



School Newsletter 576

Values – Care – Achievement

Friday 19 December 2025

Headteacher's Introduction



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I am thrilled to share some of the wonderful events that have taken place at Archbishop Holgate's this week. We are truly ending the term on a high note! Our Celebration ACW have provided a fantastic opportunity to recognise students who have consistently lived out our school values throughout the term.

We have also celebrated the hard work and achievements of our students in some truly special ways. Year 11 students enjoyed a memorable evening of bowling or climbing, a well-deserved reward for their tremendous effort during the recent mock exams. Taking time to acknowledge and celebrate their dedication and hard work is important.

I am especially proud of our Post 16 students for their outstanding charitable efforts. Through a whole school raffle and the Year 7 Fayre, they have raised an impressive £1,500 for the Unity Fund. Their compassion and commitment to supporting those in need, really reflects the caring spirit of our school.

Another highlight this week has been the Masked Singer, which, as always, has been a huge success. Students had the chance to watch the heats with their form groups and vote for their favourite acts to perform in the live final. At the time of writing this, the excitement is building as we look forward to crowning the winner. Our staff have once again gone above and beyond, dressing up and singing, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere that makes our school community so special.

As we head into the festive season, I want to wish all our students, staff, and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this time be filled with laughter and warmth, and the opportunity to rest and reflect.

Thank you for all your support and I look forward to all we will achieve together in the new year.

Best wishes for the week ahead
Lucie Pond, Headteacher

Term Dates 2025 -2026

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training Day

Students return

Half Term

Term Ends

- 5 Jan 2026 (School closed to students)

- 6 Jan 2026

- 16-20 Feb 2026 (inclusive)

- 26 Mar 2026

Summer Term 2026

Students return

May Bank Holiday

Half Term

Term Ends

Staff Training Day

- 13 Apr 2026

- 4 May 2026

- 25-29 May 2026 (inclusive)

- 17 Jul 2026

- 20 Jul 2026 (School closed to students)

Food for Thought

As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we join the rest of the Church of England in using materials produced by the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust entitled "The Joy of Christmas".

We'll be exploring different ways of encountering Joy in the stories of Mary, the shepherds and the wise men. This week we look at the joy of the Wisemen.

"To trust God in the light is nothing, but to trust him in the dark, that is faith."

Charles Spurgeon, 19th C English Baptist Preacher



Upcoming Events

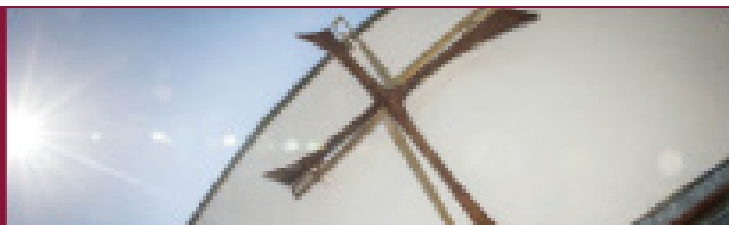
Fri 19 Dec
Mon 5 Jan
Tue 6 Jan

Students break up for Christmas, 12.30pm
Staff Training Day (school closed to students)
Students return

PLEASE SHARE: If you would like to share students' achievements and events in the community, please email jssissons@ahs.pmat.academy. It's always nice to celebrate our school community.



This Week's School News



MFL Stars of the Week

Students were nominated by Language staff to receive an Effort merit, a postcard home and appear on the 'Stars Wall' for all their hard work:

KS3 French - Areesha Naveed, 9ADI

KS3 German - Ben Keech, 8JEl and

Kai Angle-Smith, 9JFd

KS3 Spanish - Louis Beck, 8MPe

KS4 French - Sofia Zamora, 11MDw

KS4 German - Alessandro Garofalo, 10CDc

KS4 Spanish - Githaali Van Dort, 11RP



Physics visit to Leeds University

Today, the Science department took a number of Year 10 students to Leeds University to attend 'Physics and Beyond' - an interactive and immersive experience aimed at encouraging students to study Physics at A Level and beyond. Students enjoyed viewing live satellite movements, exploring the vastness of the universe and creating light sensitive biological gel patterns.



Careers Corner



To all our Year 10 & Year 12 students - Please continue to search for your work experience placements and log them onto your NYBEP portals once secured.



Year 11 students - Remember to book your Taster Day places (13 & 15 January 2026) at a College or Sixth Form of your choice. You can do this by visiting the website of your chosen college/Sixth Form.

Art - Work of the Week

This term Mrs Dugdale from the Art department has run a Christmas card competition. Giving the students next to no brief, they had free rein to choose the medium and subject matter. We have had so many fantastic entries, all with completely different approaches, media and styles.

Huge congratulations to our winner Amy Owen (Year 10) who produced this sensational mixed media piece of Father Christmas.

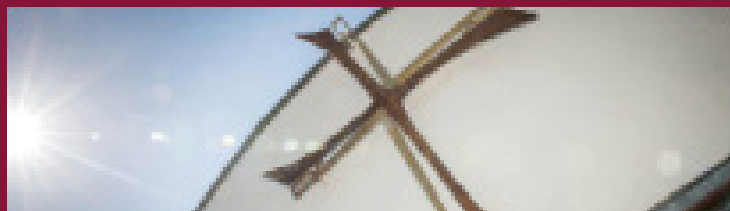
Highly commended entries came from Elsa Ferrari, Amelia Hanks, Ruby Carter and Lilah Zant.

Thank you and well done to ALL students who entered!





