

Friday 17th October 2025

2025/26 No: 6



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk



Acting Headteacher's Message

Thank you for attending our parents/carers' evenings this week and we look forward to seeing those who have booked an online appointment next week. We are passionate about keeping parents/carers well informed as to what is going on in school. Teachers take time each week to write the newsletter pieces that share with you the learning children have experienced that week.

Celebrating World Mental Health Day - Happiness Starts with You

This week in our Monday assembly, we continued to build on the theme of World Mental Health Day (10th October) by thinking about the importance of happiness and how it helps us to look after our minds and hearts.

The children reflected on what makes them happy, from playing with friends and spending time with family to drawing, reading and enjoying a sunny day. Together, we explored how doing things that make us happy helps us feel calm, kind and ready to learn.

We talked about three simple ways to grow happiness every day:

-  **Be Kind** - Smile at someone, help a friend, or say something nice.
-  **Be Grateful** - Notice the little things that make life special.
-  **Be Yourself** - It is okay to have different feelings. Talking, taking deep breaths or doing something you enjoy can help when you feel worried or sad.

The children enjoyed a short story about *Sam and Lily*, who discovered that happiness isn't about winning, it's about trying your best and enjoying what you do. We finished with a calm moment to think about how we can make ourselves and others feel happy.

Throughout the week, we have encouraged the children to notice how happiness begins with simple acts: sharing a smile; enjoying playtime; or showing kindness to a friend. Together, these small steps make a big difference to our wellbeing and our school community.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A letter has been sent home today regarding a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing board. Being a Parent Governor is a fantastic way to support and help shape the strategic direction of your child's school. The closing date for nominations is 9:00am on Monday 17th November. If you would like to have a chat about this, please get in touch with the school. I would be happy to talk with you myself or I can arrange for you to speak with one of our current Parent Governors.

Request for Help with our Outdoor Provision

If you, or someone you know (or a company) would be willing to take the lead in organising and carrying out the preparation work for our new shed or designing through to constructing an outdoor wellington boot storage, we would be extremely grateful. We would be delighted to recognise and thank any local businesses or individuals who could take on this project, including through our newsletters, social media and school website.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson



Outdoor Play Provision

We are looking to provide some additional activities and equipment for all children to enjoy during breaks and lunchtimes. If you have any of the following items at home that are **in good working order** (no broken parts) and no longer needed, we would be very grateful for your donations.

Trucks/diggers/cars (any size)



Guitars / ukuleles



Colouring books & Crayons / Coloured pencils



Items can be brought to school at **drop-off time on Monday 20th October or Wednesday 22nd October**. Thank you for your support in helping us make playtimes even more enjoyable for our children!

Keep an eye out for more requests coming soon!



York Walk to School Week

Next week - 20th to 24th October is York walk to school week, where schools in the York area compete to see how many children they can encourage to walk, scoot or cycle

to school that week; instead of taking the car. We would very much appreciate your support and to enjoy a little exercise every morning on the way to school. Each morning, the class teachers will record how the children have travelled to school. This will then be collated and sent to the council, who will let us know who the winners are. Please help to support your child and the school in this event wherever possible.

Thank you



Walk to School Week

Mrs Atkinson- PE Leader



Cross Country Competition



On Wednesday after school, lots of children from Years 1 to 6 took part in the York Schools' cross country competition. Everyone gave 100% effort and we are very proud of them representing the school and taking part. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who took the

children to the event and stayed and supported. It's great to see that some children from different year groups have made it through to the next round. Well done!



Mrs Atkinson- PE Leader



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





Community Clinic Dates - Flu Vaccinations

If your child missed their Flu Vaccination in school recently, Vaccination UK have the following community clinics available for the Flu 2025 programme in the York and Selby area. Please call 01904 237680 to book a timeslot at your preferred location.

Sherburn Old Girls school LS25 6BL

Friday 17th October 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Monday 15th December 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Hob Moor Children's centre YO24 4PS

Monday 20th October 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Friday 24th October 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Monday 24th November 3.30pm - 5.30pm

The Avenues Tang Hall YO31 0UT

Monday 27th October 10.00am - 2.00pm

Thursday 4th December 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Tuesday 16th December 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Selby Library YO8 4EQ

Wednesday 29th October 10.00am - 2.00pm

Monday 17th November 3.30pm - 5.15pm



York St John Communities Centre

Please follow the links below to find more details about drop-in sessions which are **free** to children, young people and their families:

Breastfeeding Group

Further information: www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/drop-in-sessions/#Breastfeeding

Bereavement Support Group

Further information: <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/bereavement-services/#BereavementSupportGroup>

Self-referral: <https://yorks.j.solvefit.co.uk/csr/>

Bereavement Café

Further information: <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/bereavement-services/#BereavementCafe>

Community Language School

Further information: www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/community-language-school/

Referral: www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/community-language-school/enrol-your-child/

Volunteering: www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/community-language-school/apply-to-volunteer/

Creative Literacies Hub

Dates: Creative Writing Together - Tuesdays on 7th October, 14th October, 21st October, 4th November, 11th November, and 18th November.

