

Friday 30th January 2026

2025/26 No: 18



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

The following NHS page helps parents/carers by providing guidance on common childhood illnesses: [click here](#)

Acting Headteacher's Message

Thank You



We were thrilled to welcome the delivery and installation of our new, very large outdoor storage shed, purchased by our fantastic PTA, which has already become a point of great interest for the children. Many eagerly watched as the lorry arrived and the shed was carefully put into place, sparking lots of discussion and excitement throughout the day. This valuable new space will allow us to safely store a wide range of outdoor play resources, including generous donations such as children's buggies, car seats, wellington boots and kitchen utensils and jugs for our mud kitchen. Having everything stored neatly and accessibly will greatly enhance our outdoor provision and support imaginative, active play for all children. A huge thank you to our PTA and to our families for their continued support and kind donations, which are already making a real difference to outdoor learning and play.



To support this work, I would like to politely ask for donations of any good-quality, used items that families and friends may no longer need:

Donations of the following would be extremely helpful:

- Larger sized dressing up items
- Bats/racquets of all types
- Dinosaurs
- Action figures
- Toy cars
- Large guttering pipes
- Carpet tubes
- Books, pens, pencils
- Toy prams/pushchairs
- Child-sized pushchairs
- Small world items

These resources will play an important role in enriching outdoor play and will significantly enhance the experience for all children regardless of their age. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

**Donations are
greatly
appreciated.**



York Residents' Festival



If you are not already aware, the annual York Residents' Festival returns this weekend (Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February), with some offers continuing all week. This is an opportunity for York residents to visit many of our wonderful local attractions, for free! To get involved, please present a valid York Card, student card or identity card that proves York residency. If presenting an identity card, this must clearly state 'York' (e.g. driving licence or older person's bus pass). For a full list of offers and further information about how to access the events, offers and deals, visit <https://visityork.org/events/york-residents-festival>

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson

Parking Around School - An Important Safety Reminder

We are once again receiving concerns from parents/carers, local residents and other road users about unsafe and inappropriate parking around the school, particularly on **Station Road**. This is a matter of **child safety**, and we need the support of our whole school community to address it.

Please ensure that this information is shared with all adults who may collect or drop off children, including extended family members and carers.

Illegal Parking

Vehicles are parked illegally if they are “**in or adjacent to**” any of the following:

- Yellow lines (waiting restrictions)
- Disabled bays
- Bus stops
- Dropped kerbs
- Zigzag lines outside schools



Parking in these areas creates serious risks for children, families, pedestrians, and other road users. This behaviour must stop.

Enforcement

While we strongly encourage safe and considerate parking, the school is not able to enforce parking restrictions. Station Road is not governed by the school. Parking restrictions in York are enforced by **Parking Services**, City of York Council, who can and do take action against illegal parking. Vehicles parked illegally may receive a Parking Charge Notice (PCN) for each offence. Please report illegal parking via the Parking Hotline: 0800 138 1119. More details can be found [here](#).

Please Park Away From School

To help keep the area immediately around the school safer, we again ask families who travel by car to park away from the school site. **Ethel Ward** offers a suitable place to park, followed by a short walk down York Road towards school. This significantly reduces congestion and improves safety on the road directly alongside the school, where many children are arriving and leaving on foot.

School Crossing Patrol Update

There is, and has been for some time, a vacancy for a School Crossing Operative to patrol Station Road both before and after school each day. This role is managed directly by City of York Council, not school, and can only be carried out by someone formally appointed to the role and receiving full training and council induction. Please share the vacancy with anyone who may be interested. Further information can be found via the City of York Council [website](#). The council continues to run targeted advertising to fill this important role.

Proposed Extension of ZigZag Lines

Some parents/carers will already be aware that, following requests from both the school and the School Crossing Patrol department, City of York Council is proposing to extend the yellow zigzag lines directly opposite the school, up to Hall Rise. *what3words location* [///dress.signs.compounds](#) up to [///detective.combos.graph](#). This would improve visibility for children and adults crossing the road and provide safer conditions for any appointed Crossing Patrol Operative. The consultation period for this change has now passed, and we continue to request updates from the council and highways agency. We will share more information as and when we have it.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep all children safe. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate the continued support from those that offer it by way of driving and parking responsibly.

Arbor - New System

Thank you to all parents and carers who have already set up their Arbor account and downloaded the app - we really appreciate your support.