This Week's Sixth Form News



Message from Mrs De Lashley, Assistant Head: Director of Sixth Form

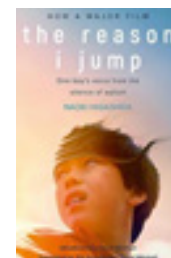
Book Recommendation

A reminder that each week we share a recommendation from the post-16 reading list that we hope our students will engage with. This reading list is one of many that can be found online but one that we think is broad, challenging and accessible. A copy of all of the listed books can be found in the Resource Centre.



The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida

This eye-opening first-person autobiography reveals what it feels like to be autistic, and how a neuro-divergent person sees and experiences the world. Written when the author was 13, it offers teens a unique glimpse not just into non-verbal lives, but also into the many different ways events can be perceived, and all the different ways life can be lived. Recommended for students interested in abstract ideas, art and psychology.



School Menu - Tuesday 6 January

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mains	Meat Feast Pasta Bake Vegetable Pasta Bake (V)	Roast Joint of Beef Vegan Quorn Sausages (V)	Beef Bolognaise Vegan Bolognaise	Freshly Battered Fish Vegetarian Quiche (V)
On the side		Oven Roasted Potatoes Yorkshire pudding	Spaghetti Garlic Bread	Chips
Vegetables	<i>Selection of seasonal vegetables served each day</i>			
Snack selection & Daily Special	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches
Family Favourites	Steamed Syrup Sponge & Custard <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Lemon Drizzle Cake & Cream <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Jam Roly-Poly & Custard <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>

AHS Feedback

We welcome all feedback and thank all parents for their valuable contributions. If you have a query or simply an observation about the school please complete the form online.



Social Media



Please follow us on Twitter @AHSYork or Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news and events!

This week at SEND CENTRAL



5 January- 9 January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along
Wellbeing in Mind- Elective Home Education Offer 10am-4pm Drop ins and workshops	SENDIASS 10am-2.30pm Bookable slots throughout the day. Please book via SEND.CENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	Early Years SEND Playgroup YIKS 9.30am - 11am All welcome no booking required	SEND Casework Duty Worker 10am-2pm Advice and information bookable slots. Please book via SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	NHS Preparation for Adulthood 10am - 4pm Drop in - advice and information- All welcome no booking required.
YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Portage Music Group 1.30pm-2.30pm Workshop- invite only	Think Together Workshop 10-11.30 A workshop for parents/ carers to learn about Anxiety and how it can present in young people	YIKS Parent/carers SEND drop in 9.30am-11am All Welcome no booking required	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKS
	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm-6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Specialist Autism Teaching Team 1.30pm-2.30pm Drop in All welcome no booking required	Healthy Child Team 9am - 12pm Drop in - self weigh 0- 5 years 2pm -3.30pm 4 month workshop- invite only.	
	YIKS Siblings Group 6.45pm- 8.00pm	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKS	YIKS Post 16 Group 6.30pm -8pm	

Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course
WHEN: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December
WHERE: LNER Community Stadium, YO32 9AE, 3G
TIME: 10-3pm
REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided
WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



How to book:

Please use your voucher code at
www.holidayactivities.com

These Free holiday Activities are designed to give young people the opportunity to get active using football as the tool in a FUN, SAFE and SECURE environment.
 If you would like any further information or to book in ADVANCE please contact
inclusion@yorkcitycfoundation.co.uk



Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course
WHEN: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December
WHERE: Millthorpe School, YO23 1WF, 3G
TIME: 10-3pm
REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided
WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



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Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course
WHEN: Friday 2nd January 2026
WHERE: Millthorpe School, YO23 1WF, 3G
TIME: 10-3pm
REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided
WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



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JANUARY 2026 INFORMATION SESSIONS AT SEND CENTRAL IN COLLABORATION WITH PARENT CARER FORUM YORK - NO NEED TO BOOK JUST COME ALONG

Monday 12th January 1pm- 2pm – Understanding Young Carers Support

An information session led by young carers that will look at what their offer is and how you can refer a young carer who may have a sibling or other family member who has additional needs for care and support.

Monday 19th January 1pm- 2pm- Recognising big emotions in primary aged students.

An information session for parents/carers led by the School Wellbeing Service, which will describe who they are and how they support all schools in York with the emotional wellbeing needs of students. This session will also focus on how you can support your child when they are experiencing big emotions, with a questions and answer session at the end.

Friday 23rd January 1pm-2 pm – Registering with York Carers and Understanding their Offer

An information session from York Carers, they will talk through the support that they can offer and the benefits available from registering with them as a carer of a child or young person who has SEND.

Monday 26th January 2026 1-2pm Barriers to School Attendance

A workshop led by the Educational Psychology Service for parents/carers to explore barriers to school attendance, with a focus on:
School-based strategies to support when your child/young person is experiencing significant barriers to school engagement.

All held at SEND CENTRAL, Children's Centre on the site of Clifton Green Primary School, Water Lane York YO30 6JA Tel: 01904 555076 Email: SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk

Supported by:  **Raise York**
Your Family Hub Network

Delivered by:  **CITY OF YORK COUNCIL**

YORK Learning
Family Learning



Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

This free 5 week course explores SEND and ways to help you support your child at home if they are showing behaviours which suggest they may have additional needs.

We will cover a range of additional needs including ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Dyspraxia. There will be an opportunity to understand which services are available to support you at home and in the school system.

Who: Parents and Carers

Dates: 14 January 2026 - 11 February 2026

When: Wednesday Afternoons, 12:45 - 2:45

**Where: SEND CENTRAL,
Clifton Green Children's Centre, YO30 6JA**

Please note this is a course for adults only but free childcare is available. Please book to avoid disappointment.

