

Friday 16th January 2026

2025/26 No: 16



01904 768325 (option 3)



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

## Acting Headteacher's Message



### Thank You

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parent/carers for their incredibly generous donations to support the expansion of our outdoor provision. Your kindness and support will make a significant difference, enabling us to further develop our outdoor environment and provide richer, more engaging experiences for our children. These enhancements will support active learning, creativity and wellbeing and we are extremely grateful for the continued partnership and support of our school community.

### School Development Plan – Key Priority 3: Use of Evidence-Based Approaches

As part of our School Development Plan, Key Priority 3 includes strengthening our practice through the use of evidence-based approaches. This means we carefully select strategies that are supported by research and are shown to have a positive impact on learning, behaviour and wellbeing, ensuring the very best outcomes for our children.



Within school, staff use a range of evidence-informed approaches, including some of the Walthrus strategies, to support children's learning and emotional development. These strategies help children to understand their emotions, manage challenges and build positive relationships, contributing to a calm and supportive learning environment.



This term, all staff will reinforce positive mindsets through modelling, with particular emphasis on being kind and polite: polite language; respectful listening and kind behaviour in their daily interactions. This helps children to see these values clearly and consistently in action. We are so proud of the many children in school who are consistently polite and kind, and this does not go unnoticed. We will also be praising and celebrating those children who we know demonstrate these positive behaviours day in, day out. By working together, we will continue to support all children in developing the social skills and positive attitudes that will benefit them both in school and beyond.

Thank you to our parent/carers for your continued support.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Helen Stephenson*



## Class Assemblies

As a reminder, we are looking forward to sharing class assemblies with parents/carers - they're always sure to bring joy! Each class will showcase some of their learning in a 15-20 minute assembly that parents/carers are invited to attend. These assemblies will start at 3pm. Of course, we do understand that not all parents/carers are able to attend all events depending on other commitments; we are hoping that in sharing all dates with good advance notice, this may support as many parents/carers as possible to come along. Your child/ren's class assembly date is shown in the table below. These dates are also on our school website calendar for future reference and we will share reminders nearer the time.

Date	Class	Date	Class	Date	Class
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Class 9	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Class 5	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Class 4
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 11	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Class 8	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Class 7
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 2	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Class 1		

### 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 it more likely for your child to get involved in crime or antisocial behaviour.

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



## Scooters/Bikes on School Playground

A reminder that scooters and bikes should not be mounted/ridden in the school playground. This rule applies to all those on site, at any time of day; younger children should not be riding scooters/bikes whilst waiting for their elder siblings. Thank you.



## Dogs

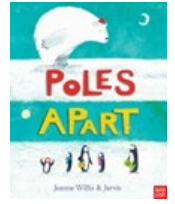


We would like to request, from dog owners, consideration of the fact that dogs should ideally not be on site. This is for various reasons, including the fact that they can be feared by other members of our school community. Thank you.

- Dogs must not be tied to the front railings.
- Dogs must not walk on the school playground. *If essential, smaller dogs may be carried.*

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme, this week, our topic has focussed on the Polar Regions. This has included learning about which animals live there and where the Polar Regions are in the world. The children have particularly enjoyed reading our text of the week, 'Poles Apart'; inspiring children to create their own polar bear, using fork painting, writing captions and labels based on our text and playing the 'Where do I live?' and the 'Penguin Pairs' games.



zoom to the moon

In **phonics** this week, the new phonemes learnt have been **oo (as in zoom)**, **oo (as in book)**, **ar (as in farm)** and **or (as in born)**. We have enjoyed learning the catchphrases for each new grapheme and these are also on your child's homework sheet this week. We have also learnt new tricky words. These are words that cannot be sounded out as some of the sounds make an unexpected sound. The words learnt have been, **was**, **you** and **they**. Your child may start spotting these words around them.

