

Friday 24th October 2025

2025/26 No: 7



01904 768325 (option 3)



www.ralphbutterfieldprimary.co.uk



Acting Headteacher's Message

Monday's Assembly – Celebrating Diwali

On Monday, the whole school came together for a wonderful assembly to celebrate **Diwali**, the Hindu Festival of Lights. We listened to the story of Rama and Sita, which reminds us that light triumphs over darkness and good over evil. Everyone enjoyed learning how families celebrate Diwali by lighting lamps, decorating their homes with rangoli patterns, wearing bright clothes, sharing sweets, and spending time with loved ones.

At our school, we value and celebrate the many different faiths, beliefs, and traditions that make our community so special. Assemblies like this help us to understand and appreciate the diverse cultures around us and remind us of the importance of kindness, respect, and togetherness.

It was a bright and joyful start to the week and a lovely reminder that our school community shines even more brightly when we learn and celebrate together.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A reminder that a letter has been sent home regarding a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Board. Being a Parent Governor is a fantastic way to support and help shape the strategic direction of your child's school. The closing date for nominations is **9:00am on Monday 17th November**. If you would like to find out more, 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.

Request for Help with our Outdoor Provision

A reminder that if you, someone you know, or a local company would be willing to take the lead in organising and carrying out the preparation work for our new shed, or in designing and constructing an outdoor wellington boot storage area, we would be extremely grateful. We would be delighted to recognise and thank any local businesses or individuals who are able to support this project through our newsletters, social media, and school website.

As this first half term of the year draws to a close, I would personally like to take the opportunity to thank all of our parents/carers for your support and kind messages to myself, in my interim role once again, and to all staff across the school. In engaging so positively with the school, be that to share news for celebration, to discuss concerns, to ask questions, to request support, to meet teachers at parent/carer evenings, in working together we can achieve so much more for our children.

I hope that you can enjoy some quality family time together over the half term break and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Tuesday 4th November**.

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

Best wishes

Helen Stephenson

Children in Need

Children in Need is a charity which supports disadvantaged children and young people all over the UK and on **Friday 14th November** we would like to join the nation in raising money for this very popular charity. Children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes on this day, in exchange for a donation to the charity (please ensure clothes are suitable for a day at school). Your child could wear spots or yellow clothes like Pudsey or a Children in Need accessory.



During the week 10th – 14th November, if you would like to and are able to make a donation, please do so via Parent Pay. We will then notify you in due course, of how much money has been raised for this very worthy cause.

Thank you

Remembrance Day



In respect of the national observance of Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11th November, all children will be given a poppy in school between Tuesday 3rd and Friday 7th November. During the week, children will also be completing a range of related educational activities designed to inform them of the importance of this day of observance (at an age-appropriate level). If you would like to make a donation to The

Poppy Appeal, run by The Royal British Legion, you are welcome to do so on ParentPay between Monday 3rd and Friday 7th November.

Thank you.

Nut Free School

A gentle reminder that our school is a **nut-free site**. We have several children with **severe nut allergies**, so it's essential that **all snacks and lunches are completely nut-free**.

Please remember that **Nutella and similar products contain nuts** and should not be brought to school.

If your child packs their own snacks, we ask that you **take a moment to talk with them** about which foods are suitable for school and which should stay at home.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us **keep every child safe**.



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



This Week's Attendance



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

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

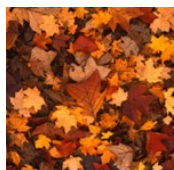
This week has been a busy week in Reception. We have focussed our learning about special times which are being observed and celebrated this week and month. We have also enjoyed learning about autumn through a range of activities too.

On Monday, the children learnt about celebrating Diwali (following recent celebrations around the world). They enjoyed learning the story of Rama and Sita, finding out how Hindus and Sikhs celebrate this special celebration, creating rangoli patterns in the playground and making diwa lamps.