Use the QR Code to enrol on the course or for more information call 01904 554277 email york.learning@york.gov.uk



Funded by UK Government

Think Together at SEND CENTRAL

Think Together are a team of mental health practitioners who can support when mental health difficulties first present. They can support with advice and information giving, as well as signposting to local services, which may be able to support with your child/ young person 's mental health. A way in which this support will be offered is through workshops. Please see the below workshops which have been arranged for parents/carers at SEND CENTRAL, to attend in January.

7th January 2026 10am - 11.30am

A workshop for parents/ carers to learn about Anxiety and how it can present in young people. This will include advice on how to manage symptoms of Anxiety and information about local services.

14th January 2026 10am- 11.30am

A workshop for parents/ carers to learn about Low Mood and how it can present in young people. This will include advice on how to manage symptoms of Low Mood and information about local services.

21st January 2026 10am - 11.30am

A workshop for parents/ carers to learn about Anxiety and how it can present in young people. This will include advice on how to manage symptoms of Anxiety and information about local services.

28th January 2026 10am- 11.30am

A workshop for parents/ carers to learn about Low Mood and how it can present in young people. This will include advice on how to manage symptoms of Low Mood and information about local services.

All held at SEND CENTRAL, Children's Centre on the site of Clifton Green Primary School, Water Lane York YO30 6JA Tel: 01904 555076 Email: SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk

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Pathfinder News

The latest updates from across the Trust

December 2025

Merry CHRISTMAS

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our schools. Your encouragement and commitment to your children's education make a real difference and we are very grateful for the trust you place in us.

This term has seen many successes across the Trust, with pupils continuing to show enthusiasm for learning and staff demonstrating their dedication to providing the very best education possible. I am particularly proud to highlight Huntington Primary Academy, which recently underwent a successful Ofsted inspection. Huntington is the first of our schools to be assessed under the new Ofsted framework, which has changed significantly since the school's last inspection and no longer includes an overall judgement. I look forward to updating families on the outcome when the report is published next term.

Across our schools, we have seen many examples this term of children living out our shared values, supporting one another and engaging fully in school life. From classroom learning to enrichment activities, trips and events, it has been a pleasure to see pupils thrive and make progress in so many different ways.

Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to welcome Hensall Community Primary School to Pathfinder. We look forward to working closely with the staff, pupils and families at Hensall as we enter our tenth year as a Trust.

As the festive break approaches, I would like to wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Thank you once again for your ongoing support, and I look forward to all that we will achieve together in the new year.

Andrew Daly | Chief Executive Officer

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12 Primary school sports offer

Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust was formed in August 2016, initially between just four schools based in the east side of York. Today, we are 19 schools strong, proudly serving more than 6,800 students and their families across York and North Yorkshire.



Developing the very best teachers and future leaders

The best way to support the children and young people across our schools is to have an excellent teacher in every classroom. This is why we have redeveloped our career pathways programme to ensure we recruit, develop and retain the very best teachers and future leaders.



Our aim is to be a flourishing and supportive learning community, where people choose to stay, grow and lead because they are respected, fulfilled and proud to be part of the Pathfinder journey. To that end, our career pathways offer supports colleagues from Initial Teacher Training right through to Executive Headship reflecting their individual development aspirations throughout their time working within the Trust.

In addition to our offer for teachers, we have put together a new career pathways programme for support staff. This has been developed to equip colleagues with the necessary skills and expertise to fulfil their roles to the highest standard and also provide development opportunities for those seeking career progression.



This has been developed to equip colleagues with the necessary skills and expertise to fulfil their roles to the highest standard and also provide development opportunities for those seeking career progression.



Alongside our career pathways programmes, we have also launched the Pathfinder Leadership Academy, aimed at developing future middle and senior school leaders. Please [click here](#) to visit our website if you would like to know more about our staff development programmes and explore our current staff vacancies.

Shepherd's Delight

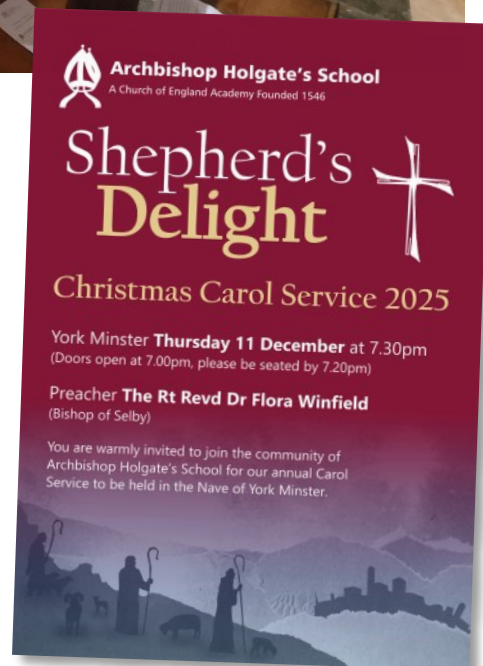
Christmas carol service at York Minster



Archbishop Holgate's School marked the festive season with its annual Christmas carol service in York Minster, a highlight of the school calendar that brought students, staff and families together in a spirit of reflection and celebration.

This year's service titled 'Shepherd's Delight', explored the Christmas story through the experiences of the shepherds as they encountered the angels and then the Holy Family. The service made full use of the Minster's atmosphere and acoustics, creating a memorable backdrop for an evening of music and Bible readings. Students and staff from across the school took part, demonstrating both musical talent and confidence as they led the congregation through a mixture of choir recitals, drama performances and traditional hymns and Christmas carols. The school were delighted to welcome The Right Reverend Flora Winfield, Bishop of Selby, who led the sermon and to having the Lord Mayor of York, the Sheriff of York and their consorts in attendance.

