

Friday 28th November 2025

2025/26 No: 11



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Seasonal Celebrations

There are lots of Christmas festivities for the children (and yourselves) to enjoy in school over the remaining weeks of term. I wanted to share some dates with you, so that you are able to get them in your diary; we love being able to share these experiences with our children and their families. Please see the table located on the following page – parents/carers are invited to the events in bold; non-bold are mostly in-school activities for the children.

Choir



Well done to the choir for representing the school and singing so beautifully at the Christmas tree light switch on in Haxby last night. Not only did you sing the songs chosen by the school but you also accompanied the band 'Generation Groove'. It was lovely to hear you all and see the joy on your faces whilst you sang. Thank you to all parent/carers for accompanying your child on a cold but festive evening.

Visitor

We were delighted to welcome Mr Luke Charters, the Labour MP for York Outer, to school today. He joined our whole-school assembly as we marked UK Parliament Week, an annual initiative designed to spark interest in parliament, politics and democracy, and to encourage young people and the wider public to engage with the UK's democratic system. Luke took part in a Q&A session with the children before touring the school and seeing our learning in action.

Reading Challenge

The Bloodaxe Book Challenge, delivered in collaboration with York Explore Library and Archive, and Jorvik Viking Centre, launched on Saturday 15th November 2025 and runs until Sunday 10th January 2026. The Bloodaxe author this year is M G Leonard, with her fabulous book *The Legend of Viking Thunder*. Children just need to sign up, read/share four books by 10th January and they can receive stickers, a certificate and a chance to attend the author event with M G Leonard in February half term.



Haxby & Wigginton Library

The benefits of using a library

Libraries are wonderful places to spark a love of reading in your child and can be especially helpful for those who are less confident or reluctant to pick up a book. Finding the right story isn't always easy, but spending time in the library allows children to browse freely, try different genres and discover what really captures their interest - all without any cost.



In a world filled with digital distractions, libraries also offer a calm space to switch off. Children can silence their phones, step away from screens and focus fully on reading or other activities. At the same time, libraries provide valuable access to technology for families who may not have the internet or a computer at home. If your child needs to complete online homework or research, the library is an ideal place to go.

With a huge range of books, resources and knowledgeable librarians, children can explore topics that excite them while building skills that support their learning. Many libraries also run sessions, clubs and courses for both adults and children. Our local Haxby & Wigginton Library offers Under-5s Storytime, Lego Club and a café serving a variety of food and drinks.

Please visit <https://explore.york.org.uk/libraries/haxby-explore/> for more information.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson

Seasonal Celebrations

w/c 8 th Dec	Christmas Nativity Reception: Wed 10 th (2:45pm) Year 1: Mon 8 th (2:30pm) Year 2: Tues 9 th (2:30pm)	
Fri 12 th Dec	Reindeer Rush (<i>Supporting 'St Leonard's Hospice' charity</i>) Children will take part in the Reindeer Rush on the school playground. Donations optional and will be collected via the St Leonard's Hospice fundraising links.	
w/c 15 th Dec	Christmas Jumpers We welcome children to replace their school sweatshirt/cardigan (only) with a Christmas jumper throughout the week.	
w/c 15 th Dec 8.55am	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: Thurs 18 th Year 1 & 2: Mon 15 ^h Years 3 - 6: Wed 17 th	
w/c 15 th Dec	Christmas Parties Please send your child in non uniform on the day of their party Reception: Weds 17 th Year 1 & 2: Thurs 18 th Year 3 & 4: Tues 16 th Year 5 & 6: Thurs 18 th	
Mon 15 th Dec	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>	
Tues 16 th Dec 9.30pm	UKS2 Carol Service (Yr 5 - 6) At St. Mary's Church, Haxby More information to follow.	
Wed 17 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Please book via School Grid by Friday 5 th December Click here	
Wed 17 th Dec 1.30pm	KS1 Carol Service (Yr 1 & Yr 2) At St. Mary's Church, Haxby More information to follow.	
Thurs 18 th Dec 1.45pm	LKS2 Carol Service (Yr 3 - 4) At St. Mary's Church, Haxby More information to follow.	

Reminder: Friday 19th December 2025 is the last day of the school term.

Children return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.



Nerf Competition



On Wednesday after school, a group of 7 Year 5/6 children went to Huntington Secondary School to play in a Nerf competition. They played three other schools in a range of different games: some solo rounds, pairs, fours and then squads. They had great fun building defence barriers for the team to hide behind and I think one of their favourite highlights was right at the end when it was adult verses children (I certainly enjoyed that part!). We didn't win but they had a great time and had fantastic positive attitudes.

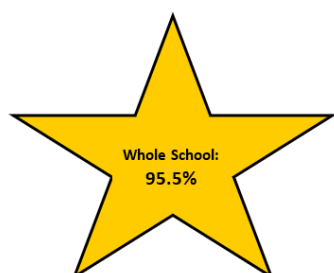
Well done and thank you to the children who took part and represented Ralph Butterfield Primary School as well as the parents for coming and supporting.

