

Friday 23rd January 2026

2025/26 No: 17



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk

Acting Headteacher's Message

Thank You



We were delighted to see an exciting development take place on Tuesday lunchtime, as the concrete base was put in place for the new shed at the back of the school. The children were absolutely fascinated as they watched the concrete arrive in a mixer truck, which transports mixed concrete to construction sites using a large rotating drum. They then observed the concrete being carefully transferred into a mini dumper truck. There was lots of excitement and curiosity as the work progressed and it was a real talking point throughout the afternoon. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for generously funding this project and helping to make it possible.

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 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 31st January and Sunday 1st February), 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://visityork.org/events/york-residents-festival>

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson

Arbor - New System

We are pleased to let you know that the school has now moved over to a new Management Information System (MIS) called **Arbor**.

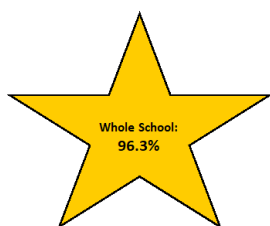
Parents and carers should have received their Arbor login details via email, sent to the email address currently held on file by the school. We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding while we transition to this new system and take time to familiarise ourselves with its features.

We are aware that, for some parents and carers, Arbor emails are still being directed to junk or spam folders, even after following the instructions provided. Please be assured that we are actively working with both Arbor and our IT support team to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, we encourage all parents and carers to log in and download the Arbor app if they are able to do so. Access to Arbor will be required in the near future to respond to school trips, events, and parents' evenings.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for bearing with us during this transition.

This Week's Attendance



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



Not going to school every day can make it more likely for your child to get involved in crime or antisocial behaviour.

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



World Book Day

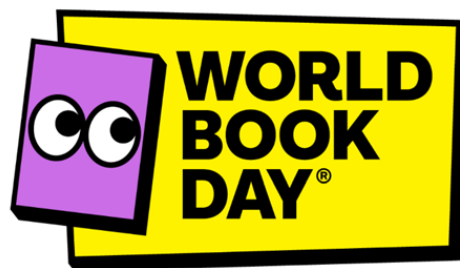
World Book Day Thursday 5th March

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.

Thank you for ensuring that your child/ren does still wear footwear suitable for a day in school e.g. no slippers please.



BETTER



On Monday, in assembly we had the pleasure of Stef and Abbie from 'Better Leisure Facilities' to talk to the children about winter water safety. They spoke about the importance of staying away from water; especially at this time of year when it can be slippery or the water can be frozen. The children were made aware of what to do if they get into trouble and signs of danger to look out for.

Mrs Atkinson – PE Leader



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme, this week we have taken a trip to the jungle. The children have enjoyed many jungle themed stories and factual texts. They have also looked on a world map to find where the jungles are and talked about the features of a jungle. Linked to our jungle work, the children have painted jungle collages, written animal riddles and used their cutting skills to create parrots and monkey hanging decorations. What a busy week we've had!



In **phonics** this week, the new phonemes learnt have been **ur (as in curl)**, **ow (as in owl)**, **oi (as in boil)** and **ear (as in hear)**. We have continued to learn the catchphrases for each new grapheme and these are also on your child's homework sheet this week. More tricky words have been practised and also new words have been sounded out and read. New tricky words are, **my**, **by**, and **all**. We are very proud of how the children are making fantastic progress with their phonics knowledge and reading. Thank you for your support with this at home.

ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	ar
or	ur	er	ow	oi	ear

In **maths** the children have been investigating pairs, through a variety of different activities.



They have made pairs with practical equipment, grouping the objects into twos and then counting how many pairs there are. Also, they have enjoyed playing pairs matching games, matching up pairs of socks, Noah's Ark and Jungle Animal Pairs. The children then used their knowledge of making pairs to consolidate their understanding of odd and even numbers to 10, as the week went on.