A highlight of the evening was the carol performance by the primary school choir, made up of more than three hundred children from across Pathfinder's primary schools, they all did brilliantly. Donations from the



evening will be used to support the school's work in Africa alongside the charity Abaana. This summer, students and staff visited Uganda to paint a rural school, inside and outside, and will be returning in July 2027 to help build a new nursery classroom.

This year's carol service once again proved to be a meaningful and uplifting occasion, offering a chance to pause, reflect and celebrate the Christmas story together as a school community.

News from our schools



ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Year 4 children had a wonderful opportunity to take their music learning out into the community when they visited York railway station for a festive busking performance. The event was organised by the Richard Shepherd Music Foundation (RSMF), who continue to support music teaching at Acomb Primary in partnership with Sing Education.

The children have been working hard in their music lessons, learning a selection of Christmas songs and developing their confidence as performers.

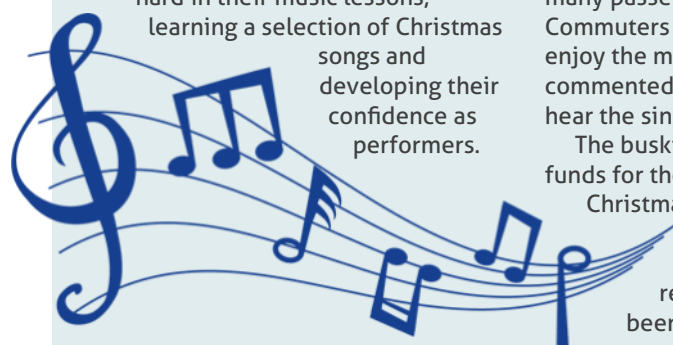
Their enthusiasm in school has been clear to see, and they brought that same energy and joy to the station concourse.

Wrapped up warmly and full of festive spirit, the children performed beautifully for travellers passing through the station. From traditional carols to upbeat Christmas favourites, their singing created a cheerful and uplifting atmosphere that stopped many passers-by in their tracks. Commuters paused to listen and enjoy the moment, several people commented on how lovely it was to hear the singing.

The busking raised almost £250 in funds for the RSMF's 2025 Big Give Christmas Challenge, supporting music opportunities for children across the region. This amount has been matched by RSMF to an



amazing £500. We are incredibly proud of how positively Year 4 represented our school and delighted that their performance brought so much joy to the busy station.



At Applefields we are delighted that work on the final part of our play and experience equipment in four of our outside areas is almost complete.

A profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) space with interactive surfaces, a covered area and accessible roundabout has been created in one area. In other outside spaces we have interactive climbing equipment, a bothy, a sensory swing, basketball posts and a football goal. The money has been raised over several years by staff and generous community supporters.

Upgrades to our hydrotherapy suite are in the final stages of completion and we are looking forward to it being commissioned very soon! Classes on all of our sites have been working to create crafts for our upcoming Christmas fair and preparing for the many visits we have out and about in the coming weeks.





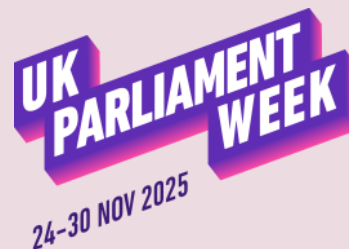
Archbishop Holgate's School

A Church of England Academy Founded 1546



We were delighted to welcome Rachael Maskell MP to Archbishop Holgate's as part of our Parliament Week celebrations. Ms Maskell met with Politics and Health and Social Care students, telling them about her role within the NHS and as an MP. She answered students' questions to a

variety of topical issues, including the budget, environmental concerns and workers' rights. As part of Parliament Week, all year groups were tasked with campaigning for a seat on the School Parliament, winning the votes of their form in order to become a representative. The School Parliament will discuss issues that matter to the students and provide an opportunity to share the concerns and wishes of their form group. Ms Maskell advised the students to ensure that they listen to each other carefully and work collaboratively and compassionately in the work that they do if they want to be a success.



Our Parliament Week celebrations continued with a visit from MP Luke Charters who met our newly elected School Parliament members. He also spent time speaking to Year 12 and 13 Politics students about his role as an MP and gave advice about how the students can have a positive impact during their time as a Parliament member. He took questions from students on what his plans for his constituency were; had he always wanted to work in politics and what was the most challenging speech he'd ever done. It was great to hear from two Members of Parliament and we hope our School Parliament and A Level students have learned a lot from their visits.



Badger Hill PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a fabulous term at Badger Hill. It all began with our wonderful pupils leading on learning across the school. This included our Language Day which took place in September! We are super proud of our school and all the languages which our families speak. Senorita Ruze worked with

children from Years 5 and 6 to support them to prepare mini lessons which they delivered across school!

We have also celebrated Inter-faith week led by Miss Cook and children from across school. Our families have loved sharing their different religions and cultures and it was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our school community!

Along with other schools in the Trust, we took part in the annual danceathon! This is choreographed by our very own Miss Lea and Miss Cook and is a much anticipated event here at Badger Hill.

Year 6 pulled on their thermals and rain coats as they headed to Peat Rigg in November! The whole class



thoroughly enjoyed the week they spent together, taking part in caving, mountain biking, bush craft and a mammoth abseil! It was a fantastic experience to spend part of the week with Year 6, they were an absolute delight and we had lots of fun!

As we headed into our festive celebrations we took our annual trip to the Theatre Royal Pantomime! Children from Years 1 to 6 watched Sleeping Beauty and absolutely loved it! The atmosphere was electric and our very own Mr Lee found himself involved in the storyline! Another fantastic term at Badger Hill!



