



Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon

Here at Ralph Butterfield Primary School, the children benefit from a staff team who are very reflective and continually seeking further ways of providing the best possible learning experiences. However, reflection is also important for identifying and appreciating what is worthy of celebration. In our staff meeting this week, we took a few minutes to consider the wonderfulness that had already been noted in the first couple of days of a new half term:

- *"In Years 3 and 4 we mummified apples and the children loved it! It was a hands-on, practical task and they followed the steps really well. We made great links between English, history, maths, science and a tenuous link with RE!"*
- *"Year 1 and 2 loved interviewing Guy Fawkes through AI; they came up with brilliant questions to ask him."*
- *"The children new to our school this week are settling in brilliantly."*
- *"When investigating this half term's Fundamental British Values Rule of Law big question - 'Do I have to?' - children came up with really good reasons why our three school expectations are important." (Our expectations are to be ready, be respectful and be safe).*
- *"I've really noticed children using excellent manners around school and the older children being good role models."*
- *"Reception joined singing assembly for the first time today and did really well!"*
- *"Children in Year 3 were really enthused by 'REAL Gym' and I enjoyed it more than I expected to too!"*
- *"Year 6 have clearly had a great time on their residential."*

We are also incredibly proud of all of the children for the highly respectful way in which they observed a two minute silence together, at 11am this morning, in Remembrance. Thank you to Mr Gallagher who then played the Last Post on his euphonium; it was truly beautiful and poignant. You can view the latter on our X/Twitter timeline (@RalphBPSch_York – please do follow us). Mrs Reeves also led a very thoughtful assembly centred on the lovely book, 'Where the Poppies Now Grow' by Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey. Again, the children responded to this with thoughtfulness and respect.

We are really looking forward to showcasing our school to prospective families next Wednesday 15th November.

Thank you very much in advance to all of the children who will be returning to school to help us do this.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy their weekend.

Liz Clark



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week, across school, the children will be participating in Anti-Bullying Week. To kick-start the week, we would like the children to come to school in **odd socks** on **Monday 13th November** if possible please.



Children in Need

Children in Need is a charity that supports disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. On **Friday 17th November**, we'd like to join the nation in raising money for this very popular charity. All children are invited to come to school wearing non-uniform on this day; we only ask that clothes and footwear are suitable for a day at school please. Your child(ren) could wear spots or yellow, like Pudsey, or a Children in Need accessory.



During the week 13th – 17th 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 school has raised for this worthy cause.

Thank you.



Times Tables Competition

Next week, beginning on the 14th November and ending on the 16th of November, all of our KS1 and KS2 children will get the opportunity to showcase their times table and division fact recall knowledge by entering the latest, exciting online national competition that has been set by the team at TTRockstars – England Rocks!



How does it work?

Using TTRockstars, both in school and at home where possible, children will try to answer as many multiplication and division questions correctly as they can.



Rules:

- Every correct answer that a child gives, in any game type they choose, between the hours of 7:30am and 7:30pm each day, will contribute to their class and school score.
- There is a 60-minute playtime limit per child, per day.
- The winning school and class will be based on the highest average number of correct answers per child.

Training Camp

In order to sharpen up their times table recall for this upcoming event, this week all classes have been given a times table homework challenge based on age-related curriculum expectations. This will help to consolidate their learning in school and build their confidence ahead of the competition.

We hope as many children as possible will take up the challenge at home and really enjoy competing against other schools in England. There is already a buzz of excitement building up around school! RBPS Rocks!

If you have any questions about this online event, please do not hesitate to speak to us about it. Thank you for your continued support with your child's maths education.

Mr Andy Daniel (Maths Subject Leader) Miss Lucy Hodgson (Maths Leadership Team)

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



A huge welcome back to our wonderful Reception children! We have loved hearing about the children's busy half term breaks. They have returned filled with enthusiasm and wonder for another exciting topic; **'Let's celebrate'**. This half term, we will be learning about lots of different festivals and celebrations including the children's own birthday celebrations.

In phonics, we have been so pleased with how the children have retained the GPCs learnt so far! We learnt three new digraphs this week; ff, ll, ss and the phoneme j. Children have also resumed their reading practice sessions this week and are enjoying discussing the stories within our wordless and worded books.



In maths this week, we have focussed on 1 more and 1 less. This has included playing bus journeys with passengers getting on and off the bus, adding 1 more related to The Very Hungry Caterpillar and taking 1 less away in songs like 5 Currant Buns and 5 little men in a flying saucer.