On **Friday 13th February**, we would like to invite you to our Chinese New Year themed stay and play (with the children) between 9 – 9.45am. This is an opportunity for the children to show you around their classrooms and enjoy sharing their favourite activities. In the morning, please drop your children off as usual so they can become settled into their usual routines. We will then ask you to sign in for safety purposes before joining your child in the classroom. We greatly appreciate 1 adult for each child, to avoid our classrooms becoming overcrowded. We look forward to seeing you.



Reminders

Next Thursday, **Class 1** will be visiting Haxby library to return their 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)

It has been another exciting week in Key Stage 1. This week, we continued with our work looking at toys as we enjoyed the story "The Old Toy Room." In the story, Lottie is staying with her Granny and discovers a room full of toys. When she plays with them, she has an adventure and works with them to fix the railway bridge so that they can travel to the show on the train together. We loved this story and thought that it was very exciting. After sequencing the events of the story, we were inspired to write about scenes from the book, focusing on word classes and conjunctions. The children noticed that the toys in the story were old, traditional toys like the ones we have been learning about in history. It was great to see how inspired they were by this topic.



In history, we continued to look at how children's lives today differ from those in the past as we continued to explore Victorian childhood. Having already learned about how toys and play have changed, we learned about another important aspect of childhood: school. We started with pictures of school artefacts, such as chalk boards, ink wells, computers and school uniform. We were excellent at sorting them into old and new and talking about our reasons for sorting them this way. We then looked at photographs of Victorian schools and learned about how free, compulsory education was a Victorian development and how this improved the lives of children who would otherwise have gone to work. Not that school was the friendly, welcoming place it is today! We were particularly fascinated by punishments such as the dunce hat and the dreaded cane. The children were even able to spot objects from Victorian schools that are still in use today, such as the school bell.



In science, we have continued to investigate materials and the objects that can be made from them. This week, we got hands-on and explored the material samples again. This time, we were looking for ways to describe them. After identifying the material, we sorted them into categories to say whether they were soft, hard, rough, smooth, lumpy, see-through, shiny, etc. We call these

descriptions properties. There were so many ways to describe them! The children displayed excellent descriptive and sorting skills and did a great job of saying which properties matched their material.

Well done Key Stage 1. We are all so proud of your effort and attitude and how you continue to thrive.

Well done Key Stage 1. It has been an amazing week full of fun and learning. We can't wait to see what next week will bring.

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Griffiths, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

It has been another wonderful week in Lower Key Stage Two.



In PSHE this term, the children's learning has been centred around 'Media Literacy'; helping children navigate the digital world and how to be thoughtful, responsible users of the internet. Within PSHE lessons, the children have explored what a digital footprint is and how things we share online, even when deleted, can last a long time and how the things we share can shape how others see us. In small groups, the children also explored the age restrictions of popular social media platforms. They learnt these restrictions are there for their own safety by ensuring they are only viewing appropriate content.

Through discussion, the children are developing a clearer understanding of how to use technology in a safe way and how to make informed choices to protect themselves in the online world.

In geography, the children continued their 'Rivers Deep, Mountains High' topic where the children have been developing their atlas skills to locate famous mountain ranges on different continents across the world. This week, the children learnt about the key physical features of a mountain such as ridge, snow line and plateau. Once the children were introduced to the new vocabulary linked to mountain features, they had a go at matching the features to their definitions. After completing the matching activity, the children labelled an image of a mountain with its physical features.



In English, the children have completed their learning about explanation texts and have applied their learning by writing their own based on 'The Water Cycle'. The children focused on using clear layout features, including an effective title and informative subheadings, to organise their writing for the reader and also worked hard to include key writing features such as subordinating conjunctions and fronted adverbials. By using these features, the children have written informative, well-structured texts that have portrayed their scientific knowledge of the water cycle well.



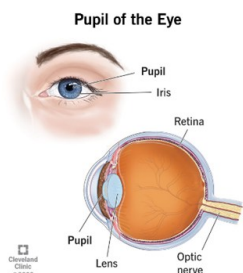
We hope that you have a lovely, relaxing weekend.