Today, letters have been sent home with children for the parents/carers of those pupils whose Arbor accounts have not yet been accessed by an adult. It is very important that, once an account has been created, the Arbor app is downloaded and notifications are enabled. This will allow us to communicate with you via in-app messages, which are replacing text messages.

Thank you also to everyone who showed patience and understanding while we ironed out a few early niggles with the new system - most notably emails that seemed determined to land anywhere *except* the inbox! We believe this issue has now been resolved, and we would like to extend a special thank you to the parents and carers who helped us identify the problem (and who kindly allowed us to send multiple test emails in the process).

We are also very grateful to the City of York Council IT department who will, no doubt, be relieved to hear from us a little less next week! As the issue was not something we could resolve in school, they worked directly with Arbor to reach a resolution.

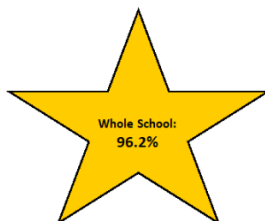
If there are any parents or carers who are not yet on the system but would like to share an email address in order to receive school communications and access Arbor, please do let us know. We understand that some families prefer for just one adult to receive information, which is absolutely fine.

Thank you again for your continued support as we settle into using Arbor.



Please ensure that all school dinners are [booked and paid for](#) (if applicable), before 8:55am each morning. This avoids your child having any issues with receiving a meal. Thank you.

This Week's Attendance



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

Not going to school every day can make your child more worried about going in.

For more information on school absence in York visit:
www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance



www.parentcarerforumyork.org
Registered charity: 1207314

30 January 2026



NEWSLETTER

Attached to this Newsletter Connect@pcf York.co.uk

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme this week, we have taken a visit to the desert to find out about the animals that live there. The children have enjoyed our text of the week 'Meerkat Mail' and other desert themed stories and factual texts. 'Meerkat Mail' tells the story of Sunny who decides to explore new places to live. He quickly realises that home is the best place! Inspired by desert animals, the children enjoyed learning the names of animals and plants in the desert. We played Kim's Game to practise these.



In **phonics** this week, the new phonemes learnt have been **air (as in hair)** and **er (as in letter)**. We have also learnt the new tricky words **are, sure** and **pure**. Some of the new words read have had double consonants, for example letter, bigger. The children have embraced reading longer words very well and are really enjoying continuing their reading progress.

In **maths** this week, the children have learnt about doubles. They have learn that 'double' is where we have two of the same thing or number. They have identified doubles on two dice and spotted doubles on dominoes. The children have also begun to calculate the total of doubles, for example, double 2 is 4.



On Friday 6th February, we have arranged for the children to visit St Mary's Church in Haxby. The children will be able to see what a Christian church is like and talk to Rev Kathryn about how it is used in our community.

We are continuing to teach and encourage children to zip up their own coats and we are very impressed with their progress. Over this half term, we shall also be continuing to encourage and teach children to use their knife and fork correctly at lunchtimes. This is a key life skill which is also detailed in the early learning goals for Reception children. Your support at home with developing this skill would be greatly appreciated. Maybe you could chart your child's progress on Tapestry to share with us.



Help!

If you have any toilet roll tubes, we would appreciate you donating them to us for a craft activity last week. Please just hand them to your class teacher.

Reminder

Next Thursday, **Class 2** will be visiting Haxby library to return their books. Please remember to put the books and library card in their book bag. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support.

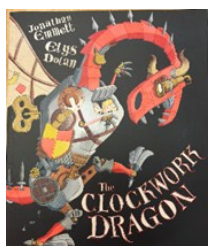
**Mrs Robinson, Mrs Daniel, Mrs Greenwood and the
Reception team**





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

What a busy and exciting week it has been in Key Stage 1! This week, we have been using our imaginations as we stepped into the wonderful world of 'The Old Toy Room.' We have thoroughly enjoyed this story and this week we had a go at retelling the story in our own words. Having read and sequenced the story last week, we were very familiar with the adventure that Lottie went on when she found herself in a land of toys and helped them to fix the railway bridge. We have been learning about verbs, nouns, adverbs and adjectives and we used these in our writing to add detail and description when we retold the story. We also used amazing conjunctions to make our writing exciting and interesting. The writing that the children did was incredible. It was clear how much they had enjoyed the story from just how exciting their retellings were.



