

Friday 10th October 2025

2025/26 No: 5



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Black History Month - A Time for Reflection and Celebration

This week, our school came together for a special Monday morning assembly to mark the start of Black History Month. It was a meaningful moment for all pupils as we began to reflect on the importance of this month and what it represents.

In the UK, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and inspire positive changes for the future. During the assembly, we learned how this month gives us the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Black and Mixed Heritage people - not just in Britain, but across the world. The children were fascinated to discover that Black History Month first began in the United States, but has now become a global event observed in many countries. It's a time to learn about individuals and communities who have helped shape history, from trailblazers of the past to those making a difference in the world today. Our assembly included stories and discussion about influential figures from a variety of backgrounds. We also spoke about the importance of equality, respect, and understanding, values we aim to live by every day in school.

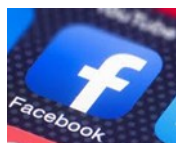
Throughout October, classes will continue exploring Black History through lessons, books, art, and discussion. We look forward to seeing what each class creates and discovers as we continue to learn and grow together.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson



PTA News



Contact Us

The school PTA has a [Facebook](#) page - which details all the latest news, and we also use this weekly newsletter to keep you updated.

Please contact us via email with any queries, offers for help or ideas: Ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com



Christmas Cards & Gifts



All children should have now come home with their design proofs. Please do place your orders directly online if you wish to purchase any items.

The deadline for orders is midday on Wednesday 15th October, 2025.

Any issues with ordering please contact us (via the email above) or Class Fundraising directly.



Events coming up:

Disco - After school disco scheduled for
Thursday 13th November, 2025

More details to follow!

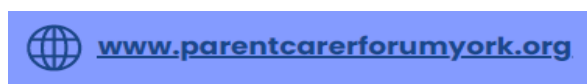




We are extremely happy to inform you that the new Scholastic book club catalogue has arrived and been given to your child today to bring home.

It gives you a brief snapshot of some of the fabulous books (fiction and non-fiction) that are on offer, although there are hundreds more online to choose from no matter what your interests are or who your favourite author is.

Ordering through our schoolbook club also has the bonus that for **every £1 you spend** it will **earn 20p for school** in Scholastic Rewards, which is amazing, and all rewards are used to purchase new books for school. If you would like to place an order, please visit <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/ralph-butterfield-primary/digital-book-club> and **place your order online by Friday 24th October**. Your order will then arrive in school after half term and be distributed to your child. If you would prefer the books to bypass your child and be handed directly to you, please email the office or speak to Miss Clapham so that this can be arranged. Please do not hesitate to ask Miss Clapham if you have any questions about the book club or ordering process. Many thanks for your continued support of our Scholastic book club



NEWS LETTER

Attached to this Newsletter

✉ Connect@pcforyork.co.uk



Statement from Penguin Random House

The 'Spy Pups' book series, by Andrew Cope, published by Penguin Random House, contains a URL which has been hacked.

In the front and/or back of some editions of the Spy Dog, Spy Cat, and Spy Pups series there is a reference to the author, Andrew Cope's, former website for the series which was owned and managed by him. We understand an unconnected third party has recently taken control of the domain name and is using it to display a different website with inappropriate adult content. This website is not associated with Puffin or Andrew Cope. Please do not visit it and ensure that children do not visit it either.

While the URL is not a part of, nor relevant to the story, it is recommend that parents/carers take action to prevent it being accessed; either by removing the books or removing the impacted pages. While we've only been made aware of the link in the Spy Pups series, it may be other books he's written contain the same URL, so we recommend that these are also checked.





CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL

This year's Admissions Consultation is being held by City of York Council and involves a number of Academy Trusts with schools within the city. The consultation will run between **8th October and 21st November 2025**. The consultation includes the admission policies and planned number of places available at each participating school/MAT in the year(s) of entry 2027-2028.

All documents can be found in their draft (pre-determined) form at www.york.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation during the consultation period.



