



## Acting Headteacher's Message

### Online Safety Week

This week, Ralph Butterfield Primary School took part in Online Safety Week. Although online safety is frequently taught to children in PSHE, computing and as part of the wider curriculum, Online Safety week provides an opportunity to focus on safety in the digital world together as a school community. Keeping children safe online is very much a partnership between us in school and yourselves at home. The internet is forever growing and changing, it is paramount that we educate our children to be safe and respectful when online.

As a parent/carer, should you want to know more, you can always look at the following websites where you will be able to find further information or advice:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Alternatively, please feel free to come and talk to us should you have any questions or concerns.

### Screen Time

While technology can be a great tool for learning and entertainment, it's important to be aware of the potential dangers of excessive screen time for children. Spending too long on devices can lead to physical health issues such as eye strain, poor posture, and disrupted sleep patterns, especially if used before bedtime. Use of screen time when a child is very young is linked to long-term difficulties with attention, communication, problem-solving and social skills. It can also hinder their ability to focus on other important activities like reading, outdoor play, or hobbies that promote creativity. Children learn best through interacting with adults and the world around them.

### Top tips

1. Turn off background TV.
2. Limit your child's access to the TV, iPad/tablet/computer and phone.
3. Spend time playing with your child.
4. Talk to your child about the world around them.



As another half term draws to a close, I would like to thank you again for your ongoing support and for working closely with us. This really helps to ensure that we are doing our best for your child(ren), to provide the conditions in which they can thrive. Please be aware that our phone lines will be closed next week and any emails will be picked up when staff return to work on Monday 24th February.

I know that many of you will be working next week, but I do hope that everyone is able to enjoy that bit more family time together over half term. We look forward to seeing everyone again on **Tuesday 25th February**.

Best wishes *Helen Stephenson*



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.

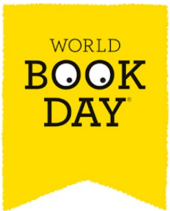
If you would like to place an order, please visit <http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/ralph-butterfield-primary/digital-book-club> and **place your order online by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. Your order will then arrive in school shortly afterwards and be distributed to your child. If you would like the order to be directly handed to an adult, please inform the school office, your child's class teacher or Miss Clapham. 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.



**World Book Day**

**Thursday 6th March**



A message for all children 'You are a reader'!

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Throughout the week, children will be taking part in a variety of reading and English activities. On the day, your child(ren), may choose to dress as their favourite character from a book, giving opportunity to utilise a costume they already have. Alternatively, they may choose to dress as a 'word' from a book e.g. blue: wearing all blue clothes, sporty: wearing their PE kit, freezing: wearing hat, scarves and gloves. This supports the use of items that you already have in a wardrobe. Please do not feel that there is any expectation for the purchase of a costume.





**Friday 14th March 2025 - 6pm**

At this special event for both adults and children, celebrated author David Almond will be talking about his latest books *PUPPET*, *The Falling Boy* and *Kevin and the Blackbirds*, as well as his other work. In what will be an inspirational event, David Almond will talk about his life, his writing career and provide insight into his own creative process. He'll also be answering questions from the audience.

Cost £10 for adults and £5 for under 12  
<https://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk/show/david-almond/>









**Thursday March 20th 2025 - 4.30pm**

**How to Build a Superhero: A Writing Workshop with Helen Comerford**

Join Marvel-nut Helen Comerford for an interactive session where participants will write their own superhero. The workshop will include; research, analysis, creative writing, and even some drawing. Helen will break down her process for creating characters, share a sneak peek of her new novel, and give participants the tools to create characters **In any genre**.

Book a free ticket here :  
<https://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk/show/how-to-build-a-superhero/>




## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

As our 'Amazing Animals' theme comes to an end this week, we have explored the woodland habitat and the animals which live there. The children have explored animals' prints and sorted the animals into their woodland habitat. They have also learnt about nocturnal animals and discussed what the animals do during the night.



The children have also thoroughly enjoyed our text of the week 'Owl Babies' and other woodland themed stories and factual texts. During the week, the children retold and acted out the story 'Owl Babies' and practised their writing skills by writing labels or captions using their phonics knowledge. We are especially pleased with the enthusiasm in which the children approach their writing and how their writing is developing.



In **phonics** this week, the children were disappointed to find out that they weren't learning a new phoneme! Instead, they have continued to practise the **digraphs** (two letters that make one sound) and **trigraphs** (three letters that make one sound) that have been taught this half-term. The children have consolidated their learning and used their reading and writing skills to apply their phonics knowledge.

