

Headteacher's Message



As another term draws to a close, it is always an opportunity for reflection. Whilst, as many of you know, there have certainly been some challenges, it is the fabulous children of Ralph Butterfield Primary School continuing to thrive and shine that surpass these. I cannot tell you what a joy it is to walk around school during the school day, seeing the positive attitudes to learning and pride that these children take in their work. More than this it is the evident ethos of care at the heart of what the children and staff do that is almost tangible and so very special.

Whilst I cannot possibly revisit everything here, one of the highlights of this term has to be the visit from the Cook Island women's rugby league team. Imagine our surprise, when expecting a couple of players, the whole tour bus pulled up! Their visit was amazing and very memorable; I know that many children were inspired either by their music or by the sport. Very special also, was being the school with the most entries submitted to the York interfaith competition, resulting in three winners, including the overall winner. The children have also enjoyed hearing about different cultures and faiths from various visitors across the term.

We love to get involved in community events whenever we can and have done so through festivals such as the Dance and Christmas Tree festivals. The children have also shown their support and developed their understanding through theme days/weeks including mental health, anti-bullying and Children in Need. How lovely when the new Ward Directory dropped through local doors recently too, full of illustrations from children just from our wonderful school. I must also mention our visits to St Mary's church this week – it was so special to return there for one of our usual calendar highlights, after 3 years away; we were so proud of the children and their beautiful participation in the Christmas celebrations there.

The spring term is certain to bring more wonderful opportunities for the children and we can't wait to see what inspires them, and what they will achieve, next.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents /carers for continuing to work with us so openly and for the wonderful support you give to our school in so many ways. It really does mean a lot to us and makes such a positive difference for the children.

It is important that all staff have a good break this Christmas so that they are ready and refreshed for January. Please be aware that the school telephone lines will be closed from 4:30 pm today and any emails after this time will be responded to from Tuesday 3rd January.

If, over the break, you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in York on 01904 551900. There is an option for members of the public to press for advice.

We look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on **Wednesday 4th January 2023**.



We wish you a Merry Christmas



Going to school **every day**
is a great way for your child
to make friends.

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 full of Christmas learning and fun! The children enjoyed a Christmas craft morning where they made a selection of decorations using increasing cutting and design skills. We have also enjoyed our Christmas party, playing traditional party games and even enjoying a virtual visit from Father Christmas. During the week, there have also been opportunities to explore the ice in the outside classroom and practise gross motor skills on our scooters.



On Wednesday, the children enjoyed walking to St Mary's Church and joining in the carol service. It was lovely to hear them singing some of their nativity songs again and they really enjoyed looking at the inside of the church too.

In **phonics**, this week, we have revised the phonemes which have been learnt this term. The children have used these to sound out and read words, both in their phonics sessions and while reading the reading books. We are also very pleased with the progress the children are making in reading the tricky words (words that can't be sounded out) and also spotting these in signs and books around the classroom.



In **Maths**, this week, the children have investigated capacity through measuring and making reindeer food. They followed instructions and counted out all the spoons of ingredients. We hope the children enjoy sprinkling this on the ground ready for Rudolf and his friends.

In the new term, the children shall be partaking in weekly PE lessons outside (on a Tuesday). It is advisable for children to have some tracksuit bottoms and a jumper for these lessons, to keep warm please.

After the Christmas holiday, we are also going to be using cardboard tubes and would appreciate you saving any of these. Please bring them to school on your return. Thank you.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



Thank you for your support during the autumn term.

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



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)



Well, we can't believe that we are at the end of the term. We are so proud of how the children conducted themselves with all of the festive events that have happened over the last couple of weeks.



Monday morning, started with Christmas crafts and the children made some wonderful creative decorations. They certainly used their patience, resilience and team working skills to complete the decorations.



On Tuesday afternoon, the children danced, played games and certainly got into the Christmas spirit at the Key Stage One Christmas party; even Santa came virtually and gave them a lovely Christmas message.

The children were amazing at the church and sang their hearts out. Thank you to the children who took on narrator roles and told the nativity story.

All of the Key Stage One staff would like to wish all of the children and their families a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy spending time together, having fun and relaxing too.



We look forward to seeing you all in 2023.

Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Reeves and Mr Merrall.



Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

What a fabulous end to the term! The children this week have loved taking part in a variety of festive activities alongside wrapping up our topics this term.

As a whole school, we all got very crafty on Monday morning. Year 3 and 4 made two bright, colourful Christmas decorations. The stain glass windows were stunning and the Christmas baubles were decorated beautifully with Christmas images and snowflakes. Our festive activities continued throughout the week with the Key Stage 2 carol service at church. The children sang and played the bells brilliantly and it was lovely that so many people joined the celebration.



Our Christmas Party on Thursday afternoon was full of excitement and party games. All three classes joined together in the hall and participated in a variety of musical games, balloon races and pass the parcel; they also had the opportunity to have some quiet time in the classroom where they took part in a festive quiz.

In history this week, the children have recalled information and shared their knowledge by creating a two-page spread on the Stone Age. They did amazingly well presenting information about homes, hunter gathers and farming, clothing and jewellery and the different types of tools and weapons they used. We were extremely impressed with the amount of information they could recall.

Thank you for an amazing half term Year 3 and 4!

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday!

Mr Daniel, Miss Hodgson and Miss Clapham.



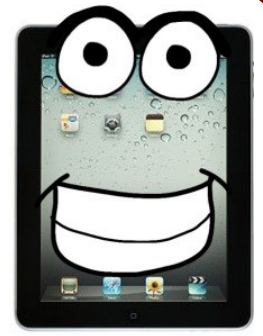
Using Devices Safely

As Christmas is getting closer, children and young people all over the country will be writing lists to Santa or giving hints about what they would like under the tree.

