



## Acting Headteacher's Message

### Welcome Back!

It has been lovely to welcome all the children back to school after the half term break. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday.

It is fantastic to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life; they have returned full of energy, enthusiasm, and a great sense of focus as we begin this final term of the academic year. We are so proud of how they have hit the ground running, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning, events, and celebrations still to come!



### Request for Support

We kindly ask all parents and carers to avoid sending children to school wearing or bringing expensive or special items, such as branded coats, favourite earrings, valued hats, accessories and toys.

While we always encourage children to take care of their belongings and store them safely in their bags, lockers, or on their pegs, we cannot guarantee that these items will always be kept secure throughout the school day. As you can imagine, the nature of a busy primary school means things can occasionally be misplaced or accidentally damaged.

We also understand that, despite our advice to avoid bringing such items into school, children are naturally proud of their belongings and may want to show them to their friends. Unfortunately, this can increase the risk of items being lost, swapped, or broken. We would hate for any child to feel upset or distressed if something important were to go missing or get damaged, so we ask for your support in helping us prevent this wherever possible. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and continued support.

I am really looking forward to our **summer fair** on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Please do volunteer some of your time, if you can, to help at this event, which is always thoroughly enjoyable in addition to being our best fundraiser (email [ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com](mailto:ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com)). Thank you.

I hope you enjoy reading all about what our amazing children have been up to this week; I also wish you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Helen Stephenson*



## Clean Air Day 2025 #CleanAirDay

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June** is [#CleanAirDay](#), the UK's biggest air pollution campaign.

Even though we can't see it, air pollution impacts our health whatever age we are. Children are particularly at risk from air pollution, as their immune systems, lungs and brains are still developing.

Improving air quality not only benefits our physical health and the environment but can also protect our mental and brain health.

On [Clean Air Day](#) we, along with City of York Council, encourage parents/carers, children and staff to walk, cycle or scooter to school if possible (or walk part of the journey from a nearby location).



## Transition from Reception to Year 1

On **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Atkinson would like to invite parents/carers to a meeting about transition from Reception to Year 1. We understand that you may have some questions about this next step in your child's academic journey and we shall also share valuable information about the transition plans and how your child will progress onto learning through the National Curriculum.



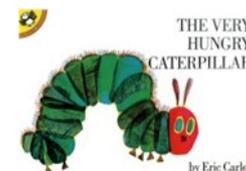
The meeting will take place in the school hall at **2:15pm** and will be finished by the end of the school day.

Following the meeting, all materials shared will be emailed out to all Reception parents/carers.



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Our focus this week has continued to be 'minibeasts that live on the ground', particularly caterpillars. One of our favourite themed stories has been The Very Hungry Caterpillar! This story has led to some brilliant writing, where the children segmented words to spell and write the foods that the caterpillar ate.



During the week, the children have had the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of the butterfly and explore their symmetrical wing patterns. They have learned the different stages of the life cycle from egg to butterfly and even learnt a song about it!

We have also been delighted to observe our Reception caterpillars/chrysalis'. Unfortunately, due to an issue with the delivery date, the caterpillars spent the half-term holidays with Mrs Robinson and her family! However, the children have enjoyed following the photo diary of the caterpillar transformations over the week. Now we are expectantly waiting for the next stage.



### Equal or not equal parts?



In maths, we have begun to learn about doubling and sharing. The children have learnt that doubling is when the same number is added together twice. They have also been able to identify when sharing is fair and unfair.

In phonics, we have begun to learn how to read the Phase 3 long vowel digraphs in longer words, with adjacent consonants. As an example, this may include words like **toast**, **burnt**, **smart** or **growl**. During this half term, we shall also revise all of the tricky words learnt through this year. Children can use their tricky word key chains to practise these. Please refer to the weekly homework sheet for further details.

### Reminders

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.

PE days are Thursday or Friday. This depends on library days. If children visit the library on a Thursday, their PE day will be a Friday and vice versa (weekly).

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)

It was lovely to see everyone back in school this week after a week's break, ready for the final half term of the year. We started with a bang as we launched our new topic, all about the local history of York. We had a special day as we ignited our interest and curiosity with lots of exciting activities. We learned about the chronology of York's development from a Roman settlement, all the way through to the way it is now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We looked at the different settlers and groups of people who have invaded and influenced York and events and ordered them on timelines. We also made knowledge posters to display what we already knew about York, as well as drawing detailed sketches of local landmarks, such as the Minster and Clifford's Tower. We had an amazing time and were fizzing about our new topic by the end. We can't wait to find out more!



In science, we are learning about life processes and life cycles. Before the holidays, we welcomed some tiny visitors into school: each class received some caterpillars that we could watch changing over time. They aren't so tiny now! A week of constant eating has meant that they are now over five times their original size! We are excited to see them grow and watch what happens next. Perhaps we will see some very big changes soon? In addition to this, we will be looking to see how plants change and grow over time. The children each filled a pot with compost and planted a sunflower seed. These have been watered and left in the sunlight so that we can watch them grow over time. We expect that there will be some big changes over the coming weeks.



This week, we have been considering our Big Question, 'Can I do it my way?' This is linked to the fundamental British value of 'individual liberty,' the ideal that people are free to be themselves within the confines of the law. We talked about individuality and how every person is unique and so should be free to express themselves without fear of persecution. This sparked a lot of fascinating, in-depth discussions and questions from the children about beliefs, tastes and neurodiversity. It was great to see so many of us so engaged and considering what is right and fair.

Well done Key Stage 1! You made a fabulous start to the final leg of this year's learning journey!

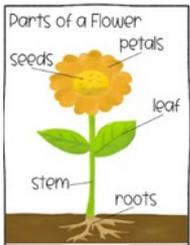
**Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley, Miss Griffiths & Mr Merrall**





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

It was lovely to welcome all the children back for the final half-term of the academic year and we have many exciting lessons planned for them in the coming weeks.



This week, we have started our new science topic 'Flower Power', which is all about what plants need to survive and the key stages in their life cycle. We began our topic by looking carefully at a variety of flowers and completed some observational drawings. The children annotated their drawings brilliantly with notes about what they had observed about the shapes and colours of the leaves, petals and structures inside the flower. Next, we looked at the main parts of a flower and discussed what the roles of the petal, stem, leaf and roots were. In English this week, we have also started writing about the life cycle of a flowering plant, clearly explaining the processes of germination, photosynthesis, pollination and finally, seed dispersal.



In art, the children have been exploring the work of the American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Linking to our science topic, we have found out that she began experimenting with painting close up, enlarged views of flowers. She used oil paints in vibrant, bold colours. She also used water colours to paint with. We looked carefully at a variety of her work, including 'Oriental Poppies' and 'Inside Red Canna' and shared our opinions of her artwork and how it made us feel. In the next few lessons, the children will have the opportunity to pencil sketch their own flowers on a large scale and paint them using water colours just as Georgia had done. We can't wait to see their final paintings!



In preparation for the multiplication check, that is taking place next week, the Year 4s have been continuing to practise their instant recall of all the timetables up to 12x12. The Year 3s have enjoyed having the opportunity to deepen their timetables knowledge too!

### Reminder for Class 6 parents / carers

All of the children in Class 6 are looking forward to you joining them at 3pm (gates open at 2.50pm) for their class assembly on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June in the school hall.



Class Assembly

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

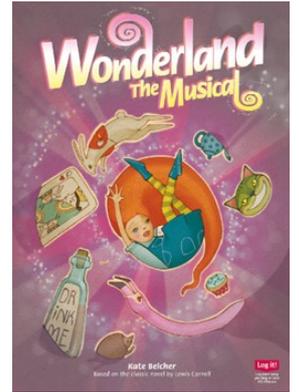
We hope that you have a lovely weekend  
Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham and Mr Povey





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

Rehearsals are now in full swing and are progressing well. The majority of us have started to learn our lines and are beginning to put actions and characterisation to our individual performances. **For homework over the next 2 weeks, we would like you to spend your time learning your lines and the songs for our production of the Wonderland.** The music for the songs can be found following this link: <https://www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk/classes/upper-key-stage-2/>



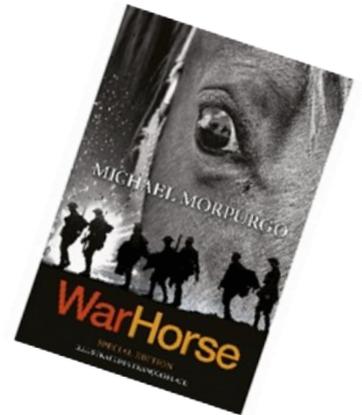
**ALL** costumes are due in by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. As mentioned in the costume letters, please let us know if you have any difficulties regarding this.



