



Friday 16th Sept 2022

2022/23 Newsletter No: 1

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Headteacher's Message

Welcome to the first edition of our weekly newsletter for the academic year 2022-2023. I hope it finds you well at the end of our first full week, and one that will be immortalised in history as a period of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II. Later in the newsletter there is some information about what is going on in York that may help you to pay your respects to the late Queen, if you would like to.

Also in this letter, we are delighted to be sharing information about our new 'Sensory Centre' that we are proud to be developing in school; please see Mrs Bennett's newsletter piece.

In September, I always like to share with parents/carers what our school development priorities are for the year. That is not to say we are not also working on other things (!), but these are the key priorities identified as best supporting school improvement at this time. This year, we have focused particularly on those areas that will support the school to refocus and recover after the considerable challenges and disruptions brought about by the pandemic. You will be able to read about these priorities on the summary poster as a separate document with this newsletter.

Today, I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that part of our ethos is to be a school that is welcoming, transparent and open. That is why teachers (and other staff) are on the playground twice a day and we endeavour to provide opportunities for parents/carers to easily engage with us. We understand that not all parents/carers are able to make contact via staff on the playground and we therefore also encourage you to utilise the school email address for any questions, queries or comments (RalphButterfield.School@york.gov.uk). You are also welcome to call us (01904 768325; please press option 3). Please don't hesitate to get in touch; we always endeavour to respond to emails and telephone requests within 48 hours (working days) and this will always be by the person best placed to support your need. Parents/carers should also bear in mind that it is not necessary to wait for the statutory parents/carer's evenings to discuss your child(ren). Class teachers are always happy to discuss your child(ren) with you on request throughout the year, and they will also be proactive in sharing pertinent information with you that they feel you would like to know. School and parents/carers working positively together has far reaching benefits for the children, as I'm sure we'd all

I hope that your weekend is as you would like it to be, and we look forward to seeing the children in school again on **Tuesday 20th September**, next week.

Best wishes

Liz Clark



Furry Companions

May we please request that dogs are not tied to the playground railings when you are dropping off or collecting to/from school? We do have some children who are fearful of dogs and we have to bear this in mind when they are arriving or leaving school.



Please be aware that whilst school have always requested this; it does also come at the request of other parents/carers. **Thank you.**



York Preparations for the Queen's State Funeral on Monday 19th September

We thought you may find the following information useful.

Book of Condolence

There is a Book of Condolence at West Office (York Council Customer Centre) that will remain open during the week and close on Friday at 5.30pm.

The Minster Book of Condolence will remain open throughout, closing after the State Funeral.

The Books will be removed and archived on closure of West Office's Customer Centre on **Tuesday 20th September**.



Floral tributes

Floral tributes can be laid at Dean's Park/Five Sister window at the Minster and a notice informing visitors of this will be placed at West Office entrance.

Flowers will be removed by 5.00am **Tuesday 20th September** and taken for composting.



Sunday 18th September

Minute silence/door step clap

Due to take place at 8pm.

Monday 19th September

Screens

Vue cinema in York is planning to broadcast the funeral for free. No outside screens are planned.

First Bus

Will operate the Sunday timetable on the day of the State Funeral. Updates are published on their website.

Exciting and supportive changes for our children

I would like to tell you about some exciting changes to the way we are using our different rooms and workspaces to support children's learning and wellbeing.

We have a new 'Sensory Centre', in what used to be the school ICT Suite (we now utilise laptops in classrooms). Within the Sensory Centre, there are individual workstations, arranged apart from each other, where children can complete short learning activities or have a sensory break in a quiet environment for a short time until they are ready to return to the classroom. Currently, it is only children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or who have a high level of support from a teaching assistant, who have a workstation within the Sensory Centre. This is in order for it to remain a quiet, calm workspace.

An integral part of the Sensory Centre is a partitioned area at one end of the room which has low lighting, soft furnishings and other sensory supports which children can access, with a teacher or teaching assistant, to support their emotional regulation. It is still very much a 'work in progress' as we see what works best and add to the bank of sensory resources/equipment available. We are hopeful that we will be able to invite more children to visit this Sensory Room in small groups over the term.

Obviously, we recognise that there are other children in school who would also benefit from having a quiet space available to work. By setting up the Sensory Centre, other spaces in school have been made available for use by all children across the school. These are 'Field View', the 'Rainbow Room' and the 'Upper Junior Snug' which will be used for a mixture of learning support and nurture groups, and the 'Nurture Nook', which is where Mrs Mountain will be based some of the time for providing emotional literacy support (ELSA).

We feel very excited about this new provision for our school and a lot of time and effort has gone into its planning and making it a reality. It is a model that works successfully in mainstream and specialist settings, including several in the York area, and we are confident that it will be an effective use of the space that will benefit everyone in the school.