Mr Daniel, Miss Clapham, Miss Hodgson and Mr Merrall



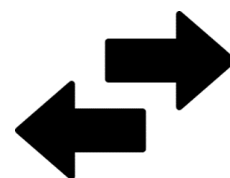
Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

In English, we have been writing an independent explanation text about the pollination and fertilisation process. Children recalled their prior learning in science. Our particular focus was to make sure that we wrote a cohesive piece of writing with a range of varying sentence openers, punctuation, higher-level scientific vocabulary and Year 5/6 common exception words.



As part of our unit learning about light in science, we looked at the structure of the eye and learnt how all the components work together enabling us to see. We used mirrors to show how the size of our pupil changed in diameter depending on the amount of light entering. We learnt that when light hits the retina (a light-sensitive layer of tissue at the back of the eye), special cells called photoreceptors turn the light into electrical signals. These electrical signals travel from the retina through the optic nerve to the brain. The brain then turns the signals into the images we see.

In French, we have been learning about how to give directions: turn left, turn right and go straight on. We are starting to learn how to give directions to a friend to move from one area within the school to another. We will eventually be able to give directions from a specific starting point in Haxby to school explaining which buildings we have passed on route.



Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Aspery, Mr Bennett and Mr Tod

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WEEKLY LESSONS**

Give your child the gift of confidence and safety in and around the water with Better Swim School.

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Join weekly lessons with Better Swim School and get 50 % off your first payment with code SCHOOL50.



Terms and conditions apply. Offer open to new customers only for school children aged between 4 -12 years. Offer ends on 07/08/2026. Full terms at better.org.uk/offer-terms. Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no. XR43398.

BETTER

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

FUN, ACTIVE, AWARD WINNING CHILDCARE
THIS FEBRUARY HALF TERM IN YORK
OPEN 8AM - 5:30PM | FOR 5-11 YEAR OLDS

- 50+ ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE WEEK
- ARTY | CRAFTY | SPORTY | ADVENTURE OPTIONS
- 2 ACTIVITY CHOICES EVERY HOUR
- SWIMMING DAYS - CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO
- FOOTBALL CAMPS AT SELECTED VENUES



SCAN TO BOOK!!!

BOOK NOW, PLACES GO FAST AT ALL VENUES!!
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WE ACCEPT:
✓ Childcare Vouchers
✓ Tax-Free Childcare

VENUES NEAR YOU!!

YORK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SECONDARY ⚡⚽ • HEADLANDS PRIMARY ⚡ • HUNTINGTON SECONDARY ⚡ • MANOR SECONDARY ⚡⚽ 	HARROGATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARROGATE LADIES' COLLEGE ⚡ • ROSSETT SPORTS CENTRE ⚡⚽
EASINGWOLD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OUTWOOD ACADEMY SECONDARY ⚡ 	EAST YORKSHIRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POCKLINGTON SCHOOL ⚡⚽ • TRANBY ⚡
WAKEFIELD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL (QEGS) ⚡⚽ 	CASTLEFORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRIGSHAW HIGH SCHOOL ⚡

WHAT'S ON AT WHICH CAMP KEY:

⚡ ENERGY CAMP - 50+ ARTY/CRAFTY/SPORTY/ADVENTURE/FUN ACTIVITIES

⚽ FOOTBALL CAMP

🏊 SWIM DAYS - CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

JOIN TOTAL ENERGY THIS HALF TERM!
50+ ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE WEEK & 2 CHOICES EVERY HOUR!!
CHOOSE BETWEEN DODGEBALL OR DEN BUILDING, CRAFTS OR CAPTURE THE FLAG, PARACHUTE GAMES OR BASKETBALL, YOUR CHILDREN RULE THEIR DAYS!

SWIMMING ON SET DAYS AT SET VENUES INCLUDED AS PART OF ENERGY PROGRAMME - CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO!!

FOOTBALL CAMPS FOR FOOTBALL MAD CHILDREN!!
JOIN OUR FA QUALIFIED COACHES FOR A BRILLIANT HALF TERM OF FOOTBALL FUN! AT SET VENUES, OUR FOOTBALL CAMPS ARE PERFECT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES, SCHOOLS AND CLUBS! JOIN US FOR SKILL DRILLS, CHALLENGES, MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS!!



