

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

2025/26 No: 14



01904 768325 (option 3)



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

## Acting Headteacher's Message



As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for the support and encouragement you have shown throughout the term.

My thanks also go to our parents and carers for continuing to work so positively with us and for the many ways you support our school community. Your partnership is greatly valued and plays a vital role in helping us provide a caring and nurturing environment where children's personal development and academic progress can thrive.

Over the past few weeks, many families have been able to join us for festive activities, which we have very much enjoyed sharing with you. We fully understand that this is not always possible for everyone, and we would like to reassure you that all children have been fully included, supported and able to enjoy the magical final week of term alongside their peers and staff. The grandparents' Christmas craft morning on Monday was a real highlight, with over 280 grandparents attending across the sessions. Thank you for the extremely positive feedback we received.

We are proud to be involved in our local community and have enjoyed doing so again this term. The choir represented the school wonderfully at the Christmas tree lights switch-on, Lord Mayor's Christmas Cheer, Jubilee Court and at Haxby Hall. Children have also shown great thoughtfulness and understanding through themed days and weeks, including mental health, anti-bullying, Children in Need and the Reindeer Rush. The carol services held at St Mary's Church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were simply beautiful, enhanced by the church's atmosphere and acoustics.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers for your ongoing support, dedication and, most importantly, the time you so generously give. We simply would not be able to attend so many out-of-school events without your help, particularly over the last few weeks. Your commitment makes a real difference to the experiences we are able to offer the children and we are truly grateful for everything you do.



We would also like to thank Santa for finding the time, during his busiest time of the year, to visit our Reception and Year 1/2 classes. The children and staff were so surprised and happy to see him; we wish Santa, his reindeers and all Santa's helpers all the best for next week.

### Online Safety

As Christmas is nearly upon us, it is likely that some of our children will be receiving the latest gadgets. It provides a perfect opportunity for us to remind parent/carers about how to keep your child/ren safe by setting up appropriate parental settings and controls. There are a number of free resources out there which you can access.

SWGfL: [Resources for Parents | SWGfL](#)

UK Safer Internet: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Staff will now enjoy a well-deserved break, and school telephone lines will close at 4:30 pm today. Emails received after this time will be responded to from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

If, over the break, you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in York on 01904 551900. There is an option for members of the public to press for advice.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026** and wish you all a joyful festive season.

Best wishes

*Helen Stephenson*

## Music News



We are absolutely delighted to share that we have been awarded the music mark for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running. This year it has been awarded for dedication and improvement. The music in school is thriving and offering so many music opportunities for our children which are in addition to the music curriculum. If we took a snapshot of the past 4 weeks, the children have had opportunities to be part of 3 wonderful church services, daily singing on the playground, a KS1 nativity, an EYFS nativity, a thriving recorder club, a 66 pupil choir, with 5 concerts including performing for the Lord Mayor and 200 guests, a wonderful Christmas music assembly from Diane at Larch Music and some of the musicians from the band 'Generation Groove' and a choir of 40 pupils who are rehearsing for Young Voices. This does not happen without the dedication of the amazing staff at Ralph Butterfield Primary School and the enthusiasm of our wonderful pupils.

### Choir

Wow, what a term we have had! I am incredibly proud of each and every member of our fabulous choir. Earlier in the term, the children have had opportunities to perform at the Haxby Christmas Lights Switch on and for the Lord Mayor in York as part of the Christmas cheer event. Last week, the children went to Haxby Hall and sang their 7 songs, again from memory, and then sang an additional 5 songs as part of our 'community singing'. The residents from Haxby Hall joined in this part of the afternoon and also created a 'band' with the percussion instruments we took with us. This week the children went to Jubilee Court and performed and sang with their residents. They also created a wonderful band joining in with the children's singing. The children also had a chance to sing to their parents before school on Tuesday and filled the hall with their wonderful voices.

The trips out and about in the community would not be possible without the fabulous group of volunteers who accompany us. I would like to say a massive thank you to you all. If you are DBS checked and your child is in choir and you would like to be one of our volunteers, please let me know.

Next term, choir will be back starting on **THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>** January. Please note the new choir day – this is because I am changing my working days. I will be sending out a letter in the new year if you would like to sign your child up for the Spring term.

**Miss Griffiths**

**Music Lead**



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



The term ended with such a fabulous array of Christmas activities. The classes enjoyed the Christmas crafts, the delicious Christmas dinner, fantastic dancing and games at the party, as well as performing Christmas and Nativity songs on the playground.