Mrs Kath Bennett
SENDCo and Inclusion leader



We are really pleased with how all the children in Reception are settling into their new school and classes. It has been a pleasure to be greeted by all the warm smiles each morning and the children are enjoying exploring all of the Reception areas.

This week, we began our phonics journey and started learning the letter sounds for s, a, t and p. You can view the pronunciations they will have learnt for each of these letters by using this link https://youtu.be/-ZtjFivA_fs The children have also begun to write these letters by learning a short rhyme (mnemonic). Please refer to your child's homework sheet, for help with these. We look forward to continuing our phonics learning next week.

In PSED (Personal Social Emotional Development), the children have also learnt about the four zones of regulation. This is a way that children can recognise and label their own emotions. As part of the lesson, they have learnt tools that can support them with managing these emotions independently. The children have also been taught that we all experience every emotion at some time and that all zones are valid.



We are really proud of how calmly the children have eaten their lunches since starting school. They have enjoyed following the new routines and trying new foods. Pizza and carrot cake was a particular favourite!

In our areas of provision, the children have enjoyed creating pictures of their families, serving food in the Gruffalo café, building structures in the outdoor large construction area and creating Mr Potato Head in our sensory area. To develop their fine motor skills the children have also been practising cutting skills.

We look forward to sharing much more of the children's learning journey with you each week.

If you would like to discuss anything with us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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



Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

Welcome back! We have certainly missed everyone's smiles and loved hearing about what everyone has got up to in the holidays!



We introduced as a school, 'The Zones of Regulation'. These are 4 coloured zones that show our emotions; blue, green, yellow and red.

Each zone shows different emotions, and it is important that we develop a sense of our thoughts/feelings and why we are feeling them to help us regulate ourselves. Both children and staff have a picture card in classes to show which zone we are in and why. Each day we talk through and develop ways to help ourselves and each other.

We enjoyed launching our topic 'All Around the World'. We started with a treasure hunt on the school field, finding the different countries, flags, flowers and capital cities of the United

Kingdom. Then we developed a sense of the world around us, as we made a great representation of our world. We were very impressed with the knowledge the children had and we have developed this further by looking at the 7 continents and 5 oceans (with some very catchy songs) as well as how we travel around the world.



Above all, we have been blown away with how the children have come back and settled into their new classrooms and routines. We are very proud of each and every one and cannot wait to see how we all grow and release our magic over the coming weeks.



Please do come and see us if you have any queries or questions.

Mrs J Atkinson, Mrs Reeves, Miss Griffiths and Mrs K Atkinson.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

Year 3 and 4 have had a fabulous start to the school year! The children have been full of enthusiasm and have thoroughly enjoyed the start of our new topics.

Our art this half term is based around cave paintings and is linked to our history topic from 'Flint to Iron'. We were all fascinated with the story 'The First Drawing' by Mordicai Gerstein and the 10 most amazing cave paintings from around the world clip that introduced the topic. The children then experimented with different pencil grades and drew line drawings of a variety of images that might be found in cave paintings.

Throughout the week, the children have celebrated The Queen's life by looking back at momentous points in her life. They have watched some age appropriate news clips, viewed images of key events and enjoyed watching the clip of The Queen with Paddington. They participated in discussions, reflected on what she meant to the country and shared their views on what the Queen meant to them by creating their own word clouds about The Queen.



In computing, we started our coding topic by completing three challenges to see how much we could remember and recall from previous coding units. The challenges required the children to write a code for a given instruction, test and debug the code so they ran successfully. They rose to the challenge brilliantly and created codes to make a monkey jump, set off a firework and make superheroes fly.

Reading for pleasure books will be changed on:

- Class 6 - Friday
- Class 7 - Tuesday
- Class 8 - Wednesday

Well done Year 3 and 4 for a great start to the school year! You have settled into your new classes and routines brilliantly.

Please do come and speak to us if you have any questions or queries.

Miss Hodgson, Mr Daniel and Miss Clapham.



Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)



Over the course of the last two weeks, we have developed our painting techniques using water colours; this includes the use of such skills as 'wet on wet' and dry brushing. We have painted landscapes in the style of Peter Podmore who is a contemporary British artist.

In memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we have reflected upon the important events of her life and the impact that these have had on us. We considered how we, and other people, may feel and how we can express these emotions. We are beginning to understand the significance of these historical changes. Next week, we will begin to learn about King Charles III and the wider Royal Family.

This academic year, the school has introduced all children to the Zones of Regulation. Throughout the school day, we have opportunities to reflect on how we are feeling and the impact that this has on our well-being. Using the strategies we have learnt, we are beginning to manage our emotions in order to be effective learners.

Please contact us or speak to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Mr Bennett, Mrs Stephenson, Mr Tod and Mrs Walker.



Hello everyone and welcome back. For those that are new - the school PTA (Parent Teacher Association) are a small group of parents/ carers and a teacher representative; they organise lots of events throughout the year to raise funds for school. It's a great way to get involved and make a positive impact to school life. We have a [Facebook](#) page - which details all the latest news and we also write pieces for this weekly newsletter.



