

Friday 17th January 2025

2024/25 No: 16

 01904 768325 (option 3)

 @RalphBPSch_York

 www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Hello

Visitors

On Wednesday of this week, our school had a visit from two York maintained school headteachers. York maintained schools are grouped together. The 'Peer' process is an approach where schools support each other with headteachers feeding back on what they see and/or hear. These visits help us reflect honestly on our practice to encourage and support self-improvement, and identify continued development of our practice, to provide the best environment and opportunities for our children, staff, and wider school community.

I am pleased to share that the visit highlighted and celebrated lots of fabulous work going on in our school, in addition to sharing valuable feedback that supports us with our school improvement plans. The children's behaviour around school was particularly of positive note and we all have so much to feel proud of our children for. We really do have a wonderful school community here.

School Uniform

Please read the following reminders regarding the styling of hair and the wearing of jewellery. Thank you for supporting us with this from home. The full School Uniform Policy can be found by [clicking here](#).

- For safety reasons, long hair must be tied back at all times during PE lessons.
- We allow pupils to style their hair in a way which is appropriate for school.
- Watches should not be smart watches and not linked to mobile phones.
- Rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings are a hazard in school:
- Jewellery may be worn if required for medical reasons, e.g. a medical bracelet. In these circumstances parents/carers must apply in writing to the Headteacher.
- The wearing of earrings is discouraged in school. If parents opt for their child to wear earrings, they must be small plain gold/silver studs only; hoops and large or dangly earrings are not permitted. Only one pair of small studs is allowed to be worn in school.
- If a child has had their ears pierced and they are still within the 6 weeks healing period where they cannot take them out, they will need to be taped up for PE before school until the 6-week period is over. This is on the understanding that parents take responsibility for sending their child with earrings in, should their child have an injury as a result of having earrings in.

York Residents' Festival

If you are not already aware, the annual York Residents' Festival returns next weekend (Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January), with some offers continuing all week. This is an opportunity for York residents to visit many of our wonderful local attractions, for free! To get involved, please present a valid York Card, student card or identity card that proves York residency. If presenting an identity card, this must clearly state 'York' (e.g. driving licence or older person's bus pass). For a full list of offers and further information about how to access the events, offers and deals, visit <https://www.visitork.org/residents-festival>.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes *Helen Stephenson*

This Week's Attendance



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

Going to school **every day** can help your child experience new things.

For more information on school absence in York visit:
www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance



School Admission Numbers



Each school has a Published Admission Number (PAN), which is the maximum number of pupils they can admit into a year group, for example, the maximum number of children joining their Reception cohort each September. Additionally, all schools have a limit to the number of children they can have within a Key Stage 1 Class (Infant Class Size Legislation), which consists of either Year 1 or Year 2 children. In our school we have three Key Stage 1 classes, with a maximum of 90 places across the three classes.

Over recent years, our school PAN has been 50 and the number of places allocated to our school each year has ranged between 40 and 50. Most recently, we have had multiple years in succession whereby we have had Reception admission numbers in the high 40s. As two cohorts come together, within Key Stage 1, we have the class size limit to adhere to. In order to ensure that infant class sizes are not exceeded, we have requested to reduce our PAN, with effect from September 2026, from 50 to 45. With a PAN of 45, two full years of admissions into Ralph Butterfield Primary School would always be within the maximum limit of 90 when reaching Key Stage 1 (when pupils are in Year 1/2).

A school's PAN can be changed, following a set process between the school governing body and the local authority. A PAN can be increased or decreased, dependent on the circumstances under consideration at the time, which can be varied.

More information regarding admissions can be found here: <https://www.york.gov.uk/GuideForParents>



PTA News – Dates for The Diary!

- **Break the Rules Day** – Friday 31st January (and also Friday 2nd May).



Get the nail polish out, hair chalks prepped and orange squash ready.... 50p donation in exchange for any rule broken. Letter with further details to follow.

- **UV Glow DISCO** – Thursday 13th February

This will cost £3.00 and include some sweets. Vegan sweets will be available. To get the best out of the disco we encourage children to wear neon colours or white (if they have something already). There will be a few glow items on sale like glowsticks. A letter will follow with further details.