This hasn't been the only story we have enjoyed. We have been loving our class novel adventure story, 'The Clockwork Dragon' by Jonathan Emmett and Elys Dolan. In the story, a boy called Max loses his job as a toymaker because he spends too much time inventing with cogs and springs and his inventions go wrong. Looking for another job, he decides to become a knight and get rid of a dragon by building a bigger, stronger one. We have been so excited to explore the story a little at a time, building up to a funny adventure. Whilst exploring the story, we have been developing our retrieval and inference skills to support our comprehension of the text. We can't wait to see what happens next!

Just as Max was looking for a new job in the story, we have also been learning about the jobs that adults can do and the reasons why they go to work. Our PHSE work is all about work and money and the ways that we can earn money and look after it by making smart decisions about what to spend it on. This week, we discussed how money is needed for essential things, such as food, paying for energy bills and our homes, as well as buying goods such as clothes and toys. We talked about how anyone can do any job as long as



they have the necessary skills and qualities. We played a matching game, where we identified lots of different jobs and thought about what would make someone suitable to do it. We then drew pictures of the jobs that we would like to do and wrote about the qualities that would make us good at them. What a lot of ambitious children we have in Key Stage 1! It was incredible to see the variety of aspirations that we have for our futures.



Well done on another incredible week, Key Stage 1. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all next week.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

What an exciting week it has been in Lower Key Stage Two!



In computing, the children have been learning how to use Microsoft PowerPoint. They have learnt a variety of skills, including how to insert text boxes and images, and how to add transition effects so that they whoosh, spin and pop onto their screens. The children have also been adding slide transitions so that when they change from one slide to the next, their audience can be wowed by the amazing way that one changes into the next.

This week, they took it up another level by adding timers and sound effects to their presentations to really blow their audience away. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their work and have been so excited to create and share their work.

In RE, the children have been exploring the question "What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?" They started by investigating a series of objects that could be found in the home of a Christian family and used their detective skills to explore what they might tell us about their lives. They also thought about the commitments they have in their week and compared and contrasted these with the schedule of Christians. This led into an investigation into the services and community activities that happen in St Mary's Church. The children were fascinated to see what churches can offer and how these relate to quotes and passages in the Bible that tell Christians how to show their faith through their actions and worship.



The children have been thoroughly enjoying their French lessons this half term. Our unit is called 'On fait la fête' (We're having a party) and so far they have learnt the months of the year in French and all about French celebrations. Some of these are the same as, or similar to, celebrations in the UK. They have also learnt the verbs for popular activities, such as reading, swimming and playing catch with a ball. They also loved being able to say which activities they enjoyed and which ones they were good at.

Between this, and miming out the activities, our French lessons have it all!

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

We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham, Miss Hodgson and Mr Merrall



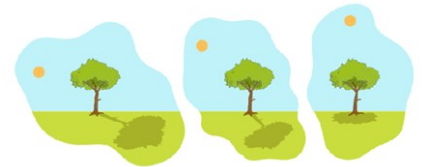


Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



In English, we started to listen to, and read, a variety of myths. We were then able to discuss and identify the features required. Using this knowledge, we created our own mythical creature which will feature in our writing. Once we had an image of our creature, we then wrote sentences, which included figurative and descriptive language in order to engage the reader. A key part of any myth is the journey our hero/heroine will need to take in order to defeat the creature and complete the quest. We described what could be seen, whilst also creating tension and atmosphere, during the journey our hero/heroine undergoes before arriving at our creature's lair.

Continuing our learning of light in science, we planned an experiment to be able to explain how shadows change over the duration of the day. Unfortunately, our recent weather has hampered our ability to carry out this experiment. We will keep you updated! We recalled our prior learning knowing that a shadow is formed when an opaque object is placed between a light source and a surface; the shadow falling on the surface has the same shape as the opaque object. The base of the shadow always touches the base of the object.



This week in our RE lessons, we have been learning about Salah, the daily prayer that is an important part of Muslim life. Salah is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and helps Muslims strengthen their faith and maintain a close relationship with Allah. During the lesson, we learned that Muslims pray five times a day at set times and face the holy city of Makkah when they pray. We discussed why prayer is important and how it allows Muslims time to reflect, show gratitude and seek guidance in their daily lives. We also studied the different positions used during prayer, including standing, bowing, prostrating and sitting. Each position has a special meaning and represents respect, humility and devotion. We learned that these movements help Muslims focus and pray with care and purpose.

Reminder!