Events coming up:

We have an exciting term ahead of us starting with a **Coffee Morning** to welcome all our new parents / carers with new children in school, on **Thursday 22nd September** at 9-10am in the school hall.



It will be a very relaxed event where you can enjoy a tea or coffee and meet other new parents. Mrs Clark and some of the senior leadership team will also join us. We hope you can join us and younger children are very welcome too!

Ralph Butterfield Primary School PTA



Our **AGM** is planned for **Monday 3rd October** at **9am** in the **school hall**. A letter will be sent out shortly and we would love for you to come along to find out what the PTA do and what a contribution you can make to school! You may be interested in joining the team or even one of the officer positions. The AGM will only take around 30 mins.

Monday 3rd October 2021
9.00am in the School Hall

We also have a **School Disco** planned on **Thursday 6th October** in the school hall.



4.30 – 5.30pm - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

5.45 – 6.45pm - Year 3 and Year 4

7.00 – 8.00pm - Year 5 and Year 6

The cost of the disco is just **£3 per child**, which includes a bag of tuck shop sweets. A letter will come out shortly with further details. Unfortunately, parents won't be able to stay at this event. Please bring a labelled water bottle and your dancing shoes!



Christmas Cards – We are once again asking children to design their own Christmas Card (this will be done in school for Reception and sent as homework for other years) which Class Fundraising Ltd then create a proof card which will be distributed to you.

We ask, if you wish, to place an order for Christmas cards, mugs, tea towels, tags which all feature your child's design. They make wonderful Christmas presents and the more you order, the more money the school will make!

PTA



Please remember to book your child's school dinner every day



Please could we make an additional plea for all parents/carers to book their child(ren)'s school dinners? We really appreciate the large number of parents/carers who do; unfortunately, school can be booking up to 50 dinners a day, which has a significant impact. If this is due to an issue with ParentPay, please contact school and we will support with resolving any issues. You can book for the whole term ahead if you wish. Thank you.



Snippets from the Log Books



20th September 1932 — The NRCC Cookery van is again stationed at Wigginton and seven girls from this school commence attendance.

3rd September 1975 — Mrs Easey - Violin teacher visited school to begin lessons.



Multi-Sports

Starting back on Saturday 10th
& Wednesday 14th September

Wednesdays at Strensall Village Hall (Field optional)

5pm-6pm: Ages 4-7
6pm-7pm: Ages 7-12

Saturdays at Oaken Grove Community Centre, Haxby, YO32 3QW (Field)

9am-10am: Ages 4-7
10am-11am: Ages 7-12

6 Week block booking is available

Only £6.50 per session



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For bookings and general enquiries contact
ross@healthymeuk.com or call 07394110082
www.healthymeuk.com

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS: THE PRIMARY YEARS

5 Monday sessions
Starting 19th Sept
7:30 - 9:30pm

The Richardson Room,
The Parish Centre,
11/12 Minster Yard,
YO1 7HH



family
matters_york

A course led by trained facilitators to help you to support your child as they start to find out how the world works & learn to manage their feelings. You'll get evidence based information, and opportunity to share ideas with other parents, quickly learning that you are not alone.

For more info contact Helen Atkinson

Tel: 07393 147259

Email: info@fmy.org.uk

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS: THE PRIMARY YEARS

5 Monday sessions
Starting 19th Sept
12.45 to 2.45pm

Burton Green School
Off Burtonstone Lane
YO30 6JE



family
matters_york

A course led by trained facilitators to help you to support your child as they start to find out how the world works & learn to manage their feelings. You'll get evidence based information, and opportunity to share ideas with other parents, quickly learning that you are not alone.

For more info contact Helen Atkinson

Tel: 07393 147259

Email: helenatkinson@fmy.org.uk



TIME OUT FOR PARENTS: HANDLING ANGER IN THE FAMILY

4 Thursday evenings

Starting 22nd Sept

7.15 to 9pm

Online via Zoom



family
matters_york

This course, led by trained facilitators, will help you to better understand, recognise and manage anger in your family and give you the chance to share your own thoughts and ideas. You will quickly see you're not alone!

For more info contact Helen Atkinson

Tel: 07393 147259

Email: helenatkinson@fmy.org.uk

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS: HANDLING ANGER IN THE FAMILY

4 Wednesday sessions

Starting 28th Sept

9.30 to 11.30am

The Avenues Children's
Centre Sixth Avenue
York YO31 0TX



family
matters_york

This course, led by trained facilitators, will help you to better understand, recognise and manage anger in your family and give you the chance to share your own thoughts and ideas. You will quickly see you're not alone!

For more info contact Helen Atkinson

Tel: 07393 147259

Email: helenatkinson@fmy.org.uk