Timings: 4.30pm - 5.30pm – Reception, Year 1 and 2, 5.45pm - 6.45pm – Year 3 and 4, 7pm - 8pm – Year 5 and 6

- **Easter Raffle**

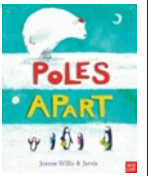
The PTA will be holding a fund-raising raffle before the Easter holidays. We should be grateful for any donations! If you have any unwanted, un-used Christmas gifts, vouchers or alcohol we would appreciate any items that would be suitable to offer as prizes. Please contact the PTA if you can help!

- **Outdoor Summer DISCO** – Friday 2nd May

- **Non-uniform Day** – Friday 27th June – for this we will request donations for the Summer Fair (chocolate or bottles of alcohol) for prizes.

- **SUMMER FAIR!** – Friday 4th July.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme this week, our topic has focussed on the Polar Regions. This has included learning about which animals live there and where the Polar Regions are in the world. The children have particularly enjoyed reading our text of the week, 'Poles Apart'; inspiring children to create their own polar bear, using fork painting, write captions and labels based on our text and play the 'Where do I live?' and the 'Penguin Pairs' games.



zoom to the moon

In **phonics** this week, the new phonemes learnt have been **oo (as in zoom), oo (as in book), ar (as in farm) and or (as in born)**. We have enjoyed learning the catchphrases for each new grapheme and these are also on your child's homework sheet this week. We have also learnt new tricky words. These are words that cannot be sounded out as some of the sounds make a sound not expected. The words learnt have been, **was, you and they**. Your child may start spotting these words around them.

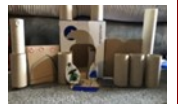
In **maths** this week, the children have continued to investigate the numbers **6, 7 and 8**. They have investigated adding 1 more and 1 less within these numbers, using ten frames and counters. They also identified the composition of these numbers on dominoes, for example, 5 spots and 3 spots make 8. The children are also making great progress at writing the numerals 6, 7 and 8.



The children are learning about Special Places, in our **RE** sessions this term. The children began by learning about places which are special to them. Some children spoke about their homes, the countryside and the beach. This week, we have learnt about a Christian's special place, the church. On Thursday 13th February, the children will be visiting St Mary's Church in Haxby to see for themselves what this special place of worship looks like.

We need your help...

The children are really enjoying being creative and making models. If you have any small boxes, clean pots, bottle lids or tubes, we would be really grateful if you could save and bring them into school. We also find that this can significantly reduce the amount of recycling you have. However, we cannot guarantee that you will not receive more when your child brings home a stunning model!



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 continued support.

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Greenwood and the Reception team





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Key Stage 1 has been such a busy place to be this week, with lots of exciting challenges and fun learning opportunities. We have been learning about being healthy in our PHSE topic and this week we thought more about keeping our teeth healthy. The children had remembered so many facts about the effects of healthy food and drinks that were low in sugar and the benefits of visiting the dentist regularly for a check-up. This week we were writing instructions for how to brush your teeth properly: a vital skill for good oral hygiene. We looked at examples of instruction texts and broke down the procedure into small steps. We then wrote an engaging introduction to "hook" our readers into our writing and then wrote a clear, sequenced set of commands, including time connectives, adverbs and imperative verbs. The children were very clear in what they wanted to say and communicated it effectively. I even think they managed to teach the staff a thing or two!



We have also been looking at instructions as part of our computing unit, "Maze Explorers". This learning was all to do with giving precise instructions to navigate an on-screen character to achieve tasks. For example, we used the on-screen commands to drive a car around the map, visiting places like the bank and hospital in order. To do this, we had to use the direction commands and select the distance to travel, anticipating where our character would end up. It was lots of fun.

In science, we started our new topic which is all about materials and their properties. We started by discussing what materials were and how they make up all objects around us (not just clothing). We named some, including wood, metal, plastic, fabric and glass and learned about the difference between natural and human-made materials. We then had the opportunity to explore and investigate some material samples in groups. We looked at a selection of objects and differentiated these from the materials they were made from. We then sorted and grouped them by their properties, looking, for example, for ones that were smooth or transparent.



We have also been exploring the natural world in our local habitat with a spot of bird watching. Armed with a sheet of common British birds, we went out into the school environment and spent some time (quietly) seeing what we could spot. We really enjoyed the opportunity to look carefully around us and identify the species of birds from their pictures.

As always, we are so proud of our wonderful children and all they strive to do. Keep up the good effort everyone!

