

Friday 25th April 2025

2024/25 No: 28



01904 768325 (option 3)



@RalphBPSch_York



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

It has been an absolute joy to see the children making the most of the beautiful weather by playing together on the school field. Their laughter, energy, and teamwork have brought such a lovely atmosphere to our break and lunchtimes. Whether they're running, playing games, or simply enjoying each other's company in the sunshine, it's been wonderful to watch their friendships flourish and their confidence grow.

As we look ahead to the rest of this term and the coming academic year, we are excited to share that we will be further enhancing our outdoor provision for the children. We believe that outdoor learning and play are vital for children's development, and we are committed to creating even more opportunities for them to enjoy and benefit from our school field and playground. Further information will be shared, and we will be reaching out to parents, carers, and the wider community for support - particularly with donations of materials or resources that could help bring our plans to life. So please do watch this space!

Online Parent/s Evening Meetings w/c Tuesday 6th May

How do I access an online meeting?

If your meeting is online (w/c Tues 6th May), this will be via GoogleMeet using the log in details for your child's school Google account. You will have received and used this previously but please speak to the school office should you need any support with this. A handy 'How To' guide was shared with the initial information and booking letter.

You will appreciate that with 30 children or more in most classes, it is important that staff keep to time so they can see every child's parents/carers. Please could we respectfully ask that every parent/carer respects the 10 minute appointment length? If you and the class teacher find that more time is needed, a further appointment can be arranged.

Diary Dates

We thought you would appreciate some dates for your summer diary pulled together (they can also be found on our school website calendar from next week). Please see overleaf. More details about individual events will be shared closer to the time. **Please note the non-uniform day, on Thursday 8th May, for VE Day.**

I hope that you have a lovely bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 6th May.

Helen Stephenson

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



This Week's Attendance



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

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Thursday 8th May	All	Non Uniform Day for VE day
Thursday 8 th May	School Choir	VE Day singing at Haxby Event (<i>evening</i>)
w/c 12 th May	Year 6	KS2 Statutory Test Week
Thursday 22 nd May	All	PTA Disco
Monday 2 nd June	All	INSET Day (<i>Staff only in school</i>)
Monday 2 nd June	All	PTA Parvin Quiz Night
w/c Monday 2 nd June	Year 4	Statutory Multiplication Check
Thursday 5 th June	Sports teams, Pupil Council,	Wrates School Photos (groups)
w/c Monday 9 th June	Year 1	Statutory Phonics Screening Check
Friday 13 th June	All	PTA Father's Day Secret Room
Friday 13 th June	Class 6	Class Assembly (<i>Gate opens 2:50 pm 3:00 pm start</i>)
Thursday 26 th June	Reception and Year 1/2	Sports Day approx. 9:15 am start
Friday 27 th June	Years 3/4/5/6	Sports Day approx. 9:15 am start
Friday 27 th June	All	PTA Non Uniform Day
Friday 27 th June	Class 3	Class Assembly (<i>Gate opens 2:50 pm 3:00 pm start</i>)
Monday 30 th June	Years 3 & 4	Roman Open Classroom
Wednesday 2 nd July	Year 6	Transition Day (<i>Secondary schools</i>)
Friday 4 th July	All	PTA Summer Fair
Tuesday 8 th July	Years 5/6	Production - Matinee Performance 2:00 pm
Tuesday 8 th July	Years 5/6	Production - Evening Performance 5:30 pm
Wednesday 9 th July	Years 5/6	Production - Matinee Performance 2:00 pm
Friday 11 th July	Year 2	Recorder Concert approx. 9:15 am start
Monday 14 th July	Year 6	Crucial Crew Trip
Monday 21 st July	Year 6	Graduation Assembly 6:00 pm
Tuesday 22 nd July	All	Last Day of Term (<i>normal finish time</i>)

VE Day Celebration - Thursday 8th May

On Thursday, I held an assembly to explain to the children that the 80th anniversary of VE Day will be marked on 8 May 2025 – signalling eight decades since the end of the Second World War in Europe. Next week, each class will be doing different activities to remember and celebrate this important historical event.



To join in the spirit of the occasion, on **Thursday 8th May**, our school will be marking **VE Day** with a **non-uniform day**. Children are welcome to come to school dressed in **red, white and blue**. There's no need to buy anything special, please feel free to use what you already have at home.