This week, we began to develop our writing by adding atmosphere and tension to our descriptions. We used clips from the short film 'Francis' as stimulus. It tells the story of a family camping trip to Quetico park, where a reckless raven-haired Francis waits until her family have fallen asleep and takes a rowing boat out to the middle of the lake. Hoping to find a quiet spot where the teenager can lay on her back, stare at the sky and write in her journal, her expectations of a peaceful night at one with nature are soon shattered when an

unexpected noise comes from the water below. We began by creating a bank vocabulary, utilising our vocabulary books and thesaurus. We then used this higher-level vocabulary alongside writing features such as figurative language, personification and similes to create our sentences. Using a modeled example, and drawing on what we have learnt over the course of the year, we then wrote our first draft.

In our reading sessions this week, we have continued to work through our class novel, War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. After reading chapter 2, we answered a series of questions about the text. First, we focused on author's choice of vocabulary. We demonstrated an understanding of the meaning of different word choices in context. We then worked through a series of questions, utilising our retrieval, inference and deductive skills. Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.



**Mr Bennett, Mr Carpenter, Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr Tod**



### 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 it more likely for your child to get involved in crime or antisocial behaviour.

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





Parent  
Carer  
Forum  
York

## NEW TO SEND?

Join our

## SIGNPOSTING EVENT

and find out what parents tell us  
are the most useful resources.

First Wednesday in every month,  
online from 6:30.

Email Mary on [Connect@pcf York.co.uk](mailto:Connect@pcf York.co.uk) to request a joining  
link

Maps on sale at  
Huntington Primary  
Academy 9am-3pm  
7th-8th June

ALMOST 70  
SCARECROWS on  
display 9am-6pm both  
days

FoHPA  
Huntington  
Scarecrow  
Trail



7th - 8th  
June  
2025



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



# NEWS LETTER



[Connect@pcf York.co.uk](mailto:Connect@pcf York.co.uk)

Attached to this News-

**FREE TASTER SESSIONS AVAILABLE!**



**MAKE YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT MORE FUN!**  
**TRY RUGBYTOTS**

Our dynamic weekly play sessions enable boys and girls aged 2-7 to develop their social and physical skills in a fun, positive environment. For more details, just email or call.

[york@rugbytots.co.uk](mailto:york@rugbytots.co.uk)  
0345 313 6716



[rugbytots.co.uk](http://rugbytots.co.uk)  
The world's favourite rugby play programme

**ABOUT OUR CLASSES**

Tuesday Mornings  
Poppleton Centre

Friday Mornings  
Haxby Memorial Hall

Saturday Mornings  
York Stadium Leisure Centre  
The Mount School

Sunday Mornings  
York Stadium Leisure Centre  
The Mount School

For full class listings, age groups, timings and availability, go to:  
<https://www.rugbytots.co.uk/Class/find>  
(or see QR code below)

For more details, just email or call.  
[york@rugbytots.co.uk](mailto:york@rugbytots.co.uk)  
0345 313 6716



[rugbytots.co.uk](http://rugbytots.co.uk)  
The world's favourite rugby play programme

**WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM**

## Transitions Webinar

**Thursday 12th June  
4pm - 5pm**

This workshop is for young people in year 6 and their parents and carers.

The webinar will focus on how to prepare going from year 6 into year 7. We will cover:

- What transition is
- Explore the ways that this may affect us
- Things we can do to help with transition
- Share top tips and strategies

**Joining Information**

To join the webinar please scan the QR code on the right and follow the instructions to join using Microsoft Teams. You can also join using the following details:

**Meeting ID: 379 122 143 805**  
**Passcode: pw2xk6qb**



If you have any issues logging on or any questions prior to the workshop please contact

[teww.wimtsa@nhs.net](mailto:teww.wimtsa@nhs.net)




**York RUFC Girls**

Girls aged 7-19

Come and give rugby training a try when our new season kicks off on 3rd September...

**Wednesday nights  
18.30 to 19.30**  
York Sports Club, Clifton Park, YO30 5RE

Develop your rugby skills  
Build Fitness and friendships  
Train with qualified coaches  
No previous experience needed  
Be part of a team and a growing community  
Get the opportunity to play matches



Contact us for more information at [YorkRUFCgirls@outlook.com](mailto:YorkRUFCgirls@outlook.com)

Follow us on Instagram: @yorkrucfgirls  
Like us on Facebook: York RUFC Girls