

Friday 21st November 2025

2025/26 No: 10



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Learning About the Rule of Law

This week's Monday assembly was led by Matt Messias, who focused his assembly on our current big question: **"Do I have to?"** This question formed the starting point for a rich exploration of the Rule of Law, one of our important British values. Matt began by talking about British values and what they mean for us as a school community. Children learned that these values help guide our choices, support how we treat one another and create a safe and fair environment for everyone.



The assembly then explored what laws actually are. Children discussed how laws are like the rules we follow in school or at home: they help keep us safe, make sure everyone is treated fairly and allow communities to run smoothly. Matt helped us think about why laws exist and how they help people live well together. Next, children were asked to imagine what life would be like if there were no rules at all. This led to lots of lively ideas, from chaotic classrooms to unsafe situations, helping everyone realise how important shared expectations are.

Matt also talked with children about the rules we already follow at school and at home, and why these matter. Children recognised how these rules support learning, help friendships flourish and create a calm environment. One of the highlights was when Matt invited children to suggest a new rule they would introduce. There were some thoughtful and creative ideas, many centred on kindness, fairness and making sure everyone feels happy and included.

The assembly ended with the reminder that rules aim to make everyone happy, and that following them is a way we can all contribute to a positive and caring school community.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Being a Parent Governor is a fantastic way to support and help shape the strategic direction of your children's school. The closing date for nominations has now been extended to **9:00am on Friday 28th November**. If you would like to have a chat about this, please get in touch with the school. I would be happy to talk with you myself, or I can arrange for you to speak with one of our current Parent Governors.



Winter Weather



As the weather turns colder, please make sure that your child comes to school each day with a named, hooded coat. Hats, gloves and scarves should also be clearly labelled as we already have a growing collection of unclaimed items.

It was lovely to be outside with all the children on Thursday morning as they enjoyed the sunshine and attempted to make mini snowmen with the limited, yet 'proper' snow we had.

Please note: On future days, if we have enough snow on the school field for children to enjoy playing outside, they may do so only if their legs are covered and they have a second pair of waterproof, suitable footwear such as wellingtons or walking boots. Children will not be able to play in the snow in their school shoes and then change into their PE footwear afterwards. Unfortunately, the office admin team do not have the capacity to make phone call requests for suitable clothing and footwear to be brought in.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson



PTA NEWS

- **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the disco and to all of the parent and teacher volunteers – it raised a HUGE £617 for school!



Bags2 School collection – There will be a collection on Thursday 27th November

We would love your unwanted clothes, paired shoes, belts, bags, hats, socks, jewellery etc. If you are having a sort out, please do save these for us and bring them along. We will be collecting bags under the school hut in the playground before school. Each child should have already been given a clear plastic bag to fill, to take home.

- **Christmas Cards & Gifts**



There will be another opportunity to order Christmas cards and gifts (based on the children's proofs), with last minute orders being taken between Friday 21st November and Monday 1st December.

Any issues with ordering, please contact us or Class Fundraising directly.



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.

Parking

Please park safely, respectfully and legally near our school.

Parking services, a department within City of York Council, enforce parking restrictions in the York area and take action against people who park illegally.

Vehicles are parked illegally if they are 'in or adjacent to' a number of things, to include:

- Yellow lines (waiting restrictions)
- Disabled bays
- Bus stops
- Dropped kerbs
- Zigzag lines outside of schools

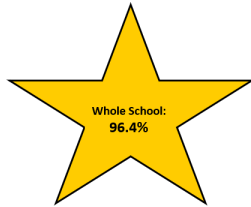
Parking services can issue a parking ticket (penalty charge notice, or PCN) - a parking fine - for each of these offences.

Parking Hotline

To report a vehicle which is parked illegally call the **Parking Hotline** on telephone: 0800 1381119

Please [click here](#) to view additional information





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

Not going to school every day can make your child more worried about going in.

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



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



This week, we have continued to explore our theme, '**Let's celebrate**'. The children have shared their own experiences of how birthdays are celebrated in your families (thank you for sharing these on Tapestry) and learnt about how birthdays are celebrated differently around the world. As part of our birthday theme, the children have had opportunities to hold role play birthday parties, write a list of items they need for a birthday party, create their own birthday cards and made playdough birthday cakes. We have also heard many children enjoying singing 'Happy Birthday' to each other!

In **phonics**, we enjoy hearing the question, "Are we learning a new phoneme today?" The children's continued enthusiasm for learning early reading skills is fantastic! This week, the teaching focus has been the phonemes **z, zz, qu and ch**. We have also learnt how to add **s** to the end of a word to change it from singular to plural, for example **cat-cats, hat-hats**. The children are also doing very well at learning 'tricky words'. These are words which cannot be read by sounding them out and can be practised at home on their tricky word cards. Hopefully, children are beginning to point out these tricky words to you.

