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Newsletter 20 Monday 3rd February 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is Children's mental health week 2025 this week and this year's theme is 'Know yourself, Grow Yourself'. The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs. It is through knowing ourselves and speaking with others, that we can build resilience, grow and develop.

If you would like any further information about children's mental health week, please see the attached tips for family's leaflet and also click on the link below:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Class News:

Every week the classes will share the highlights of what they have been learning about with our families:

EYFS: This week in Early Years we have been focussing on fashion design. We have designed, labelled and evaluated clothing designs to suit the weather and given reasons for choosing particular items. The children have enjoyed making peg doll clothing and adding details and accessories. We have also created salt dough houses, the children have focussed on adding a roof, windows and secure doors so the wolf cannot blow their house down.

Year 1 and 2: We have spent the last couple of weeks finding out about Ernest Shackleton and his expeditions in the Antarctic. Today we read the last part of our story and we found out how Shackleton persevered and led his men to safety after the Endurance expedition encountered problems. No wonder Shackleton has become such a significant figure.



In science, we have tested our investigation skills. We had to find a material suitable to make a waterproof coat. After trialling a few options, we have found the right materials for Tiresome Ted and we are going to write letters next week to share our results. It was great fun!

Year 3 and 4: This week we have enjoyed exploring clay in Art. We used lots of tools and techniques to create 3D shapes and carve holes into them, stacking them in the style of Barbara Hepworth's sculptures. In Science we have been exploring sun safety and some children carried out an investigation to test different types of sunglasses and their effectiveness in blocking light.

Year 5 and 6: This week in year 5/6 we have been learning about the changes that a human goes through as they move into old age. We looked at the physical changes and the changes that you can't see. We also researched the human and physical features of Switzerland and sorted them into a table.

Parent / child / teacher consultations

Parents Evening is Tuesday 11th February and Wednesday 12th February. A confirmation slip with the date and time will be sent home today.

Appointments are strictly for 10 minutes only. If there are further areas you would like to discuss with the teacher, please make another appointment so that we can ensure the evenings run to time – thank you.

'Art Is My Career' Day

On Thursday we were lucky to have Laura and two of her apprentices in school from Art is My Career. Laura and her team shared in assembly her work as a Graphic Designer and how she turned her passion about Art and being creative into a career. Laura and her team spent the day working in the classes - each child created their own chocolate bar wrap which was then wrapped around a real bar of chocolate - to showcase its effect. We had a wonderful day and the children were surprised that they could use their art skills as a career.



Year 3 and 4 Class Production

Year 3 and 4 are excited to invite their parents into school to share their History learning over the last term through a short performance on Thursday 13th February at 2:30pm. In this mini-performance, the children will walk you through pre-history, touching on the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Scripts have been sent home and the children are excited to begin learning their lines!

Makaton sign of the week

We have a number of children in school who are using Makaton to support their communication. During assemblies, we are continuing on developing some basic signs.

This week's sign is: **pizza**



Here is a link to the Makaton site:

https://makaton.org/TMC/TMC/The_Makaton_community/Sign_of_the_Week.aspx

Online Safety Newsletter

Please find attached to this newsletter the February edition of our monthly Online Safety newsletter.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11th of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**'

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year we cover an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them.

This Safer Internet Day we will assess the real scale of this issue and allow young people to share their experiences and ideas on how to tackle the problem. We'll build on the important work being done to raise awareness of issues such as online financial sextortion and we'll also consider the future of scams, answering questions such as:

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- And what changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?



As a school, we will hold an assembly about safer internet day and the children will have some lessons focusing on the identified theme in their Computing curriculum time.

Promotional School Dinner – Friday 14th February

Pizza Sub
Chips
Peas and Sweetcorn

Love Heart Biscuit



New school dinner menu

Attached to this newsletter is the new school dinner menu which will begin week commencing the 24th February and will run right through until the end of the academic year. The menu is on our school website and hard copies are available next to the school office.

Forest Schools – Nursery and Reception – starting on Monday 24th February

Forest Schools will take place on a Monday afternoon for the full afternoon for three weeks for each class at some point in the year. Here is a message from Miss Hunt:

Hello! I am delighted to be able to deliver Forest School sessions to all year groups over the course of the 2024 - 25 academic year. Forest School is child led, outdoor learning where children can learn a variety of skills from wood craft to fire lighting and challenge themselves to take risks whilst learning to respect and care for the natural world around them.

You can expect your child to get messy as we will be outdoors in all weathers so, please make sure that they bring clothes for every weather for every session. Ideally: wellies or walking boots; waterproof jacket and trousers or all in ones and a sun hat or woolly hat dependent on the temperature. I will provide safety gloves, but warm preferably waterproof gloves should be sent in the colder months.

Children in EYFS will have Forest Schools on Monday 24th February, Monday 3rd and 10th March in the afternoon.

Start Small, Dream Big

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters in the autumn term, I am taking part in a project called 'Start small, dream big' this year which is about bringing careers related learning into primary school.

Research shows that children can fix their aspirations and create future-limiting stereotypes by as young as six years of age. Research has also shown that Career-Related Learning (CRL) can widen



aspirations and challenge stereotypes so that children keep an open mind about the world of work as they move through education.

In order to support this project in school, I would like to invite parents / grandparents/ members of our school and local community to come in and talk to the children about their career journey to broaden their knowledge and understanding of different career pathways and opportunities. If you would like to do this or know of anyone who could come in, please can you contact me – thank you!

PE Days this half term

Please see below when your child / children are having PE this half term.