Miss Tattersley, Mrs Atkinson and Mr Merrall



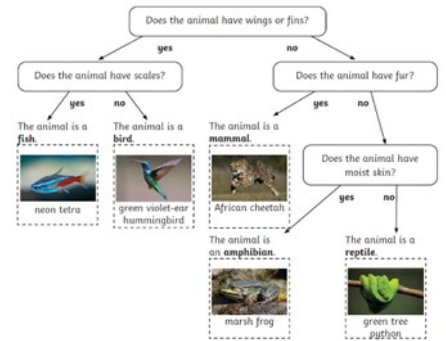


Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

A super week Year 3 and 4. Well done!

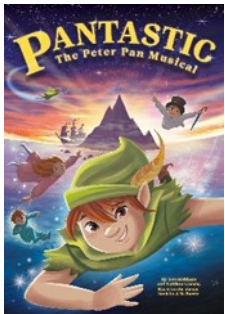
Our science unit this half term is 'Living things and their habitats'.

Last week, we started our topic by looking at the different classifications of animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish) and sorted a selection of these into a Venn diagram according to given criteria, such as the animal breathes air or lays eggs. This week, the children have learnt about classification keys and how they can be used to identify different types of animals. The children used the questions and their knowledge of the animal groups to complete the classification key.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed their new computing topic this week as they have been learning how to make simple animations. They used their drawing skills to make individual

frames within a 'film strip' to make a crazy face animation. We are looking forward to developing these skills in order to make moving pictures with backgrounds and sounds.



We are all extremely excited to share the fantastic news with you that our Spring Term performance is 'Pantastic'. The planning and preparations have begun and the children were eager to take part in auditions for the different roles this week. We can't wait to start rehearsals and begin to learn the songs. We will keep you updated on how the performance is progressing and you will receive further information later in the term about costumes and performance dates and times.

Next week, the children will be creating their own paper sculpture based on an outdoor scene that they planned this week. *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 if you haven't done so already. Thank you.*



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 science, we have learnt about the discovery of electricity and how it was eventually harnessed and made available to power our appliances. We then went on to draw circuit diagrams using the correct scientific symbols to represent each component. We then investigated how increasing the voltage within a complete circuit affects the brightness of a bulb.

As part of our R.E. lessons, we have been learning about Islam. In this week's lesson, we learnt that Muslims fast (Sawm) during Ramadan. The month of Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Throughout this period, Muslims will donate to charity, fast during daylight hours and meet with their friends and family.



In computing, we looked at a range of different question types, ranging from multiple choice, sequencing, matching to grouping. After choosing an appropriate topic, we wrote questions for UKS2 aged children to answer. At the end of the lesson, we tested our quizzes by allowing our friends to try them out.

On **Monday 3rd February**, we have been invited to Joseph Rowntree School to watch their dress rehearsal of *Mary Poppins*. This will take place during school hours. Children should be in school uniform but will need **appropriate footwear** and a **hooded, waterproof coat** for the walk.



We are very proud of the way the year 6 pupils have approached their informal assessments and hopefully they will feel more confident about them going forward. If you were unable to attend the Year 6 meeting held on Tuesday 14th January, your child will have been given an information pack.

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

[Sign Up](#)

SIGN UP FOR THIS FREE PARENTING COURSE:
www.fmy.org.uk

FAMILY MATTERS YORK

Domestic Abuse

FREE Domestic Abuse Interactive workshop

18 February 10-12pm

1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience Domestic Abuse in their lifetime. This means you **almost certainly** know someone affected by this.

Interested in finding out what Domestic Abuse is, how it impacts your community and how you can help? Come along to our short interactive workshop.

Scan the QR code to book your free place.



Support for those affected by Domestic Abuse: **03000 110 110**

In an emergency report to North Yorkshire Police: **999**



Holiday Activity Session

Wednesday 19th February
12.30pm - 2.00pm
at New Earswick Folk Hall

Come along and make music with Billy, the TrashBang! Man, at our junk percussion workshop.

Have fun and share lunch in a family friendly space. Most suitable for children aged 3-12yrs. FREE pack up lunch, snacks and a cooked meal to take away, pre-book only. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Limited places available, please book your space by contacting the Folk Hall reception in person or on 01904 769621

Supported by:



FAMILY MATTERS YORK

We know your families and relationships mean the world to you.

We know it's not always easy.

We're here to help!

We can support you to take steps towards positive changes.

Parenting courses on topics to meet your needs.