SCAN TO BOOK!!!

BOOK NOW, PLACES GO FAST AT ALL VENUES!!
WWW.TOTALSPORTSLIMITED.CO.UK

THE LITTLE GYM CAMPS

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-12 YEARS
Our next camps are: 16th - 22nd February.
Scan below to learn more or contact: 01904 307404
york@thelittlegym.co.uk






 **The Little Gym**
Serious Fun.



POLICE COMMUNITY DROP IN

@


OAKEN GROVE COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2026
10:30AM - 11:30AM




MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM AND OFFERING BIKE REGISTER






**York
Parents'
Survey**



Raise York
Your Family Hub Network



Are you a young
person aged 7 - 25
with a special
educational need
or disability
(SEND)?



The SEND Youth Forum meets fortnightly at SEND Central to:

- Take part in fun activities, discussions and events
- Meet other young people with SEND
- Help improve SEND services York
- Share their views and ideas



We also meet once a month online.

Have your say and make a difference!

For more information:

✉ Jointpartnership@york.gov.uk

🌐 www.yorksend.org/get-involved/send-youth-forum



**York SEND
Local Offer**



CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL

This week at SEND CENTRAL



2nd February - 6th February 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along
Monday 2 February 1pm- 2pm- Welfare Rights- knowing what you may be entitled to as a family who have a child with additional needs. Book an appointment with the benefits advisor by emailing SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076. You can come along without an appointment and wait.	SENDIASS 10am-2.30pm Bookable slots throughout the day. Please book via SEND.CENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	Early Years SEND Playgroup YIKS 9.30am - 11. am All welcome no booking required	SEND Casework Duty Worker 10am-2pm Advice and information bookable slots. Please book via SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	NHS Preparation for Adulthood 10am - 2pm Drop in - advice and information- All welcome no booking required.
YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Portage Music Group 1.30pm-2.30pm Workshop- Invite only	Think Together Workshop 10-11.30- see separate sheet for the week's theme- No need to book just come along.	YIKS Parent/carer SEND drop in 9.30am-11am All Welcome no booking required	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKS
	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm-6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	5 week course Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs 12.45-2.45pm. This is a free course and includes child care. Enrol online: https://yorklearning.org.uk/family-learning/	Healthy Child Team 9am - 12pm Drop in 2pm - 3.30pm 4 month workshop- invite only.	
	YIKS Siblings Group 6.45- 8pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Specialist Autism Teaching Team 1.30pm-2.30pm Drop in- All welcome no booking required	YIKS Post 16 Group 6.30pm -8pm	

YORK Learning Family Learning



Supporting Children & Young People with Mental Wellbeing

This free 5 week introductory course explores Mental Health and ways to help you support your child at home with their mental well-being.

There will be an opportunity to understand which services are available to support you at home and school.

Following this course there will be an opportunity for you to take a Level 2 qualification.

Who: Parents and Carers

Dates: 25 February 2026 - 25 March 2026

When: Wednesday Afternoons, 12:45 - 2:45

**Where: SEND CENTRAL,
Clifton Green Children's Centre, YO30 6JA**

Please note this is a course for adults only but free childcare is available. Please book to avoid disappointment.

Use the QR Code to enrol on the course or for more information call 01904 554277 email york.learning@york.gov.uk



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UK Government

Seedlings

SEND Under 5s

Stay & Play

FREE drop in Sessions

Monthly on a Wednesday 10 - 11.30

- Outdoor space
- Sensory area
- Arts & Crafts
- Music / Singing
- Storytime
- Peer Support
- Refreshments

Sendseedlings@gmail.com

**SEND Central,
Clifton Family Hub**

Jan 21st Winter Wonders

Feb half term tbc

Mar 18th Spring Seedlings

Raise York
Your Family Hub Network

We're proud to be a Raise York partner