

## Acting Headteacher's Message

Hello

I hope your first week of the New Year has been a positive one. It has certainly been lovely for us in school to welcome back the children. There has been lots of fabulous creativity in lessons this week, and, as always, the children are engaging positively with their learning. It is always harder for some children after a holiday and we are super proud of those who have been supported to overcome initial anxieties on their return.

On Monday, our whole school assembly was about being respectful by using good manners. Mutual respect, manners and courtesy are fundamental in our communication and a building block for developing strong relationships throughout our lives. By practicing basic good manners, we are showing those around us that we respect them and are considerate to their feelings. This makes them feel better, and us too.

Teaching children good manners is an important part of a child's overall development. It would be a miracle if everyone was perfectly mannered all the time but it is only human to make mistakes. So, it is important that we use these times as a way to teach children to use their manners in the best possible way. By focusing on and highlighting a child's efforts and successes, positive reinforcement helps children understand the value of good manners, boosts their self-esteem, and reinforces their commitment to practising polite behaviour in various social settings.

### 1. Be a Role Model

By displaying good manners ourselves, we create a positive and influential environment that fosters the development of a child's social skills and teaches them the importance of respectful behaviour.

### 2. Praise Good Behaviour

By consistently praising a child's good manners, we not only reinforce positive habits but also boost a child's self-confidence and motivation to exhibit good manners consistently.

### 3. Empathy and Respect

Teaching a child to put themselves in someone else's shoes and consider how their actions may impact others. This helps them to become more aware of the need for polite behaviour, encouraging them to communicate respectfully, listen attentively, and respond to others' needs with kindness.



### 4. Use Positive Reinforcement

A child associates good manners with positive outcomes, such as adult approval, recognition, or even small rewards. This creates a positive cycle where a child is motivated to consistently exhibit good manners because they have experienced the benefits of doing so.

### 5. Start Early

Starting early also allows a child to internalise and normalise polite actions, making them more likely to carry these habits into their later years. They then develop a solid understanding of social norms, empathy, and respect for others, paving the way for positive interactions and relationships throughout their lives.

At school, we encourage every child to use and practise good manners, whether that is in the classroom, on the playground, at lunchtime or outside of school time.

Hopefully you would agree that here at Ralph Butterfield Primary School, we highly value the importance of parents/carers and staff working together. We are approachable and always open to parent/carer communications and do encourage you to call or email us throughout the week. We are always looking to help and support as much as possible, in any way we can. Either telephone 01904 768325 and press option 3 or email [RalphButterfield.School@york.gov.uk](mailto:RalphButterfield.School@york.gov.uk) and we will make arrangements for the person best placed at school to respond to you.

I hope you can enjoy a pleasant, and hopefully warmer, weekend.

Best wishes, *Helen Stephenson*



## Keeping Your Family Safe Online - Online Course

York Learning are running their “Keeping Your Family Safe Online” course, via zoom, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 6:30 – 8:30pm. This course is **FREE**.

It’s a great chance to build confidence and awareness about keeping children safe online. From learning about applying filters on your browser, setting up childrens’ access accounts on streaming services including YouTube, understanding the dangers of children using their adults’ mobile phone or tablets, that have one click payment set up and using games consoles to play online games and therefore having contact with unknown people.

Spaces need to be booked, which will then mean you are sent the link (and codes) to join the course. Book here: [https://book.yorklearning.org.uk/Page/Prospectus\\_CourseOverview?uio\\_id=41486](https://book.yorklearning.org.uk/Page/Prospectus_CourseOverview?uio_id=41486)



Learning Skills Employability



There will be a theme menu served on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**; this menu is live on SchoolGrid and meals should be booked in the same way as usual. You can find more detail about each dish by clicking the ‘info’ symbol within the booking function.

This day is also ‘School Census Day’. As per the letter sent home this week, we are looking for support from those parents/carers with children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2, to encourage their child to have a hot dinner on this day. Thank you.