On Tuesday, we were grateful to be visited by Mrs Broom who talked to the children about her role with the ambulance service. This continued our theme of people who help us. The children really enjoyed hearing all about how Mrs Broom helps other people.

This week, the children have enjoyed exploring Black History through stories. Our focus story 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon is a wonderful story all about career aspirations and space travel featuring the science-mad main character, Rocket, she's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived!



The children have also completed a range of autumn themed activities including, making a playdough hedgehog, collecting leaves to make leaf people and finding autumn themed tricky words in the outdoor classroom.

Our visit to **Harlow Carr** on Thursday was fantastic. The children thoroughly enjoyed everything from the coach journey to the brilliant workshop led by the RHS staff. We looked for signs of autumn by investigating leaves, seeds and colours in the gardens. The children also had great fun pretending to be different shaped leaves! There was also an opportunity to look at the amazing gardens and spot signs of autumn as we walked around. We all had a fantastic day, even though we did get a little bit wet and the adults who supported us commented that the children had been an absolute credit to the school. We are very proud of them all.



We are amazed at how well all the children have settled into their first term at school and very proud of the progress they are making in many areas of the curriculum already.

Library visits

Class 2 will be visiting Haxby Explore library on Thursday 6th November. Please ensure children have their library cards in their book bags. Those children who need a new card, these will be issued by the library staff on the day.

We hope you all have a well-deserved half-term break and look forward to seeing you after the holidays.

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





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

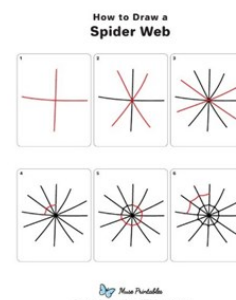
It has been an extremely long half term to start the year but we have made it! We are so proud of the resilience of our children to keep going with enthusiasm and to continue to work so hard over the last 8 weeks. This week, we worked very hard to write our own independent stories, based on the book "Lost and Found". We have already enjoyed the story and seen how it could be adapted by changing the central characters. This week, we came up with our own stories about lost monkeys, polar bear cubs and meerkats that turned up on doorsteps and were returned to their natural habitats. The children used familiar plots and themes to inspire their writing as they showcased their very best independent work. They worked extremely hard and wowed us with the quality and beauty of their writing. Well done Key Stage 1: we were seriously impressed!



In maths, we have been applying what we know about addition to solve addition word problems. This involved us reading and understanding a puzzle and extrapolating a calculation, based on the numbers and words in the problem. We then had to apply the skills, knowledge and methods we had learned previous, in order to solve the calculation.

Once we had done, we were able to answer the question in context. There was a lot for us to think about but we rose to the challenge and applied our addition methods accurately.

Our art this week was linked to the work we have been doing in science on living things and their habitats. We were looking at patterns and beauty in nature and using what we had seen to inspire our own artwork. We were fascinated by looking at the beauty and intricacy of spider webs. We learned how to draw them ourselves by starting with a large star shape and then connecting the lines, radiating outwards. After we had drawn the framework, we used shading techniques to enhance and personalise our piece. We also looked at the line patterns in leaves and did rubbings of real leaves in our sketch books, using wax crayons. We layered our leaf shapes and used a variety of colours to create bright, vibrant pieces that looked simply stunning.



Well done Key Stage 1. We hope that you enjoy a very well-earned break and look forward to seeing you in November!

Mrs Atkinson, Miss Tattersley & Mr Merrall



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

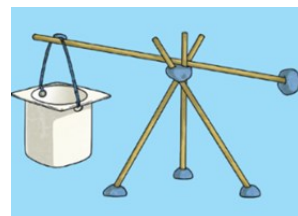
Well done, Year 3 and 4! We are all incredibly proud of the hard work and enthusiasm you've shown towards your learning during this half term.

There have been many highlights this half term but our "All Wrapped Up" Ancient Egyptian topic has certainly been one to remember! The variety of practical activities and the amazing facts we've discovered so far have made this topic truly stand out and memorable.