News from our schools



Barlow CE Primary School

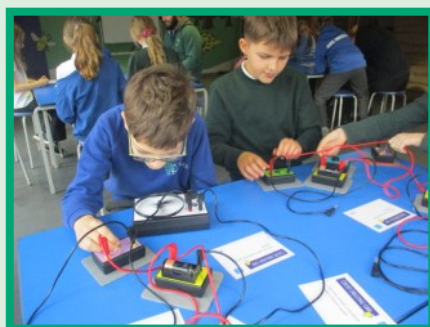
Part of the White Rose Federation - One family, branching out together

Members of staff from Drax Power Station visited the school in November for an interesting STEM lesson on circuits. The next day, we visited the Drax Skylark Centre and the power station for a closer look. Our roving reporters, Henry, Charlie and Heidi enthusiastically told us about what they had learnt on their

visit to Drax Power Station. Heidi shared all of the interesting facts about how Drax now use bio-mass fuels instead of coal and that some of this material comes from as far away as Canada. Henry shared some interesting facts too, like 15,000 visitors attend Drax each year and they own 1850 acres of land set in

our community - this converts into as much land as 1000 football pitches.

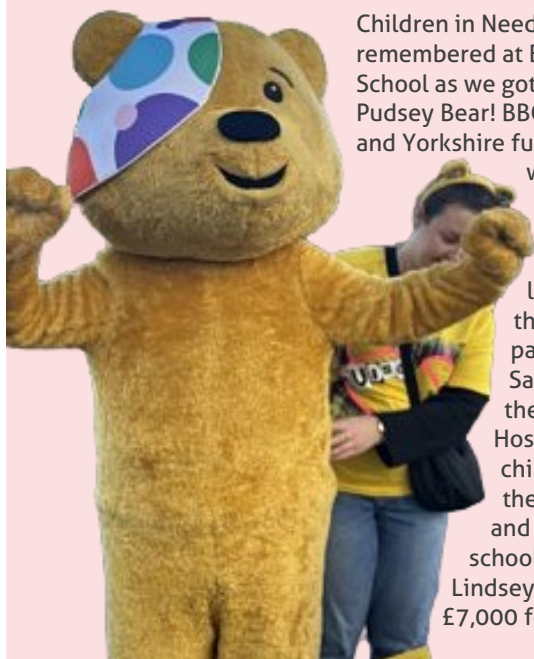
Charlie shared that the Barlow children asked more relevant questions than the White House staff when they visited! Charlie, Henry and Heidi gave this visit 10/10 for learning new things and that the Drax staff were super kind to them all.



Burton Salmon CP School

Part of the White Rose Federation - One family, branching out together

Children in Need 2025 will certainly be long remembered at Burton Salmon Primary School as we got to meet the real-life Pudsey Bear! BBC Look North's Amy Garcia and Yorkshire fundraiser Lindsey Burrow were taking part in Children in Need's Thousand Mile Challenge Extra Leg, walking 30 miles three-legged. They walked across three Yorkshire counties passing through Burton Salmon village on their way to the finish line at Forget Me Not Hospice in Huddersfield. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, making flags and decorating the front of the school in support of Amy and Lindsey who raised more than £7,000 for Children in Need.



In other news, a huge congratulations to Phe, who brought home two silver medals from the ICO Martial Art Combat World Championships! What an experience and achievement, we are very proud of you!





Chapel Haddlesey CE School

Part of the White Rose Federation - One family, branching out together

Pupils from Burton Salmon and Barlow joined our Class 3 to step back in time as Chapel Haddlesey hosted a WW2 Immersion Day, complete with authentic artefacts, hands-on learning and living history experiences that brought the wartime era to life. The day began with a special visit from RAF Snaith and Squadron X, a dedicated WW2 re-enactment group. The team brought a collection of genuine and replica wartime artifacts, from RAF uniforms and flying helmets to ration books and everyday items from the 1940s. Pupils had the chance to try on authentic clothing and equipment,



gaining a sense of what life was like for service members and civilians during the war. Members of Squadron X shared stories from local airmen and women, linking national history to the school's community. These personal tales helped pupils understand the bravery, sacrifice and resilience shown on both the home and battle fronts. In the afternoon, pupils gathered around a campfire led by Miss Ducat, a Girl Guide leader. She transported the children back to the 1940s, explaining the role of the Girl Guides during the war, who helped feed those left homeless by bombings and cared for the wounded. The campfire setting created an atmospheric backdrop for the stories of teamwork, service, and community spirit that defined the



wartime years. The day continued in the classroom, where Mrs Smith (the school's cookery lead) led a WW2 baking session. Using only rationed ingredients, pupils learned how to make traditional carrot biscuits, a recipe used to sweeten treats when sugar was scarce. To finish, pupils compared the ration packs of WW2 with modern military rations, sparking discussions on nutrition, technology and how wartime innovations still influence the armed forces today.



What a fantastic term it has been! From Foundation Stage to Year 6, our pupils have been busy exploring the past, discovering the world around them and improving their writing skills. In FS1, children have been doing some huge thinking about the world, learning about animal habitats and how to care for the environment. Through comparing homes, toys and transport from past and present, FS2 began to understand how things change over time.

The 1950s came alive for Year 1 as they investigated retro entertainment such as Muffin the Mule and Andy Pandy, transforming their research into engaging reports. Meanwhile, timelines and historical models captured Year 2's interest, as they explored significant figures such as

Rosa Parks and Guy Fawkes, which inspired them to craft some wonderful biographies. Delving into Prehistory, Year 3 pupils wrote stories and acrostic poems about the Stone and Bronze Ages while learning about key inventions like the plough and sword. In Year 4, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings became the focus, prompting debates on surrender and social hierarchies, the creation of playscripts, planning a Viking podcast and expanding map skills with six-figure grid references.

China fascinated Year 5 pupils as they wrote a biography of Lady Fu Hao and investigated Shang Dynasty society, including the bronze chariot.



