



Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon

If you haven't already, please be sure to read the letter sent yesterday via ParentPay, explaining how the National Education Union teacher strikes will affect our school next Wednesday 1st February. Whilst teachers have no obligation to share their intention to strike, our teachers have, with a view to providing more time for parents/carers to arrange child care as needed. This is a legal strike and those who wish to, have the right to participate. Thank you for your understanding and support at this time.

The teaching of online safety is embedded in our curriculum for the children. We also alert parents/carers to issues and signpost to [online safety information](#) on our designated school website page. Today I would like to share with you how we ensure our own systems in school keep children safe online, through effective filtering and monitoring.

Filtering: Our internet is filtered through a Smoothwall Firewall System managed by Vital, using an Educational filter. The Smoothwall scans the copy, content and context of every web page visited, for unwanted material. It has 120 filtering categories which can be used to tailor the web browsing experience of all audiences, to ensure that harmful content is out of reach. These 120 categories are broken down even further into hundreds of sub categories, giving the system control of what is allowed through the filtering. As it is an Educational Filter, there are stricter filters applied to all content that is accessed.

Monitoring: Smoothwall Monitor is a real-time, digital monitoring solution that flags incidents as they happen. Monitoring both keystrokes and screen views, designated individuals are informed, when users try to view or type harmful content. Should anyone enter something inappropriate, this is flagged up and can be tracked to the individual workstation and the person using it at that time. We would be notified immediately should there be any alert.

Away from online safety, contextual safeguarding is about ensuring that our children are taught how to keep safe within the community in which they live. Due to the fact that there are two level crossings in Haxby, we have today welcomed Network Rail into school, teaching children about the safe use of these. The British Transport Police also visited us and the children have had particular fun exploring the police vehicle on our playground. We also work closely with our police community support officer (PCSO), who keeps us updated with local issues that we can then support the children with. For example, when antisocial behaviour was noted at Ethel Ward, they spoke with our older children about how to safeguard against the impact of this (I can reassure you that the perpetrators of the antisocial behaviour were not associated with any children at our school or their older siblings!). You may see the PCSO outside school some mornings, with a view to being supportive in relation to such as appropriate parking and speeds at busy drop off times.

I hope you have a happy and safe weekend.

Liz Clark



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

Lost Property

We have a huge amount of unnamed lost property, within the entrance foyer. If your child(ren) has misplaced something, since Christmas, please do come take a look and see if you can be reunited with it!

Any unnamed uniform items, not collected before we break for February half term, will then be passed on to our wonderful PTA, for them to then be sold at the next pre-loved uniform sale.



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

As part of our 'Amazing Animals' theme, this week, we have taken a visit to the desert to find out about the animals that live there. The children have enjoyed our text of the week 'Meerkat Mail' and other desert themed stories and factual texts.



'Meerkat Mail' tells the story of Sunny who decides to explore new places to live. He quickly realises that home is the best place! Inspired by 'Meerkat Mail', the children have written their own postcards to describe the desert and written a list of essential party items for Sunny's welcome home party.

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 taught. 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.

In **Maths**, this week, the children have learnt how to compare and measure height and length. They have learnt to use comparative language like tall, long, short and also distinguished between the longest and shortest when comparing two items. As part of this work, the children have also learnt how to measure the height and length of animals, using cubes.

Mr Walton continued his PE sessions with us on Tuesday. He taught the children how to control a football and taught a range of multi-skills through passing, stopping and balancing activities, all with the footballs. The children all enjoyed their lesson and are making great progress.



Can we please remind you that outdoor PE is on Tuesdays and it would be helpful if the children have warm PE clothes to wear? A jumper and tracksuit bottoms would be beneficial please.

We are pleased to share with you that the children shall be visiting St Mary's Church on Thursday 9th February. They will be walking to the church with additional adult support and will spend approx. 1 hour at the church. This is to support our current RE topic 'special places'. We have been learning about the special places that Christians and Muslims visit. This visit is covered by our local area permissions which parents/carers were asked to give in September. If you have any questions about this visit, please do ask.

It is a pleasure to see how the children are enjoying our learning journey.

Thank you for your continued support.

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



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



Key Stage 1 has been an exciting place to learn this week. We have continued our work looking at Florence Nightingale (the 'Lady of the Lamp') and the impact she had on hospitals to this day. As part of this, we made some fantastic paper lanterns of our own. We then wrote some instructions for how to make them. We also learned about how she revolutionised medical care by cleaning the hospital at Scutari and insisting that the wounded soldiers had clean clothes and bandages, beds to sleep in and plenty of good food.

We have had another busy week in our maths lessons too. We continued to learn about multiplication, arrays and counting sequences. We also did lots of practical measuring work, looking at volume and capacity. We were filling containers with water and measuring the water in millilitres and litres. It was lots of fun and a great way to develop our real life skills.



In P.E, Classes 4 and 5 have enjoyed expressing themselves as part of their dance unit, which has involved looking at body shapes and sequencing movements between them. Class 3 have been thoroughly enjoying their sessions with Mr Stephenson, where they have been working on throwing and catching skills.



The Year 2 children have enjoyed continuing their recorder lessons and are currently practising a new song.

Well done Key Stage 1. We are very proud of your hard work.

Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Reeves and Mr Merrall



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)



This week in PSHE, the children have learnt about Human Rights. They discussed the various rights that every person across the globe is entitled to. These include a right to be safe, a right to food and water and all people have the right to an education. Each child discussed which they felt was the most important human right and gave reasons for their opinion.

In geography, the children have been researching the various climate zones around the world: the tropical, the arid and the polar. They gathered information on a range of features within these areas including the weather patterns, seasons, plants, animals and other interesting facts.