In **maths** this week, we have learnt about time. The children explored small amounts of time, including seconds and minutes. They completed challenges to investigate how many things they could do in 30 seconds or 1 minute. This was great fun! They also sang songs to practise the sequence of the days of the week.



The children thoroughly enjoyed our Bikeability sessions on the balance bikes, this week. We hope you have enjoyed looking at the photos on Tapestry and have maybe seen an improvement in your child's cycling abilities.

As a little teaser, next half-term the children's learning will centre around traditional tales. We are looking forward to many different activities, linked to these fantastic stories.



### Reminder

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, **Class 1** will be visiting Haxby library to change their books. Please remember to put the books and library card in their book bag. Thank you.



We hope you enjoy a restful break over half-term.  
Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team

### Can you help?

Our current Reception children enjoy working together to complete jigsaw puzzles. They are currently enjoying completing floor puzzles and up to 50 piece (and some 100 piece) jigsaws. If you have any jigsaws which your children no longer play with, our Reception children would be very grateful to receive these.



Alternatively, if you have any toys/games at home which your child(ren) no longer play with/use, our Reception staff would be happy for them to be donated to school for our children to learn from and enjoy.

Please drop anything off at the school reception or with our Reception staff.

Thank you

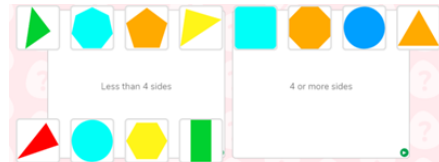
## Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

It feels very exciting to have come to the end of another half term. We can't believe that we are halfway through the year already! Key Stage 1 have been working just as hard as ever. There was exciting news this week as we received another letter from Queen Victoria, addressed to Florence Nightingale. This time, the queen was interested in Florence's plans to spread her word and open a new college to train nurses. We asked lots of questions and we wrote another letter of response to tell her all about our plans and the help that we would need. It was wonderful to see how much the children had remembered about formal letter writing as they independently included the features that they required and wrote letters that Her Majesty would be proud to receive.



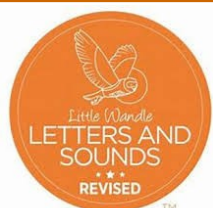
In history, we continued to learn about the events of Florence's life. This week, we looked at her reasons for volunteering to go to Scutari to help the wounded soldiers as a nurse. We looked at maps and saw how long and difficult the journey would have been, especially in Victorian times. Using our empathy skills, we thought about what that must have been like, and how she felt at the end of her journey to walk into a hospital that was filthy and smelly. We then thought of questions that we would have liked to ask Florence and drew pictures of the hospital conditions, using a check list to ensure that we included all the relevant historical detail.

In computing, we have been thinking about the way that data can be stored and grouped. Using the context of 2D shapes, we thought about what was meant by the terms "similarities" and "grouping", using the properties of 2D shapes as examples. We verbally created sorting rules and then used the computer to drag and drop the shapes into groups, according to given sorting rules. We then broke the process of sorting down into stages to describe the algorithm (sequence of instructions) and also the algorithm that the computer followed to mark our work and tell us if we were correct or not. It was very interesting to "think like a computer".



Well done Key Stage 1. Enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing you afterwards.

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



Thank you for all of the support that you give your children at home by reading with them, as well as to them, and discussing what you read. Engendering fluency and a love of reading early in school life is crucial and makes a phenomenal difference.

In order to ensure that the work that goes on both in and out of school is effective, the reading books are changed every week so that the children have a wide and varied range of stimulating books to enjoy as part of their reading practise.

It is extremely important that all books are returned to school on time, as sets that are missing books cannot be used in other classes. Late returns and missing or damaged books have a detrimental knock-on effect on the large number of classes that are all sharing the same bank of books. If books are lost, damaged or not returned, then it means that the entire set is unusable so we shall be asking families to pay for replacements if this is the case.

As a reminder, the Little Wandle books are changed on the following days:

**EYFS: Please return your books on a Monday.**

**Key Stage 1: Please return your books on a Thursday.**

Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

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



On Tuesday, it was 'Safer Internet Day 2025'. Firstly, the children recalled the numerous ways they can help to keep themselves, and others, safe online and who to tell if they are worried or concerned about anything they witness online. The children came up with some fantastic answers including not giving out personal information, not meeting up with anyone who they may have been chatting to online and recognising and reporting cyberbullying. They also

remembered from last year that they have a responsibility to use modern technology (games consoles, mobile phones and computers) appropriately and that anything they do on these devices leaves behind a digital footprint. This year's focus was thinking about how they can protect themselves, and others, from online scamming. The first key message was that some scams are too good to be true and that they should ignore emails offering amazing prizes. Another clue to scamming is receiving a message or something appearing on your screen that you did not expect. Finally, sometimes you may be asked to spend money or trade something valuable. The children completed a scamming quiz in class and we were very impressed with their understanding and responses to the scenarios posed.