In **maths** this week, the children have learnt about four sided shapes. This has included learning about squares and rectangles and their properties. For example, a square has four sides which are the same length and four corners. The children have thoroughly enjoyed being creative in their maths work, making four sided shapes out of construction equipment and printing squares and rectangles with Duplo bricks.



This week, you have received a letter (in book bags) regarding our nativity roles and detailing costume suggestions. Please do speak to us if you would like any help with finding a costume.

Reminder

Next Thursday, Class 1 will be visiting Haxby library to choose new books. Please remember to put the books and library card in their book bag. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support.
**Mrs Robinson, Mrs Daniel, Mrs Greenwood and the
Reception team**

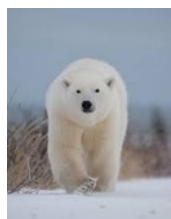




Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Wow, what an amazing job our Key Stage 1 children have done this week! They have been given plenty of chances to shine like the stars that they are and have met every independent challenge with maturity and determination. We have all been so proud of their efforts!

This week, we have been comparing the North and South Poles in geography. We compared the temperatures and wildlife and sorted facts according to



which location they belonged to. We also recapped what we knew about the wildlife of the Arctic and Antarctica.



In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about penguins. We used what we had learned in last week's work about the features of non-chronological reports, such as subheadings and related facts, technical vocabulary, and 3rd person pronouns. We used these to organise our content and write about what they eat, how they survive and how they care for their young. We wrote some fascinating reports and even the weather joined in to inspire us with some snow!



It was so wonderful to watch Class 3 perform their class assembly on Friday afternoon. They did an amazing job of showcasing all the fantastic learning they have done in the first half term. It may have only been 8 weeks but there was music, dancing, movement, art, storytelling, singing and maths on display. The assembly started with a game of compass points and then the Year 2s played a song for us on the recorder that they had been learning with Mrs

Freitas. The Year 1s played the glockenspiels and there was a chance for the children to dazzle us with their maths skills. They did an amazing job and we were so proud of them. Thank you to everyone who helped the children to learn their lines, practise them and be so confident with speaking. Well done, Class 3!



From one performance to another, the children have started to work on this year's nativity. We have started to learn the songs so don't be surprised to hear some of them being sung at home. The children have also been assigned parts for the play and these will have been sent home with the children, so please check their bags and homework folders. The children have engaged really well so far and are already excited to put on an amazing show.

Well done Key Stage 1. Keep up the great work.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)



In science this week, the classroom was buzzing with curiosity! As part of our 'Animals Including Humans' topic, the children became young dental experts while learning all about teeth. They began by exploring large tooth models and discovered that we have four different types including incisors, canines, premolars and molars and they each have their own special job

when we chew food. The children then used mirrors and dental mirrors to look inside their own mouths and identify where each type of tooth is located. There was lots of excitement as the children realised they have a mixture of both adult and baby teeth! Afterwards, the children got creative by using red and white plasticine to make their very own tooth models. They carefully shaped and positioned each type of tooth, showing fantastic attention to detail.



2Email

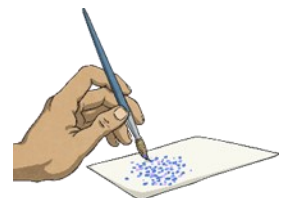
This week in computing, the children have been learning how to use 2Email. To begin with, they explored how to locate their emails and check for new messages using both the alert icon and the inbox within the 2Email app. They then learnt how to craft the perfect reply, experimenting with font styles, sizes, colours and even adding emoticons to bring their messages to life. Alongside this, we focused on the very important skill of staying safe online, including how to report an email to a teacher if something in a message they received concerned them.

Afterwards, the classroom buzzed with laughter as the children searched their address books for recipients in the class to send their favourite jokes to.



This half term, our budding artists have stepped into the colourful world of pointillism. We kicked things off with an artist study on the Georges Seurat, discovering how he revolutionised painting by creating images using tiny dots of colour. The children were amazed to learn that his ground breaking masterpiece, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, was the very first major artwork created in this style. They also uncovered lots of fascinating facts about his life and

artistic journey. We are all very excited to begin mixing colours to create our own pointillism colour wheels and to produce our own pointillism river scene pictures over the next few weeks.



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



Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



As part of our RE lessons, we have been investigating different places of worship. This week, we compared the way Hindus worship at home to the way they worship at the mandir (their place of worship). We identified similarities and differences, recognising, for example, that both at home and in their place of worship, Hindus would have murtis (statues); these represent different deities which collectively are all part of Brahma but they would sometimes differ in size and decoration.