In **maths** this week, the children have continued to investigate the numbers **6**, **7** and **8**. They have investigated adding 1 more and 1 less within these numbers, using ten frames and counters. They also identified the composition of these numbers on dominoes, for example, 5 spots and 3 spots make 8. The children are also making great progress at writing the numerals 6, 7 and 8.



The children are learning about Special Places, in our **RE** sessions, this term. The children began by learning about places which are special to them. Some children spoke about their homes, the countryside and the beach. This week, we have learnt about a Christian's special place, the church. We are in the process of arranging a visit to our local church in Haxby so children can learn more about the church first-hand. More information will follow about this soon.

### **Reminder**

Next Thursday, **Class 2** will be visiting Haxby library to return their books and choose new ones. Please remember to put the books and library card in their book bag. Please be aware that if children have overdue books on their account, the library will not permit them to borrow more books until these are returned.

Thank you for your continued support.

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



## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



What an exciting week we have had this week! This week we have continued to explore our history topic and learn about life in the Victorian period. We have been learning all about Victorian toys and comparing them to the toys that we have nowadays. We were fascinated to learn that toys were made from wood mostly, because plastic did not exist and that they were made by hand. This meant that they were difficult and expensive to make so they were mostly used by rich children. We sorted toys according to whether we thought they were old or modern. Sometimes, this was not clear because some toys and games are still used to this day, such as skipping ropes and Snakes and Ladders. After being able to explore real example Victorian toys and games, we thought of questions that we could ask about them and wrote about our favourite toys that we have at home ourselves. We are thoroughly enjoying this exciting topic.



Linked to the work we are doing on toys, we have been learning all about materials in science. We learned that a material is the substance that an object is made from (not just another word for fabric). We explored samples and distinguished between the name of the object and the material it was made from. We also learned that some materials are natural (e.g. wood, metal and wool) but others are made by people, including brick and glass. It was interesting to link this to our historical knowledge and think

about why toys in Victorian times were made from materials like wood because man-made materials like plastic had not been invented.

On Monday, we were treated to a dance taster session with Rhian from Elevate Dance and Events. We got to join in and copy her moves as she led us in a warm up and then move across the hall from corner to corner in a crazy, silly, interesting way. After that, she taught us a dance sequence, which we performed as a whole class all at the same time. It was amazing! There were smiles all round as we joined in and matched her energy and enthusiasm. A fantastic time was had by all!



As you may have heard, we are planning a Key Stage 1 trip to York Railway Museum on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February to link with our learning on railways and Victorian transport. Hopefully, you will already have received an email with the details. Due to the change of our school system, you are unable to give consent for the trip at the moment. Once Arbor is up and running, a text will be sent to inform that consent can be given for your child to attend the trip.

Well done Key Stage 1. It has been an amazing week full of fun and learning. We can't wait to see what next week will bring.

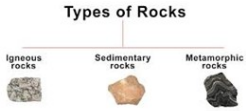
**Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall**



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

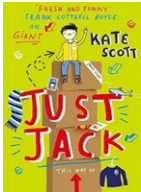
With Christmas well and truly behind us, the children are now back in full swing with their learning and have enjoyed another busy and exciting second week back!

Our science lessons this term are focussing on the theme of 'Rocks'. This week, the children have been learning about the different types of naturally occurring rock: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Alongside this, the children also discovered that some rocks, including brick and concrete, are actually man-made. Using their newly found knowledge of the different characteristics of each rock type, in pairs the children were given a selection of their own rocks to observe really carefully and then identify. It was lovely to hear the discussions the children were having in order to make their final decision.



In computing this half term, the children are learning how to develop a variety of presentation skills using Microsoft PowerPoint. Last week, the children created a blank presentation page and learnt how to add text boxes and then how to alter the style, size and colour of the font of words within these. They then went on to explore Word Art and how they could make their words 3D!

This week, the children explored the 'design tab' and then selected a design template to use in their own slide presentation all about their favourite foods and animals. As part of their presentation challenge, the children learnt how to add media in the form of pictures and sounds effects.