Reports on the evacuation process during WW2 showcased the mastery of Year 6 pupils, who meticulously gathered notes and included personal accounts from Britain's largest mass movement of civilians.

We have enjoyed welcoming parents to open afternoons, carol concerts and nativities. We have been incredibly impressed with all of the children this term and their amazing achievements!

News from our schools



Hempland Primary School

Hempland Primary School have been out and about in the community over the festive period spreading a little Christmas cheer!

We are once again participating in the York Minster Christmas Tree Festival for the fifth year running. The theme for our tree this year is 'Our Wonderful World' with each year group representing a continent through their decorations. Two of our Year 4 School Council members visited York Minster to help decorate our tree with the end result looking just fantastic!

All of our Year 3 children headed out to Mossdale Residence Care Home to perform a selection of Christmas tunes which entertained all of the residents. They sang, danced and signed, providing great

entertainment and lots of fun in their Santa hats!

The Year 3 children also performed for our local residents and grandparents who we invited into school to enjoy a drink, mince pie and a festive performance. This was once again a lovely event and was enjoyed by all involved.

Children from Year 6 took part in Archbishop Holgate's School annual Carol Concert at York Minster. As usual, it was a truly special evening, with some wonderful songs and performances in a spectacular setting. The children joined the choir of other Pathfinder



primary schools in singing a song in front of an audience made up of parents, staff and members of the public. Well done!



Heworth Church of England Primary School

As we come to the end of the autumn term, it is the perfect time to look back and celebrate the rich learning experiences that have shaped our school year so far. Our new Early Years children set out on a journey of discovery in the autumn term. They successfully began to understand who they are, what's special about them and what's special about Heworth. They have all settled in wonderfully and we can't wait to see how they flourish here.

Throughout the term, our Lower Phase pupils were immersed in 'Medieval Magic', a topic that invited them to explore the depth of York's medieval history. Their learning was anchored by a visit to Clifford's

Tower, where they walked the ramparts of this impressive structure. Their exploration of the topic culminated in a spirited re-enactment of the Battle of Heworth Moor. Discovering that this actual battle from 1453 took place close to our school grounds brought this topic to life and showed that Heworth has a rich historical past.

Meanwhile, a significant highlight for the Upper Phase was their topic of a 'The Chocolate Story' - a history and geography based topic that looked into something that is such an important piece of York's heritage. What began with an investigation of the Maya's relationship with cacao, took our pupils on a journey across



4000 years and two continents. Highlights included visiting York's Chocolate Story, where the city's confectionery heritage came to life and, of course, tasting chocolate (for purely scientific purposes). The children explored how this history was shaped by the Quaker vision, specifically looking at how faith-led values supported the local community during adverse times. This resonated with our own school values, reminding us of the power that compassion and courageous advocacy can have.



Huntington PRIMARY ACADEMY

We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Luke Charters, to school as part of Parliament Week. Mr Charters spoke to the children in a special assembly, giving them an insight into his role as an MP, the workings of Parliament and how he helps the local community. The children asked him thoughtful and engaging questions about his work which he answered with great enthusiasm. Following the assembly, he enjoyed a tour of the school. A particularly pleasing moment was when Mr Charters learned many of our children go on to attend Huntington Secondary School, which is the very school he attended! His visit was a valuable experience, helping our students to understand democracy and civic responsibility.

The Christmas spirit is truly alive in Early Years! Our youngest pupils have been working hard on their most important correspondence of the year: writing their letters to Father Christmas! The children took a special trip to the local post box to ensure their letters made it safely to the North Pole. We are all keeping our fingers tightly crossed that they receive a reply! It was a magical activity that brought a lot of excitement and anticipation.

Our desire to become an even greener school continues with a number of exciting projects as part of our Eco-Schools commitment. We are thrilled to be working alongside experts from York University on two key environmental initiatives:



- Creating a more efficient system for collecting and storing rainwater for use around the school grounds, and;
- Developing improved composting facilities to nourish our school vegetable beds.

The projects were initiated and planned by our dedicated Eco-school Champions, led by Mrs Jackson. They developed a comprehensive plan and have secured the necessary support to move forward. This collaboration is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about sustainable practices and work with real-world researchers.



Malton School A Specialist Science School

The Gardening Club PDA students at Malton School have been celebrating this year, having achieved Gold for the second year running in the Yorkshire in Bloom Young People's Award for Schools & Youth Groups. The win comes after students took on a huge new project, developing an area of the school in the East Wing. Over the spring and early summer, the team created four giant containers to be planted with small trees and perennials as well as a mix of annuals. By the time of the judging, the area in the East Wing Quad had been completely transformed.

Over the course of each academic year, around 120 students from all year groups become involved with the gardening team. The students, who select Gardening for their

Personal Development Activities, spend the final period of their extended day every Thursday outside working in the gardens – come rain or shine.

Care for the environment forms a key part of the work; not only have students created a compost system to utilise the garden waste they generate, but biodiversity has also been increased with the planting of many pollinators. The site team have seen a noticeable decrease in litter in areas that have been developed and cultivated. The catering team (and wider school community) also benefit from the students' hard work – be that



harvesting rhubarb to make crumble for lunches, or potatoes to go in meals. This is when the work of the team becomes truly field to fork! Mrs Wilson, Assistant Headteacher, said of the team's second gold, "We are delighted that the students' hard work, dedication and inspiration has been recognised again this year. In the run up to judging many of them also put in extra hours to ensure the gardens were in top condition."

News from our schools



New Earswick Primary School

What a term it has been! There have been lots of changes at New Earswick but everyone has been absolutely brilliant and the children have all been working incredibly hard.