Term Dates 2026/2027

	FIRST DAY	LAST DAY
	2026	
Autumn Term	Wednesday 9 th September	Friday 23 rd October
	<i>Half Term</i>	
	Monday 2 nd November	Friday 18 th December
	<i>End of Term</i>	
	2027	
Spring Term	Tuesday 5 th January	Friday 5 th February
	<i>Half Term</i>	
	Monday 15 th February	Friday 19 th March
	<i>End of Term</i>	
Summer Term	Monday 5 th April	Friday 28 th May
	<i>Half Term</i>	
	Tuesday 8 th June	Friday 23 rd July
	<i>End of School Year</i>	

School will also be closed on May Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May 2027.

The following dates are staff training days (no children in school).

- Monday 7th September 2026
- Tuesday 8th September 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Monday 7th June 2027
- Monday 26th July 2027

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



We have continued our learning journey in **phonics** this week by learning four new phonemes; h, b, f and l. The children are also excited to be making progress with sounding out and blending phonemes together to begin to read words. They are delighted that they are beginning to crack the code of reading!

If you would like more information about how we teach phonics, you can refer to the parent/carer section of the Little Wandle website. Please use this link.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



As part of our theme, Marvellous Me, we have continued to explore how people can help us to keep healthy and safe.

This week, we have learnt how firefighters work as a team to keep everyone safe. The children enjoyed reading texts which explained the role of a firefighter. They also practised their cutting and creative skills to design and make their own junk model emergency vehicles.

In maths this week, the children have continued their exploration of the numbers 1, 2 and 3. They have investigated '1 less' and used a range of equipment to build towers with 1 less, used their fingers to show 1 less and explored 1 less within our areas of provision. Later in the week, the children also began to look at composition of 1, 2 and 3. This is a study of how these numbers can be made with smaller numbers. For example, 3 horses can stand in 3 fields thus showing, 1, 1 and 1 make 3. Maybe your children could play some games with their toys at home to see how objects can be arranged to make 1, 2 and 3.

123

This week, the children have found out about Pantosaurus. They watched his song and heard his message. This song teaches children that their pants are special because it covers up their private parts. It also teaches children how to respond if someone asks to see/touch their private parts - with a firm "No".

They also enjoyed listening to the story, 'Pantosaurus and the power of pants'. The children listened well to the messages and engaged positively. If you would like to watch the song, please follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnroTxz7USI>



We hope you are enjoying the Tapestry observations which we regularly share with you. The children are so busy in their learning at school. If you would like to share any adventures, learning or theme related posts, we would love to share these in school.

Well done to the children for another fantastic week in Reception!

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





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



We have all been working hard in Key Stage 1 and having lots of fun with our learning this week. We continued to learn about habitats in science, and how different creatures belong in different places. In English we enjoyed a heart-warming story called “Lost And Found” by Oliver Jeffers. In the story, a boy opens his door to find a penguin on his doorstep. The boy tries everything he could to find out where the penguin had come from and learns that they come from the South Pole. So he sets out to return it to its habitat before learning that it wasn’t lost but just wanting a friend. We loved this story and were inspired to retell it in our own words. We sequenced pictures from the story and used them to plan our writing. We then wrote fabulous stories of our own.

In maths we have been learning about addition; we have learned some of the vocabulary and examples of when addition is used in real life. We then looked at some of the ways that addition problems can be represented and solved. It has involved accurate and careful counting but our children were so methodical. They did a fabulous job.



In P.E we have been learning different ways to move, using footwork techniques such as galloping, side-stepping, hop-scotch and skipping. We have loved moving around an area using these movements and including extra elements such as front and reverse pivots and high knees and elbows. What a lot of fun we have had!

In RE we have been learning about Muslims and what they believe. This week, we looked at what a mosque is and how they are special places where Muslims go to pray. We were fascinated by the features of the building and how people take off their shoes before they enter, using a washroom to clean their hands and arms. We learnt that this is because when they pray, they believe they are in front of Allah and want to show deep respect. We also learned how the mosque is angled towards Mecca and how the call to prayer is done from a special tower called a minaret.



We are so proud of our fabulous Key Stage 1 children and how they engage with their learning. Keep up the great work everyone!