Having completed, and loved, the 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover', all the children have been eagerly anticipating the announcement of our next class novel - Just Jack by Kate Scott. The story begins with Jack trying to settle into his new home. In the past, he has found it hard pretending to be someone he isn't and he is really missing having a friend around to talk to. When he bumps into two new classmates, whilst out buying biscuits for his mum, he decides to employ his unique 'Sherlock Code' strategy which he hopes will help him survive at school six! The children have raised so many questions about the book and Jack already: Will Jack be able to be his true self at his new school? Will he be able to make some genuine friends? Everyone is excited to find out in the weeks ahead!

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, relaxing weekend.*

**Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham, Miss Hodgson and Mr Merrall**







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

As part of our RE lessons this week, we learnt about Shadaha, a profession of faith; this is the first pillar of Islam. Muslims bear witness to the oneness of God by reciting the creed 'There is no God but God and Muhammad is the Messenger of God.' This simple, yet profound, statement expresses a Muslim's complete acceptance and total commitment to Islam. We learnt that the creed is said three times, in front of an Imam, when someone converts to Islam and is also spoken to newborn babies. Mu'azzins (prayer callers) include the Shadaha as part of the adhan (call to prayer) which is usually called from a tower next to the mosque. The first mu'azzin was a man called Bila. He was a loyal Sahabah (companion) to the Prophet Muhammad and consequently one of the earliest converts in the newly-emerging religion of Islam.



In PSHE, we have been considering the impact our choices can have on ourselves, our local community and global communities. We discussed the need to recycle to reduce the amount of waste we produce in order to reduce our reliance on buying new products. Whilst at home and in school, we began to consider the choices that we can make in order to have a less damaging impact on the environment: turn lights off when leaving rooms; walk rather than ask for a lift when the destination is only a short distance away; save water by turning the taps off and much more.



This term in computing, we have started our new topic Coding. We began by reviewing our existing coding knowledge. We wrote our own codes to check our prior knowledge in moving objects around a setting. We changed a variety of variables for differing objects: scale (size), speed and direction. In order to gain a better understanding of coding in the real world, we planned an algorithm modelling the sequence of traffic lights before programming the simulation. Once working, it was necessary to add a repeat function in order for the traffic light sequence to continue indefinitely.

We are very proud of the way the Year 6 pupils approached their informal assessments this week and hopefully they will feel more confident about them going forward.

### Reminder!

**Class 9 will be having their Class Assembly on Friday 23.1.26 at 3:00pm. We look forward to seeing you.**

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

**Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod**





## NEW Kid's Dance Party Class

**Confidence & team-building**

**Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church**

**Dancing & games = fun!**

**Ages 5-11 - Tues - 6:15pm - £6**



**Scan & Book**

**★★★★★**  
**Reviews**



**EDE**  
Elevate Dance & Events

**Mini-performance for families every term!**

Contact us & secure a limited space - 07455 991664  
Email - [rhian@elevatedanceandevents.co.uk](mailto:rhian@elevatedanceandevents.co.uk)



## Fun Adult Dance Classes

**Boost your mood, burn calories, clear your mind & socialise - all for £7!**

**Tuesday - Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church:**  
1:30pm - Zumba Gold  
7pm - Beginner's Dance Exercise

**Thursday - Huntington Working Men's Club:**  
7pm - Beginner's Dance Exercise

**Low Impact**



**Great Music**

**^Scan & Book^**



**EDE**  
Elevate Dance & Events

Contact us & secure a limited space - 07455 991664  
Email - [rhian@elevatedanceandevents.co.uk](mailto:rhian@elevatedanceandevents.co.uk)



[www.parentcarerforumyork.org](http://www.parentcarerforumyork.org)  
Registered charity: 1207314

16 January 2026



# NEWSLETTER

Attached to this Newsletter



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