Technology is now an extremely popular item on many children's lists with tablets, smartphones, game consoles and smartwatches likely to be asked for this year.

Whilst we want children to enjoy their presents, it is also important that parents/carers look at ways to ensure that their children use these devices safely. This includes setting parental controls and understanding that video games have PEGI ratings similar to the classification for films.

Other things that you may want to consider is managing screen time so that you can monitor the amount of time being spent on each device. This is useful for meal times or during the school holidays.



Finally, once the tinsel has come down and we welcome the New Year, make sure that you talk to your children about online safety.

For support and advice please visit <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Mrs Stephenson

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

As part of our Design and Technology unit, we have been developing our sewing skills using a variety of stitches: running stitch and blanket stitch. We created some wonderful Christmas decorations as part of Christmas craft morning.

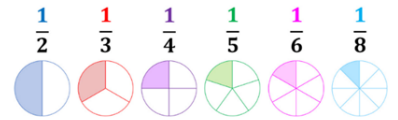


Within our maths sessions, we have been working on fractions and division.

As part of our fraction lessons, we have been calculating a fraction of a given value. In Mr Tod's set, we have completed our work on division. We divided with decimals and completed equations with missing numbers.

We are all beginning to understand the importance of recalling our table

facts at speed. The majority of maths work, taught in Years 5 and 6, is dependent on the quick recall and application of these facts; this supports us in being able to learn new and complex concepts.



As you will have seen earlier in the newsletter, it is important to monitor children's use of social media. For additional support and guidance about using social media sites and the safety features available on popular social networks, please click the link below.

[Social media guides - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

After all our hard work this autumn term, we all enjoyed having the opportunity to relax and spend time with friends across both year groups during our Christmas party.

Merry Christmas

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday. Thank you for all your cards, gifts, kind messages and support throughout the term.

Mr Bennett, Mrs Stephenson and Mr Tod.

Art Club

The KS1 Art Club ended this week with an exciting Art gallery event. Thank you to all who attended; the children were thrilled to see so many people come to admire their work. The weeks leading up to the event were filled with opportunities to explore new mediums and develop their skills further. The end products were beautiful! Well done to the children involved for their hard work. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas break.



Mrs Daniel & Mrs Gough.



Thank you for all your support this term, it's been a busy one and we have been able to support school in purchasing Christmas party gifts, jigsaws and games and the RHS Harlow Carr trip this Autumn.

As for money raised, this is how we have done from the events organised of commission we earn from you buying from Stikins or using Amazon and signing up to our charity

- * Stikins (Name Labels) commission - £144
- * Second hand Uniform - £101
- * Bags2School - £75
- * Hot Chocolate after school - £75
- * Pumpkin Competition - £41
- * Disco - £507
- * Christmas Eve Treat Bags - £770
- * Christmas Cards - £580
- * Christmas Film Night - £542
- * Christmas Concert - £467
- * Amazon Smile - £31
- * Christmas Prize Draw - £1,060!



Next term we have a UV Disco organised plus the usual Mother's Day secret room and much more. Thank you. We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break!

PTA x



Turn up and Take Part Nativity

Come along to get dressed up in the 'Open the Book' costumes and share the Christmas story with us.

Saturday 24th December 4pm
at Haxby and Wigginton
Methodist Church

Arrive a little earlier to choose your costume, or come in your own!



Worrying about money?

The rise in cost of living is on everyone mind. There are three key steps to make sure you are in the best place to meet the extra costs this winter.

Make sure you are getting all the financial support available

Use one of the free benefit checkers at

www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators

Check the council's website for local support schemes at www.york.gov.uk/benefits

Including the Household Support Fund(HSF) at www.york.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

If you have received a letter inviting you to apply for HSF please complete your application by Thursday 5 January.

A range of holiday activity schemes will be available for children and young people during the Christmas, Easter and Summer school holidays. Details of events and activities can be found on the [Holiday Activities and Food Yor-OK webpage](#).

Reduce your outgoings, don't spend more than you have to on your bills, such as mobile phones, broadband, insurance.

See how you can save on your energy bills

Use approved comparison websites

Talk to your existing suppliers about discounts and social tariffs

Find out more at www.LiveWellYork.co.uk/talkmoney

Don't struggle alone. If you are unsure or need assistance with the things above, there is help across the city from council services and other local organisations

Find out

how to contact an advice service at www.york.gov.uk/benefitsadvice

where there are community drop-ins across the city at www.livewellyork.co.uk events calendar

Or pick up a leaflet or ask at your local library, community centre or find information on community noticeboards



For more information visit:
livewellyork.co.uk/talkmoney

Household Support Fund 3 (HSF3) Deadline

To those parents who have received a letter inviting them to apply to the Household Support Fund, please be aware that applications need to be received by 5th January.

Are you in control of your finances?

Introducing Financial Capability Assistance

Do you need help to budget? Are you struggling to make ends meet?

The Financial Capability Team can help look at how to increase your income, find ways to reduce your regular payments and check you are receiving everything you're entitled to. We can also help find emergency support where required.

Contact us via the website - citizensadviceyork.org.uk request a call back or on 01904 623648 to ask for a referral.



Community Cinema



All aboard for this festive favourite!

Wednesday 21st December 7pm

at Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church.
Doors open for drinks and snacks at 6.30pm.

There is no charge for entry but donations are welcome for snacks and drinks.

Film is suitable for all the family. Any queries, please contact Lorraine Jones on 07850 631168 or email localpastor@hwmc.org.uk

