

## Acting Headteacher's Message

Over the last few weeks, I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to show visitors around our amazing school. We feel very proud when welcoming visitors, who have heard positive things about our school, who would like to come and see for themselves. Over the weeks we were visited by Martin Kelly (Director of Children and Education), Councillor Bob Webb (Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education) and headteachers from other maintained schools in York. Our visitors toured the school, talked to pupils and staff, and we were able to share the comprehensive SEND provision that we offer. It is always a joy taking visitors around our school and the children are incredibly impressive when answering questions. When children were asked about what they enjoy, it was very clear that different subjects are inspiring different children; this is why we are so passionate about retaining our broad and ambitious curriculum.

This week, I had the pleasure of teaching a Year 2 maths class, within which the children were recalling and remembering reading clocks: o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. It was so lovely to be back in a classroom. The children's behaviour for learning was fantastic and the progress that all the children have made so far since September was evident.



### Winter weather

As the weather continues to be rather unpredictable, it is incredibly important for children to have their coat with them each day. Please ensure that coats are suitable for winter, have a hood and are labelled with your child's full name. Hats and gloves are also recommended. Thank you.

### Christmas Jumper Day

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Children are welcome to wear a Christmas/festive jumper instead of school sweatshirt/cardigan (only). Donations are entirely optional and will be collected via ParentPay.



### Daily Christmas Post Box!

We are pleased to share that children can now bring in their Christmas cards for others in the school and post them in our special Christmas post box in the entrance area. Santa's special Year 6 elves will then sort and deliver the post around school on a daily basis.

To help the elves, it is really important that each envelope:

- Is clearly written
- Has the child's first and last name on it (if your child knows it)
- Has the child's Class on it e.g. Class 5

Thank you for your support with this.

First Post: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Last Post: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December



Best wishes

Helen Stephenson

**Christmas**  
LUNCH

December 2024

**MAINS**  
Roast Turkey, Stuffing & Chipolata  
Puff Pastry Christmas Cracker (VG)

**SIDES**  
Homemade Roast Potatoes  
Carrots  
Peas  
Sprouts  
Gravy

**DESSERTS**  
Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard (V)  
Reindeer Shortbread (VG)  
Fresh Fruit

**dolce**



**Christmas meal** (Wednesday 18th December)

Please remember that bookings should be made, via the [SchoolGrid](#) system, by the end of **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

**Dolce Customer Care**

Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, on **01942 707709** or by email to [customercare@dolce.co.uk](mailto:customercare@dolce.co.uk)

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



**Phunky Foods**



On Thursday, Hannah Roberts from Phunky foods came into school. She delivered a whole school assembly about healthy snacks and how some snacks that you think are healthy have hidden

ingredients. She also worked with classes 3 and 4 and made some delicious Christmas crunch.

If you would like any information on nutrition, please contact myself and I can signpost you to the Phunky foods' contact. Hopefully, later on in the year, we will be holding some child and parent food workshops.

**Jennie Atkinson**

PE Leader

Is your child registered for **SCHOOL MILK?**

Child **UNDER 5**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



Child **OVER 5**

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.










**REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY**

Register online  
[www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)



Need help?  
Send us a message  
at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](http://www.coolmilk.com/contact)  
or give us a call on **0800 321 3248**

## Seasonal Celebrations

w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<p><b>Christmas Nativity</b></p> <p>Reception: Wed 11<sup>th</sup> (2:45pm) Year 1: Mon 9<sup>th</sup> (2:30pm) Year 2: Tues 10<sup>th</sup> (2:30pm)</p>	
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<p><b>Christmas Jumper Day</b> (Supporting 'Save the Children' charity)</p> <p>Wear a Christmas/Festive jumper instead of school sweatshirt/cardigan (only). are entirely optional and will be collected via ParentPay.</p>	
w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<p><b>Christmas Jumpers</b></p> <p>We welcome children to replace their school sweatshirt/cardigan (only) with a Christmas jumper throughout the week.</p>	
w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 8.55am	<p><b>Christmas Singing each morning</b> (8:55am)</p> <p>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):</p> <p>Reception: Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Year 1 &amp; 2: Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Years 3 - 6: Wed 18<sup>th</sup></p>	
w/c 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<p><b>Christmas Parties</b></p> <p>Please send your child in non uniform on the day of their party</p> <p>Reception: Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Year 1 &amp; 2: Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Year 3 &amp; 4: Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Year 5 &amp; 6: Thur 19<sup>th</sup></p>	
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<p><b>Grandparents' Christmas Craft Morning</b> (9:30am -10:30am <i>or</i> 10:50am - 11:50am)</p> <p>We are really excited about this special craft morning! More information to follow.</p> <p>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></p>	
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am	<p><b>Upper Key Stage 2 Carol Service</b> (Yr 5 - 6)</p> <p>At St. Mary's Church, Haxby</p> <p>More information to follow.</p>	
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<p><b>Christmas Dinner</b></p> <p>Please book via School Grid by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30pm	<p><b>Key Stage 1 Carol Service</b> (Yr 1 &amp; Yr 2)</p> <p>At St. Mary's Church, Haxby</p> <p>More information to follow.</p>	
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1.45pm	<p><b>Lower Key Stage 2 Carol Service</b> (Yr 3 - 4)</p> <p>At St. Mary's Church, Haxby</p> <p>More information to follow.</p>	

Reminder: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 is the last day of the school term.

Children return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



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](http://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance)



This Week's Attendance



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



## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This week, the children have been enjoying finalising their roles in our nativity 'I-Spy Christmas'. Thank you for your help in providing costumes and sending them in to school. Bringing together the acting, character lines and songs has brought the nativity to life and we are very much looking forward to sharing it with you next week.



In **phonics** this week, the children have applied their knowledge of the phonemes learnt so far this year, to continue to practise sounding out and blending words to both read and spell them. They have also continued to practise reading words which add 's', for example, cups – sings – tins.

On Monday, some exciting visitors appeared in Reception. The Christmas tricky word elves have arrived! The children were introduced to the tricky word elf challenge. Each day, the children will be looking out for the Christmas elves and reading their tricky words. We will keep you updated!



In **maths** this week, we have learnt different ways of making 5. The children decorate Christmas trees with five baubles, for example, 3 red and 2 blue. Then they recorded their additions in a number sentence.

### Reminder

Next Thursday, **Class 1** 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.

Thank you for your help in ensuring that reading books are returned on Monday each week and homework folders and tricky word chains are returned each Friday. This is very helpful.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team





## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Every week is a busy week in school but the run-up to Christmas in Key Stage 1 is even busier than usual! This week, we took to the stage and put all of our songs, dances, lines, actions and even costumes together in an intensive week of rehearsing for our nativity production. It was wonderful to see the whole show come together so well; the children worked so hard concentrating on the actions so that they knew when to come on the stage and deliver their parts. We would like to say a great big thank you for all your support with getting costumes and helping the children to learn their lines. We can't wait to show you the finished result!



Of course, the nativity isn't the only thing that has happened this week. In English, we have written our own versions of the story "Emma Jane's Aeroplane", using the book as a model and changing it with our own ideas. In our versions, Emma Jane was flying her aeroplane around York, making animal friends and taking them on adventures. From a cat who wanted an ice cream at Creepy Crawlies to a duck that wanted to swim in Wigginton duck pond, our stories were full of imagination and exciting language. We worked really hard over several days on the stories and the results were amazing! Well done for writing such entertaining stories, everyone.



On Thursday, Hannah from Phunky Foods came into school to teach Class 3 and 4 all about healthy eating. After her whole-school assembly, in which she showed us what it meant to eat a balanced diet, she came into class and gave us a practical cooking lesson in which we made a fruit crunch. We learned how to safely cut fruit with a knife using the 'tunnel' and 'claw' grip techniques. We also learned about food hygiene and why it is so important. But best of all, we were able to make a healthy snack and then eat it afterwards!



What a busy and exciting time we are having in Key Stage 1! This is a truly magical time of year and we are all excited for the last two weeks of term.

Have a wonderful weekend and we shall see you on Monday for another fabulous week of learning!

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





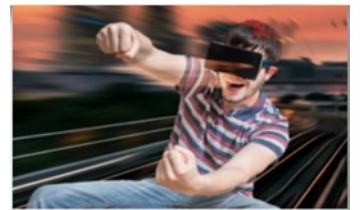
## Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)



It was lovely to begin our week by welcoming so many of our parents and carers into school for the Lower Junior 'Stone Age Open Classroom event'. The children thoroughly enjoyed showcasing some of their fantastic art and design technology work; we know that all the children were really proud of their efforts. It wasn't only the children's work that caught our eye - some of the adult's cave drawings on Monday were very impressive too! Thank you to all of you who were able to join us and we really hope you enjoyed it!



In computing this week, the children began their 'Simulations' unit. They learnt that computer simulations can represent real or imaginary situations. They considered when a simulation might be used instead of a real life situation. For example, a pilot's cockpit simulation is beneficial as it would be too dangerous to learn how to fly a plane without the prior practise. Next, as a class, we thought carefully about the advantages and disadvantages of using simulations instead of the real thing. In the next lesson, the children will explore a given simulation and evaluate its usefulness when compared to a real life situation.



With Christmas rapidly approaching, and the Grandparents' Christmas Craft morning on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, we would appreciate it if you could save your cardboard toilet rolls. Please send them into school with your children next week.

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 wonderful weekend.