With the upcoming Diwali celebrations next week, the children enjoyed learning the story and finding out how Hindus and Sikhs celebrate this special celebration during our workshop. Next week, we will be focusing more on the Diwali celebration during our Understanding the World sessions.



P.E lessons have changed days this term. Both Class 1 and Class 2 will be doing PE on Fridays with Mr Stephenson from Total Sports. Please ensure your child has their named PE kit with them in school, each week.

Thank you for sharing entries of your half-term activities on Tapestry. It has been lovely for the children to share these with us.

We would appreciate birthday uploads on Tapestry. This can either be your 4th or 5th birthday celebrations. These will then be shared as part of our Let's Celebrate topic.



Your children are entitled to free milk until their 5th birthday. If you would like them to continue to receive this, please visit the Cool Milk website (using the link) to sign up and pay for this. Thank you <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

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



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Welcome back to school everyone. It was lovely to see all the children back, having had a wonderful week off.



The weekend before we started back at school, many of us had celebrated Bonfire Night. This is a tradition in which we celebrate the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot. We learned the story about Guy Fawkes and the men who plotted to kill King James I by blowing up the Houses of Parliament with 36 barrels of gunpowder. With the power of technology, we were able to use AI to ask Guy Fawkes some questions of our own.

In English we used what we knew to write newspaper reports about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We learned about the features of newspaper stories and how they were written and then used these in our writing. It was great to see how the children showed off their knowledge in such a way as to interest the reader.



We have been focusing on our four school values this week: ambition, determination, respect and integrity. We revisited what each of these words mean and how we can display these values in our school. We did some fantastic artwork to display these values, as well as writing about them and taking photos to show these values in action.

We also tried to answer this half term's Big Question: "Do I have to?" This was all to do with the fundamental British value of the rule of law. We thought about rules and why they are essential, how we can display this value in our own lives and the importance of respect for others and teamwork.



It has been a thoroughly successful first week back. Well done to all the children for their hard work and determination.

Mr Merrall, Mrs Reeves, Miss Griffiths and Mrs Reeves

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

What a great start to the half Term! Year 3 and 4 have returned to school refreshed and eager to continue their learning about Ancient Egyptians and to start their new topics in other subjects.



This week, the children have considered what the meaning of this half term's big question, 'Do I have to?' means. This question is linked to the Fundamental British Value 'Rule of Law'. As part of their learning, the children were asked what would happen if we didn't have our three overarching school expectations, 'Be Ready', 'Be Respectful' and 'Be Safe'. The children quickly identified that there is a need for expectations in school, at home and in our communities and without them everything would be a little chaotic as everyone would do their own thing. We decided that rules are good so that everyone can feel safe and be safe, learn in a safe and fun space and everyone is treated with respect.



During our History and English sessions this week, the children have found out how the Ancient Egyptians mummified pharaohs.

To start with, the children looked at a set of gruesome mummification instructions that explained how the mummification process was carried out. After learning about how the Ancient Egyptians removed organs and how they preserved and wrapped bodies in linen, the children had a go at mummifying an apple. This demonstrated how the natron salt, that was used to dry and preserve the body of the dead pharaoh, worked. The children created their own natron using salt and bicarbonate of soda and covered their apple quarter in it, to preserve it. We are looking forward to checking on our apples next week to see if it worked!



This half term, all three classes will be taught basketball by Mr Stephenson from Total Sports. We were all thrilled when we found out and are looking forward to developing our catching, throwing and shooting skills as well as our game tactics over the next 6 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 an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Mr Daniel, Miss Hodgson, and Miss Clapham

Year 5



Whilst the Year 6 children have been away, in Year 5 we have taken the time to carefully consider our school values: ambition, determination, respect and integrity. We reflected upon what each means to us and how we could represent them in our art work.

For ambition, we drew pictures of what we wanted to achieve, be it in the short term or a goal for the future. When considering determination, we thought about not giving up, especially when things get tricky! For respect, we thought about the way we would like to be treated and the way we treat others, with special consideration of the 9 Protected Characteristics. Finally, for integrity, we considered what it means to always do the right thing, even when nobody is watching.

In English, we completed a series of 'slow writes'; these are opportunities for us to work together as a class to write text. We spent time carefully selecting our sentence structures for effect; considered thoughtfully the cohesion of our paragraph, whilst trying to avoid repetition, and discussed choosing the most appropriate vocabulary. As a result, we finished the lessons with a better understanding of how to structure a piece of writing.