Should you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding school meals, please do not hesitate to contact Dolce Customer Care. Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, on **01942 707709** or by email to [customer care@dolce.co.uk](mailto:customer care@dolce.co.uk)



## Applications for Primary School Places

If your child or children were born between 01/09/20 and 31/08/21 you need to apply for a primary school place for them by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Visit <https://www.york.gov.uk/PrimaryAdmissions> for more info or log on to [york.gov.uk/ParentPortal](http://york.gov.uk/ParentPortal).

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Welcome back! It was so lovely to see everyone after their Christmas break. All of the children came back to school with a renewed enthusiasm to learn and with exciting holiday news to share.

Our new theme for this half-term is 'Amazing Animals'. We shall be taking a journey around the world to explore different habitats and meeting the animals who live there. More information about this half-term can be found on our school website in the Reception classes' page.



In **phonics** this week, the children were excited to begin to learn a new set of phonemes. The new phonemes are digraphs (two letters which make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters which make one sound) and those learnt this week are **ai**, **ee**, **igh** and **oa**. We have also learnt the catchphrases for each grapheme. These help us to remember the phoneme (sound) that each grapheme (the way the phoneme is written) makes. For example, the catchphrase for **ai** is '**tail in the rain**'. We have also continued to consolidate the phonemes and tricky words already learnt in the autumn term.



In **maths** this week, the children have investigated some new numbers in detail. These are the numbers **6**, **7** and **8**. They have investigated how these numbers can be represented and used their previous knowledge of subitising to 5 to support counting to these higher numbers. We have also practised counting on from 5, up to these numbers, when using a tens frame.



This week, our topic has focussed on the season 'winter'. The children have enjoyed finding out about how nature and the weather change at this time of year through reading fact books and themed stories. They have used their design and repeating pattern skills to colour a hat, glove and scarf set. The children have also investigated winter and summer clothes and compared the differences.



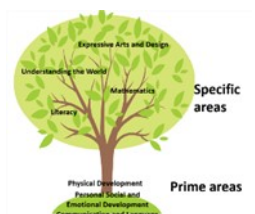
### Reminders

- PE kits need to be in school on Thursday and Friday, each week please.
- Reading books (both scheme readers and reading for pleasure books) to be returned each Monday.
- Homework folders and tricky words chains to be returned each Friday please.
- Next Thursday, **Class 2** 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.

If you would like to discuss anything, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via the school office or speak to us on the playground.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team





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

## A Warm Welcome

We would like to welcome Miss Olivia Ryan to Ralph Butterfield Primary School. Miss Ryan is a beginner teacher and she will be working alongside Mrs Atkinson to teach Class 5, during the spring and summer terms. Please do say hello to Miss Ryan when you see her.



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)

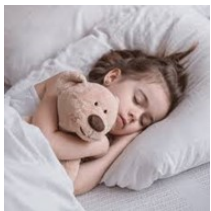


## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



Happy New Year everyone! It has been so lovely to see everyone back in school and to hear about the wonderful things people have been doing over the Christmas holidays. The children have come back even more determined than ever and made a great start to the year. In English, the children wrote recounts about their holidays and they had so much to tell us about what they ate, who they saw, the fun and the games they played. They used conjunctions and adjectives to make their writing even more interesting. So many children had had such a wonderful time, between cinema trips, pantomimes, fun in the snow and, of course, Christmas itself.

Our Big Question for this half term is "Why should I respect you?" which looks at the fundamental British value of mutual tolerance and respect. We thought about situations in which people show respect even if, for example, they are competing against each other in sport and ways in which we show respect to other people in school and in our society. We also read the story "The Ugly Duckling", and thought about how the duckling was disrespected because he was so different to the others. The children were very empathetic as they discussed how it made the duckling feel and how they would react if they were in that situation.