As always, we kindly ask that children wear clothing suitable for a normal school day. This includes **sensible footwear** and **appropriate layers**, sun protection to keep them comfortable and protected from the weather throughout the day.

We look forward to seeing your Union Jack colours on Thursday!

Thank you

Miss Tattersley

History Lead

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

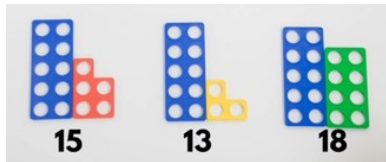
Our focus this week has been 'The Enormous Turnip'.

During the week, the children have enjoyed reading and retelling the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'. We also investigated where vegetables grow and where they are found around the world.



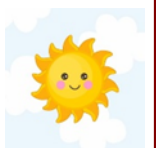
In phonics this week, we are continuing to learn how to blend adjacent consonants. These are consonants standing next to each other in a word, for example, **nt**, **lp** or **mp**. (We were also very excited that the new words in our phonics lessons have a green border-you may have been told this already!) The children are continuing to read the sounds previously taught within these words and extending their learning by blending the adjacent consonants too. Examples of words learnt are, **went**, **help** and **tent**. These new blends will also be practised in our weekly home learning activities. The children have also learnt new tricky words, **some**, **come**, **love** and **do**.

In maths this week, the children have continued to learn about numbers beyond 10. They have sang songs, read stories and played games to develop their skills of recognising the numerals. Using Numicon, tens frames and dienes equipment, the children have made numbers to explore the place value of each digit. For example, to make the number 13, we need a 10 and 3. To finish the week, we had a go at ordering the numbers to 20.



This half-term, in RE sessions, we are learning about our wonderful world. So far, the children have explored our school environment to discover how beautiful our world is. They saw flowers and insects. They heard birds singing. They felt the warmth of the sun and the crisp wind. They touched the soft grass and other materials. After this, the children have started to consider how the world was created. Over the next few weeks, we will learn about Christian and Muslim beliefs about the creation of the world.

As we have seen some beautiful sunny days this week, please can we ask that children bring a named hat to school? This will be worn in the outside classroom and at playtimes. Children are also welcome to bring sun cream to school but they must be able to administer this themselves. We also remind the children that they should not share their sun cream with friends, due to possible allergies.



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.

It was lovely to share the children's work and progress with many parents and carers this week. We look forward to speaking to the remainder of parents/carers online next week.

Please don't hesitate to discuss any questions or concerns with us.
Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



What an exciting week it has been in Key Stage 1! On Monday, we enjoyed a fabulous trip to Askham Bryan Wildlife Park as part of our science topic about life processes and animals. It was so exciting to go on a bus and enjoy an adventurous day out. We took part in two workshops with the wonderful staff at the park. In the first, all about adaptation, we learned about how animals' bodies and behaviours are adapted to help them survive in their environment. We identified a number of environments and the conditions in them. We then chose volunteers and dressed them for survival in their habitat, making choices about which clothes and accessories would help them to stay warm, cool, camouflaged or to help them move. It was lots of fun.

The second workshop was all about classification. This means being able to group animals according to features such as whether they were warm or cold blooded, whether they lay eggs or give birth to live young, how they move and whether they live in water or on land (or even both!) The children all held a soft toy creature and held them up in response to the questions, before identifying the animal group as they threw them back at the end. The children's knowledge was excellent and they loved learning about the different groups of animals. Of course, there was also plenty of time to explore the park, including the indoor tanks, nocturnal areas, outside enclosures and farm area. From monkeys to meerkats, wallabies, lemurs and kookaburras, there was loads for us to discover. The children had an amazing day and were absolute superstars with their behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity. We were so proud of everyone! Each child was given a free ticket for a return visit to the wildlife park, which were sent home with the children today. Make sure you check your child's book bag or homework folder so that you can enjoy a day out, sharing the experience with them.



On Tuesday, some Year 9 children from Joseph Rowntree School and their teacher came and worked with our children, leading a variety of P.E. activities, including hula hooping and Octopus Tig. They were so lovely with the children, confidently giving instructions and encouraging them. Our children were, of course, amazing. They were receptive and positive, and had lots of fun. It was lovely to watch older and younger children having a love of P.E. and having fun together!