Further information: www.yorksj.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre/children-and-young-people/#Creative-Literacies-Hub

Referral: <https://yorks.j.solvefit.co.uk/csr/>



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



This week in **phonics**, we have revised all of the phonemes which we have learnt over the half-term. This totals twenty and we are extremely impressed with how quickly the children have learnt these, are recognising them and are beginning to use them to also sound out and blend words to be able to read. It has been a pleasure to see children getting excited when they have read new words! We are very much looking forward to this continuing.



In **maths**, the children have learnt about circles and triangles. They have done this through exploring the properties of the shapes, identifying them in a collection of everyday objects, through stories and doing a shape walk around school. They also learnt about the artist Kandinsky who painted this picture using concentric circles. The children painted their own concentric circle pictures exploring colour, shape and paint brush skills.

As part of our Marvellous Me topic, this week we have further explored people who help us in our local community. We were lucky to be visited by PCSO Chris and Mrs Cameron. PCSO Chris explained that his role in the Police is to look after everyone in Haxby and to keep everyone safe. Mrs Cameron is a dentist and she talked to the children about how she helps people to keep their teeth and gums healthy and clean. The children all really enjoyed these visits and asked some brilliant questions.



Harlow Carr visit

On Thursday 23rd October, we will be visiting Harlow Carr. Please ensure all children have a waterproof coat, sturdy shoes/boots, trousers and a packed lunch (if required) on that day. If you have any questions regarding the visit, please do ask.



It has also been fantastic to be able to chat with many of our Reception families this week during parents'/carers' evening appointments. We really do value this opportunity to discuss how well your child is settling into their school life. We are looking forward to speaking to the remaining families next week, during our online appointments. Please don't hesitate to contact us, if you wish to discuss anything.

Your children are entitled to free milk until their 5th birthday. If you would like them to continue to receive this, past their birthday, please visit the Cool Milk website (using the link) to sign up and pay for this. Thank you <https://www.coolmilk.com/>



Thank you for your continued support.

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



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Our wonderful Key Stage 1 children are continuing to work hard, all the way up to half term. This week, we enjoyed a funny story based on “Lost and Found”, in which a boy finds a penguin on his doorstep and tries to return it to the South Pole. In our version, the boy found an elephant and sailed across the sea to return it to the hot country that it belonged in. We were delighted by how similar the stories were and that the animal had changed. We sequenced pictures from the story and had a go at writing our own versions. It was amazing to see how confident the children were when writing their stories, having written a similar one the week before. There were some lovely examples of language and description as our authors entertained us with their writing.



In science, we have continued to learn about life processes and living things. We have learned all about habitats and how ecosystems have a wide variety of plants and animals that rely on each other. We learned about food chains and that the energy starts from a producer (plant) and then is transferred up the food chain as consumers (animals) eat the plants and predators eat those animals. We made our own food chains by cutting out animals and plants and sticking them in order to show which animals eat plants and which are predators. We had to be careful to only choose plants and animals from the same ecosystem: a polar bear wouldn't eat an animal in a tropical rainforest!

Of course, the most important element of all ecosystems is the Sun. It is the source of all energy from which the plants make their own food. In art, we made collaborative pieces of artwork themed around the Sun. We each had a quarter segment of the Sun, which we decorated and coloured. We could choose a variety of media with which to do this: felt tips, sketching pencils, wax crayons and pencil crayons. We used a variety of techniques and thought carefully about our composition. When finished, the segments were put together to create unique pieces of art that had been contributed to by four children. The results were absolutely stunning; vibrant and lively and beautiful thanks to the amazing care and detail that the children had put into them.



Well done Key Stage 1! It has been a long half term but you are still working so hard. Keep going and keep smiling. You are almost there.

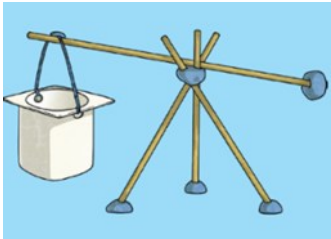
Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)



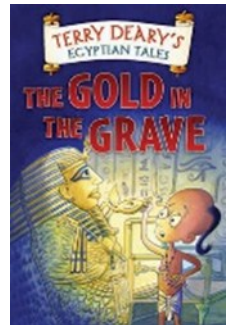
During our PSHE lesson and in celebration of Black History Month, the children have been learning about the inspiring life of Mae Jemison. They discovered that she was not only the first African American woman in space, but also a doctor, teacher and inventor. Mae's story sparked meaningful discussions about the power of hard work, self-belief, and the importance of setting ambitious goals. Her achievements have truly inspired the children to dream big!