**Mr Daniel, Miss Hodgson, and Miss Clapham**



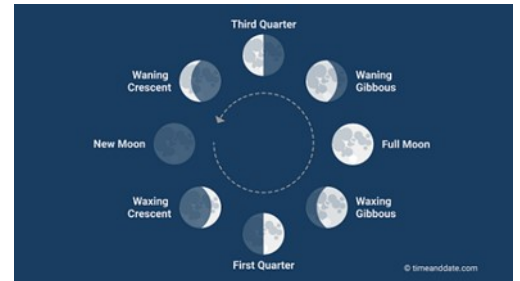


## Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



In our study of Christianity, we have been learning about how Christians follow the teachings of Jesus. One such person we focused upon was Mother Teresa. We learnt about the key historical events in her life, the work that she undertook and the impact of this work on the world. We discussed how her actions reflected her Christian faith and how she followed Jesus' teachings.

As part of our science lessons this week, we have been learning about the phases of the moon. We learnt that the moon rotates whilst it orbits the Earth so that the same side is always facing towards us. The children were especially excited to talk about how the moon was formed.



In English this week, during our narrative work, we have started to look at the impact of incorporating dialogue within our writing whilst also building suspense and tension to engage the reader. The story we are basing our writing on is 'The Controller'; this follows the story of a young boy who has to help his mother escape from a computer game. We have also looked at developing cohesion throughout our work in order for our stories to flow and the events to link together.

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

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





## PTA News



- ◆ The second order of Christmas cards and gifts have arrived in school and will be sorted today. You should receive your order either today or early next week.
- ◆ ASDA Cashpot - Thank you to all you registered for ASDA – is has made an AMAZING £391.45 for school!



- ◆ **Big Soft Ginger Cookies** (source: [www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com))

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup (170g) butter, softened
- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar, plus additional for rolling
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1/4 cup (80g) molasses
- 2-1/4 cups (281g) all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt



### Directions

- Preheat the oven to 180°.
- In a large bowl, cream butter and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg and molasses.
- Combine the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt; gradually add to the creamed mixture and mix well.
- Roll into 1-1/2-in. balls, then roll in additional sugar. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
- Bake at 180° until puffy and lightly browned, 10-12 minutes.
- Remove to wire racks to cool.





**Fully Funded School Support Course**

**Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3**

\*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

**6 Week Course  
Mon - Fri  
Daily sessions  
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am  
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm**

**www.studysmartuk.online**

Available in the following levels:

<b>Level 1:</b>	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
<b>Level 2:</b>	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
<b>Level 3:</b>	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

\*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.



**FOR AGES 5-11**

# Christmas Holiday FOOTBALL



**FOUNDATION**

York City Foundation's Holiday courses are designed for both boys and girls aged 5-11 years, who are enthusiastic about football. Ideal for beginners and young players looking to develop their skills, in a fun, engaging, safe and friendly environment.

## JOIN YORK CITY FOUNDATION FOR SOME HOLIDAY FOOTBALL FUN

**10AM TO 3PM**

**RECEIVE A YCFC GOODIE BAG**

**£14 PER DAY**

<b>Monday 23rd December</b>	<b>1 Day</b>	<b>£14</b>
Millthorpe Secondary School YO23 1WF - Indoor Sports Hall		
<b>Tuesday 24th December</b>	<b>1 Day</b>	<b>£14</b>
Millthorpe Secondary School YO23 1WF - Indoor Sports Hall		
<b>Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd January 2025</b>	<b>2 Days</b>	<b>£28</b>
Millthorpe Secondary School YO23 1WF - Indoor Sports Hall		

**ONLINE BOOKING AVAILABLE FOR ALL COURSES AT**  
[officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity](http://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity)

Advance booking is required and is available online up to 48 hours prior to the course start date unless sold out. We regret we cannot offer a refund for illness or other reasons for non-attendance.

**YORK CITY FC FOUNDATION OFFERS FOOTBALL HOLIDAY FUN COURSES EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY AT VARIOUS VENUES ACROSS THE CITY**

Bookings for February Half Term & Easter 2025 will go live from Wednesday 8th January 2025 via [officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity](http://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/yorkcity).  
Check out our social media for the details in advance.

## GIFT VOUCHER

# Clare's Kitchen Cookery Club SPECIMEN

**COOKERY GIFT VOUCHERS; THE PERFECT EXPERIENTIAL GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS**

Clare's Kitchen after-school Cookery Club runs weekly after school for 2 hours during term time. Children plan, prepare and cook a fun recipe together. They learn a whole range of independent skills, as well as having fun and gaining confidence. There are fun 'Bake Offs' around celebrated holidays and special days such as Halloween, Christmas, St Valentine and Easter. See us in action on social media:

<http://www.facebook.com/clareshkitchenyork>  
instagram @clareshkitchenyork  
Email Clare [clare@clares-kitchen.co.uk](mailto:clare@clares-kitchen.co.uk) Mobile 07813182216