But, the music and song didn't stop there! We have also been working hard to rehearse and prepare for our Christmas church service next week too. There are special songs that we have been practising alongside the whole school which we will sing during the festive service. It is so lovely to take the time to think about the true meaning of Christmas at this busy and exciting time and the children have done so well to learn a complicated



song and sing it so beautifully. It is definitely going to be a highlight of the Christmas period.

In English, we have been writing festive riddles to describe mystery Christmas characters and objects. We learned about the features of riddles and the different sentence types that are used. We then used a sequence of statements to give clues, including using ambitious adjectives for description and then finished with a question to encourage our reader to take a guess. We came up with some very clever riddles with amazing clues and it was lots of fun to try and guess what the answers were.



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Well done, Key Stage 1. There is only one week to go and it is great to see that we are all still working so hard.

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



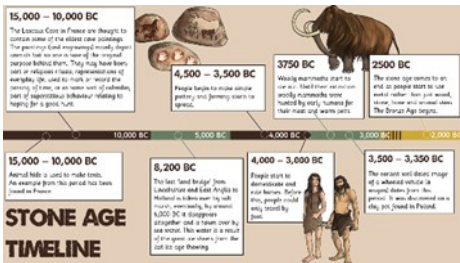


## Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

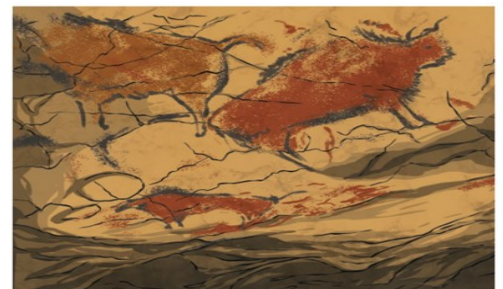
Year 3 and 4 have had another brilliant week.

This week, the children have rounded off their 'From Flint to Iron' topic in both history and English. The children have thoroughly enjoyed all the learning opportunities this topic has offered; building the round houses, learning about changes in food from hunter gathering to farming, understanding how bronze and iron were made, and how early humans began to settle and build communities.

In history, the children have recalled the information they have learnt and summarised it on a double page spread. As part of this, the children wrote about the prehistoric periods of time (from the Stone Age to the Iron Age) in chronological order. Within the Stone Age section, they revisited the Palaeolithic Age and wrote about how early humans were nomads who foraged for food and hunter gathered. During the New Stone Age, in the Neolithic Age, hunter gathering had stopped and people began to farm. Thousands of years later, during the Bronze Age, people had learnt how to make bronze using a process called smelting. Finally, iron was discovered which was easier to make, easily available and stronger than bronze. Throughout these three periods, homes changed drastically. The children recalled the hillforts Iron Age people built to protect themselves from enemy tribes through the use of mounds, ditches, high walls and guarded gates.



In English, the children have completed their own non-chronological reports based on the Palaeolithic Age and the Neolithic Age. The children used the information they had learnt from history and wrote their reports using a variety of writing features that included fronted adverbials of time, such as 'During the Palaeolithic Age,' fronted adverbials of manner, such as 'interestingly' and subordinating conjunctions, such as 'because' and 'as'. The children have done amazingly and it has been wonderful to read the brilliant, factual reports they have written.



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, Miss Hodgson and Miss Clapham**

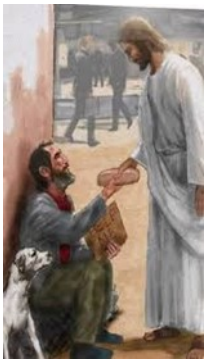






## Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

In science, we have concluded our work on space and the Earth by collating all of our learning into one document. Whilst completing this task, we were free to choose how we presented our work. Many of us decided to include some exciting diagrams alongside detailed explanations. This included information about what we had learnt throughout this topic: heliocentric versus geocentric, the planets in our solar system, cycles of the moon and rotation of the Earth.



In RE this week, we learnt about Christianity and generosity. We were taught that many Christians, as part of their worship, will give money to charity. Some give up to 10% (sometimes called 'tithing') and it is based on a practice from before the time of Jesus in the Bible. We were taught that various organisations - such as Christian Aid, the Bible Society and the Salvation Army - use this money to provide aid for those most in need around the world. During this lesson, we were given the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be generous, and how generosity can be shown.

As part of our PE lessons with Mr Walton, we have been developing our football skills. This week, we have learnt to control the ball when it is passed to us using our legs and torso. Whilst playing a game of five-a-side, we were limited to the number of times we could touch the ball; this encouraged us to think quickly and look for team mates who were in space. During the lesson, we quickly realised that the most successful teams were those who communicated with each other.