In computing, we have started our touch typing unit. To begin with, the children learnt about how to sit at a keyboard correctly ensuring good posture. They explored the layout of the keyboard, focusing on the home row, top row, and bottom row keys. Although it's a challenging skill, the children showed great perseverance, working hard to keep their hands in the correct position while aiming for both speed and accuracy. The touch typing activities can be accessed on Purple Mash, through the computing 2Type app if your child wants to practise more at home.



In Design Technology, the children have been busy planning their Shaduf models, which they'll be constructing next week. They produced brilliant design drawings, complete with detailed annotations explaining the key features. As a class, we then discussed the different steps involved in building a Shaduf. The children carefully planned out the process in a logical sequence, and the thought and creativity they put into both their designs and sequenced plan of actions were brilliant.

During our English lessons this week, the children have been writing a setting description based on Paneb's journey from the dark and gloomy town of Thebes, down the River Nile and then across the desert to King Tutankhamun's tomb. They have learnt how to use fronted adverbials of place, time and manner and included fantastic description in their writing by using a variety of adjectives, verbs and expanded noun phrases. The vocabulary choices have been brilliant this week!



Well done Year 3 and 4 another fabulous week!

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, and Miss Clapham**

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

During our English lessons, we have been developing detailed descriptions of both the setting and the main character inspired by the short film 'The Lighthouse'. We have enjoyed expanding our use of ambitious vocabulary and applying a wide range of grammatical features taught this term. We also explored figurative language, using similes, metaphors and personification to bring our writing to life.



In reading, we continued to develop our understanding of different question types and discussed how to use evidence from the text to support our ideas. We read more of our class novel, *Oliver Twist*, and explored a range of new vocabulary, recording them in our personal vocabulary books for future use in English lessons. At the end of the week, we completed a series of formal comprehension questions based on the chapters we had read. We reflected on what the main characters might have been thinking and feeling during key moments in the story, such as when Fagin finds out Oliver is living with Mr Brownlow.

In history this week, we have been learning about life in the cities during the Industrial Revolution. Using a range of primary and secondary sources, we investigated what daily life was like for people living and working in rapidly growing towns. We examined historical photographs, diary entries, newspaper reports and census records to uncover what conditions were like in factories, homes and streets during this period. Working as young historians, we compared the reliability of different sources and discussed how each piece of evidence helps us build a clearer picture of the past. We also explored how industrialisation changed people's lives - both the opportunities it created and the challenges it brought. To conclude the lesson, pupils shared their findings and reflected on how city life today differs from life during the Industrial Revolution.



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

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod

Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that our school is a **nut-free site**. We have several children with **severe nut allergies**, so it's essential that **all snacks and lunches are completely nut-free**.

Please remember that **Nutella and similar products contain nuts** and should not be brought to school.

If your child packs their own snacks, we ask that you **take a moment to talk with them** about which foods are suitable for school and which should stay at home.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us **keep every child safe**.



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



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**KICK
THE
HABIT.**



OPEN 8AM-
5:30PM FOR
BOYS & GIRLS
AGED 5-11



YOUR NEAREST VENUE IS:

**HEADLANDS
PRIMARY**

OTHER YORK
VENUES AVAILABLE

totalsports OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

JOIN OUR ARTY | CRAFTY | SPORTY | ADVENTURE | FUN
HOLIDAY CLUBS THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM!!
FOR 5-11 YEAR OLDS | OPEN 8AM-5:30PM

JOIN OUR ENERGY PROGRAMME - 50+
ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE WEEK WITH 2
CHOICES EVERY HOUR!!

FOOTBALL CAMPS AVAILABLE AT SET
VENUES - LED BY FA QUALIFIED
COACHES!!

SWIMMING RUNNING ON SET DAYS AT
SET VENUES - CHECK OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFO!!

OCTOBER HALF TERM THEMED
ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HALLOWEEN
DISCO, TRICK OR TREAT & MORE!!

OTHER YORK VENUES

ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SECONDARY (E S)
HUNTINGTON SECONDARY (E)
COPMANTHORPE PRIMARY (E)
MANOR SECONDARY (E F)

VENUE KEY:

E - ENERGY PROGRAMME
F - FOOTBALL CAMP
S - SWIMMING DAYS



BOOK NOW, PLACES GO FAST AT ALL VENUES!!
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Is your child registered for **SCHOOL MILK?**

**Child
UNDER 5**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



**Child
OVER 5**

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com



Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on 0800 321 3248

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Clare's Kitchen

After School Cookery Club

Do you have a little chef at home who would like to join our team? Clare's Kitchen after-school cookery club meets one night a week for 2 hours to explore lots of fun and delicious recipes together. If your child would like to be a part of our team, contact Clare to know more. This club is for Year groups 1-6.

Follow Clare's Kitchen in schools
<http://www.facebook.com/clareshkitchenyork>
Instagram @clareshkitchenyork
Email clare@clareshkitchen.co.uk
Whatsapp 07813182216