The Year 6 pupils welcomed Matt back, who is working with them to guide them in how to be resilient and develop a positive growth mindset. This experience will be valuable as the year progresses and we move towards secondary school. We have additional sessions planned which we hope will support the year group with their learning over the coming months and later life.



This week we have learned about the harsh lives of child chimney sweeps during the Industrial Revolution. Many were extremely young and came from families who could not afford to keep them at home. Their small size meant they were forced to climb narrow chimneys to scrape away soot from coal fires. The work was exhausting and dangerous. Chimneys were cramped and filled with dust that made it hard to breathe, and children often suffered injuries or long-term health problems. Over time new laws were introduced to protect children, and the job eventually disappeared.

Learning about their experiences helps us appreciate how much working conditions have improved.

Well done to everyone in Year 5 and 6 for working so hard during our assessment week where the information we gather informs teachers' planning to enable us to support each child's future learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod



Important - School Skirts

Please also ensure that any skirts worn to school are no shorter than just above the knee in length. We have noticed that some children are wearing skirts that are not of a suitable length for school or the activities within a school day. Thank you





Fractions and decimals study

What does it involve:

Four simple maths tasks with eye-tracking and feedback about completing the task

Four brief questionnaires about math skills and feelings towards maths

Eligibility: Students in Year 6 and Year 9

Length: 90 minutes



Location: Department of Psychology, University of York

The parent/guardian can choose to get a £15 Amazon voucher for participating (check the info sheet for details)



To participate email Nicoleta or scan the QR code
nicoleta.gavrilu@york.ac.uk



THE LITTLE GYM CAMPS

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-12 YEARS

Our next camps are: 22nd December - 4th January
Scan below to learn more or contact: 01904 307404
york@thelittlegym.co.uk



The Little Gym
Serious Fun.



Festive Family Fun



The Enormous Christmas Pudding

Mon 1 Dec 10.30 York Explore

A fun festive show by Story Craft Theatre, enriched with visual storytelling; including puppetry, shadow puppetry and Makaton throughout.

Aimed at families with 2 to 6 year olds

When Robins Appear

13 - 21 Dec at Clifton, Tang Hall & York Explores

A heart-warming, high-energy show from Next Door But One. Packed with catchy songs, an enchanting design and plenty of audience interaction.

Aimed at families with 7 to 11 year olds.

Santa's Dreams

22 Nov, 13 & 20 Dec various libraries
Fun storytime with author Karen Langtree and perhaps Santa himself.
Aimed at 3 to 7 year olds



Tickets from £2.00



Visit Ticket Tailor or scan the QR code for more details

explore

Libraries and Archives

Follow our story:



www.exploreyork.org.uk

JORVIK explore
viking festival Libraries and Archives

BLOODAXE BOOK CHALLENGE

Saturday 15th November 2025 - Saturday 10th January 2026

Read four books to collect all four stickers, earn a certificate and win a FREE Child's Ticket to JORVIK Viking Centre, PLUS a chance to meet our Bloodaxe Book Challenge guest author, M.G. Leonard (best-selling author of the Time Keys series) at a special event!

A JORVIK Viking Festival and Explore York Libraries partnership.
SIGN UP TODAY

PAN MACMILLAN JORVIK Viking Festival is managed by York Archaeological Trust a registered charity in England & Wales (No. 109060) and Scotland (SC042964).

Christmas Community Collection

THE SALVATION ARMY

Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

Thursday 27th November
9.30-4pm

Come and wave at Santa!

Haxby Food Share Project

ITEMS NEEDED

New Toys and gifts for children (especially age 8 and over) and their parents.

Items for hampers: Christmas Crackers, Christmas sweets, crisps, biscuits for cheese, yorkshire pudding mix, mince pies, Christmas pudding, custard, cranberry jelly, gravy pots/granules, tinned veg, fresh orange juice, Gluten free or vegan items. Or cash donations to buy fresh items.

Christmas Community Collection

Haxby Food Share Project

THE SALVATION ARMY

COLLECTING AT AROMA UNTIL FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

MF Martial Arts York – Building Confidence for Life

MF Martial Arts visited school this week for a fun and engaging assembly. We teach children vital life skills including good habits, respect at home, confidence, focus, and resilience skills to help them handle challenges calmly and positively.

Parents can find their nearest class and book a free trial at: www.mattfiddes.com

If your child enjoys it, they can join for the rest of the year with no payments until January.

MF MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS

LOOKING TO BECOME MORE FOCUSED?

FREE CLASS FOR ALL SCHOOL CHILDREN

ENHANCED DBS CHECKED

FOR ALL AGES 3+

JOIN US THIS MONTH TO BOOST YOUR CONFIDENCE WITH MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS

SCAN TO START YOUR JOURNEY
CLAIM YOUR FREE MARTIAL ARTS CLASS
WWW.MATTFIDDES.COM

MF MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS

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