



Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon

Yesterday, we were visited by Councillor Robert Webb alongside Derek Sutherland, head of primary school effectiveness and achievement for the local authority. It is always a joy taking visitors around our school and the children were incredibly impressive when answering questions. The pupil council explained their recent work on lunchtime systems and when classes were asked about what they enjoy, it was very clear that different subjects are inspiring different children. This is why we are so passionate about retaining our broad and ambitious curriculum. One Year 6 child shared that what they most enjoy about school is that 'there is diversity in the lessons' and another, 'we know what we are learning now will help us in the future.'

There are lots of school events taking place in the lead up to Christmas. If you'd like a reminder, these can be viewed on the school website calendar, which can be accessed by scrolling down the home page or [clicking here](#).

As it stands, 31% of parents/carers have completed our survey. Please could I urge anyone who hasn't yet completed the survey to do so? Just as important as learning the areas parents/carers feel need further attention, is receiving the positive feedback on what we are doing well. Please still complete the survey if you are 100% happy with our provision; this can be done just by indicating (clicking) your opinion, there is no requirement to write comments unless you wish to. Thank you.

[Please click here to complete the parent/carer survey](#)

Have a lovely weekend.

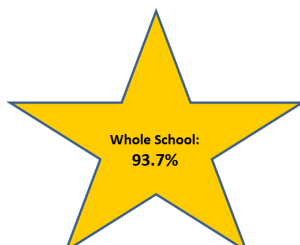
Liz Clark

Going to school **every day** makes it easier for your child to keep up in lessons.

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.

School Kitchen

Each year, the school kitchen has an unannounced visit from the Environmental Health Department. The visiting Environmental Officer assesses how hygienically the food is handled; the condition of the kitchen and cleanliness and how food safety is managed and documented.

We are delighted to share that a visit which took place this week was a huge success! Chloe (catering manager) and her team were very proud to receive a glowing report, with not a single recommendation other than to maintain the excellent standards which are already in place. Well done everyone! Thank you for all your hard work.



Speech and Language Therapy Referrals

The procedure for speech and language referrals across York, Selby, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale has recently undergone some changes.

Parents/Carers can now call the speech and language team on the numbers below and we will arrange a call back with one of our therapists. During this call the therapist will discuss any concerns and the potential impact on the child. This allows us to gather the most accurate information to share, guide and support whilst awaiting an appointment.

Please ensure you have the following information ready before making the call:

Child's full name and date of birth

Postcode

GP details (where possible)

For York and Selby please call 01904 726599



**York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This week, in the Reception classes, the children have been enjoying finalising their roles in our nativity 'I-Spy Christmas'. Bringing together the acting, character lines and songs has brought the nativity to life and we are very much looking forward to sharing it with you next week.



We have also continued our '**Let's Celebrate**' theme by exploring the Jewish festival of 'Hannukah'. The children have learnt the story of Hannukah through reading the story 'Sammy Spider's First Hannukah'. They have also found out how Jewish people celebrate the festival, including lighting menorahs and playing spin the dreidel.

On Tuesday our Reception children also enjoyed a fantastic visit from the Yo-Yo team. They shared the Christmas Story and discussed how Christians celebrate the festival of Christmas.



In **phonics**, this week, the children have applied their knowledge of the phonemes learnt so far this year to continue to practise sounding out and blending words to both read and spell them. They have also continued to practise reading words which add 's', for example, cups – sings – tins.

The children have also been excited to see that the Christmas tricky word elves have had fun each evening, moving around our classrooms. The elves have also swapped their tricky words daily and the children are reading these fantastically. Where will they go next?



In **maths**, this week, we have learnt about the number zero. The children sang songs which counted down to zero, for example, five little speckled frogs and ten green bottles. They also experimented in making zero with their fingers and adding and subtracting zero to other numbers.

Reminder

Next Thursday, due to the cancellation this week, **both classes** will be visiting Haxby library to return their books and choose new ones. Please remember to put the books and library card in their book bag. Thank you.



Thank you for your help in ensuring that reading books are returned on Mondays each week and homework folders are returned each Friday. This is very helpful.

Thank you for your continued support.

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





Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Key Stage 1. We are quickly approaching a special time of year and our children have been busier than ever with practising for their Nativity performance on top of doing all the fabulous learning that they always do. The Nativity is looking incredible! We have been rehearsing on the stage with the stage lighting. The enthusiasm of the children has been amazing and the show has really come together thanks to their hard work and great attitude. Next week, we shall be rehearsing with our costumes and then it will be time for the real thing! We can't wait.

We were visited by the lovely people from YoYo on Tuesday. They came to our classrooms to share with us the wonderful story of the very first Christmas. They are always so fun and engaging and we loved having them come to share the meaning of Christmas with us. We made tableaus by decorating a manger picture and colouring in the characters, which were then cut and stuck onto the scene.