The children kicked off their art projects this week. They were introduced to artists who use paper to create sculptures and they discussed how they felt towards the pieces. From this, they researched and practised a variety of paper folding techniques, such as accordion, loop, zipper and cone.

On Friday, all of Lower Key Stage had a visit from Network Rail and the transport police. We all thoroughly enjoyed the session and the children discussed how we are able to keep safe.

Please do come and speak to us if you have any questions, queries or would like to share any news with us.

We hope that you have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Daniel, Miss Hodgson and Miss Clapham



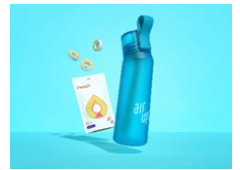
In English this week, we have been writing character and setting descriptions. Before writing, we collated ambitious vocabulary and a range of features: similes, metaphors and examples of personification. We then used this knowledge to write cohesive and descriptive paragraphs.

As part of our work on electricity, we experimented making simple complete and incomplete circuits. We learnt that by increasing the voltage in a circuit, we could increase the brightness of a bulb. We understood that cells often have their voltage written on the label and that by placing two cells in a series circuit, we could combine their voltage.



In computing, we learnt abstraction and decomposition. Abstraction involves removing unnecessary elements of a program. In the football game we looked at, they had chosen not to include the crowd, the referee and even the lines on the pitch. Decomposition is where a piece of code will be separated into chunks to make it more manageable.

We have become aware that a number of children are bringing into school 'Air Up' water bottles. Due to the cost of these bottles, we strongly recommend that they are not used in school; we wish to make parents/carers aware that children bringing these bottles into school, do so at their own risk.



On Monday 30th January, all children need to wear school uniform, sensible footwear and bring a coat with a hood for our walk to Joseph Rowntree School where we will be watching Matilda. We will be walking regardless of the weather conditions.

As always, if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Mr Bennett, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod

PTA News



Bags2School collection will be on **Friday 3rd February**, from 8.45am - 9.00am the School playground.

We would love all of your unwanted clothing, bags, bedding (not pillows or duvets though), shoes (tied together), hats, scarves, jewellery, curtains, towels and belts. Please bring them along and we can earn lots of money for school!



UV Glow DISCO

On **Thursday 9th February**, 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 white or neon colours if they have something already.

Timings are as follows

- 4.30pm - 5.30pm – Reception, Year 1 and 2
- 5.45pm - 6.45pm – Year 3 and 4
- 7.00pm – 8.00pm – Year 5 and 6



We will have a few glow/neon items to sell (20p or 50p) if you wish, but genuinely you don't have to buy anything as white socks and a white top will 'glow' brilliant whilst dancing!

We hope the children are as excited as we are!

Thank you for your support.

Free School Meals

Support is available for any child (any year group) whose parent/carer meets the threshold. If you are in receipt of benefits or have an income of less than £16,190, you may be able to claim.

City of York Council, alongside Ralph Butterfield Primary School, treat all claims in confidence, and schools provide the same meals whether they're paid for or provided free.

Your child doesn't have to take up a meal every day - you can still provide a 'pack up' as and when you want to. School can also support in other ways, when a child becomes eligible for free school meals.

More information can be found here

<https://www.york.gov.uk/FreeSchoolMeals>

YORK
Learning


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Cook, Serve and Save

Make the most of every ingredient in your cupboard to make delicious, nutritious meals, with lower energy costs. Simple recipes that are easy to repeat!

5 sessions where you practise cooking and build up your larder with food you are given. You will get your own slow cooker when you have completed the course.

Various dates available
Contact us on 01904 554277 to
find out more and book

Multiply courses are free to anyone who doesn't have a Level 2 maths qualification (Functional Skills/GCSE Grade 4-9/A-C)

For more information: call 01904 554277,
email york.learning@york.gov.uk or
visit www.yorklearning.org.uk



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A SESSION FOR PARENTS
TO HELP BUILD CHILDREN'S
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

A MIND OF THEIR OWN

Help your child develop resilience; manage emotions; gain confidence in their identity and think more positively.



A single video and discussion based event to help you understand more about the emotional and mental challenges facing your child.

For more information
contact Jen Wootten:
jenwootten@fmy.org.uk
07393 147259



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FAMILY MATTERS YORK IS A CHARITY WORKING TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AND BUILD CONFIDENCE WITHIN FAMILIES.

A single session parenting event to share, discuss and learn strategies to equip our children and to support them more effectively as they face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

Saturday 11th March, 9.30-12 noon
@The Belfrey Hall, 52a Stonegate, YO1 8AS

[Click here to book](#)

Level 2 Support Work in Schools & Colleges FREE Online Course

Would you like to gain a level 2 qualification in Support Work in Schools and Colleges and gain experience of volunteering in a local school?

The course seeks to develop the knowledge and understanding that those working in a school or college setting will need. Content includes safeguarding, health/safety, children and young people's development, equality, professional communication and understanding the school and college context.

The course will enable students to develop an understanding of working in a support role in a school and will promote parental engagement with children and young people's learning.

It is a course requirement that all students attend an Initial Assessment session

Skills Check session

Date: Friday 10 Feb 2023

Time: 09.30 – 12.00

Online session on Zoom & Canvas
Course ID: C3681618 PIN: 64593

Level 2 Support Work in Schools Course

Dates: Fridays 24 Feb – 14 July 2023
(no sessions in school holidays)

Times: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
(with a 1 hour lunch break)

Online course on Zoom & Canvas
Cost: FREE

Tutor: Katie Croft

Course ID: C3681116 PIN: 66497

*Course is for York, North Yorks, Hull, E Riding, N & NE Lincs residents only

Contact Diane Quinney for course information dquinney@wea.ac.uk

Enrolments: online at wea.org.uk
or phone: 0300 303 3464

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