Peer couple support to get your relationship back on track.

FREE



www.fmy.org.uk info@fmy.org.uk Find out more

The Retreat Clinics

Pave the Way Families

FREE SIGNPOSTING EVENT FOR SUPPORT SERVICES, LOCAL FAMILIES, PARENTS & CARERS.


Join us at York St Johns Creative Centre where local support services will be available to give advice and information on mental health, neurodiversity, legal support, parents who are finding their early parenting journey a challenge, financial or health concerns, women's refuges, family abuse support, and much more.

Attending services include: HomeStart, York Integrated Care Board, Citizens Advice, Big Future Foundations, IDAS, York SENDIASS, The Retreat Clinics, SJPLAW, York Maternity Voices Partnership, Raise York / FIS, Foundation Positive Choices Services...

**4TH FEBRUARY
DROP IN FROM
2PM - 6PM**

AT YORK ST JOHN CREATIVE CENTRE
Lord Mayor's Walk, York, YO31 7EX
what3words: ///panic.fish.paces

BOOK NOW



SCAN ME

For more information email: Ewarzen@theretreatclinics.org.uk



NEWS LETTER

Connect@pcforyk.co.uk



NEWS LETTER

Connect@pcforyk.co.uk

Coffee Mornings

- Thursday 23 January 2025**
10:30 - 12:30 am
Acomb Explore
- Monday 27 January 2025**
10.30 - 12.30 am
YHA, Clifton

Meet other parents and carers who share your lived experience. Swap tips, offload, get updates or share without judgement.

The first hot drink is on us as a thank you for allowing us to use your experience to inform our work with education, health and social care on parent carer voice.

We'll be easy to recognise with the table top sign. All are very welcome but if it's your first time and you would like to meet someone first, email Mary: connect@pcforyk.co.uk



Save the Date

PCF York Annual Conference 2025

- Wednesday 26 February 2025**
10 am - 2 pm
Delta Hotels, Marriott, York

Booking and further details via Eventbrite will be available soon.



Listening Event

SEND Strategy with Maxine Squire

- Wednesday 29 January 2025**
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Online

This online event is a conversation with Maxine Squire, Assistant Director, Education and Skills. Maxine would like to consult with parent carers, using their lived experience to inform the SEND strategy for York. Email Mary: connect@pcforyk.co.uk for the meeting link.

YORK sendiass

Our aim for the beginning of 2025 is to ask parents and carers, young people and professionals what they would like us to offer, so we can focus on what is important to local families and see how we can accommodate people's needs in response to feedback.

- Some of our ideas for improving our services include:
- Monthly drop-in clinics at locations across the city.
 - Virtual drop-ins, so people can meet online.
 - These would be specifically for parents and carers, potentially with a separate session for young people.
 - A virtual session for professionals or anyone supporting a family with SEND.

We need your help to understand what would benefit parents and carers with children and young people with SEND, given we are such a small team regarding offering information, advice, and support. Please follow our new Facebook page, [York SEND Information, Advice and Support Service](#), to stay updated with our service and to be notified of opportunities to help us shape our service.

Thank you for all your support for this new year ahead. Best wishes from, Melanie, Elizabeth and Sarah York SENDIASS



LOVE January Mindfulness

- Tuesday 28 January 2025**
10.30 - 12.30am
Friends Meeting House, Friargate

Join us for a relaxing morning dedicated to self-care. Learn simple, practical techniques that you can easily incorporate into your daily routine to improve your well-being. No prior experience is needed. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a mindful, peaceful morning. Mindfulness for carers is facilitated by Ali Gear, Mindfulness Association.

To book please contact [York Carers Centre](#): enquires@yorkcarerscentre.co.uk 01904 715 490.

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GIRLS FOOTBALL

MAKE FRIENDS!

HAVE FUN!

PLAY FOOTBALL!

@PLAYFOOTBALL, ROKO, YORK

3 WEEKS FREE!!

Football sessions every week for girls in Years 3-6 at Playfootball, Roko, York!!

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Scan the QR code to book your free taster and for info on times & days

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LITTLE LEAGUES FOOTBALL

@PLAYFOOTBALL, ROKO, YORK

3 WEEKS FREE!!

Football match sessions every week for children in Years 1&2 and Years 3&4 at Playfootball, Roko, York!!

www.totalSPORTSlimited.co.uk

Scan the QR code to book your free taster and for info on times & days