Well done everyone. It has been an amazing week full of glorious weather. But the real dazzle has definitely come from our wonderful Key Stage 1 children.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall



Nerf competition

Thank you to the children who went to the final of the Nerf competition with Mr Keaney last Friday afternoon at Selby College. The children were full of energy and played fantastic as a team incorporating lots of different strategies and tactics. Well done for coming second overall.



Thank you to the parents who transported children to and from the event.

Mrs Atkinson- PE Leader

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)



The highlight of the week in Year 3 and Year 4 was our visit to Hovingham Estate. The children took part in a range of activities including being part of a mountain rescue team and carrying one of their 'injured' peers on a stretcher; learning about dragonflies and their habitats and then making their very own

creation using pegs and an assortment of pipe cleaners; finding out about the prey and predators that inhabit the woodland around the Howardian Hills and the children were excited to meet some of the farmer's sheep and their lambs.



If you have ever wondered how to accurately predict the height of a tree, ask your children to show you the foolproof method they were shown by Hovingham's resident tree expert! Despite it being a very hot day, we were really impressed with how the children conducted themselves during the visit and indeed the Hovingham team contacted the school to compliment the



children on their behaviour and engagement in the activities during the day. Well done everyone! Finally, the children and lower junior staff would just like to say a huge thankyou to all the adult volunteers who gave up their own time to come on the trip with us. We hope you all put your feet up once you got home!

This week, as part of our ongoing Roman topic, the children have learnt about fearless Queen Boudicca. When Boudicca's husband died, the Romans tried to take the land that belonged to Boudicca and treated her and her daughters very cruelly. Boudicca objected to the actions of the Romans and began a rebellion against them. Although the Celts had more warriors than the Romans, they were defeated. The Roman army were more organised and had many tactics. The children loved learning about the Celtic warriors who supported Boudicca with her revolt. To help us to remember her, we even learnt a fun song about her from the Horrible Histories website.



During PSHE this week, the children have been thinking about how regular exercise such as walking, cycling, scooting and movement breaks have a positive impact on our mental and physical wellbeing. To begin with, they identified how they were feeling whilst they were sat still in the classroom. Then they all took part in two brain break PE challenges: the tree pose and the chest to floor kneeling press-ups. The children recorded how they felt afterwards. It was extremely clear to all of them that they felt much more energised and positive after they had taken part in some exercise.



It was lovely to see so many of you at the face to face parents' evening appointments this week and we look forward to catching up with the rest of you online next week. Please do come and speak to us if you have any questions or would like to share any news with us.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend and we hope that the sunshine continues!
Mr Daniel, Mr Povey and Miss Clapham

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



This week, as part of our RE unit, pupils in year 5 have investigated the work of Christian Aid. Much like when we studied Muslim based charities, we were interested in how they raised donations and the work that they undertook. As a class, we browsed the website and discussed the different aspects of their charitable endeavors. We then set about constructing our own balanced argument, based upon what we had learnt across the entire unit. This meant for many of us reflecting deeply upon the core question: Is it better to express your religion in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity? Some of us felt very strongly, one way or the other, and others could see the importance of both. Importantly, there was no right answer, rather an opportunity for us to consider our own ideas.

Thank you to all the Year 5s who applied to be a Wellbeing Ambassador when in Year 6. We were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of the applications. So much so that unfortunately too many applications resulting in us having to randomly select the successful children. On Monday, the prospective Wellbeing Ambassadors discussed the role with Matt Messias. They talked about what their responsibilities would involve and started to discuss ways in which they could support individuals.



The Year 6 pupils welcomed back Matt Messias, who is working with them to guide them in how to be more resilient and develop a positive growth mindset. This week's sessions focused on preparation for the SATs: they created a timeline of possible revision goals for themselves; looked at their own strengths; discussed people who can help them; reflect on things that make them happy; and identified safe/relaxing spaces they have available to them. To help with any worries individuals may have, Matt Messias showed the Year 6s a breathing exercise they could try and everyone drew a 'Balance Butterfly' to show any worries and possible solutions or aids to overcome these worries.

Have a lovely and restful Bank Holiday weekend.

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

Mr Bennett, Mr Carpenter, Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr Tod



www.parentcarerforumyork.org



NEWS LETTER

Attached to this Newsletter



Connect@pcfYork.co.uk

SISTER ACT THE MUSICAL

We would like to wish Miss Griffiths and Miss Dawson good luck for their upcoming show!

