



Acting Headteacher's Message

Comic Relief

Again today, Ralph Butterfield Primary School children have shown their genuine care for others, enjoying a break from school uniform to support fund raising for the Comic Relief Charity. It can sometimes feel, particularly in recent times, that there isn't always a lot to laugh about. Children are brilliant for reminding everyone to laugh - and laughter is great for supporting positive mental health. 'Red Nose Day' raises money to help end child poverty. If you have not already done so, and would like to make a voluntary donation, you will be able to do so via ParentPay, or via [Just Giving](#).



Comic Relief

At Ralph Butterfield Primary School, we believe that taking pride in your work is one of the most important habits you can learn. Whether you're working on a fun art project, practising your math facts, learning a dance routine, or writing a story, doing your best shows that you care about what you are learning.

Why Does Pride Matter? Taking pride in your work means putting in your best effort and being proud of what you create. It is not just about getting a good result or a sticker - it is about feeling happy with your hard work and knowing you did your best. When you are proud of your work, it makes you feel good inside and shows your teachers and friends that you care about learning.

How to Take Pride in Your Work:

1. Try Your Best: Even if something feels hard, give it your best shot!
2. Take Your Time: Rushing can make your work messy. Take your time to make it neat.
3. Check Your Work: Look over what you did to see if it makes sense and looks nice.
4. Listen and Learn: Pay attention to feedback from your teachers and use it to get even better!

Be Happy with Your Effort: Celebrate the hard work you put into your tasks, no matter how they turn out.

We love seeing children who take pride in what they do. Whether it is a colourful drawing, a story you wrote, or a math problem you solved, we are proud of your effort! Remember, taking pride in your work means showing that you care about doing your best and never giving up.

In school next week, we will be talking to the children about taking pride in their work, their school and themselves. Whoever we are and wherever we come from, we celebrate our achievements and the success of others.

Keep shining bright and making us proud!

Helen Stephenson



Chris Ellis Girl's Football Tournament

On Monday afternoon, Mr Keaney and I had the pleasure of taking our Y5/6 girls team to a football tournament, held in honour of Chris Ellis. A former York teacher, then Total Sports manager, Chris was responsible for setting up the first girls' primary school league in the city.

Initially, the girls played four games in the group phase. Only losing our first one (to the eventual winners), drawing one and winning two. We then made it through to the Raiders cup round in which we won overall as we stayed undefeated.

The girls were fantastic! There was some great tackling, defending and goals. Thank you to all of the children, who took part in such a brilliant event, and especially to Mr Keaney for coaching the girls throughout the afternoon and also for organising the team.



Mrs Atkinson (PE Leader)



Big Walk and Wheel

From the 24th March – 4th April 2025, we are taking part in the **Big Walk and Wheel**. This event is to encourage children and their parent(s)/ carer(s) to walk, bike or scooter to school rather than to go in the car. The event promotes physical activity, mental well-being and also thinks about caring for the environment. This is a nationwide program where each day, every class in school will log their results. On a daily and weekly basis, we can track how our school is progressing compared to other schools in the country. For those of you that live further afield, instead of parking outside school, it would count if you park at Ethel Ward and walk, scoot or bike round to school. Please help to support this event.



Thank you in advance.

Mrs Jennie Atkinson- PE Leader



Our **Easter Raffle** is still available to enter, with tickets being priced at £1. We have had great prizes donated by both local and national companies, which has been absolutely amazing! We will continue to feature these on our Facebook page "Ralph Butterfield PTA", so please do pop over to have a look. The link to enter is below



Link to enter

<https://raffall.com/379875/enter-raffle-to-win-ralph-butterfields-easter-prize-draw-hosted-by-ralph-butterfield-pta>

A reminder that we are hosting a **Mothers' day secret room** on Friday 28th March 2025. This a great event that supports the PTA's fundraising, whilst also allowing the children a chance to buy something for a special person in their lives. A letter was sent out about this earlier in the week, on Wednesday, containing further details.