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

**Mr Bennett, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mr Tod and Mr Carpenter**



**FOR AGES 5-11**

# Christmas Holiday FOOTBALL

**FOUNDATION**

York City Foundation's Holiday courses are designed for both boys and girls aged 5-11 years, who are enthusiastic about football. Ideal for beginners and young players looking to develop their skills, in a fun, engaging, safe and friendly environment.

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

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**50+ ACTIVITIES, 2 CHOICES EVERY HOUR, WITH FESTIVE THEMED ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY!!**

**VENUE & DATES FINDER;**

**MONDAY 23RD DEC**  
ARCHIES SECONDARY  
HUNTINGTON SECONDARY

**MONDAY 30TH & TUESDAY 31ST DEC**  
MANOR SECONDARY

**THURSDAY 2ND & FRIDAY 3RD JAN**  
ARCHIES SECONDARY  
MANOR SECONDARY (8AM-1PM)

**FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-13**

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OR CALL 03444141313

## VENUE & KEY INFORMATION

AREA & VENUE	ENERGY	FOOTBALL	SWIMMING	PRICES
<b>MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER</b>				STANDARD DAY 8AM-4PM - £34.50 EXTENDED DAY 4PM-5:30PM - £6
ARCHBISHOP HOLGATES SECONDARY - YORK	✓	✗	POOL PARTY	
HUNTINGTON SECONDARY - YORK	✓	✗	✗	MANOR 8AM-1PM - £24
<b>MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>				
MANOR CE SECONDARY - YORK	✓	✓	✗	CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
<b>TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b>				
MANOR CE SECONDARY - YORK	✓	✓	✗	PLANS CHANGED? ADD OUR INSURANCE OPTION
<b>THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY</b>				
ARCHBISHOP HOLGATES SECONDARY - YORK	✓	✗	POOL PARTY	ONTO YOUR BOOKINGS AND RECEIVE A REFUND, CREDIT OR CHANGE DAYS IF YOUR PLANS CHANGE!!
MANOR CE SECONDARY - YORK (8AM - 1PM)	✓	✓	✗	
<b>FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY</b>				FLEXIBLE DROP OFF BETWEEN 8AM-9AM
ARCHBISHOP HOLGATES SECONDARY - YORK	✓	✗	POOL PARTY	
MANOR CE SECONDARY - YORK (8AM - 1PM)	✓	✓	✗	

### CHOOSE TOTAL ENERGY!!!

TOTAL ENERGY IS OUR MUCH LOVED MULTI SPORT, ARTS & CRAFTS, OUTDOOR ADVENTEROUS, TEAM BUILDING FUN PROGRAMME FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-13!! OUR ENERGY PROGRAMME RUNS AT EVERY VENUE OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD!!

TOTAL ENERGY ENCOMPASSES 50+ CHOICES OF ACTIVITIES AND 2 CHOICES EVERY SINGLE HOUR! THIS CAN BE ANYTHING FROM FOOTBALL TO PAINTING, YOGA TO SWIMMING, HOCKEY TO DODGEBALL, CRAFTS TO DEN BUILDING, NERF TO TIG GAMES!!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON OUR TOTAL ENERGY PROGRAMME AND YOUR CHILDREN RULE THEIR DAYS WITH OUR CHOICES!! YOUR CHILDREN ARE SPLIT INTO AGE SPECIFIC GROUPS AND LED BY ONE OF OUR DBS CHECKED EXPERIENCED COACHING STAFF

WE PROMISE A HIGH ENERGY, VARIED DAY, FOR ALL INTERESTS AND AGES!!

### TOTAL FOOTBALL!!

**OUR DEDICATED FOOTBALL CAMPS WILL RUN THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL!**

**THE CAMPS ARE RAN BY OUR FA QUALIFIED COACHES AND ARE PERFECT FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE MAD ABOUT THEIR FOOTBALL!!**

**EXPECT SKILLS, DRILLS, MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS EVERY DAY OF THE FOOTBALL CAMPS!**

**POOL PARTY!!!**

**AT ARCHIES SECONDARY ON MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER, THURSDAY 2ND AND FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY!!**

**BRING YOUR LILOS AND POOL BALLS FOR A BRILLIANT POOL PARTY WITH DISCO MUSIC AND OUR QUALIFIED LIFEGUARD TEAM!!**

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