

Friday 19th September 2025

2025/26 No: 2



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon

This week, our focus in school has been kindness. In Monday's assembly, we thought carefully about what it really means to be kind, and why those small, everyday actions can have such a big impact on others.

Kindness is such a simple thing, yet it has the power to transform someone's day. A smile, a helping hand, or a thoughtful word may feel small to us, but for the person receiving it, it can mean the world. What is even more special is how kindness spreads - it has a ripple effect. When one person shows kindness, it often inspires the next person to do the same, and before long it reaches far more people than we might imagine.



This links so closely with our school values. To be kind is to show respect for others, and to act with integrity by choosing to do the right thing, even when it's not the easiest option. Kindness supports ambition and determination too, because when we encourage one another and celebrate each other's successes, we create an environment where everyone can thrive.

As I've walked around school this week, I have seen so many examples of kindness in action: children helping one another when they find something difficult, sharing, offering encouragement on the playground, or simply sharing a friendly smile in the corridor. These small gestures create big ripples, helping our school feel safe, happy and welcoming for all.

I would encourage you to continue these conversations at home: What does kindness look like in your family? How can we show kindness in our community? Together, we can keep those ripples spreading further and wider.

I hope that you can enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes

Lizzie Banbury



Class Assemblies

As a school, we are always looking to find ways to share and showcase our children's work with parents/carers. Best of all, is when we get to enjoy sharing class assemblies with parents/carers, as 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 will also be put on our school website calendar for future reference and we will share reminders nearer the time.

| Date | Class | Date | Class | Date | Class |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------|
| Friday 7 th November | Class 6 | Friday 6 th February | Class 11 | Friday 1 st May | Class 8 |
| Friday 14 th November | Class 10 | Friday 6 th March | Class 2 | Friday 22 nd May | Class 1 |
| Friday 21 st November | Class 3 | Friday 17 th April | Class 5 | Friday 12 th June | Class 4 |
| | | | | Friday 26 th June | Class 7 |



Ralph Butterfield Primary School

For children starting school in September 2026,
we warmly invite families to come and visit us on

Wednesday 1st October 2025
4:15pm - 6:00pm



OPEN EVENT

*'Releasing the magic in our children,
staff and school community'*



Accepting applications from both inside and
outside of our catchment area

Come and tour our welcoming school, whilst
also taking the opportunity to meet staff and
current pupils

Headteacher welcome talk is being held at 5pm

Please email us for more information and to
register your attendance

RalphButterfield.school@york.gov.uk

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



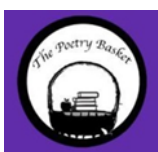
This week, the children in Reception have learnt about friends. They have developed their knowledge of their new friends in school by learning names, taking turns with their peers and investigating our areas together. We have also read stories about being a good friend.

Our phonics journey this week, progressed to learning the phonemes (sounds) i, n, m and d. The children have enjoyed playing phonics games such as 'touch your...' in which the teacher 'sound talks' a body part, for example, touch your 'l-e-g'. This is a game which can be played anywhere!



In maths this week, we have focussed on comparisons of sizes, mass and capacity through lots of practical activities. The children have listened attentively during carpet time and it was a pleasure to then see them apply their new learning and vocabulary when working independently in independent learning play sessions. A large teddy and small teddy made comparisons of sizes and amounts at their teddy bears' picnic. The language evolved from 'Daddy Bear' to big or large bear. The children's mathematical vocabulary has blossomed throughout the week!

You may have heard about the PTA Christmas cards. This week, the children have been creating their designs. This is an activity that we like to complete in school so rest assured your child's masterpiece will soon be shared with you.



Each week, our Reception children will be learning a new poem. This activity is designed to support the development of speech and language skills. We hope you enjoyed our video of 'Things I can do' last week, on Tapestry. Watch out for 'Down is the Earth' this week.

We are delighted that your child's Tapestry account is now up and running. All adults are enjoying uploading observations and photos of activities at school. If you haven't yet set up access to your child's account, please check your email as you should have received an activation link. Any issues, please let us know.



Thank you for your support; we hope you have a wonderful weekend.

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



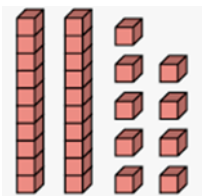
Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

This week has been a lovely and exciting week in Key Stage 1. We have had lots of fun with our learning. We have been enjoying the story “The Bog Baby” and have been inspired to write character descriptions of the Bog Baby himself. We worked together to



come up with a list of adjectives to describe various features and then wrote sentences using them. We described his skin, eyes, hands, feet and wings and some of us even commented on his personality too. After that, we described another well-known creature: the Gruffalo! Working with a check list of features, we came up with our own descriptive sentences to write all about him.

In maths, we have continued to learn about place value and what each digit represents in a number by partitioning 2-digit numbers into tens and ones. We have included practical work so that we had experience making and seeing the representation of numbers, as well as working pictorially to describe the numbers that were being represented.



This week we had fun with finger painting too. We could either use a stencil to paint within a given shape or we could be free to create our own designs. Once the paint was dry, we were able to add details using felt tip pens. It was wonderful to see the creativity of our children as we literally got “hands on” with our artwork. And the practical exploration didn’t stop there. In geography, we took a short trip around school to compare two environments: the front playground and the field. Using our fieldwork skills, we evaluated the cleanliness of each location as well as thinking what they could be used for. We could then compare and contrast the two areas and say which one we preferred to be in.