Finally, we are glad to announce that we will be hosting our annual **quiz night at the Parvin** on Monday 2nd June. More details to follow in both the newsletter and on our Facebook page. We love the support we always get for this event; we will be opening up table bookings within the next 2 weeks, so keep an eye out.

As always, we are on the look out for any new parents that would like to **join our PTA**, if you would like to join please email ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com



This Week's Attendance



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

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



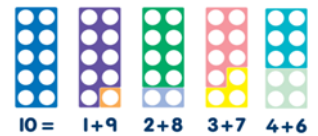
This week has been 'The Three Little Pigs' week.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring building houses, using a range of large construction materials, and then using these to act out the story in our outside classroom. The stories have been fantastic! Children have also created their own story using their developing writing skills, using a magnetic theatre to act out the story and then explore the properties of different materials (sorting these into hard and soft materials). Also, we have investigated which materials are strong enough to build a house and which blow down easily. The children experimented by using a range of materials. They had lots of fun!



Our phonics lessons this week, have consolidated the teaching of a range of digraphs. We have practised reading and writing words with multiple digraphs, for example, **rubbish** and **farmer**. We have also practised reading longer words containing the ending **-ing**. To do this, we practise reading the 'root word' **look** and then sound out and blend the ending **i-ng**. After splitting the word up to sound it out in two parts, we then blend the word altogether, for example, **l-oo-k-i-ng = looking**. This can be practised on our weekly phonics home learning sheets.

In maths this week, we have begun to understand the composition of the number 10. To do this, we have played games with a partner to match up number bonds to 10. The children have also explored writing number sentences, for example, $4 + 6 = 10$.



Reminder

Next week, **Class 1** will be visiting Haxby library to change their books. Please remember to put the books and the library card in your child's book bag. Thank you.

Communication and language development

Our Reception learning is continually supporting children's communication and language development. This may be during a planned activity where new vocabulary is taught or through daily language modelling. Our staff are trained in developing children's spoken language and one way they do this is by modelling correct pronunciations/language use back to children. An example of this is when a child incorrectly uses a verb tense, when they say "I brunged it", we would model back "Yes, you brought it." Modelling is an evidence based approach which supports children in their language development; you could also use this at home, to support your child.

If you have any questions about this or anything else in Reception, please do speak to a member of the team.

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

It has been lovely to see some sunshine this week but nothing shines brighter than our amazing Key Stage 1 children! This week we have loved getting out and about in the school grounds, looking for microhabitats. Habitats are the homes in which creatures live and we learned that within these there may be lots of smaller homes, called microhabitats. These could be under rocks or logs, in leaf piles and patches of long grass. We went on a microhabitat hunt in science, using an aerial photograph of the school to indicate where we found them and we kept a tally of



the minibeasts that we found in them. When we looked at our results, we found that most of the microhabitats were in the school garden or at the edges of the field, where it was more sheltered from predators. We loved being able to get out and investigate for ourselves and we were very excited whenever we discovered living creatures. This is something that we can do for ourselves whenever we are in our gardens or out and about away from home.

On Wednesday, some visitors from Wigginton Tennis Club came into school to lead some tennis taster sessions with us; we were very excited to have a go and learn some tennis skills. The session was all about controlling the ball with a racket. We "walked" a ball along the floor, kept it up in the air with small bounces and then threw it to a partner to hit back to us. It was quite tricky to keep the ball under control without it flying off but the children showed great concentration. We thoroughly enjoyed the session and had so much fun!



We have also enjoyed our work in printing and getting creative. We finished off our learning in art by designing and making our own print blocks, using materials that we stuck to a section of card. Once made, we used it to make repeating patterns with paint. It was messy work but such good fun and the results of all our work over the last few weeks was amazing. In DT, we have started to learn about mechanisms and how they can be used to make moving pictures. This week, we learned about 2 types of mechanism: levers and sliders. We had a go at making them with split pins and card, exploring how they can move. We will use this knowledge later to make a moving Florence Nightingale picture.