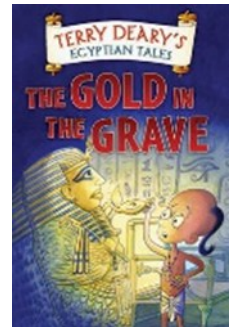
Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

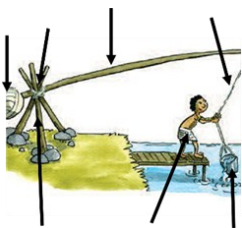
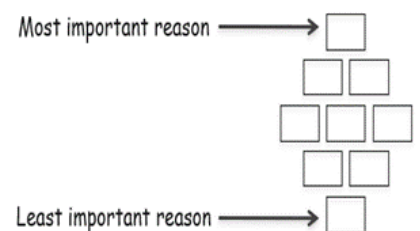
Year 3 and 4 have had another fantastic week and have enjoyed a variety of lessons linking to our overarching Ancient Egyptians theme, 'All Wrapped Up'.

Last week, the children read the story 'The Gold in the Grave' by Terry Deary, which is based on the funeral of King Tutankhamun, and created their own story board of the main events. This week, the children have looked closely at one of the main characters 'Paneb' and how to construct a detailed character description. Whilst exploring the character, the children have learnt how to include expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials of time and place in their writing. As a result, they have produced some really effective descriptive writing about Paneb including his family background, his future dreams, ambitions and his worries and fears.



In history the children have continued with their Ancient Egyptian topic, by learning about the importance of the River Nile to everyday life. They discovered that not only was it used for farming and irrigation, but it also provided drinking water, a mode of transportation and created trading links to other parts of Egypt. Once the children learnt about each one of these uses, they ordered them based on their importance using a 'diamond 9' grid. There was a debate regarding the most important use. Some children believed that the Nile providing drinking water for the Ancient Egyptians was its

most important use, whilst others argued the land being fertilised by the river was more crucial. At the other end of the spectrum, some children believed that using the Nile to sail on was least important whereas others believed it was less important as a defence mechanism for potential enemies.



To link to our work on the River Nile, in DT, the children have been finding out all about a clever little invention known as a Shaduf. They were used by the Ancient Egyptian farmers to collect water from the River Nile, which could then be used to water the crops ready for harvesting. As part of the DT lesson, we discussed how levers worked and then produced a labelled diagram showing the key components of a Shaduf, including the frame, fulcrum and counterweight. The children were excited to learn that they will be getting the opportunity to design, make and test out their very shaduf.

Please could you send your child(ren) in with a small yogurt pot and a standard sized cereal box for our Shaduf DT project 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 relaxing weekend.
Mr Daniel, Mr Carpenter, and Miss Clapham**

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

NSPCC: Speak Out Stay Safe

This week, our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the NSPCC's '*Speak Out. Stay Safe.*' programme - an important initiative designed to help children understand their right to feel safe and know what to do if something doesn't feel right. During the session, we explored how to recognise different types of abuse and unsafe situations in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. We also learned about the importance of speaking out and identified trusted adults they can talk to, both in and out of school, if we ever feel worried or unsure. We showed great maturity and thoughtfulness throughout the session, asking insightful questions and reflecting on how we can help to look after ourselves and others. It was a powerful reminder that speaking out is always the right thing to do.



Belief about God

In RE, we have been exploring beliefs about God. This week, we were tasked with preparing our own reports with the aim of reflecting upon some of the big questions that have fascinated humans for centuries. The task encourages us to think carefully about why some people believe in God and why others do not, and to consider the different ways these beliefs can shape people's lives. As part of our work, we examined several examples of how faith influences everyday decisions, communities, and personal values.



L.S. Lowry

This week, we have been using our artistic skills to create pictures inspired by the work of L.S. Lowry. We have used paint, charcoal or pencils to capture the unique style of this famous British artist. During our lessons, we utilised the techniques we have learnt previously in perspective, composition and shading. We considered how Lowry used simple shapes and muted colours to create busy urban scenes with crowds of "matchstick" figures.



We look forward to sharing these with you during our open evening on Monday 10th November, 3:15 - 3:45pm.

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