EYFS: Please have PE kit in every day

Year 1 and 2: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3 and 4: Wednesday (swimming) and Thursday

Year 5 and 6: Tuesday and Friday

Emergency Procedure for School Closure – weather related / loss of utilities

It is rare, however there are occasions where it has been necessary to close schools because of inclement weather, no electricity or because of lack of heating, so I would like to bring to your attention the procedures I will follow if this event occurs now that we are heading towards winter:

- An email will be sent to all families via Scholar Pack
- A direct message will be sent to the Scholar Pack App
- County Hall will be informed.

Hopefully, this will not happen this winter but I feel it is better to be prepared.

Please always assume school is open unless you hear via any of the above methods. Please do not phone the school to ask if we are open as we may need to keep the line clear in order to contact staff. Please check on the school Facebook page and check emails.

Learning would be sent home via the class email system direct from the class teacher.

Keep in touch – School Facebook Page

Please ensure you are signed up to the school Facebook page so that we can get in touch with families quickly.

Reading

All children need to read at home every day. Please listen to your child read and ask them questions about the text and / or pictures. Please ensure that you record what your child has read and how they have managed with their reading in their record book. **Reading and record books need to be in school every day so that they can be checked and new books issued.**



ParentPay

Breakfast and After school club, school meals and nursery fees are put on Parent Pay at the end of every week. Please can we remind families to check their account on ParentPay and make sure bills are paid as soon as possible. New families to the school will receive login information for ParentPay once their child / children have started.

School Dinners

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 can have a school dinner free of charge.

Children in Nursery can order a school dinner and the cost of their meal is £2.10

Please note that the cost of a school dinner is £3.55 for children in Years 3-6.

The cost for the month of February for children in Year 3-6 will be £53.25. (15 meals)

Packed Lunches

A polite reminder that there should be no sweets or chocolate bars in packed lunches or fizzy drinks. Also, we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. We do have children with allergies to nuts so please refrain from any sort of nut products in packed lunches – thank you.

Bookings for Dandelions Childcare

All bookings must be made **by 12pm on a Friday** for the following week so that we can ensure we have staffing ratios and food for the children. Accounts are put on ParentPay. Parents are charged based on the bookings they make and any additional sessions.

Please either telephone the school office, using the link

<https://forms.office.com/e/A50V4pv57w> or email admin@dishforthairfield.n-yorks.sch.uk

AWARDS

Celebration Assembly

On Friday, we have our Celebration Assembly. This week the following children were given our weekly awards;

Celebration Cup

The cup this week goes to someone who has a positive attitude to learning. They are enjoying learning to read and write and are practising these skills in their independent learning time.



This person includes everybody in their games and takes turns fairly. They are a good friend and role model to others.

This person shows great excitement and enthusiasm in the classroom.

It is lovely to see your learning journey.

Congratulations and well done to

Isla!



Ribbons



EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has developed a love of learning. They have made excellent progress in phonics and have challenged their learning by completing busy jobs independently. We are very proud of you. Well done Alusio!

Year 1 / 2 – The ribbon this week in Year 1 and 2 goes to someone who has really impressed us all with their superb learning attitude and willingness to give their all in every lesson. Keep up the brilliant work – well done to, Ellie!

Year 3 / 4 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been working incredibly hard in all lessons. It has been lovely to see this person's confidence grow since joining us. We are really noticing their hard work. Keep it up and well done to Oliver!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been trying really hard to push themselves outside of their comfort zone. They have been challenging themselves in each lesson, and we have really noticed their determination and resilience in maths. They are growing in confidence each day and we are so proud of the progress they are making. Well done to Khloe!

Values in Action

This week our Values award goes to someone who has demonstrated our school values of co-operation and respect.



This person has been nominated because during breaktime they help me with dominoes.

The values award goes to Lucas who was nominated by Jesse.

Well done, Lucas!



Attendance

Weekly Attendance

Good attendance at school is key to your child's progress.

Good attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. Nationwide research has shown that the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 have had higher rates of attendance throughout primary school, compared to those with the lowest attainment. The government aims for all pupils to have a minimum of 96% attendance across the school year, and any child with less than 90% attendance is recorded as a persistent absentee. Here is our school's current overview of attendance:

Week commencing 27th January 2025

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
93%	99%	99%	97%

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon
Head Teacher

Diary Dates



February 2025	
11/2/25	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th and Wednesday 12 th February	Parent / teacher / child consultations
13/2/25	Great athletes whole school assembly – 9am Year 3 and 4 mini-Class Production ‘The Stone Age’ at 2.30pm
14/2/25	Promotional school dinner Break up for February half term at 3.15pm
24/2/25	School open Nursery and Reception children – Forest Schools afternoon
March 2025	
3/3/25	Nursery and Reception children – Forest Schools afternoon
6/3/25	World Book Day
7/3/25	Athlete Event
10/3/25	Nursery and Reception children – Forest Schools afternoon
19/3/25	Height and weight measurements for children in Reception and Year 6
27/3/25	Class photographs
31/3/25	Whole school – Skip 2Be Fit / Boxercise workshops – all children need their PE kits
April 2025	
2/4/25	Year 3 and 4 last swim at Thirsk
3/4/25	Year 5 and 6 trip to Eden Camp
4/4/25	School breaks up at 2.30pm for Easter holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April	School open for the summer term
24/4/25	Key Stage 2 theatre trip to York to see ‘The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe’.
May 2025	
5/5/25	Bank Holiday Monday
12/5/25	Year 6 SAT week
23/5/25	Break-up May half term
June 2025	
2/6/25	School open
w/c 2 nd June	Year 4 multiplication check – two week window
w/c 9 th June	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check and Year 2 re-take
20/6/25	TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ONE DAY
July 2025	
18/7/25	School breaks up for the summer at 2.30pm
September 2025	
2/9/25	School open for academic year 2025-26