Well done everyone. It has been a really creative and inspiring week. We look forward to seeing what more amazing things you produce next week.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

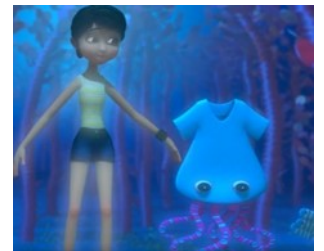
A super busy week in lower juniors with lots of rehearsals this week. We cannot wait to welcome you all to our performances next week!

Our science topic this half term is all about electricity. We started our topic off by sharing everything we already knew about electricity. This included identifying items that use electricity, mains electricity, batteries, how switches work and how to be safe around electricity. Afterwards, we discussed how electricity is generated including renewable and non-renewable sources. We are all looking forward to exploring electrical circuits and creating our own.



As we reach the penultimate chapter of our class novel, 'The Stolen Spear', we are much closer to finding out which character was responsible for stealing the spear from Wolf's village on Great Island. The children have written excellent predictions about how they think the story will end and how the villager's impression of Wolf has changed during his journey to retrieve the spear.

This week in English, the children have been working on their story writing skills. Our fantasy story is based on a short clip called 'Something Fishy'. It tells the story of a girl who discovers an underwater world where clothes have transformed into schools of sock fish, turtle hats, octopus t-shirts and a pair of trousers as a shark. After identifying the 5 parts of the story (introduction, build-up, problem, solution and ending), the children have practised writing sections of the story, using subordinating conjunctions, expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials of time, manner and place and considered their vocabulary choices to make their writing more interesting and detailed.



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

We hope that you have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham and Mr Povey



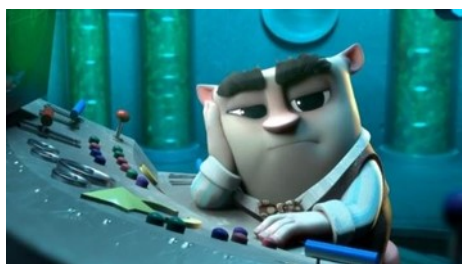
We are very excited about the upcoming performances of **Pantastic!**

Tickets have been sent home today. There are some spare tickets still available; please contact the school office if you would like to request any more (first come first served).

For the evening performance, on Tuesday 25th March, please drop your children off at their classroom door at **5:10pm**. We will confirm pick up time after the first matinee show next week.



Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



In our English this week, we planned and wrote our own narratives based on The Wishgranter. This piece of independent writing gave us an opportunity to use many of the grammatical features and punctuation taught this term including description, action and dialogue. Before we started, with the help of our teachers, we were able to identify the writing features we needed to include.

On Friday afternoons, we have been taking part in 'Net Games' with Mr Stephenson and our teachers. At the end of last week, he showed us how to use forehand and backhand strokes to strike the ball when our partners passed it to us. With practise, we were able to develop our control and, more often than not, our partners could catch the ball after we had hit it. Once we were proficient in both shots, we were then encouraged to use them one after the other; this required us to think carefully about our feet and body positions.



In our RE lessons this week, we have continued our exploration of charity and art in religion by looking at a variety of Islamic calligraphy and poetry. We found that faith can be communicated in many different ways and this helps worshippers to express how they are feeling and what they believe.

We would like to congratulate the Year 6 children for their positive approach to their mock SATs tests this week. We look forward to seeing the Year 6 parents at the parents' evening meetings w/b 24th March.

As always, if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Mr Bennett, Mr Carpenter, Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr Tod



Healthy Snacks

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy eating habits and ensuring the safety of all children, we kindly ask that you send only a healthy, nut-free snack with your child for their break time. This helps support their well-being and avoids any potential allergy risks for other children. Where appropriate, please keep this snack separate from your child's packed lunch. We appreciate your cooperation in helping create a safe and nutritious environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding.