Mrs Atkinson

PE Leader



This Week's Attendance



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

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



A Polite Reminder to Help Keep our School Safe

We kindly ask for your support in helping us maintain a safe and calm environment for all our pupils and siblings during drop-off and pick-up times.

Recently, we've noticed a number of children climbing on walls, running across grassy areas, and mounting wooden structures around the school site. While we understand that children are excited and wanting to play with friends, we must ask that they remain on the tarmac playground area only.

Please remind your children:

- **Not to climb on** the wooden outdoor shelter or the new wooden hut on the playground. (They are very welcome to **sit inside** them, but climbing is not allowed.)
- **Not to use bikes or scooters** on school grounds.
- **Not to roam around unsupervised** - we ask that all children stay within the playground area and are closely supervised by their accompanying adult.

It's important to remember that lessons are still ongoing, and pupils in class need a quiet and focused environment. Above all, we want to ensure the safety of all children on site.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school a safe and happy place for everyone.

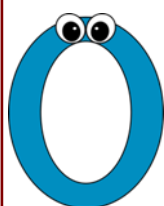


Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Following on from our nativity work, we have also continued our '**Let's Celebrate**' theme by exploring the Christian story 'The Christmas Story'. The children have focussed on the characters in the story in our areas of provision through small world, cut and stick and writing activities. They have also enjoyed making Christmas story spinners which we hope are helping the children to retell the story.

In **phonics** this week, the teaching focus has been learning the digraphs **sh, th, ng** and **nk**. The children are continuing to work very hard to learn how to sound out and blend words and are enjoying being able to read labels, captions and short sentences. We are so proud of their enthusiasm and progress.

The children have been practising their writing skills by writing CVC words and beginning to write short captions. They learn to do this by segmenting the word into sounds and then recording the letters in the order which they are heard in the word. For example, web = w-e-b. The children are doing this very well and have begun to write short words independently.



In **maths** this week, we have learnt about the number zero. The children sang songs which counted down to zero, for example, five little speckled frogs and ten green bottles. They also experimented in making zero with their fingers and adding and subtracting zero to other numbers.

Reminders

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.

Please ensure all homework folders and tricky word packs are in book bags on Thursdays. This provides staff the time to add new resources to these and will be returned to you on Friday each week.



Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

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



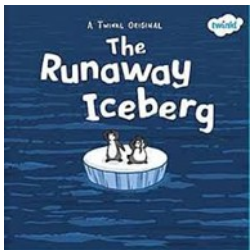


Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



Wow, what a brilliant week Key Stage 1 have had! They have been shining stars this week as they have continued to practise their nativity. We have come together to put the show together, using our hall stage. The narrators have done a super job of reading their lines with a clear voice and the actors have been dazzling in their performances. The dancers have been practising their routines and the musicians have done an amazing job of accompanying the songs. It is already coming together well and promises to be a fantastic show. We are getting excited and can't wait to share it with our families and friends.

As well as performing amazingly in the nativity, our children have loved their dance lessons with Mrs Topliss. In these sessions, they have been thinking about how they can make shapes, both in pathways on the floor and with their bodies in the air. We have been concentrating on making circles, both with a partner and by ourselves. We have made large circles with our bodies, turning circles and jumping circles, all whilst thinking creatively how to use different parts of our bodies. We worked with a partner, mirroring or synchronising our movements and put them to music in a sequence to create a shape "sentence". It was lots of fun!



As well as dazzling in the performing arts, our children have been shining as authors too. Linked to our science topic on polar environments, we enjoyed a story called "The Runaway Iceberg". In the story, two penguins go on an adventure of exploration on an iceberg that splits apart. They drift through the sea, trying to get back home, helped by lots of other animals. The children loved sequencing the events of the story and then retold it in their own words, using exciting conjunctions and ambitious vocabulary. They did an amazing job and really entertained us with their exciting writing.

Well done Key Stage 1. We are in a very interesting and exciting time of year and we are so proud of how well you are meeting every new experience and challenge.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall

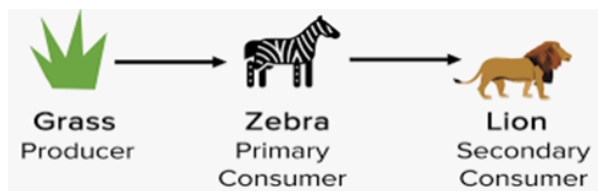
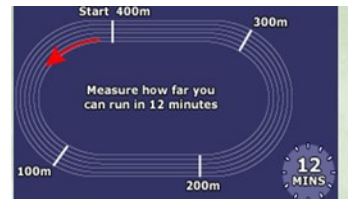


Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

With December almost upon us, the children have ended November with another busy and exciting week.



