



Headteacher's Message



Today I have some wonderful news to share with you. In early October, we received an email from the York Music Hub sharing that they had nominated our school as a 'Music Mark' school. We are very proud to say that we went on to achieve this award, in recognition of our commitment to providing a high-quality music education and a range of quality music opportunities for the children. Consequently, we are able to call ourselves a 'Music Mark' school for the year, with use of the logo and access to additional, free, quality music resources. If you are unfamiliar with what music provision at our school looks like, you can view our [music statement of intent](#) and [music progression document](#) on our school website.

Here is an overview of our provision, additional to our teaching of the music curriculum:

- Specialist music teachers teaching the music curriculum in Years 3, 5 and 6
- Specialist music teacher teaching weekly recorder lessons for Year 2
- Weekly whole class ensemble specialist instrument tuition in Year 4; all children learn 3 instruments across the year
- Weekly whole school singing assembly
- Year 5/6 harmony group
- Choir club
- Recorder club
- Music composition club
- Every child participates in a musical production every year
- Annual carol services at St Mary's church
- Musicians invited to visit and showcase their instrument playing in assemblies
- Weekly music themes in assembly
- Peripatetic music lessons on site

I would like to thank Miss Griffiths for her dedicated work as our music subject leader.

In this week's newsletter, we are pleased to be sharing our comprehensive list of Christmas event dates with you, on which you will also find musical activities to enjoy.

I hope you are able to enjoy this weekend.

Liz Clark



Christmas Dinner - Tuesday 19th December

A reminder that all dinners need to be booked by Tuesday 28th November. Any child who does not have a meal booked by this date will need to bring a packed lunch; due to the preparation involved, the kitchen is unable to accept late bookings. Thank you. [Book here](#)

Seasonal Celebrations

<p>Thurs 7th Dec</p>	<p>Christmas Jumper Day (<i>Supporting 'Save the Children' charity</i>) Wear a Christmas/Festive jumper instead of school sweatshirt/cardigan (only). Donations are entirely optional and will be collected via ParentPay.</p>	
<p>Fri 8th Dec 7 - 9 pm</p>	<p>York Concert Band - Christmas Concert (<i>PTA Event</i>) Brass, woodwind and percussion sections will be playing popular Christmas songs and offer you an opportunity for a wonderful sing along, with a few carols! It will be the perfect evening to fill you with all the Christmas festive feelings, with all money raised going to our School. Book here</p>	
<p>w/c 11th Dec</p>	<p>Christmas Nativity Reception: Tues 12th (2:45pm) Year 1: Weds 13th (2:30pm) Year 2: Thurs 14th (2:30pm)</p>	
<p>Mon 11th Dec</p>	<p>Year 5/6 Trip Our Year 5/6 children will be visiting Joseph Rowntree secondary school to watch their stage production of 'Elf'.</p>	
<p>Fri 15th Dec</p>	<p>Reindeer Rush (<i>supporting St Leonard's Hospice</i>) We are taking part in a fun sponsored event, which will see a herd of 'reindeers' completing laps of the playground. More information to follow.</p>	
<p>w/c 18th Dec</p>	<p>Christmas Jumpers We welcome children to replace their school sweatshirt/cardigan (only) with a Christmas jumper throughout the week.</p>	
<p>w/c 18th Dec 8.55am</p>	<p>Christmas Singing each morning (8:55am) Parents/Carers are welcome to wait in the playground, after drop off, and listen to their child(ren)'s year group sing on the following days (weather permitting): Reception Mon 18th Year 1 & 2: Weds 20th Years 3 - 6 Thurs 21st</p>	
<p>w/c 18th Dec</p>	<p>Christmas Parties Please send your child in non uniform on the day of their party Reception: Weds 20th Year 1 & 2: Weds 20th Year 3 & 4: Tues 19th Year 5 & 6: Mon 18th</p>	
<p>Mon 18th Dec</p>	<p>Grandparents' Christmas Craft Morning (9:30am -10:30am <i>or</i> 10:50am - 11:50am) We are really excited about this special craft morning! More information to follow. Please send your child to school with something old and long sleeved, to cover their regular uniform. <i>An old long sleeved top or an oversized shirt would be perfect.</i></p>	
<p>Tues 19th Dec</p>	<p>Christmas Dinner Please book via Google Form by Tuesday 28th November and also book/pay in the normal way. Thank you. Click here</p>	
<p>Tues 19th Dec 1.30pm</p>	<p>EYFS & KS1 Carol Service (Reception, Yr 1 & Yr 2) At St. Mary's Church, Haxby <i>Please use seats towards the rear of the church. Thank you.</i></p>	
<p>Weds 20th Dec 1.30pm</p>	<p>KS2 Carol Service (Yr 3 - 6) At St. Mary's Church, Haxby <i>Please use seats towards the rear of the church. Thank you</i></p>	

Reminder: Thursday 21st December 2023 is the last day of the school term.

Children return to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

The end of the last half term and the start of the new one has continued to see Ralph Butterfield play in a variety of Football matches; find out how we have got on.

Monday 23rd October 2023: Clifton with Rawcliffe 2-2

RB played out a highly enjoyable and pulsating 2-2 draw with Clifton with Rawcliffe. RBPS enjoyed a fast start and were soon 1-0 although we did fail to convert that dominance into further goals. On the stroke of half time, we added a second via the penalty spot, giving the score line a more fair reflection. The second half became a more end to end affair as RBPS looked to add the crucial third goal however midway through the half Clifton with Rawcliffe pulled a goal back. Having looked to have seen the game out, RBPS conceded an equalizer in injury time to deny us our second league win on the bounce.

Friday 27th October 2023: kelton 2-2 RBPS (Friendly)

RBPS and Skelton enjoyed an entertaining and very useful friendly game. The fixture was part of our preparation for our B league competition. Despite the weather conditions being pretty horrendous, both teams tried to get the ball down and play with RBPS racing in to a two goal lead with two well worked and taken goals. During the second half, the game became more stretched with Skelton grabbing two goals on the break. In the final few minutes, both teams had chances to win it but, on reflection, 2-2 was a fair result. Well done to all the players involved, especially as a large number of players were making their competitive debut.

Thursday 9th November 2023: RBPS on the brink of winning the B League

Battling not just the opposition but the fading light, RBPS produced some great football to go through to the Primary League B tournament undefeated. After a rusty and cagey start against Haxby Road, producing a 0-0 draw, RBPS soon found their stride and played some really good football as wins against Skelton, Lord Deramore's and Badger Hill soon followed; the last sealed with the last kick of the game. The way the players conducted themselves was incredibly impressive.

Haxby Road 0-0 RBPS Skelton 0-2 RBPS Lord Deramore's 0-2 RBPS Badger Hill 0-1 RBPS

Current B Team League Table									
League 2									
#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Ralph Butterfield	4	3	1	0	5	0	5	10
2	Haxby Road	4	2	2	0	4	1	3	8
3	Lord Deramore's Primary School	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
4	Skelton Primary	4	1	0	3	3	6	-3	3
5	Badger Hill Primary School	4	0	1	3	1	6	-5	1
6	St Lawrence's Primary School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuesday 14th October 2023 Huntington 1-1 RBPS

Our A team finished their campaign with a hard thought draw which arguably could have been a win. After early chances to both teams, we took an early lead that our play deserved. Again like our previous game, we were unable to find the additional goals to secure the 3 points that we looked good for. Huntington then, fortuitously, scored an equaliser with not long left in the game. The players conducted themselves with great integrity, respect and determination.

Current A Team League Table									
League 1									
#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Huntington Primary Academy A	4	2	1	1	5	3	2	7
2	Ralph Butterfield	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	5
3	Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy A	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
4	Headlands Primary	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
5	Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School A	4	0	3	1	4	5	-1	3

In a few weeks, our Y3&4 girls will be taking part in a tournament in Easingwold before our Football Programme closes down for the winter, restarting after February half term so I would like to thank parent carers for providing lifts to and from fixtures and for their continued support.

Mr Keaney

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



This week, we have continued to explore our theme, '**Let's celebrate**'. The children have shared their own experiences of how birthdays are celebrated in your families (thank you for sharing these on Tapestry) and also learnt about how birthdays are celebrated differently around the world.

As part of our birthday theme, the children have decorated birthday cakes, written a list for items they need for a birthday party, sorted presents into gift bags in our phonics area by reading the cvc words and made playdough birthday cakes. We have also heard many children enjoying singing Happy Birthday to each other!

In **phonics**, we enjoy hearing the question, "are we learning a new phoneme today?" Their continued enthusiasm for learning early reading skills is fantastic! This week, the teaching focus has been the phonemes **z, zz, qu and ch**. We have also learnt how to add **s** to the end of a word to change it from singular to plural, for example **cat-cats, hat-hats**. The children are also doing very well at learning 'tricky words'. These are words which cannot be read by sounding them out. Hopefully, children are beginning to point out these tricky words to you.

In **maths**, this week, the children have learnt about four sided shapes; this has included learning about squares and rectangles and their properties. For example, a square has four sides which are the same length and four corners. The children have thoroughly enjoyed being creative in their maths work, making four sided shapes out of matchsticks and lollipop sticks and printing squares and rectangles with Duplo bricks.



On a Friday each week, the children are currently enjoying PE lessons with Mr Stephenson from Total Sports. Over the last few weeks, they have practised their movement skills, learnt about different pieces of PE equipment and played many fun games. Each week, Mr Stephenson also chooses people to be awarded certificates.



This week, you should have received a letter (in book bags) regarding our nativity roles and detailing costume suggestions. Please do speak to us if you would like any help with finding a costume.

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. Thank you.



Thank you for your continued support.

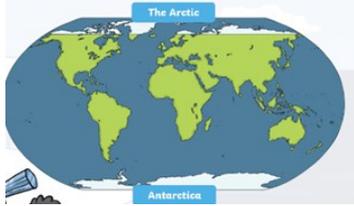
Mrs Robinson, Mrs Daniel, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



It has been a really busy week in Years 1 and 2. The Year 1 children have started to learn the songs for our Christmas nativity in their music lessons this Friday. You are in for a treat with singing, dancing, acting and narrating at the end of the term. The children are already enjoying getting involved and are enthusiastic about rehearsing the songs.

Where Are the Polar Regions?



As part of our geography topic this term, the children have been learning all about the different parts of the world. This week, they were learning about the northern and southern hemispheres and looking at the countries that were in both. They learned the difference between the Arctic (north) and Antarctic (south) Polar Regions and the differences in climate between both. This was very interesting because lots of us assumed that they were the same.

Linked to this work, our science this week involved sorting animals into those that lived in the Arctic and those that lived in the Antarctic and why they don't mix (they are at opposite ends of the globe!) We also looked at how these animals have adapted to survive in such cold, hostile environments by using fur or blubber for insulation. We also investigated the conditions that woodlice need



to thrive in their microhabitats. We observed them to see which areas they chose to go to before drawing and labelling our own detailed woodlouse diagrams and discussed the findings of the investigation.



Our children continue to work so hard and to showcase their amazing attitude to learning every single day. We are very proud of them.

Mr Merrall, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Reeves and Mrs Atkinson



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





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)



In science this week, as part of our 'Animals including humans' topic the children have been learning about teeth. To begin with, the children looked at large model teeth and learnt that we have four types of teeth including incisors, canines, premolars and molars and the specific function they have when chewing food. They then used mirrors and dental mirrors and looked in their own mouths to see if they could identify where each type of tooth was. They also quickly realised that they have a mixture of adult and baby teeth. Afterwards, they then created their own model out of plasticine and tried to recreate the four types of teeth and the position of them in our mouths.



Our computing topic this half term is 2Email. This week, the children have been thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of email and how to use it safely. They then devised their own safety rules for using email and emailed them to others in the class. During this activity, the children have also learnt how to use their address book and respond to emails.



2Email



To begin our art topic, the children have completed an artist study on *George Seurat*. Along with facts about his life, the children discovered that he created a new painting technique called pointillism and his first masterpiece displaying this technique was called 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande'. We are all very excited about having a go at mixing colours and creating our own pictures using the pointillism technique over the next few weeks.



Reminder: The Lower Key Stage Two Ancient Egyptian open classroom event is taking place on **Monday 27th November at 2:30pm**. As previously communicated in the invite letter, to ensure that there is sufficient space for everyone to fully enjoy the activities, we would kindly request that the Year 4 parents/carers enter through the main doors and go into the hall first and the Year 3 parents/carers enter through the classroom door from the playground first. Year groups will swap over halfway through so that you are able to enjoy all of the activities your child/ren would like to share with you in the classrooms and hall. We are all looking forward to you joining us for some Egyptian fun and pyramid building.



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

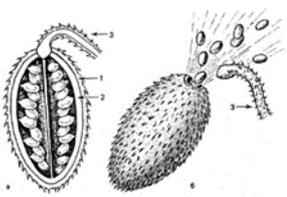
We hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Mr Daniel, Miss Hodgson, and Miss Clapham





Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



In science, we learnt about seed dispersal. We spent some time looking at different methods plants use to ensure that their seeds travel far and wide in order to locate sufficient space, light and nutrients to grow. The range of methods plants use include being transported by an animal, by being excreted by an animal, travelling by the wind, transported by water and through explosion. A particular favourite of the children's was the squirting cucumber!

As part of our Industrial Revolution topic, we have started to learn about the huge changes brought about by the introduction of railways and locomotives. This week we investigated the life of George Stephenson. From a young age it was clear that Stephenson was determined to better himself: he taught himself to read and write, he travelled to Scotland to further his education and, by age 19, he was operating a Newcomen engine. His knowledge of steam engines won him the post of engine wright (chief mechanic) at Killingworth colliery. Later in life, he went on to develop his own locomotives including the Rocket which won the Rainhill Trials in 1828.



As part of our RE lessons, we have been investigating different places of worship. This week, we compared the way Hindus worship at home to the way they worship at the mandir (their place of worship). We identified similarities and differences, recognising, for example, that both at home and in their place of worship, Hindus would have murtis (statues); these represent different deities which collectively are all part of Brahma but they would sometimes differ in size and decoration.

Well done to everyone in Year 5 and 6 for working so hard during our assessment week where the information we gather informs teachers' planning to enable us to support each child's future learning.

Advanced notice: UKS2 History open classroom event will take place on Monday 11th December at 3.00pm - 3.40pm.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mr Bennett, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod



PTA News

Christmas Eve Treat Bags

Order forms are out!



Please make sure you order your Christmas Eve Treat Bags and Baubles by Friday 8th December.

Please put completed forms in the PTA box, which is outside the school office.



Christmas Concert

Get your tickets now for this wonderful Christmassy event!



On **Friday 8th December** we will be welcoming **York Concert Band** for an evening of live music!

The Christmas concert will be in the school hall, from 7pm - 9pm, with a short interval. Tickets are £6.00. During the interval, we will be selling refreshments and there will be a small raffle, with some wonderful prizes.

Cash and card payments are available on the night.

Please come along and bring family and friends to really get in the Christmas mood!



Get your tickets early via this link: [CHRISTMAS CONCERT TICKETS](#)

Any queries please email ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com

Bags2School

A Bags2School collection will take place on **Thursday 30th November** – when we ask you to bring in unwanted clean and usable old clothes, sheets, towels, bags and paired shoes. These are collected and raise money for school.