Haxby Playgroups

Headlands & Ralph Butterfield Preschools

'Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.'

Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Spaces available from September 2025

WHAT WE OFFER:

- ✓ Long serving and highly skilled team of staff
- ✓ Expertise in speech and language
- ✓ Outdoor play
- ✓ Real life experiences
- ✓ Supportive transitions to school
- ✓ Open 9 until 3 term time only



TESTIMONIALS:

'My child has loved his time at HPG and thrived in your care. His interests have been encouraged and he has been supported in all areas of his development. HPG is really special where it feels like all the children are cherished.'

'HPG is a wonderful setting where my child feels happy, nurtured and supported in every aspect of his learning and development. The staff are incredible and help the children grow in independence'

Headlands Preschool: 01904 768966
hl@haxbyplaygroups.org.uk
Ralph Butterfield Preschool: 01904 762776
rb@haxbyplaygroups.org.uk

2, 3 and 4 year old funding accepted!

For more information visit:
www.haxbyplaygroups.org.uk



Introductory offer: 50% off April-May half term fees!

Thurs April 24th - Thurs 22nd May.

5 high quality tennis lessons!

Limited spaces so book ASAP to avoid missing out.

To book contact our Head Coach:

Ben Walker
07933026956
Ben.walker91@gmail.com

Coaching also available on Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays

LTA racket offer:
Racket & balls set
£4.99 + postage



Free WTC membership for under 8's.



www.wiggintontennisclub.co.uk



CITY.KICK.ABOUT. IN THE PARK



FREE EASTER ACTIVITIES

JOIN OUR COACHES FOR FUN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SESSIONS

**ORCHARD PARK,
HUNTINGTON YO31 9EH**

Thursday 10th April
Thursday 17th April

2pm - 2.45pm (4-5 & 6-7 years)
3pm - 4pm (8-10 & 11-14 years)



Book in advance using the QR code. Limited spaces will be available for turning up on the day. Parental supervision is required for 11 and under.
www.officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity

The 17th Scarecrow Festival



3rd - 5th May 2025

Do you live or work in Haxby or Wigginton?
Enter our annual Scarecrow Festival!

A great family weekend, raising money for charity

Make and display a scarecrow in your garden or shopfront.

Register by 15th April* to enter!

hwmc.org.uk/scarecrows

(*Registrations received later will need to be on a route we've planned to be accepted. Register early!)



Register online at our website from 1st March

Or collect a paper registration form from:

- Aroma Coffee Shop
- or The Methodist Church

Then return your completed form

Register by Tuesday 15th April*

Email: scarecrows@hwmc.org.uk

Disability Sport Yorkshire

ACTIV8 YORK

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL 2025

11:00 - 14:00

York Sport Centre, University of York,
James Way, Heslington, York YO10 5NA

Free entry! Sign up online, or register on the day





Parent Carer Forum York

NEWS LETTER

Connect@pcforyork.co.uk



Coffee Mornings

Monday 24 March 2025
10.30am - 12.00pm
YHA Clifton

Monday 1st April 2025
10.30am - 12.00pm
New Earswick Folk Hall

Meet other parents and carers who share your lived experience. Swap tips, offload, get updates or share without judgement. The first hot drink is on us as a thank you for allowing us to use your experience to inform our work with education, health and social care on parent carer voice.

We'll be easy to recognise with the table top sign. All are very welcome but if it's your first time and you would like to meet someone first, email Mary: connect@pcforyork.co.uk

Virtual Coffee Morning

Monday 24th March 2025
16.30pm - 7.30pm
Online

Join us online for an informal, non-themed 'cuppa and a chat'. Meet other parents and carers who share your lived experience. Swap tips, offload, get updates or share without judgement.

Please email Mary for the meeting link: connect@pcforyork.co.uk



Get Involved As a Parent Carer Member Representative

PCF York is looking for parent carers who would like to use their experience and expertise to ensure that parent carer voices in York are represented at specific planning meetings. The representative's aims will be to ensure that the forum's views inform meetings and that lived experience of parent carers is fed into decision making.