In English, we were all authors for the week. We moved from the South Pole to the north, where we enjoyed the story of "The Curious Polar Bear", in which a polar bear cub goes out with his mother to discover the world around him for the very first time. We were delighted by his playful discovery of snow, the ocean and the Northern Lights and wrote our own versions of the story independently. It was such fun writing them and that enthusiasm showed in the quality of the writing that the children produced.

Well done everyone. This is such a special time of year and it is truly magical to be able to share it with our wonderful Key Stage 1 children.

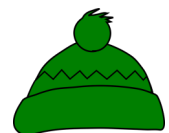


Mr Merrall, Mrs Reeves and Mrs Atkinson



Winter Weather

As the weather continues to be rather unpredictable, it is incredibly important for children to have their coat with them each day.



Please ensure that coats are suitable for winter, have a hood and are labelled. Hats and gloves are also recommended. Thank you.





Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

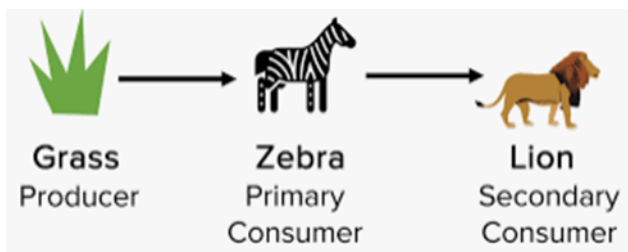
This week has been yet another fantastic week in Lower Key Stage Two.



In computing, the children have continued to learn about sending and receiving emails as well as how to stay safe whilst using 2email on Purple Mash. This week, the children learnt how to use the 'attach file feature'. They learnt that attaching a file has multiple benefits including: you can save on postage and printing costs, media such as music can be shared and it is much quicker than sending post. To practice

this skill, the children replied to an email from the King. The King emailed each child and asked for help with remembering how to stay safe when sending emails. To help him, the children attached the email safety quizzes they created last week to their response.

We were thrilled to welcome YoYo, who visited all the children across the key stage to discuss the Christmas Story. To begin with, the children discussed the traditions they share each year with family and friends at Christmas, such as decorating the tree, singing Christmas songs and giving and receiving gifts. Each of these wonderful traditions were linked back to parts of the Christmas story. For instance, the giving of gifts is similar to the Three Wise Men visiting baby Jesus in the stable and bringing him the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



In science, the children revisited, and built upon, previous learning on food chains. We discussed the meaning of key scientific vocabulary such as herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, prey, predators and consumers. Afterwards, the children created their own food chains by selecting appropriate pictures of plants and animals from a selection that

was provided. They had the added challenge of following set criteria when creating each food chain. For example, one of the food chains that they made needed to have a producer, primary consumer and secondary consumer in.

At the beginning of February, Lower Key Stage Two will be going on a trip to York Minster. During the trip, we shall be delving into the history of the Minster and exploring the stories behind the stained glass windows. You will receive more information and details about the trip next half term. In addition to this, in the summer term, we are planning an exciting trip related to our World War 2 topic.

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





In preparation for the upcoming open event in UKS2, we have been focused on bringing our steam locomotive designs to life. Before we could start, we created our own technical drawings and blue prints. Following these, we have been busy measuring, cutting, assembling and glueing in order to build our 3D steam locomotive. We very much look forward to sharing these models with you on Monday 11th December between 3pm and 3.40pm.

In English, we have used our character and setting descriptions of Fagin and his lair - completed last week - to compose a piece of independent writing. We have revisited how to effectively use speech and dialogue this week so this may be included in our piece. To be effective year 5 and 6 writers, it was imperative that we included high quality vocabulary, figurative language and utilised a variety of sentence structures.



On Monday 11th December, we will be walking to Joseph Rowntree Secondary School to see the production Elf, regardless of the weather conditions. Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable footwear, warm clothes and has a waterproof, hooded coat. Children will also need to bring a water bottle that they will need to carry. We will be returning to school in time for lunch as normal.

Children in UKS2 are also preparing for our carol service which takes place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 20th December, at St Mary's Church. We have been learning how to sing in two-part harmonies. We are looking forward to sharing the performance and singing some well known carols with you as we celebrate the lead up to Christmas. Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mr Bennett, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod



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BIG RB Christmas Raffle

This is the last week to enter the BIG RB Christmas raffle where we have a **Nintendo Switch Lite as the STAR prize (worth £200)**

