

Friday 7th November 2025

2025/26 No: 8



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk



Acting Deputy Headteacher's Message

Welcome back to a new half-term! We hope everyone had a restful time over the holidays. It has been lovely to see the children all excited to continue their learning journey this term.

As you know, we aim to promote a strong **love of reading** across the whole school and I would like to share with you some theory behind why we do so.

Reading with your child is one of the most powerful ways to support their learning and wellbeing. It's not just about schoolwork - it's about connection, curiosity and developing a lifelong love of reading.

Recent research shows that children who read for enjoyment have stronger literacy skills and do better in school overall. The National Literacy Trust found that children who enjoy reading are twice as likely to have above-average reading ability. Studies from UCL's Centre for Longitudinal Studies show that children read to at age 5 achieve better exam results at 16 and maintain stronger vocabularies into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure also improves mental wellbeing, empathy, creativity and even performance in subjects like maths.

Sharing books with your child such as reading aloud, taking turns or simply talking about stories, does far more than improve literacy. It:

- Builds vocabulary and comprehension
- Models enthusiasm and curiosity
- Strengthens emotional bonds
- Encourages empathy and imagination



Research shows that children whose parents/carers enjoy reading are much more likely to develop that same love. In one study, 81% of children whose parents/carers liked reading also enjoyed it themselves.

Simple Ways to Foster a Love of Reading

1. Make it part of your routine Ten minutes a day is enough. Choose a cosy time such as bedtime, after dinner or a quiet weekend moment - and make it enjoyable.
2. Let your child choose Choice fuels motivation. Comic books, magazines, audiobooks and non-fiction all count - what matters is that they are engaged.
3. Share your excitement React together - laugh, wonder and predict what might happen next. Your enthusiasm is contagious.
4. Talk about what you read Ask open questions: "What would you have done?" or "Why do you think that happened?" This helps children think deeply and builds comprehension.
5. Keep reading aloud Even confident readers love being read to. It exposes them to richer language and helps maintain enjoyment.

The Lasting Impact

Reading together helps children see books as a source of pleasure and discovery - not just schoolwork. It builds confidence, empathy and imagination, laying the foundation for lifelong learning.

Thank you for helping nurture a love of reading - one story at a time.

Best Wishes

Deb Robinson

Acting Deputy Head





This week, our catering provider Dolce treated everyone to a fabulous Bonfire Night themed menu - complete with tasty Bonfire Bangers and delicious chocolate Catherine Wheels!

A huge thank you goes to Jess, Wendy, Tasha, and Penny for making such a fantastic effort with the service and presentation - their effort and enthusiasm really lit up lunchtime!

We hope everyone enjoyed the cosy, seasonal flavours as much as we did.

Check out the back of this newsletter for details of Dolce's upcoming Christmas competition.

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.



York City Council funds sponsorship of togetherness.co.uk (formerly inourplace.co.uk), making invaluable NHS-developed learning and content freely available to local parents. Togetherness is an online learning environment created by psychologists and health practitioners, offering accessible support for emotional health and wellbeing - proven to positively impact mental health, behaviour, and relationships.

There are pathways for all ages - from pregnancy through to 19 years - supporting parents, carers and young people in understanding child development, strengthening family relationships, and improving emotional wellbeing. **All courses are free for York residents using the access code: RAISE.**

Please see attached document for the newsletter

Going to school **every day** makes it easier for your child to keep up in lessons.

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.



Children in Need

Children in Need is a charity that supports disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. On **Friday 14th November**, we'd like to join the nation in raising money for this very popular charity. All children are invited to come to school wearing non-uniform on this day; we only ask that clothes and footwear are suitable for a day at school please. Your child(ren) could wear spots or yellow, like Pudsey, or a Children in Need accessory.



During the week 10th - 14th November, if you would like to, and are able to make a donation, please do so via Parent Pay. We will then notify you in due course of how much money school has raised for this worthy cause.

Thank you.



Remembrance Day



In respect of the national observance of Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11th November, all children have been given a poppy in school between Tuesday 3rd and Friday 7th November. During the week, children have completed a range of related educational activities designed to inform them of the importance of this day of observance (at an age - appropriate level). If you would like to make a donation to The Poppy Appeal, run by The Royal British Legion, you are welcome to do so via ParentPay.

Thank you.



Class Assemblies

As a reminder, we are looking forward to sharing class assemblies with parents/carers - they're always sure to bring joy! Each class will showcase some of their learning in a 15-20 minute assembly that parents/carers are invited to attend. These assemblies will start at 3pm. Of course, we do understand that not all parents/carers are able to attend all events depending on other commitments; we are hoping that in sharing all dates with good advance notice, this may support as many parents/carers as possible to come along. Your child/ren's class assembly date is shown in the table below. These dates will also be put on our school website calendar for future reference and we will share reminders nearer the time.

Date	Class	Date	Class	Date	Class
Friday 7 th November	Class 6	Friday 6 th February	Class 11	Friday 1 st May	Class 8
Friday 14 th November	Class 10	Friday 6 th March	Class 2	Friday 22 nd May	Class 1
Friday 21 st November	Class 3	Friday 17 th April	Class 5	Friday 12 th June	Class 4
Friday 23 rd January	Class 9			Friday 26 th June	Class 7



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



A huge welcome back to our wonderful Reception children! We have loved hearing about the children's busy half term breaks. They have returned filled with enthusiasm and wonder for another exciting topic; '**Let's celebrate**'. This half term, we will be learning about lots of different festivals and celebrations including the children's own birthday celebrations.

In **phonics**, we have been so pleased with how the children have retained the phonemes learnt so far! We have learnt three new digraphs this week; ff, ll, ss and the phoneme j. Children have also resumed their reading practice sessions and are enjoying discussing the stories within our wordless and worded books.

In **maths**, this week, the children have continued to explore their understanding of number with a focus on the number 4 and 5. They have experimented with addition skills by finding different ways that these numbers can be made. For example, a ladybird can have 3 and 2 spots making 5 altogether.



After learning about how to be safe at Bonfire Night celebrations, the children have completed firework and space themed activities in our areas of provision. The children also practised their writing skills to add describing words to their marble rolled firework scenes. It is amazing to see the segmenting being used to spell and write words like pop, whizz (wizz) and bang.

This week, the children have also begun to learn some of our nativity songs. We hope they will soon be singing them to you at home!



Thank you for sharing entries of your half-term activities on Tapestry. It has been lovely for the children to share these with us.

We would appreciate birthday uploads on Tapestry. This can either be your 4th or 5th birthday celebrations. These will then be shared as part of our Let's Celebrate topic.

Your children are entitled to free milk until their 5th birthday. If you would like them to continue to receive this, please visit the Cool Milk website (using the link) to sign up and pay for this.



Thank you <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to discuss these with us.

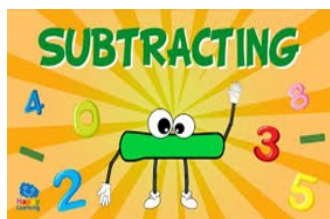
**Mrs Robinson, Mrs Daniel, Mrs Greenwood and the
Reception team**



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



It was so lovely to see everyone back after a well-deserved break. We hope that everyone enjoyed their week off. We certainly came back to school with a bang: in English we were writing firework poems inspired by Bonfire Night. We were dazzled by the sights and sounds of fireworks and collected vocabulary to describe the colours and movements as well as the nouns of objects associated with the event. After grouping these alphabetically, we used our words to write acrostic poems. In an acrostic poem, each line of the poem needs to start with the first letter of a key word (e.g. "firework"). Using our word banks, we wrote gorgeous poems that really captured the sensations of Bonfire Night. Afterwards, we produced some stunning firework art. Thank you to all the people who sent in a cardboard tube. The children made stamps by cutting strips into the end of the tubes and splaying them out, like spokes. These were then dipped into paint and used to print on paper. The effect was of explosions of colour in the night sky. It was so simple to do but so effective!



In maths, we have been working on subtraction. We explored the concept of "taking away" both practically and visually, especially how the number gets smaller. We learned some of the vocabulary associated with subtraction and thought about real life situations in which subtraction applies, such as when eating items of food or giving objects away. We then linked this to the skills and knowledge we had developed before half term, developing written and diagrammatic methods such as the use of number lines to solve subtraction problems. The children worked carefully and it was lovely to see their confidence as they solved problems.

We have continued to learn about habitats but this week we've looked further afield to explore global habitats and climate. In geography, we learned about polar regions and we looked at the world map and where The Arctic and Antarctica were in relation to the Equator. We learned that the climate of these regions was extremely cold and that the animals who live there need to be specially adapted to survive. In science, we learned more about this and identified which animals live in which region. We were interested to learn that, although the climates were very similar for both, the animals that lived there were completely different!



Well done everyone. It was lovely to see you all back in school and we are proud of what a great start you have made to this half term.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall



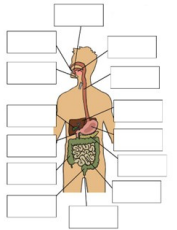
Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

It was lovely to welcome the children back after the half term holiday and to make a start on all the exciting learning we have in store over the coming weeks.