Class 11 will be having their Class Assembly on Friday 6th February, at 3:00pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod





FEBRUARY 2026 INFORMATION SESSIONS AT SEND CENTRAL IN COLLABORATION WITH PARENT CARER FORUM YORK

Monday 2nd February 1pm- 2pm- Welfare Rights- knowing what you may be entitled to as a family who have a child with additional needs.

A benefits advisor will be available at SEND CENTRAL from 1pm. They can share information around the benefits that are available to families who have children and young people with SEND, anyone can drop-in to make sure you know what you should and could be accessing and if there is anything you may be missing. These will be ran as one to one sessions for those wanting to understand what they could access and be supported to do so. You can email SEND CENTRAL and we will book you a slot but we will try to accommodate anyone who comes along between 1pm and 2pm on the day.

Monday 9th February 1pm- 2pm How to Best Support Your Child with Reframing Demands when Life Feels Overwhelming.

A workshop for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND led by colleagues from Danesgate Community around how to best support in de-escalating difficult situations when your child is experiencing distress. This will be focusing on presenting behaviours, what this may be communicating and thinking about how we can reframe demands to best support your child. No need to book just come along.

Monday 23rd February 1pm- 2pm Supporting Transitions in Early Years Settings for your Child with Additional Needs.

An information session delivered by our Early Years and Childcare Inclusion Adviser about the different transitions within early years and what you can expect from your setting when you have a child who has additional needs. This will include a question and answer session at the end. No need to book just come along.

All held at SEND CENTRAL, Children's Centre on the site of Clifton Green Primary School, Water Lane York YO30 6JA Tel: 01904 555076 Email: SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk

Supported by: **Raise York**
Your Family Hub Network

Delivered by: **CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

Supporting Children & Young People with Mental Wellbeing

This free 5 week introductory course explores Mental Health and ways to help you support your child at home with their mental well-being.

There will be an opportunity to understand which services are available to support you at home and school.

Following this course there will be an opportunity for you to take a Level 2 qualification.

Who: Parents and Carers
Dates: 25 February 2026 - 25 March 2026
When: Wednesday Afternoons, 12:45 - 2:45
Where: SEND CENTRAL, Clifton Green Children's Centre, YO30 6JA

Please note this is a course for adults only but free childcare is available. Please book to avoid disappointment.

Use the QR Code to enrol on the course or for more information call 01904 554277 email york.learning@york.gov.uk

Funded by UK Government



This week at SEND CENTRAL				
2nd February- 6th February 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along
Monday 2 February 1pm- 2pm- Welfare Rights- knowing what you may be entitled to as a family who have a child with additional needs. Book an appointment with the benefits advisor by emailing SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076. You can come along without an appointment and wait.	SENDIASS 10am-2.30pm Bookable slots throughout the day. Please book via SEND.CENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	Early Years SEND Playgroup YIKS 9.30am - 11.am All welcome no booking required	SEND Casework Duty Worker 10am-2pm Advice and information bookable slots. Please book via SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	NHS Preparation for Adulthood 10am - 2pm Drop in - advice and information- All welcome no booking required.
YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Portage Music Group 1.30pm-2.30pm Workshop- Invite only	Think Together Workshop 10-11.30- see separate sheet for the week's theme- No need to book just come along.	YIKS Parent/carer SEND drop in 9.30am-11am All Welcome no booking required	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKS
	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm-6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	5 week course Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs 12.45-2.45pm. This is a free course and includes child care. Enrol online: https://yorklearning.org.uk/family-learning/	Healthy Child Team 9am - 12pm Drop in 2pm -3.30pm 4 month workshop- invite only.	
	YIKS Siblings Group 6.45- 8pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Specialist Autism Teaching Team 1.30pm-2.30pm Drop in- All welcome no booking required	YIKS Post 16 Group 6.30pm -8pm	



DISCOVER
EGGSPLORE HAXBY



Family Fun Day

Raising funds for the Haxby & Wigginton Youth &
Community Association

Friday 3rd April 2026
11am - 3pm
Haxby Memorial Hall

Egg Hunt
Crafting
Puzzles
Sculpting
Face Painting
Mini Golf
Garden Games
Tombola
Plus:
Youth Market

Ceramic Egg Hunt
Finders, keepers.
100 eggs to find!



Brought to you by:

SCHIEWE
CERAMICS

York
mumbler
Your Local Training Community



Funded by:

YORK
& NORTH
YORKSHIRE
CERAMICS ASSOCIATION

DAVID
SKAITH
MAYOR