In PHSE, we have been thinking about what it means to be healthy and the ways in which we can lead a healthy lifestyle. We learned that there are lots of things that can affect our bodies and minds, and the habits that we can get into to ensure that they are strong and work the way they are supposed to. These include eating a healthy balanced diet with five different portions of fruit and vegetables and getting between 30 and 60 minutes of exercise each day. We also learned about the importance of Key Stage 1-aged children getting around 11 hours of good quality sleep each night, limiting screen time (especially in the hour before bed) and maintaining good hand hygiene after visiting the toilet or before eating. We also learned all about oral hygiene, how plaque acid builds up and causes tooth decay and how brushing twice daily, eating and drinking healthily, and visiting the dentist regularly can all help to maintain strong, healthy teeth.



Wow! What a busy and jam-packed week we have had! Well done for making such a great start to 2025 everyone!

Miss Tattersley, Mrs Atkinson and Mr Merrall



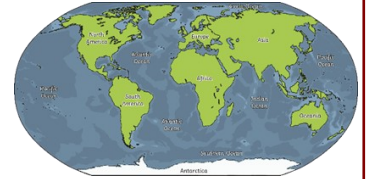


## Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

Year 3 and 4 have had a brilliant start to the spring term! The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and eager to discover what our new topics are.



Our overarching geography theme this half term is called 'I'm a survivor' and is all about mapping skills and different climates around the world. To begin the topic, the children have learnt the 8 compass points and have given verbal and written instructions using these alongside other directional vocabulary. Then, the children used grid references and explored atlases; they quickly discovered how easy it was to find a location using the atlas index and grid reference. Afterwards, the children used the atlases to help them locate and name the seven continents and five oceans. They then labelled these on world maps. The children have already become much more confident using atlases - great work Year 3 and 4!



Art is all about paper sculpture this half term. This week, the children began the topic by looking at a variety of paper sculptures from different artists and discussed the artwork in detail. Afterwards, they researched and practised a variety of paper folding techniques, including creating a fringe, accordion, loop, curl, cone and zipper. In the coming weeks, the children will be designing their own paper sculpture based on an outdoor scene such as a park with play equipment or a river with a bridge that is surrounded by trees. *For the children to be able to do this, and have a sturdy base for their sculptures, we would appreciate it if you could save your empty cereal boxes or cardboard boxes that are between A4 and A3 size and send them into school next week. Thank you.*

All three classes have loved the start of our new whole class reading book 'The Stolen Spear'. The children were instantly hooked on the story of a young Stone Age boy called Wolf and his dog Shadow. The story has already recapped vocabulary and reinforced how Stone Age people lived from our history topic last term. During our reading sessions, the children have worked really hard on their comprehension skills, asked relevant questions to help their understanding and worked out the meaning of new vocabulary. We can't wait to see where the story takes us.



This half-term, the children will be taught gymnastics by Mr Stephenson from Total Sports. Please can we ask that all children have an **indoor PE kit** in school, **including pumps**, and that all items are fully named. Our PE days are: Class 6 - Monday and Friday / Class 7 - Tuesday and Friday / Class 8 - Monday and Friday

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 relaxing weekend.

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

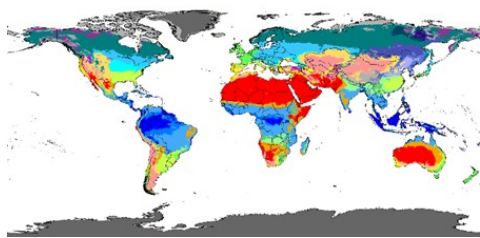


## Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



In our English lessons, we have been recapping and recalling the important grammatical features previously taught that are required in Year 5 and 6 writing. We revised our use of word classes and recapped a variety of punctuation. We also practiced changing the structure of our sentences.

As part of our cross-curricular learning, we have been writing an explanation text about the water cycle. Our particular focus was to make sure that we wrote a cohesive piece of writing with a range of varied sentence structures, openers, punctuation, higher-level scientific vocabulary and Year 5/6 spellings. We were taught about the key features and structure of an explanation text. Then, we were provided with modelled examples which we based our own explanation texts upon.