Lessons and activities this week have also all had a Christmas theme to celebrate the season.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the Christmas tricky word elves. The elves have now said goodbye and are making their way back to the North Pole and our tricky words knowledge is now even better than before!

We are very proud of how well all the Reception children have settled into their first term at school. They enter school with a smile each morning and really enjoy all of their learning. I'm sure you will have seen the progress made in our early reading journey and we look forward to this continuing in the New Year, when they begin to learn long vowel digraphs.

### Reminder – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Class 2** will be visiting Haxby library on the first week back at school.

*If children have library books, please do return these over the Christmas holidays before they are overdue!*



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Thank you for your support during the autumn term.

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



## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



It's the most wonderful time of the year! Happy Christmas Key Stage 1. It has been a wonderful week with lots to enjoy and lots to celebrate. It was so nice to start the week with a special performance to our families and friends. The wet weather did nothing to dampen our spirits as we went in the hall to sing some of our favourite Christmas songs. The children were used to performing to an audience by this point and they did a fantastic job yet again. After that, we were delighted to invite visitors into our classrooms for our Grandparents' Christmas Crafts morning.

Everyone was thrilled to enjoy the session, spending time and making crafts together. Thank you to all of the people who joined us. It meant so much to the children to have people there and it was a lovely opportunity to open our classroom doors and welcome families in.



On Wednesday, the children walked to St Mary's Church for our Key Stage 1 Christmas carol service. Some of the children dressed in costumes and led the service by performing and narrating the nativity story. We sang some Christmas songs as part of the service too. It was a lovely service and a great experience for all the children involved.

On Thursday, our children loved their Christmas party. It was gorgeous to see our children dressed for the occasion in their party clothes. We played musical statues and Christmas corners. There was dancing and a treasure hunt game too. Our children really entered into the spirit of the party and had a wonderful time, having fun and enjoying the games. Afterwards, we had a surprise visit from a very special visitor indeed! The sound of bells indicated that Father Christmas had come to see us! He answered questions for us and we sang songs for him. Then, he left presents for every child. We have to make sure that we say thank you to him!



Well done Key Stage 1. You have been amazing throughout this whole term and have progressed so much since September. Your hard work and positive attitudes have been fantastic. We hope that you all have a very restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to welcoming you back in January. The whole team wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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



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


What a brilliant final week of the term! The Lower Juniors have had a busy, fun-filled and very festive week. The children (and adults!) have loved taking part in lots of Christmas activities, including the grandparents' craft morning, party games, singing on the playground and a beautiful carol service at church all while wearing an amazing array of festive Christmas jumpers!



Although we completed our Ancient Egyptian topic a few weeks ago, the children have loved having the opportunity to complete their Egyptian Death masks which linked to their learning on the discovery of King Tutankhamun and their beliefs about the afterlife. They have learnt lots of new skills and produced some wonderful masks that they can be incredibly proud of. A huge thank you must go to our PTA as they very kindly funded the whole project. Without their support, this extra learning and creative opportunity would not have been possible. They are really looking forward to seeing the photographs of the children's finished work.



This week, we continued our geography topic '*Rivers Deep, Mountains High*'. The children began by recalling everything they already knew about rivers before learning more about some of the important river features such as tributary, meander, delta and streams. They then enjoyed a fun matching challenge, linking each river feature to its definition and picture. For example, they learned that a tributary is a smaller river or stream that joins a bigger river.

Tributary	A smaller river or stream that joins a big river.	
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Thank you to all the Year 3 and Year 4 children for a wonderful term and to all parent/ carers for your continued support. The staff are already looking forward to the exciting activities that we have planned for the Spring term.

We ho! ho! ho! hope that you have an amazing holiday and enjoy the festivities with your families - only 6 sleeps until Christmas!



Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, Miss Clapham and Miss Hodgson

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

We have all really enjoyed our 'All Change' topic linked to the Industrial Revolution. The children have finished the topic off by completing a summary task recalling all that they have learnt across history, geography and their English work related to Fagin and Oliver Twist.

After all our hard work this autumn term, we all enjoyed having the opportunity to relax and spend time with friends across both year groups during our Christmas party.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday. Thank you for all your cards, gifts, kind messages and support throughout the term.

*Merry Christmas*

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod