

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

2025/26 No: 3



01904 768325 (option 3)



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

## Headteacher's Message

### From Kindness to Respect

In last week's whole-school assembly, we thought about the idea of "Ripples of Kindness." The children reflected on how even the smallest kind action, a smile, a helping hand, or a thoughtful word, can spread outwards and inspire others, just like ripples moving across water.

On Monday, we built on that theme by exploring "Ripples of Respect." Together, we discussed how kindness and respect go hand in hand, and how showing respect helps those ripples travel even further. Respect for ourselves, for others, and for our environment makes our school a happier and safer place for everyone.

During the assembly, pupils shared examples of how they have been showing respect in classrooms, corridors, and the playground. We celebrated individuals who have gone out of their way to listen carefully, use polite words, take care of our resources, and show consideration for their friends.

By linking last week's kindness to this week's respect, we are helping children understand that the values we practise each day grow stronger when they are connected. These assemblies are encouraging every child to see that their actions matter and that each ripple they create helps shape the whole school community.

### Why Respect Matters at Our School

Respect is one of our core school values because it is the foundation of a safe, happy, and successful learning community. When children learn to respect themselves, they build confidence and a sense of responsibility for their own choices. When they respect others, they show kindness, patience, and fairness: qualities that make friendships stronger and classrooms more positive.



Respect also extends to our environment. Taking care of our school buildings, resources, and outdoor spaces helps everyone to feel proud of where they learn. It reminds us that respect is not only about how we treat people, but also about how we value the world around us.

By teaching and modelling respect every day, we are preparing children for life beyond school. Respectful attitudes help them to listen, work well with others, celebrate differences, and contribute positively to their community. It is a value that will support them not just at school, but throughout their lives.

You can read more about how Respect is one of our core school values here: [Our School Values – Respect](#).

We wish everyone a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Lizzie Banbury*

Going to school **every day** helps your child to get good qualifications, which will help them to get a job.

For more information on school absence in York visit:  
[www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance](http://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance)



This Week's Attendance



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

[www.parentcarerforumyork.org](http://www.parentcarerforumyork.org)

Attached to this Newsletter



# NEWS LETTER

Connect@pcforyork.co.uk



## Ralph Butterfield Primary School

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

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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

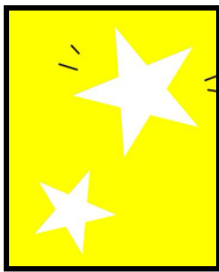
Headteacher welcome talk is being held at 5pm

Please email us for more information and to  
register your attendance

**RalphButterfield.school@york.gov.uk**







On **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**, Ralph Butterfield Primary School is taking part in 'Hello Yellow' - World Mental Health Day. We believe this is an important day in which the children will take part in activities to show it is okay, not to be okay, and share our feelings if, and when, we need to. We are very lucky at Ralph Butterfield Primary School that we have our amazing Wellbeing Ambassadors who are out and about at playtimes and lunchtimes to help all children across the school, if they need it.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, we aim to support the day with the children wearing their school uniform and adding a yellow item; this could be a yellow hair clip, yellow socks or a yellow badge. There is no need to purchase anything new. If you have a little something yellow, we encourage children to wear it (alongside their school uniform), to help celebrate and support.

**Wear  
it loud.  
Wear  
it proud.**

Wear yellow this World Mental Health Day, 10 October, and show young people they're not alone with their mental health.



**dolce**  
Education Catering

Calling all young movie makers!

Dolce is running an exciting nationwide competition – two **£50 ODEON vouchers** need to be won!

They are asking pupils to **design their own movie poster!**

EYFS/KS1: Dream up a movie title and draw the perfect picture to bring it to life.

KS2: Do the same – but add a catchy tag line to sell your blockbuster idea! (Think along the lines of “To infinity and beyond!” from Toy Story)

We’ve attached the entry sheets and also have some printed out in the entrance foyer. It’s time for children to grab their pencils, unleash their imagination, and get creating!

**The deadline for submissions is Monday 6th October 2025.**

Dolce will be choosing the winners out of all national entries.

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

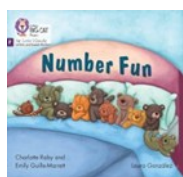
This week, we have learnt about and met people in our school who have different jobs. The children enjoyed walking around school and talking to the adults about their jobs and visiting where they work. They learnt that many adults have lots of different jobs during the day!



In **phonics**, we have learnt four new phonemes this week; g, o, c, and k. Many of the children are beginning to hear the blends in simple words such as 's – a – t'. It has been a pleasure to watch the children delight in their own progress with reading. Before long they'll be reading their bedtime story to you instead!



In **maths** this week, we have explored numbers 1, 2 and 3. This is something we will do in great detail over the coming weeks – you would be surprised at the depth these three numbers can be explored. We will represent the numbers in many different ways, combine the numbers and write the numbers, all in fun and practical ways. This is something the children could share with you at home. How many different ways can you spot 1, 2 and 3 in your home?



Over the last two weeks, the children have started their reading practise lessons. They have begun by reading wordless books. This teaches the children the reading practise session routines and also promotes a rich use of language and vocabulary to tell the story independently, by using the pictures. When sharing this book at home, please encourage discussion about the pictures and also prompt children to locate the small pictures within the large picture. These will be a good place to begin discussions. **Please return all books on Mondays each week.**

We are hoping that all family members (who requested it) now have access to your child's Tapestry account. Alongside the weekly newsletter, Tapestry is another brilliant way of finding out what your children have been learning during the week. You can also share activities which your children enjoy doing outside of school. They love sharing the photos and news with us in school.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the team!

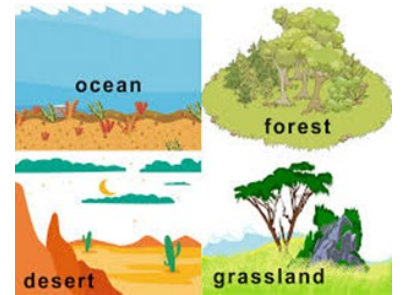
**Mrs Robinson, Mrs Daniel, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team**





## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

It has been another very busy week in Key Stage 1. We have had a lot of fun and done some amazing learning. Following on from our work on The Bog Baby, in which we created habitats for him, we learned about real habitats in science. We learned that a habitat is a natural home for an animal and that it provides for all of the animal's basic need, such as food and shelter. Working in groups, we matched animals to their correct habitats and thought about how the plants and animals within them helped and relied upon each other.



Following this, we made a real-life habitat model: a rainforest scene. We used a template to create the features, decorated them, cut them out and glued them together to make a three-dimensional rainforest diorama. We then used this experience to inspire our writing as we wrote instructions for how to make one. We learned about the features of instructions, including a "you will need" list and commands that told the reader exactly what to do. It was so much fun making a model and everyone could explain clearly how they were made.

In RE, we have been learning about Islam, thinking about who Muslims are and what they believe. We learned that Muslims follow God (Allah) but that they follow the lessons and examples of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and have great respect for him. We enjoyed a story that Muhammad used to teach people how to live called "The Crying Camel" and thought about the lessons and messages within it. We then thought about inspirational people in our own lives and how they help us to be the best we can be.



This week, your child should be coming home with a "Reading For Pleasure" book as well as their Little Wandle home reading book. These books are for them to enjoy and to foster a love and enjoyment of reading and stories. They may not be fully readable by your child and there is no expectation that they can read them themselves. Instead, the idea is to snuggle up and simply enjoy them together. Whether it is on the sofa after school or as a bedtime story, we hop that you and your child will love reading them together. These books were paid for by the PTA so please return them to school once you have enjoyed them. Children may only have one at a time, so they need to be returned before they are given another.

Well done Key Stage 1. Keep up the amazing work!

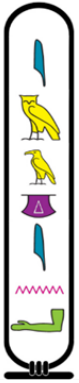
**Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall**







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



Another fantastic week in Lower Juniors with lots of fun and practical activities.

This week in history, the children discovered how the Ancient Egyptians communicated using hieroglyphics and the importance of scribes. They were fascinated to find out that only 1 out of 100 Ancient Egyptians were able to read and write. The children soon discovered how hard it was to use hieroglyphics when they had a go at reading the symbols to spell out our school motto - imagine, believe, strive and achieve. Afterwards, the children then tried to write in hieroglyphics and drew out the symbols to create the title 'The Gold in the Grave'. It was a brilliant mix of history and art and we may even have some budding archaeologists or codebreakers in the making!

In PSHE, the children completed the 45 second dips challenge and the 60 second mountain climbers challenge. They showed fantastic determination and encouraged each other to keep going during the challenges. These short, active breaks reminded us how movement helps support positive mental health, making us feel calmer, more focused, and ready to learn.



In computing, the children have been learning how to stay safe and make sensible choices online. Last week, they explored how to check if websites are reliable by comparing information and spotting signs of spoof sites and then had a go at creating their own spoof webpage. This week, the focus was on appropriate content and age restrictions. The children discussed what is and isn't suitable to view, share, or play and learnt that if they ever see something that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should always speak to a trusted adult.



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 relaxing weekend.  
Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, and Miss Clapham**

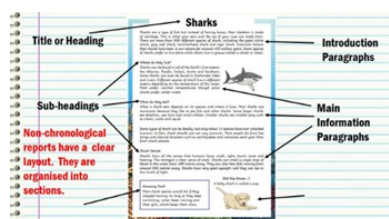
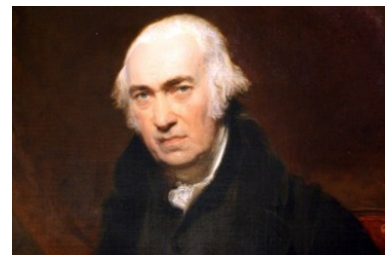


## Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



In art this week, we drafted and sketched our own artwork in the style of L. S. Lowry. We used the skills previously taught in order to show perspective views of buildings. In order to create realistic images of buildings in this way, we utilised the eye level and the vanishing point. By drawing our 'matchstick men' smaller as they neared the vanishing point, we were able to strengthen the illusion of depth in our artwork.

As part of our history unit, we learnt about James Watt and his improvement to the steam engine. In around 1764, James Watt was given a model Newcomen steam engine to repair. He realised that it was hopelessly inefficient and began to work to improve the design. James Watt designed a separate condensing chamber for the steam engine that prevented enormous losses of steam, making his more efficient. This steam engine was the start of mechanised factory production: it enabled the steam engine to operate rotary machines in factories such as cotton mills. It was more efficient and cost effective and enabled manufacturers to locate their factories away from sources of water, which had previously powered factories.



Following on from our science work in which we classified living things and their habitats, we have started to look at the features of non-chronological reports in order for us to write our own about mammals. We have recapped and identified new features, including text features: subordinating clauses and parenthesis. In order to write a report, it is necessary to have a comprehensive understanding of the

subject of the report. Therefore, we have been taught how to make concise notes to be used within our future reports.



This week in PSHE, we have been learning about different relationships. We learnt the meaning of key terms: gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual. Over the course of the lesson, we gained a clearer understanding of the '9 Protected Characteristics' which includes relationships. These characteristics are protected by law under the 2010 Equality Act.

This week, we have welcomed Ms Longwa. Ms Longwa is a beginner teacher who will be working alongside Mr Bennett to teach Class 11 during the autumn term.

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**

# Signposting Event For Families, Parents and Carers @ York Explore Library - City Centre

11<sup>th</sup> October  
2025  
12noon -  
3pm



12.30pm Young people's drop-in and LGBTQ+ mental health support  
- Sam Armstrong, YorMind

1.00pm Sensory integration awareness and the environment  
- Lizzie Huxford OT4ME

1.30pm Dear parents and teachers: This is what I wish you'd known when I was growing up with undiagnosed AuDHD  
- Jo McCormick, The Retreat Clinics

2.00pm York Maternity & Neonatal Voices Partnership Introduction  
- Helen McConnell, YMVP

2.30pm Introduction to Pave the Way Families in the York area  
Helen Caulfield - Pave The Way Families

[www.theretreatclinics.org.uk/events/](http://www.theretreatclinics.org.uk/events/)

30!  
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DRAMA EDUCATION

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KIDS

DK YOUTH  
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#### We're on social!



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Drama Kids is the trading name of Helen O'Drady Drama Academy (C) Limited. Drama Kids  
schools are operated under franchise and are independently owned by their Principals.



FOUNDATION

## OCTOBER HALF TERM FOOTBALL FUN



4 DAY HOLIDAY COURSE  
10AM-3PM

MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> -  
THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
AT HUNTINGTON  
SECONDARY SCHOOL

TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> -  
FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER  
AT LNER COMMUNITY  
STADIUM

ONLY £56

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LNER Community  
Stadium YO32 9AE

Ages 5-13  
All Abilities Welcome

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or scan the QR code



FUN >> ENGAGING >> INSPIRING