We have lots of other amazing prizes too including:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| £50 Amazon voucher donated by Britcab | £10 Aroma voucher |
| Hamper filled with Jams, Chutneys and Jellies from The Fruity Kitchen | £25 Quinns voucher |
| Large Bettys Gift Box full of goodies | Quartz Hair Design - cut and finish voucher |
| Car Garage Toy donated by Morrisons | Jorvik/DIG/Barley Hall – Ticket for 5 |
| Lego Majisto’s Magic Workshop worth £25 | Beetle Bank Farm – Ticket for 4 |
| Purse and Bangle donated by Thora and The Prince x 2 | Askham Bryan Wildlife Park – Ticket for 2 |
| Scarf donated by Thora and The Prince | The Hole in Wand – Ticket for mini golf for 4 |
| Disney Mickey bag, throw and eye mask donated by Primark | £20 Pizza Box voucher |
| Haxby Town JFC Football hamper | Almina Turkish Barber – free hair cut |
| £10 Curious Coffee Company voucher | Menzone – free hair cut |
| 2 Everyman tickets x2 | Zenn hairdressing – cut and blow dry voucher |
| Bottle of Prosecco donated by Stephenson’s Estate Agent | £35 York Footgolf voucher |
| £15 The Entertainer Toy Shop voucher | Box of cupcakes from Mama Doreens Emporium |
| £20 Millers Fish and Chips voucher | Insulated Mug and coaster from Midnight Crafts |
| | Dalby Forest – free parking voucher |

Plus more!

We have had wonderful local support from some awesome Haxby and Wiggington businesses! We hope you can support this amazing fundraiser and please copy and share the link below with family and friends. Collection of prizes only.

£1 a ticket - drawn at 4.30pm on Friday 15th December

LINK: <https://raffall.com/348936/enter-raffle-to-win-ralph-butterfields-christmas-prize-draw-hosted-by-ralph-butterfield-school-pta>

Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who brought in old clothes for our Bags2School collection – we raised an amazing £172 for school





NEWS LETTER

Inclusive Carol Concert

York Minster,

Saturday 16th December 1:30 - 2:30

Join York Inspirational Kids and a host of other organisations as they bring you lessons and carols from our inspirational children and young people (disabled and/or autistic), who are celebrating what is important to them this Christmas.

Tickets are free but please book on the link to support planning

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/yorkiinspirationalkidscic/1078214>



Festive Coffee Morning and Full Forum meeting

Monday 18th December at 10:00 am at. Tang Hall Explore Library

First drink on us! (....and a mince pie !)

A great opportunity to meet up with others who have similar experiences and can offer tips and signposting.

We will also have an informal meeting to discuss what we have done over the last year and priorities for 2024.

Parent carer forum membership

The Parent Carer Forum, York is the official body, commissioned to gather parent voice for education, health and social care. If you would like to become a member of this group, use your experience and voice to make things better and have access to our private social media pages please email Mary on engagement@yiks.co.uk

Please note that you are not automatically a member of the Parent Carer Forum if you are a member of YIKS.

If you're not sure I can quickly check for you on receipt of your email address.

Working together to make things better



EHCP session with Laura Brown (CYC) and managers in education

The session is online via teams, on Thursday 21st December 10-11:30am.

This event is an information session about EHCP's and the 20 week process with our Head of SEND, with a chance for a Q&A at the end (only about the process, not person cases).

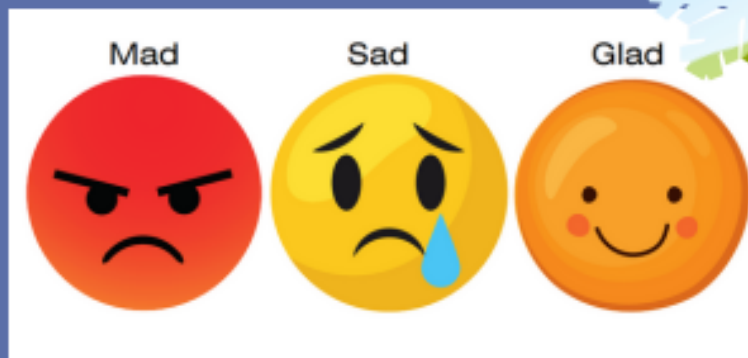
To book onto the session, please email jointpartnership@york.gov.uk



Parent Carer Forum...what's new?

At our most recent Annual General Meeting we looked at the work which has been done over the last twelve months. Membership has increased, we have had a successful campaign, launched a website and hosted coffee mornings and Listening Events. Most importantly, we have been involved in a growing number of work streams, ensuring your parent voice informs planning .

The New Year will see us use and develop new ways to gather parent / carer voice and experience. Watch out for our Mad, Sad, Glad check ins. These surveys offer parents a quick and easy way to give feedback by answering three open questions . This will allow us to identify areas we need to prioritise or look into further.



Annual PCF Conference

Our Annual Conference will be held on Wednesday 7th February at the Principal Hotel.

Plans are in hand to offer a range of professionals from across services to give us updates on their offer followed by lunch and parent carer workshops in the afternoon.