If you are having a sort out – please do keep it for us!





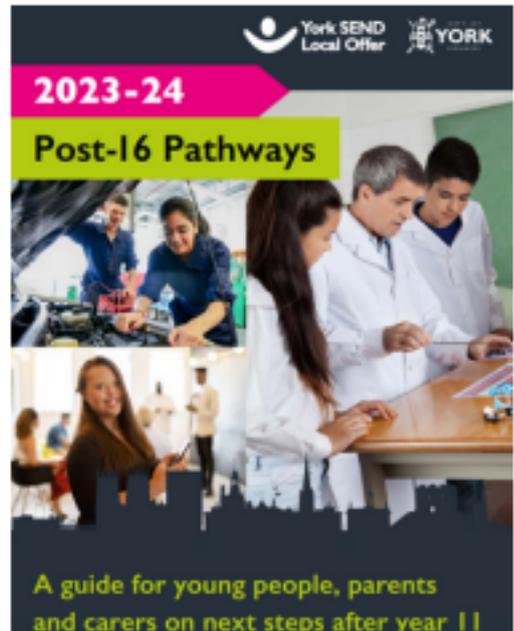
NEWS LETTER

Preparation for Adulthood

Please find below a link to the 2023-24 Post-16 Pathways – a guide for young people, parents and carers on next steps after year 11.

The guide is available on the CYC website – Post-16 Pathways guide and also on the new York SEND Local Offer website (Post-16 education options – York SEND Local Offer).

<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6119/2022-23-post-16-pathways-guide>



Coffee Morning Meet Ups

Wednesday 22nd November 10am at the Range Huntington

Wednesday 6th December 11am at the Youth Hostel, Water End.

First drink on us! A great opportunity to meet up with others who have similar experiences and can offer tips and signposting.

Listening Event York Carers Centre

Join us on Tuesday 5th December at 6pm for a short, friendly remote meeting about the work of York Carers Centre and how they can support you. This is also an opportunity to give feedback on experience in applying for a Carers' Needs Assessment.

Email pcf@yiks.co.uk for a joining link



Want to find out more about the PCF and get involved ?

If you would like to find out more about how to be part of a group of people with life experience as parents/carers of children and young people with special needs or disabilities please email Mary on pcf@yiks.co.uk

Alternatively come along to meet us at the coffee morning detailed above.

Specialist Teaching Team Autism

Parent Group: Coping with Christmas. Weds 6th December

Virtual 10 – 11 am on Microsoft Teams. We will be unable to discuss named children during this time
In person 1:30 – 2:30 pm at YIKS, All about Autism Hub, Clifton Children's Centre

Parent/Carer Phone Line and General Issues Drop In Weds 29th November Weds 13th December

Discuss general issues and concerns with a member of the team

Phone line support 9-12 noon. 20 mins appointments
In person drop in at All About Autism Hub, Clifton Green children's Centre, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

<https://www.yorks.org/team-city-york-council/autism-team-support>

<https://www.yiks.co.uk>

Our current host company YIKS offers a wealth of activities for children, young people and their families. You may want to consider membership via the email address above or find them on facebook

Family Hubs Drop Ins

Drop-in to access free activities aimed at 0 to 11 year olds (although everyone is welcome). Parents and carers must stay and supervise their children whilst attending the drop-in – free coffee, teas and water is available too. There's also the opportunity to have a chat with a Family Navigator or Information Officer, who can help signpost and navigate you to services and information.

Hob Moor Childrens' Centre Tues and Thurs 9:00 - 2:00

Avenues (Tang Hall) Weds 9:00 - 2:00

Clifton Childrens' Centre Weds and Fri 9:00 - 2:00

<https://www.raiseyork.co.uk>



Raise York
Your Family Hub Network