Our Year 6s experienced a little bit of what it must have been like on board the Titanic on that fateful night in April 1912. From understanding the different classes on board the ship to empathising with the passengers as the ship began to sink, they had a taste of everything



and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Continuing on the historical theme, the Year 4s became fully fledged Roman Centurions and took part in Roman soldier training using their shields to protect the unit! They also took part in Play Leader Training which they have started to implement across school and on top of that, they became a hall sized model of the human digestive system, from start to finish! The Year 2s were not to be outdone and visited the Yorkshire



Museum and the Star Carr exhibit to learn more about the Stone Age. Later in the term, they all made and tasted Stone Age Stew and Berry puddings – some children even felt they would have liked to have been around in the Stone Age – we're not so sure they would have liked the woolly mammoths though! It has been a lovely term and we are all now ready for Christmas before we begin again in January.



Poppleton Road Primary School

This term has been one filled with energy, achievement and a wonderful sense of togetherness across Poppleton Road. It has been a term of firsts, from Mrs Dawson's first term as Headteacher, the first term of our new nursery opening and trying a new skill for the first time! From the very first day back, our school has been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, dance and a genuine love of learning. Walking through classrooms, it has been a delight to see pupils engaged, confident and excited about the challenges set before them. The joy on children's faces, whether they are tackling new topics, collaborating with classmates or proudly sharing their work, has been a true highlight of the term.

We are especially thrilled to

celebrate the opening of our brand-new nursery, which has already become a vibrant hub of early learning. The team has worked tirelessly to create a nurturing, inspiring environment and it has been wonderful to watch our youngest learners settle in so confidently. Their enthusiasm each morning is infectious and the nursery has quickly become an integral part of our family.

Community engagement has also been a standout strength this term. From family workshops and reading sessions to charity events and local partnerships, we have opened our



doors widely. The support from parents, carers and the wider community has made a remarkable difference and continues to strengthen the bonds that help our children thrive.

As we look ahead to the next term, we do so with pride in what has been achieved and excitement for what is still to come. Thank you to our staff, families and pupils for making this term such a success.



Rufforth Primary School

• Inspire • Care • Grow •

This term, we have celebrated achieving the prestigious School Games Mark - Platinum Award! This is the highest level of recognition achievable and is a testament to the incredible sporting culture and commitment to physical activity we have embedded throughout our school. Achieving Platinum status requires sustained excellence over a number of years, and this wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication from our staff who consistently provide a wide range of high-quality sports provision, opportunities and coaching. We also



celebrate the wonderful enthusiasm from our children, whose dedication to participate, learn new skills and compete with great sportsmanship truly embodies our school values.

Thank you also to our supportive parents and carers whose encouragement and assistance at events are invaluable. This fantastic award reflects how much we enjoy sport at our school and the comprehensive opportunities we offer every pupil. We have enjoyed engaging with the Pathfinder Sports Offer, providing access to specialised coaching and numerous inter-school competitions.



Additionally, we ensure our children have other competition opportunities, both internally and externally, helping them to develop teamwork, resilience and a lifelong love of physical activity. Just this term, children have enjoyed a virtual dance event, football, rugby and dodgeball. We are extremely proud of everyone in the Rufforth community for contributing to this outstanding achievement. We look forward to even more sporting success in the future!



St Barnabas

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term has been filled with memorable moments, especially in music and community engagement. We were incredibly proud to have our Birch and Oak classes (KS2) perform at the Richard Shephard Music Foundation carol service, held in the beautiful St Olave's Church. The children performed carols, supported by the wonderful Minster Singing Project, in front of distinguished guests, including members of the foundation, the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York, and MP Rachael Maskell. A particularly moving part of the service was a performance by Oak class, who shared their thoughtful reflections on 'Why Music Is Important to Our School' through a specially prepared poem.

In addition to our musical achievements, we have strengthened our church and community connections. Oak class enjoyed an enriching visit to York Minster and participated in the YoYo York Figures walking tour, learning about significant historical and religious personalities. Our younger pupils also benefited from a fantastic YoYo workshop held in school, making these connections accessible to all ages.

The festive spirit was truly embraced by the whole school with our trip to York Theatre Royal to see the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. This



outing was a wonderful experience for every child, bringing laughter and magic to the end of the term. We feel incredibly lucky to have the city of York right on our doorstep, making it possible for the entire school to walk into town together for such occasions. It is these shared, accessible experiences that help to build our strong school community.

News from our schools



St Lawrence's CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

We can not believe we are at the end of our autumn term at St Lawrence's. It has been packed full of different experiences right the way across school - from whole school trips to the cinema to Harvest Festivals to relaunching our lending library - it has been busy, busy, busy.

Once again, our KS1 and Early Years children learnt to ride on balance bikes and had a great time experiencing it for the first time or remembering how to do it from last year. They were amazing on them.

As part of our Remembrance Commemorations, we took part in creating remembrance lanterns for St Lawrence's Church. We took a moment out of our day to remember those who have lost their lives in the defence of others.

Our Hedgehogs class went to the food festival and despite the rain, had a great time sampling different food and making pasta.



From Dodgeball to football, children across the school have enjoyed participating in lots of the sporting events this term as part of Pathfinder's Primary Sports Offer. Probably our most enjoyable moment was when it snowed - which doesn't happen often. The children had great fun making snow angels, building (very small) snowmen and getting as much out of the moment as they possibly could!



Tang Hall Primary School

At Tang Hall, our school's work on belonging has started strong. We began our autumn term with a whole school project using The Colour Monster book. We used the book, alongside our Zones of Regulation, to help us all to be ready to learn at the beginning of the year. We celebrated the end of the project with a family Colour Run which was enjoyed by all our children and families. This was a lovely way for us all to come together as a team at the beginning of the year.