Wed 21 - Sat 24 May, Various Times

York Musical Theatre Company

Time: Various Times

Price: £18.00 - £20.00

BOOK



WHY JOIN A POSITIVE FUTURES COURSE WITH BRIGHTSPARKS?

- Improved parent/carer self-confidence
- Greater ability to set routines and boundaries
- Greater understanding of a child's emotional and development needs at different ages
- Improved self-awareness/emotional intelligence
- Reduce care-giver stress
- Improved relationships.

Suitable for parents of children aged 5-16



Course delivered by
BRIGHT SPARKS
Fully funded by
City of York Council

Discovery Zone Holiday Activity session

12noon - 1.30pm
Wednesday 28th May 2025
New Earswick Folk Hall



Join us for some space themed family fun!



12noon Step inside the inflatable Cosmodome to explore the wonders of space

- search for aliens
- put on a VR headset and become an astronaut
- make a shooting star to take home
- create your own constellations using glow-in-the-dark stars
- sensory fun for young visitors - curl up in a den and see the multi-coloured starry lights

1pm

Lunch

- FREE pack up lunch in the Discovery room for all the family
- Space themed activity pack and cooked meal to take away

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Limited places available

Book now at the Folk Hall reception in person or ring 01904 769621



Supported by:

JRHT JOSEPH ROWNTREE HOUSING TRUST



FREE COURSE

POSITIVE FUTURES

Being a parent is rewarding, but it can also be challenging and demanding. Positive Futures helps you to develop your skills, knowledge and confidence and offers a range of practical strategies to help you build and strengthen connections with your family.

Courses being delivered throughout 2024-2025



SIGN UP NOW

www.brightsparkscic.org.uk



WHO CAN JOIN?

This course is available to York families only. It will be available for families of children who are struggling with bullying or friendships.

- ★ Less anxiety and distress
- ★ Greater confidence
- ★ Better friendships and school life



About Brightsparks

We provide a safe, supportive environment led by experienced staff. The goal is to help young people build resilience and wellbeing.

COURSE INFO

Location: Gateway Centre, Front Street, Acomb, York, YO24 3BZ

Dates: Thursdays from 8 May to 3 July (no session during half term)

Cost: Free (funded by City of York Council – limited spaces)

Sign up for free:

- ★ brightsparkscic.org.uk/triple-p
- ★ enquiries@brightsparkscic.org.uk
- ★ 01904 924133



BUILD RESILIENCE AGAINST BULLYING: Join Our Free Course!

Launching May 2025

Resilience Triple P is a free course for families of children aged 6–12 facing bullying or peer difficulties at school.



Raise York
Your Family Hub Network

WHAT IS RESILIENCE TRIPLE P?

Brightsparks is proud to launch Resilience Triple P, a fun, game-based course that helps children and parents build skills to handle peer challenges. The course includes 8 workshops:

- ★ 4 parent-only sessions.
- ★ 4 joint parent-child sessions at the Gateway Centre, Acomb. Siblings aged 6 and over can also join.

Each session lasts 2.5 hours. Children receive a workbook, and parents get a guide.



COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Parent Session 1

Understanding bullying
8th May 4-6.30pm

Learn how bullying affects your child and set goals for positive change.

WEEK 2

Child-Parent Session 1

Building friendships
15th May 4-6.30pm

Support children with skills to help make friends and play positively with others.

WEEK 3

Parent Session 2

Helping children grow
22nd May 4-6.30pm

Discover strategies to boost your child's confidence and social skills.

WEEK 4

Child-Parent Session 2

Responding to mean behaviour
5th June 4-6.30pm

Help children practice calm and confident ways to handle bullying.

WEEK 5

Child-Parent Session 3

More ways to deal with bullying
12th June 4-6.30pm

Learn extra techniques to ignore, deflect, and get help when needed.

WEEK 6

Parent Session 3

Managing our child's challenging behaviour
19th June 4-6.30pm

Understand how to prevent and manage conflict at home and beyond.

WEEK 7

Child-Parent Session 4

Sorting out conflicts
26th June 4-6.30pm

Equip children with skills to resolve problems with peers or siblings peacefully.

WEEK 8

Parent Session 4

Working with school staff
3rd July 4-6.30pm

Find out how to improve conversations with teachers and other adults about challenges your child faces.