This week, the children were challenged to construct their own pyramids using sugar cubes - with no instructions! Through plenty of trial and error, teamwork, perseverance and by applying their knowledge of pyramid structures, they created some truly impressive models. It really wasn't as easy as they thought it was going to be.

After designing and creating a sequence of actions last week, the children made their own Shadufs this week. They carefully measured and cut dowel to the correct lengths, following safety instructions brilliantly while using saws. The biggest challenge was assembling the three dowel pieces to form a sturdy tripod.



Class Assembly

Reminder for Class 6 parents / carers

All the children in Class 6 are looking forward to you joining them at 3pm (gates open at 2.50pm) for their class assembly on **Friday 7th November** in the school hall.

We're looking forward to continuing our Ancient Egyptian "All Wrapped Up" topic next half term and we can't wait for our **Open Classroom Event on Monday 10th November at 2:40pm** when the children will have the chance to share their fabulous work with parents / carers. Please refer to the letter sent earlier this week for more information.



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)



In history, we have been learning about Black History Month and focusing on the remarkable life and achievements of Nelson Mandela. Using key vocabulary such as *equality*, *justice*, *freedom* and *perseverance*, we explored how Mandela dedicated his life to fighting against apartheid in South Africa and worked tirelessly to bring people together in peace. We learned about the challenges he faced during his 27 years in prison and how his courage and determination helped to end racial segregation. We also discussed the importance of his legacy today, reflecting on how his message of hope, forgiveness and unity continues to inspire people around the world to stand up for what is right and fair.

In French this term, we have learnt the necessary vocabulary related to what we eat for lunch, healthy diets and whether these foods have masculine or feminine determiners. We have started to have a conversation with our peers about our own lunch, discussing whether this was healthy or not. We then looked at how to order a variety of foods in a French café setting.



In PE this week, we have been developing and consolidating our gymnastic skills on the floor, through partner work and on large apparatus. We focused on building control, strength and teamwork as we created a sequenced routine to share with our peers. We worked hard to balance with control, keeping our eyes focused on a fixed point to help us stay steady with minimum wobble. When performing balances with our partner, we made sure both of us were fully involved and contributing equally to the position. We concentrated on holding each balance for at least three seconds, keeping our whole body tight and extended. When supporting on our back, we remembered to keep our stomach engaged and our back flat to help my partner stay stable. By linking our actions smoothly and expressing our own ideas, we were able to create a sequence that flowed well and engaged our audience.

Year 6 - Robinwood

A letter was sent out to all Parent/Carers on Wednesday, with reminders about what can and cannot be brought on the trip. If your child is ill over the weekend prior to Robinwood, please complete either the online absence form or email the school directly. These will be monitored over the weekend.

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



A child in current Year 6 will start secondary school in **September 2026** and parent/cares should make a school place application.

The application deadline is **31st October** and it is important that City of York Council receives any applications by the deadline. Thank you.

Haxby and Wigginton Library

Opening Hours

Monday	10am – 5pm
Tuesday	10am – 5pm
Wednesday	10am – 5pm
Thursday	10am – 5pm
Friday	10am – 5pm
Saturday	10am – 4pm
Sunday	Closed

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Fun Fridays

Starting Friday 12 September!

Join us for crafts, games and
activities every Friday
during term-time
3.30pm – 4.30pm.

This is a free, drop-in session – just turn up
and enjoy the fun!

Activities are most suitable for children aged 4+ but
younger siblings are welcome to attend.

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Introduction to Counselling Skills

This 5-week course is designed to introduce you to
some of the essential skills required to work in
helping roles such as listening skills, setting
boundaries, and confidentiality.

The course will be discussion-led and will require
you to take part in group activities.

Who: People who are interested in helping roles

Dates: 6 Nov 2025 - 4 Dec 2025

When: Thursday Afternoons, 12.45 - 2.45

Where: St Hilda's Church Hall, YO24 4FR

Please note this is a course for adults only free childcare may
be 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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