This week, the children have considered the meaning of this half term's big question, 'Do I have to?'. This question is linked to the fundamental British Value 'Rule of Law'. As part of their learning, the children were asked about what rules they have at home and in school. The children were also asked to consider what would happen if we didn't have our three overarching school expectations, 'Be Ready', 'Be Respectful' and 'Be Safe'. After discussing the rules that they follow, the children identified that as a society we all have rules to abide by - they are the law. We all agreed that although there are some rules that we don't like or would like to change, they are needed to ensure the safety and equal treatment of everyone. The children then identified what the consequences of breaking the law would be compared to breaking a rule in school. At the end of the lesson, we all agreed that rules are vitally important in our lives so that everyone can feel safe and respected.

In science this week, the children have been fascinated to learn about the human digestive system. They learnt some key scientific vocabulary including oesophagus, stomach, intestines and rectum and the important role each one of them plays in the digestion process. Next lesson, the children are already looking forward to producing their own colourful story board to illustrate the journey of something they eat through their own digestive system.



A massive well done to Class 6 for their wonderful Egyptian Extravaganza class assembly on Friday afternoon. Class 7 and 8 thoroughly enjoyed watching it and it was a fantastic reminder of all the things we have been learning about in History. We hope that Class 6 parents / carers enjoyed it as much as we did performing it for you.



A little reminder: We would like to remind you all that we will be holding our Lower Junior Open Classroom Event on **Monday 10th November** from **2.40pm** so that the children can share some of the fabulous Ancient Egyptian work they have done with their parents/carers.

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**

Year 5

While the Year 6 children have been away, in English we focused on a series of 'slow writes', giving us the chance to work together as a class to craft well-considered pieces of writing. We took time to select sentence structures deliberately for effect, ensured our paragraphs flowed coherently while avoiding repetition, and carefully chose vocabulary to convey our ideas precisely. Throughout the process, we reflected on our choices and shared constructive feedback with one another, helping us to refine our work. By the end of the lessons, we had developed a much clearer understanding of how to structure writing effectively and how to make our ideas engaging and purposeful.



In reading, we continued to deepen our understanding of different question types and explored effective strategies for finding accurate answers. We focused on studying texts carefully before attempting each question, paying close attention to key details, vocabulary and the overall meaning. After completing the questions, we worked collaboratively as a class to discuss the strengths of our responses and identify areas where our answers could be improved. Through these discussions, we learned how to justify our thinking with evidence from the text and to consider alternative perspectives.

Throughout the autumn term, we have been learning to play the ukulele. We began by exploring how to hold the instrument correctly and how to strum in time with a steady beat. As we became more confident, we learned to play a range of basic chords and started performing simple songs together as a class. Throughout our lessons, we have improved our sense of rhythm, listening skills and ability to work as a group. Learning the ukulele has been a fun and rewarding experience and we are proud of how much progress we have made.



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

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod

Year 6

For all parents whose children have not told you what they did whilst at Robinwood, here is a brief summary. All staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities on offer: canoeing, archery, caving, trapeze, giant swing, zip wire, nightline, Knight's Quest, Dungeon of Doom, climbing, team challenge and the infamous Piranha Pool. You can see photos and some short videos of what we got up to on Ralph Butterfield Primary School's X account (formally Twitter).

The activities varied across each day and challenged them in a range of areas: mental, physical, overcoming fears and teamwork. All children completed every task to the best of their individual ability which at times took them out of their comfort zone.

We are very proud of all the children and what they achieved on an individual basis. Their approach to this whole experience was fantastic and the children were a pleasure to take and spend time with. We thoroughly enjoyed being able to spend time with the children outside of the normal school environment, which helped to deepen our relationship with each individual.

Thank you for all your kind messages and we wish all a restful weekend (apart from the washing).

Mr Bennett, Ms Dawson, Mrs Stephenson & Mr Keaney



JOIN THE YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE YOUTH COMMISSION

Are you aged 10-25?

Do you live in York or North Yorkshire?

Do you have opinions about Police, Fire & Crime?

Make your voice heard!

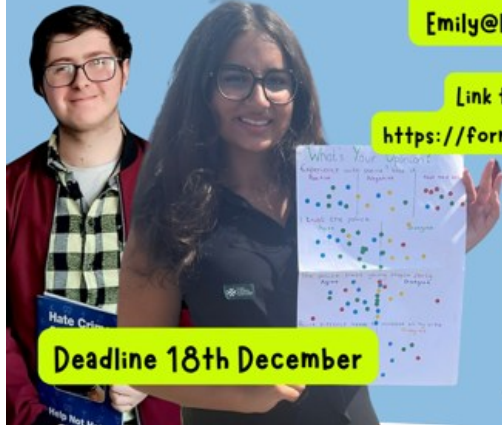
Questions? Contact Emily at
Emily@leaders-unlocked.org

Link to application form -
<https://forms.gle/jLNqvB68ob7EPAEe7>

Deadline 18th December



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