In geography, we are starting to learn about 'Natural Disasters' and the force of nature. In our first lesson, we were taught that around the world, dependent upon their position on the globe, countries experience different climates. We examined two contrasting locations (Dallol in Ethiopia and Oymyakon in Russia) and plotted their average daily temperatures onto a line graph. We then used this information to answer questions and draw conclusions, such as whether they experience seasons as we do. This exercise helped us to understand how vastly different climates can be on planet Earth.

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm, the meeting to discuss SATs will be held in the school hall for parents and carers of Year 6 children. We look forward to seeing you there.

As always, if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

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

## A Mind Of Their Own

A 4 week video & discussion based course to help parents support the emotional well being of their child.

Starting Thurs 23rd Jan 7-9pm  
@Haxby Methodist Church, York  
YO32 2JJ

Tackling subjects like:  
self-esteem, managing strong  
emotions, anxiety, body  
confidence & belonging



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PARENTING COURSE:  
[www.fmy.org.uk](http://www.fmy.org.uk)



FAMILY MATTERS YORK

### Fortnightly **Topic Talks** Wednesdays in Spring Term 2025:

**Comic Strip Conversations** 22.1.25- 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person  
**Autism and Adolescence** 5.2.25- 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person  
**Transitions** 12.3.25- 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person  
**Developing Independence** 26.3.25 - 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person

### Fortnightly **Phone line** (mornings) and **drop-in** (afternoons) Spring 2025:

Wednesday **15th January 2025** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.  
 Wednesday **29th January 2025** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.  
 Wednesday **12th February** 9 a.m. -12 noon only, no afternoon session  
 Wednesday **5th March 2025** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.  
 Wednesday **19th March 2025** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

### Parent Group: **Topic Talks virtual (a.m.) and repeated in person (p.m.)**

Topic Talks led by the Specialist Teaching Team for Autism, including time for questions and peer support.

**Virtual: 10-11 a.m. On Microsoft Teams.** Due to confidentiality issues, we will be unable to discuss named children during this time.

**In Person: 1.30-2.30 p.m. at The YIKS All About Autism Hub, Clifton Children's Centre, (In front of Clifton Green School), YO30 6BF.**

### Parent/Carer Phone Line and Drop-in

The Specialist Teaching Team Autism are offering parents/carers the opportunity to talk to a member of the team regarding general issues and concerns about children/young people with autism.

**Phone line support: 9-12 noon** 20 minutes is allocated per phone call.

**In person drop-in support. 1.30-2.30 p.m. at The YIKS All About Autism Hub, Clifton Children's Centre, (In front of Clifton Green School), YO30 6BF**

To **book a 20 minute phone line call** or to book your **virtual place** on a Microsoft Teams **Topic Talk** session, please email your name stating which Topic Talks you would like to book to: [parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk](mailto:parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk) For phone support, we require your name and a contact telephone number for us to call you. We will send you a time slot for your 20 minute call. If we receive a high volume of requests we may need to allocate spaces on the session on a first come, first served basis. **This is an admin email address and we are unable to forward or respond to queries via this email. Bookings close the Thursday before the session. For in person drop-in sessions, you do not need to book and you are welcome to simply arrive on the day.** Please be aware, sessions may be busy and you may need to wait to speak to a member of the team.




### Together we can make our streets safer

Crossing patrol vacancies are at an all time high. Are you free for an hour a day? If so, you can support road safety in your community, with starting pay of £12.80 per hour up to 8 hours per week.

Visit the council's website to find out how you can play a part in your community.  
[www.york.gov.uk/SchoolCrossingPatrols](http://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolCrossingPatrols)  
 Or, for a chat about the role, call: 01904 555579



### Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a caring, positive and proactive Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) to join our friendly staff team.

More details can be found on our school website.

[Click here](#)




Dolce are looking to employ a catering assistant, to work within our school kitchen, for 10 hours each week. The hours are 11:45am - 1:45pm and you would be joining a very friendly and supportive team.

Should you be interested in this role, please contact Mrs Moss (School Business Manager) and she will be able to provide you with more details.