Meetings may be in person or remote and you will be reimbursed for parking, travel and/or childcare costs.

If you have some time to spare and would like to find out more please email Mary: connect@pcforyork.co.uk to arrange an informal chat.



Supported Internships

Programmes running September 2025-July 2026 in York.

Book here to attend the open event



Find out more at York College's Open Event 5.30pm - 7.30pm Tuesday 1st April

WWW.YORKCOLLEGE.AC.UK

Supported Internships at Aviva York

Are you ready to leave education and enter the world of work?

This one-year transition programme could be the perfect fit for you. In partnership with Aviva, York College's fantastic supported internship programme is for any young person with an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**. They have been designed to give young people the opportunity to gain real-world work experience that will help you gain marketable job skills, independence and confidence, while being supported and guided by a mentor.

Who is it for?

Applicants should: • Have a current Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
• Be 17-24 years old and be ready to leave education.
• Have the desire and motivation to achieve paid employment.
• Be able to travel independently or willing to learn independent travel skills.
• Have between level 1 & 3 qualification in Maths & English.

A typical day includes...

9.00am - 10.00am Classroom learning focused on employability skills.
10.00am - 3.30pm Interns go to work in their placements, supported by a Job Coach, to learn the role and routines.
3.30pm - 4.00 pm Classroom time to reflect on the day.

What do you get out of the programme?

- Training experiences in a real workplace (Aviva).
- Marketable job skills.
- Increased independence and confidence.
- Individualised coaching and daily feedback.
- Interns will gain competitive and transferable job skills in a variety of corporate roles.

Want to find out more?

Come along to York College's Open Event 5.30pm - 7.30pm Tuesday 1st April. There will be two short presentation sessions at 6.00pm and 7.00pm, so you can learn more about the supported internships available with the college, in partnership with Aviva. Plus, staff from York College, Aviva and the Local Authority will be also available to answer your questions.

A partnership between



For more information, or if you would like to organise a visit to Aviva, please email: rachel-fowler@yorkcollege.ac.uk

Supported Internship Programme with City of York Council and LNER

A one-year transition to work programme for young people age 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Starting September 2025.

Wednesday 9 April 2025
WEST OFFICES, YORK
drop in any time 4-6pm

For more information email: skills@york.gov.uk

Click here to book via **eventbrite**

- Marketable job skills
- Increased independence and confidence
- Development of soft skills e.g., financial literacy
- Training experiences of office-based roles in a real workplace
- Individualised support from a full-time Job Coach and Tutor



Scan to book your place

Find out more at West Offices, York drop in anytime between 4-6pm Weds 9th April



Introducing Victoria Coyle New Head of Integrated SEND



"Hello, I have started in York on 10th March as the Head of Integrated SEND. I am very happy to be here as I have worked for the last 15 years in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

This includes being a key lead for SEND in Leeds City Council and more recently Calderdale Council. I have also worked in a special school in Leeds. Prior to this I led the SEN team in London Borough of Hillingdon.

I am very passionate about making a difference and improving the lived experience for our children, young people and families. This means listening to your views and being visible.

I look forward to meeting families and children and young people so we can shape our services to continually improve.

Outside of work I have a busy family life, I have three boys, I love being able to get outside and enjoy walking, especially in lovely Yorkshire."

Listening Event

Tuesday 26th March 2025
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Online

Please join us online for this informal listening event with with Ruth Horner (City of York Council - Preparing for Adulthood Coordinator) and Richard Bentley (York Hospital - Transition to Adult Services Coordinator) which will cover **Preparing for Adulthood and Transition to Adult Health Services**. Email Mary at connect@pcforyork.co.uk for the meeting link.

Carers Survey



York Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS FT are looking for survey participants to help inform their care improvement plan. Please complete the survey by scanning or clicking on the QR code below, or by emailing yhs-tr.patientedi@nhs.net.

The survey closes on 11th April 2025.