In reading, we continued to expand our understanding of different question types and discussed how to go about finding an answer. We studied texts carefully before attempting each question. We then worked collaboratively to discuss the strength of our answers - had we fully answered the question and how could we improve upon them?

Please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns. Mr Bennett, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod

Mr Bennett, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Stephenson & Mr Tod



Year 6



For all parents/carers whose children have not told you what they did whilst at Robinwood, here is a brief summary. All staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities on offer: canoeing, archery, caving, trapeze, giant swing, zip wire, night line, Knight's quest, dungeon of doom, climbing, team challenge and the infamous piranha pool.



The activities varied across each day and challenged them in a range of areas- mental, physical, overcoming fears and teamwork. All children completed every task to the best of their individual ability which at times took them out of their comfort zone.

We are very proud of all the children and what they achieved on an individual basis. Their approach to this whole experience was fantastic and the children were a pleasure to take and spend time with; we thoroughly enjoyed being able to spend time with the children outside of the normal school environment.



Thank you for all of your kind messages and we wish everyone a restful weekend (apart from the washing!).

Mr Bennett, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Stephenson & Mr Tod



Christmas is Coming

More details will follow next week in a special Christmas PTA letter but we have a few Christmas events planned running up to the big day

The BIG Christmas Raffle

Last year our BIG RB Christmas raffle was really successful and we hope for the same this year. It's a tricky year for everyone but we hope you can support it and win prizes that may support your Christmas costs, provide a wonderful family day out or just treat yourself!

We have an amazing list of prizes again.... with our BIG prize being a **Nintendo Switch Lite** – this was really popular last year with the winner being delighted with the prize.

We have had lots of local business generously support us with amazing food hampers perfect for Christmas, vouchers for York businesses, hair and beauty treatments, family days out and local takeaway vouchers.

It will be online and you will be able to share it with family and friends. We will be sharing the link shortly!



Christmas Eve Treat Bags

We will be also be taking orders again for Christmas Eve Treat bags in the next few weeks to be delivered in the last week of term – order dates will be published soon. It is becoming a bit of a traditional now for children to have a few treats on Christmas Eve to enjoy in anticipation of the big day.



This year we will have a Treat Bag on sale for £5 and then as something a little cheaper, we are selling a hand created baubles which has the contents to make hot chocolate on Christmas Eve, with special Ralph Butterfield Primary School ribbon – these will be £3 each.

Once again – those receiving free school meals will receive a Treat Bag (only) free, if they would like one.

Order forms will be out shortly

Christmas Card Designs

Orders have started coming in so will be going out today and next week!

Christmas Concert

On **Friday 8th December** we will welcoming **York Concert Band** for an evening of live music!

York Concert Band are a 50-piece, thriving, North Yorkshire ensemble, including brass, woodwind and percussion sections. The band will be joining us to play popular Christmas songs and offer an opportunity for a wonderful sing along, with a few carols! It will be the perfect evening to fill you with all the Christmas festive feelings, with all money raised going to our School.

The Christmas concert will be in the school hall, from 7pm - 9pm, with a short interval. Tickets are £6.00. During the interval, we will be selling refreshments and there will be a small raffle, with some wonderful prizes. Cash and card payments are available on the night.

Please come along and bring family and friends to really get in the Christmas mood!

Get your tickets early on the following link: [CHRISTMAS CONCERT TICKETS](#)

Any queries please email ralphbutterfield.pta@gmail.com



Bags2School

A Bags2School collection will take place on **Thursday 30th November** – please bring in unwanted clean and usable old clothes, sheets, towels, bags and paired shoes. These are collected and raise money for school.

If you are having a sort out – please do keep it for us!



YORK CHOCOLATE THEATRE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AND CHRISTMAS FAIR



Saturday 18th November

10am to 1pm

Joseph Rowntree Theatre, Haxby Road



Join us for tea, coffee and cake to celebrate the
88th anniversary of our theatre's opening night

Also featuring:

- Side show games
- Children's trail around the theatre
- Christmas gifts and decorations
- Local charities Relay for Life and Snappy



A fundraising event for the Joseph Rowntree Theatre, Registered Charity No 1098329

HWYCA & Larch
Music Present



Family Carol Singing

**Group
Rehearsal
at Oaken
Grove**

**20th Nov
6-7pm**

**Christmas
Light Switch
on at the
Precinct**

**30th Nov
6pm**

**Oaken Grove
Christmas
Event**

**9th Dec
1pm**



To join or for more details email
communityties@hwyca.co.uk