We have continued to work alongside our families through our Open Classroom events where

we get to share our learning. This term we have participated in lots of fun immersion activities to engage us in our learning, these have included making potions linked to Roald Dahl's 'The Witches'; escaped dragons in our classroom; and creating our own shelter to survive in the Amazon Rainforest! These have helped to make our learning fun and have given us some great ideas for our writing.

Our school trips included a visit to the Railway Museum and a trip to the Merchant Adventurers' Hall where we experienced what life would have been like in the Victorian era. Our Year 5 children were



lucky enough to spend the day at Queen Mary's Equestrian School where they took part in horse riding and helped take care of the horses. Following these visits, it was commented on that our children's behaviour was exemplary.

Now we are fully immersed in all things festive. Our Nursery and Early Years children performed 'A Wiggly Nativity!' and Year 1 and 2 performed 'It's a Party!' Both performances were pure joy! We are looking forward to our KS2 family Christmas event and to singing carols in the Minster.





Welburn COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a super start to the school year. We are so fortunate to be set in the Howardian Hills in a very active community. We have enjoyed Harvest Festival at the local church, tractor rides to Castle Howard to support the re-wilding project at Bog Hall and enjoyed visits to Malton to compete in the sports partnership tournaments. We also benefit from local volunteers who bring valued skills and knowledge to share with our children, and also provide great Jenga opponents!

We started Christmas early this year with songs at the village Christmas Fair and we are also looking forward to pantomimes, performances and shared celebrations in school.

We have welcomed three new

families to school this term and are delighted to see numbers beginning to grow - it truly is a very special setting and one we are keen to share!

Our curriculum offer has grown this term; SING Music are working with our KS2 pupils and we are delighted that Celine Ruze has joined us to teach both Spanish and French.

Our 'best bits' are probably best summed up by the children who have had their own say for the school website: "We have lots of outdoor space so we can learn in the environment." (Year 6). "I love art. There is no right or wrong and you learn from your mistakes." (Year 5). "I like learning lots." (Year 1)



Pathfinder
Teaching School Hub

Train to teach at Pathfinder

Are you interested in training to become a teacher? The Pathfinder Teaching School Hub delivers Initial Teacher Education to both primary and secondary trainees. The courses combine in-school training with the latest research-led practice provided by our partner university.

We are open for applications for our teacher training courses and are looking for individuals who have a degree, a passion for teaching and who want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential. If this sounds like you, contact us to find out about the training opportunities we have available. Call 01904 806900 or email info@tsh.pmat.academy.

Teamwork, energy and enthusiasm shine in Primary School Sports Offer



Children from across Pathfinder primary schools have participated in a range of activities and competitions through the Primary Sports Offer this term. While the sun was still shining, Key Stage 2 teams played in football fixtures, with the winning teams going through to the finals which will be held in summer.

Other events have also included

Dodgeball competitions, a virtual Danceathon where 2400 children and staff performed together across the day, rugby development days and bespoke 'Active Days' in individual schools.

Throughout all the activities, children have demonstrated amazing team work and sportsmanship along with plenty of energy and enthusiasm.

OUR SCHOOLS ARE RECRUITING



Support Staff Vacancies

For details and to apply, visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code

Job	Teaching Assistant Early Years
School	Poppleton Road Primary School
Details	29.25 hours Monday - Friday 8.30am to 3.15pm (including some lunch and break duties) TA2 Grade 4, level 1 –4 (£25,114 - £26,319 per annum, reduced pro rata)
Closes	Thursday 8th January at 12pm

Job	Breakfast & After School Club Assistant
School	Heworth CE Primary School
Details	Grade 3 Level 1-4 Full time equivalent starting salary = £24,483, reduced pro-rata. Hourly rate payable is £12.73. Permanent, Term Time Only
Closes	Monday 5th January 2026 at 09.00am

Job	Finance Officer
School	Archbishop Holgate's School—York
Details	Permanent Full Year (flexibility around hours/days for the right candidate) Hours of work: 14.8 hours per week Grade 9 Levels 1-4 (£38,212-£42,849 Pro Rata)
Closes	N/A

Job	Head of Year
School	Malton School
Details	NJC Payscale Grade H, Scale Points 18-23. 37 hours per week. Term time plus one week (incl. training days) £27,655—£30,195 per annum Actual Salary Based on £31,537—£34,434 per annum FTE Required ASAP
Closes	Monday 12th January 2026 at 09.00am

Job	Teaching Assistant
School	Hemland Primary School
Details	Grade 4 Level 1-4 (£25,114 to £26,319 per annum) reduced pro-rata Fixed Term Contract from 5th January 2026 Part Time: 31.25 Hours per week Monday—Friday (To include a 30 Minute lunch time duty per day) Term Time Only.
Closes	Wednesday 7th January at 12pm



OUR SCHOOLS ARE RECRUITING



Support Staff Vacancies

For details and to apply, visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code



Job	MSA
School	Hempland Primary School
Details	Grade 2 Level 1-4 (24,309—24,399 pro Rata) 6.25 Hours a week—11.45—13.00 Permanent Term Time Only
Closes	N/A

Job	MSA
School	Rufforth Primary School
Details	Grade 2 Level 1 – 4 (24,309 pro rata) Fixed Term contract. 2 days a week, days to be discussed 12.00-1.00pm term time only Required week commencing 3rd November 2025.
Closes	N/A

Job	Exam Invigilator
School	Malton School
Details	£12.45 per hour. Casual Contract.
Closes	N/A

Job	Cleaning Assistant
School	Archbishop Holgate's School
Details	Currently £12.60 per hour Full Year or Term Time 20 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 3.30-7.30pm Salary paid monthly over 12 equal payments Required as soon as possible
Closes	N/A