In P.E. this week, the children have been extremely active as they have competed in the 'Primary Cooper Run Challenge.' This activity involved completing as many 100m laps of the playground as they possibly could within a time limit of twelve minutes. Its aim was to help build up individual fitness and stamina levels. The children worked in pairs - one child recorded each lap whilst their partner worked up a considerable sweat even in this cold weather and then they swapped over to catch their breath! During the task, the children learnt a great deal about their own fitness levels and the importance of pacing themselves in order to complete the longest distance possible. Well done everyone - the teachers were exhausted just watching and supporting you!



In science, as part of our 'Animals including Humans' topic, the children have been learning all about food chains. As a class, we discussed the meaning of key scientific vocabulary such as herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, prey, predators and primary and secondary consumers. Afterwards, the children used this

knowledge and understanding to create their own food chains by selecting appropriate pictures of plants and animals from a selection that was provided. The children were brilliant at remembering that all food chains need to begin with a producer such as leaves, grass or flowers! They had the added challenge of following set criteria when creating each food chain. For example, one of the food chains, that they made, needed to have a producer, primary consumer and secondary consumer included.

In geography, the children have just begun a new topic entitled 'Rivers Deep, Mountains High'. The first lesson involved the children familiarising themselves with an atlas and the key features that are found inside one, such as the contents page and index. The children then worked in pairs to begin to locate different rivers and mountain ranges within Britain and then around the world.



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

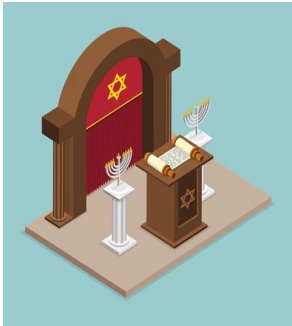
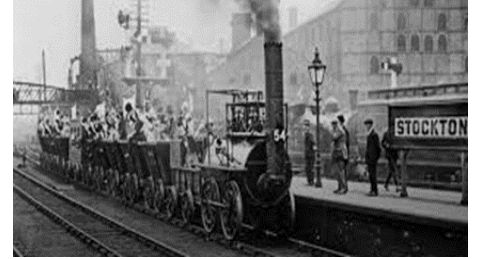
We hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, and Miss Clapham



Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

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.



In our RE lessons this week, we explored how different Jewish communities worship and celebrate their faith. Although all synagogues share the same core purpose - to be a place of prayer, learning and community - there are some key differences between Orthodox and Reform synagogues. Orthodox synagogues follow traditional Jewish teachings closely. Men and women usually sit separately during services and prayers are often spoken in Hebrew. The service is led by a rabbi or cantor, and the Torah is read according to long-established customs. The atmosphere is typically formal, with a strong focus on preserving traditions that have been passed down through generations. In Reform synagogues, men and women sit together and services may include both Hebrew and the English. Music, including instruments, is more commonly used. Despite these differences, both types of synagogues share the same goals: to bring their communities together, teach important values and celebrate Jewish identity. Each offers a meaningful way for Jewish people to connect with their faith.

This week in PE, we took part in an Outdoor and Adventurous Activity called **Cross the River**. The challenge looked simple at first, but we quickly realised that it would take teamwork and careful planning to succeed. Our group had a limited number of mats to use as stepping stones. We spent time discussing ideas, deciding on a route and organising ourselves. Everyone had to communicate clearly and listen to each other's suggestions. Some of our attempts didn't go as planned but we kept adjusting our strategy. By the end of the session, we had successfully crossed the river. We felt proud of how well we worked as a team and realised that challenges like this really help build confidence, resilience and trust.



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

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod



Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course
WHEN: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December
WHERE: LNER Community Stadium, YO32 9AE, 3G
TIME: 10-3pm
REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided
WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York

How to book:
 Please use your voucher code at www.holidayactivities.com

These Free holiday Activities are designed to give young people the opportunity to get active using football as the tool in a FUN, SAFE and SECURE environment.
 If you would like any further information or to book in ADVANCE please contact inclusion@yorkcitycfoundation.co.uk

YORK CITY FOUNDATION

Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course
WHEN: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December
WHERE: Millthorpe School, YO23 1WF, 3G
TIME: 10-3pm
REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided
WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York

How to book:
 Please use your voucher code at www.holidayactivities.com

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YORK CITY FOUNDATION

Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course
WHEN: Friday 2nd January 2026
WHERE: Millthorpe School, YO23 1WF, 3G
TIME: 10-3pm
REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided
WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York

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YORK CITY FOUNDATION

St Peter's School YORK

Year 7 Entry to St Peter's

If you wish to apply for a place at St Peter's School, please complete the online [application form](#) by 31 December 2025

Admissions Timeline

Deadline for applying	Wednesday 31 December
Year 7 Entrance Assessments	Saturday 17 January
Offers of places	February 2026