We have been enjoying our indoor PE, in which we have been practising and using different movement styles. We would appreciate your please making sure that your child has the correct, named kit in school available at all times, as some children are missing items that they need. For indoor PE, they require a plain white t-shirt, shorts and plimsols. If your child wears earrings, these need to be removed before the session. If your child is unable to remove them themselves, these should be removed at home before school on PE days. Alternatively, earrings may be taped with surgical tape, which should be provided by home. We would also like to remind everyone that homework and reading books need to be returned to school on a Thursday so that there is sufficient time to change them to be issued on a Friday.

Well done Key Stage 1. It has been a really positive start to the year and we are so proud of your hard work. Enjoy the weekend and we shall see you next week.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

We have had a pharaold (they get worse!) amount of fun and excitement in Lower Juniors this week!



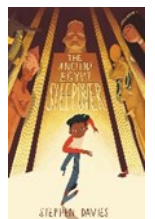
As our Ancient Egyptian exploration continues, the children have loved learning about how and why the Ancient Egyptians mummified their dead pharaohs. It was pretty gruesome in places - just ask them how they used to remove the brain! Just like the children, you'll be hooked on this topic in no time! The children learnt that part of the mummification process involved covering the body in natron (a type of salt) to help dry it out in preparation for being wrapped. To help them to really understand what effect this has, the children have loved having the opportunity to 'mummify' an apple using their very own special salt mixture. Our English lessons over the next few weeks will also link seamlessly to this engaging aspect of Egyptian life, with the children learning all about how to write their own set of instructions on how to mummify a pharaoh - we are sure they will have it all wrapped up in no time!

In science this half term, the children are learning all about animals including humans. They were able to identify that humans require food, water and air to actually survive and a balanced diet, exercise, plenty of sleep and to be hygienic (wash regularly and brush your teeth) to grow up strong and healthily. In our classes, the children learnt that the foods they eat everyday can be split up into five main food groups and that each one provides our bodies with key elements such as energy and vitamins. During the lesson, they were also set a fun task in our table groups where



they had collaborate in teams to match lots of different types of food to their correct food group. To finish with, the children played the fun, practical 'shopping bag' game which helped them consolidate their understanding.

Our class novel this term is 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover' by Stephen Davis and the children are really enjoying the fast moving, exciting plot and meeting an array of intriguing characters. The story centres on a boy called Mo who is one of ninety-nine lucky children who have won the very special prize of being allowed to have an Ancient Egypt sleepover in a museum. However, he has no clue just how dangerous it will be. With a mystery to solve, codes to crack and a priceless treasure to save, one thing is for sure: Mo will not be getting any sleep!



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

Have a great weekend,
Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, and Miss Clapham



Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

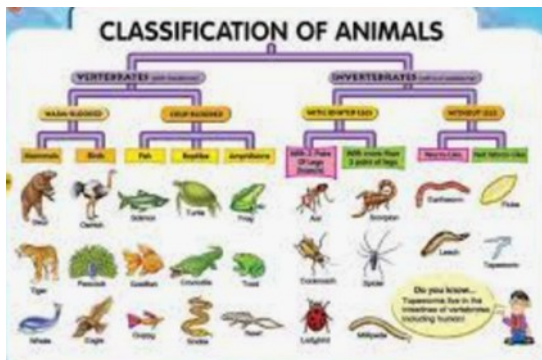
Year 6

The Year 6 pupils have amazed us with their positive approach to their final school year and are already proving themselves to be excellent role models to the rest of the school. They have shown maturity, responsibility, and enthusiasm in everything they do, from supporting younger pupils to taking on a variety of roles around the school. We feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated and inspiring group leading our school community this year.



Year 5

The Year 5 pupils are rising brilliantly to the challenge of being part of Upper Key Stage 2. They have shown real determination, resilience, and drive in these first few weeks, approaching new routines and expectations with energy and enthusiasm. Their hard work and positive attitude are setting them up for a successful year, and we are excited to see how they continue to grow and flourish in their learning.



In science, we have continued to build on our prior learning about living things and their habitats. This week, the children explored how scientists classify animals and worked hard to sort different species into their correct groups: reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, mammals, and insects. The pupils showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they discussed the unique features of each group, and they impressed us with their scientific vocabulary and reasoning skills.

In history, we have been using secondary sources to research what life was like in the 1750s as part of our current topic. The children investigated different aspects of life during this period, including work, farming, and education, and carefully recorded their findings. They particularly enjoyed comparing life in the 18th century with life today, noticing the many differences as well as some surprising similarities. This work has helped the pupils to develop their research skills and to think critically about how life has changed over time.



Reminders

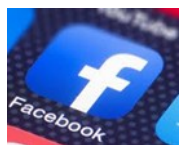
- Please can you ensure that your child has a hooded coat and suitable footwear in school each day, regardless of the weather conditions when leaving home.

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

Mr Bennett, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod

PTA News

Hello everyone and welcome back!



For those that are new - the school PTA (Parent Teacher Association) are a small group of parents/ carers and a teacher representative who organise lots of events throughout the year to raise funds for school. It's a great way to get involved and make a positive impact to school life. We have a [Facebook](#) page - which details all the latest news, and we also use this weekly newsletter. Or please do contact us via email: Ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting

We have our **AGM** on **WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm** in Haxby Sports Bar. Everyone is welcome!

This is where you can hear about what the PTA do and how to join the team.

Our treasurer is leaving next year so we really need someone to shadow her before taking that role on. We also need new members. We are always looking for new members! Please come along – we are a very friendly and approachable group!



Christmas Cards



These will be done in school this year.

More details will come out with your design template



Events coming up:

Disco – just finalising the date in October



www.parentcarerforumyork.org



NEWS LETTER

Attached to this Newsletter

✉ Connect@pcforyork.co.uk