In English this week, the children have been identifying the key features of a non-chronological report. To begin with, we read through a model text which looked in detail at Tropical and Arid climate zones. We then identified and discussed the purpose of key features of this type of genre including the use of main titles, sub-headings for the main paragraphs, an engaging introduction and a concise, clear conclusion.



Alongside these organisational text features, the children looked at the different types of sentence structures used. The children were able to identify the difference between a question and a statement and could recognise, and use, both co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions to construct sentences about these climates. After half-term, the children are looking forward to having the opportunity to write their own non-chronological report based on these two climate zones, using the knowledge and understanding they have gained from this half term's geography lessons.



This term Class 6 and Class 8 are very fortunate to have a music specialist, Miss Freitas, teaching them how to play the ukulele. They have really enjoyed learning how to position their fingers on the strings in order to play different chords for example 'F Major'. In the coming weeks, the children will learn a chord sequence to accompany a well-known song which they are really excited about. Meanwhile, in Class 7, the children have been using the fantastic Charanga Music Scheme to learn all about the song 'Blackbird' by the Beatles. They have played some fun rhythm and pitch warm-up games, learnt the words to the song, performed the song and played various instruments to accompany it. During the summer term, Class 7 will also get the opportunity to be taught by a music specialist and learn how to play the violin.

As always, please do come and speak with us if you have any queries or questions.

**We hope that you have a lovely half term.**

**Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham and Mr Povey**



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

This week in English, the Year 6s completed a persuasive leaflet advertising Robinwood for Year 5 pupils, whilst the Year 5s wrote persuasively to advertise Seaworld which is a theme park in Florida. All children used both literary and grammatical techniques within their leaflet. We needed to include emotive language, rhetorical questions, polite vocabulary, modal verbs, facts/statistics and evidence. When we get back after half term, we will be using what we have learnt to write our own leaflets.



This week as part of Online Safety week, the children discussed the ways in which personal information can, and should, be kept confidential when using an online profile. We discussed the potential dangers of using the internet and how they are responsible for using a range of devices safely and appropriately. We enjoyed talking about what we had learnt in our Online Safety assemblies that took place this week.

This week, we completed our entries for the Viborg UNESCO Creative City - Media Arts initiative. This year, we were challenged to draw Angels of Hope. We had the opportunity to draft out and plan our own designs, choosing a medium that would best suit our ideas. Our angels often represented good deeds, actions and thoughts. Though many of our drawings were symbolic, and not based on the religious definition of an angel, some of us chose to apply what we have learnt in RE across multiple faiths and from our own experiences.



Member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network since 2014

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**



This Week's Attendance



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

Going to school **every day** helps your child to get good qualifications, which will help them to get a job.

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



# TOM DEAN MEET AND GREET

Friday, February 21st · 11:30am - 2pm GMT

The Mount School, Dalton Terrace, York YO24 4DD



Are you a fan of the Olympics? Do you love swimming? Or have you been captivated by Strictly Come Dancing?

If so, you have the chance to meet the incredible **three-time Olympic gold medallist**, Tom Dean!

Join us at The Mount School in York for an exclusive meet and greet where you can chat with Tom, get your photos, ask him your burning questions about the Olympics, Swimming or his appearances in Strictly Come Dancing. Plus, don't miss the opportunity to hold his magnificent Olympic gold medals—this is your chance to feel the thrill of history!

Best of all, tickets are FREE! Just be sure to book in advance to secure your spot. This is a family-friendly meet and greet.

Confirm you/ your families attendance today

Eventbrite link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tom-dean-mbe-meet-greet-tickets-1227566577679?aff=oddtcreator>



## Half Price Swimming Lessons!

### Half Price Swimming Lessons This Half Term (17<sup>th</sup> till 20<sup>th</sup> February)

A great way for parents/carers to get their kids into a few sessions for half price.

We have some teacher training in Feb half term for swimming teachers.

The times are as follows:- Mon, Tues, Weds 3pm till 5pm Thurs 130pm till 3pm

Location:- The Mount School York

These sessions are teacher training and a vital part of their training is working with REAL children. We offer these sessions at half price and if you book the full 4 days there will be an additional discount. £5 a session or 4 sessions for £15 this cost is for the full session, children can stay 30min, 1 hour or more (This will also be dependent on level and if they tire)

Please contact Debbie Adams for more information. 07714 917531 [debbie@adamsaquatics.co.uk](mailto:debbie@adamsaquatics.co.uk)



**Crossing Patrol opportunities available in your area!**

**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