



"Children are at the centre of all we do."

NEWSLETTER 21st NOVEMBER 2025

Our newsletter is also available to view on the school website at:

<https://heslerton.n-yorks.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>

BADGER WOOD

95.69%

KEEPER WOOD

93.82%

FARTHING WOOD

97.73%

DIARY DATES

Monday 24th November, Gymnastics Club Y3 – Y6 week 4 and last for this half term.

Tuesday 25th November, School Christmas lunch order slip deadline.

Wednesday 26th November, David Lawrence visit, please join us at 3pm to hear us sing.

Thursday 27th November, Swimming Y1 – Y4 week 10 & last.

Friday 28th November, Non uniform day.

Tuesday 2nd December, Fairtrade stall opens.

Wednesday 3rd December, FW Dodgeball at MCSC.

Thursday 4th December, Pop up library – collection only.

Friday 5th December, Final day to return Friends Raffle tickets and funds.

Monday 8th December, Christmas post box opens.

- Friends raffle draw.

Friday 12th December, Fairtrade stall leaves.

Wednesday 17th December, School Christmas lunch.

- Nativity at All Saints' Church West Heslerton at 1:30pm and 6pm.

Thursday 18th December, Whole school visit to Scarborough Spa to see the pantomime Beauty and the Beast, late lunch.

Friday 19th December, School buffet lunch followed by the Christmas party.

- School closes for the Christmas holiday.

NON UNIFORM DAY

On **Friday 28th November**, children are invited to wear non-uniform. Please bring a small gift to help Friends of School to raise funds.

Chocolate, games, toiletries etc would all be great. All gifts will be grouped together to make Christmas hampers in our raffle. Please be mindful that Forest Schools will take place, so outfits need to be practical and warm please.

YORK MINSTER CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We have again been lucky enough to be invited to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival at York Minster. All children have created an individual bauble linked to The Colours of Christmas. You can hear the story here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze66ZTtvQPU>

These baubles will be placed on our tree at the Minster ~~on Thursday~~ and displayed throughout the festive season. The festival will open to the public on **Saturday 29th November**. There will be a special *family friendly Saturday* service at 10am on this date, to which all participating organisations are invited. The festival will run until **Sunday 5th January 2025**.

Entrance to the Minster is free to participating organisations. Please pop along and state 'West Heslerton School' for you and your family to access this marvellous festive event and view your child's work on display.

WINTERY WEATHER

We will do all that we can to keep school open during these wintry days. We issued our closure letter last week asking for details of friends and family that your child could travel home if needed. If you haven't already returned this, **please send it in to the school office by Monday**.

PARENTING SMART

Parenting can be joyful but also very hard. Each week we aim to bring you a link that may be useful to you to find your way. This week's short clip is on childhood escalation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWhLJUB7_kk

SWIMMING

Please note **Thursday 26th November**, is week ten of swimming and the last session this term.

GYMNASTICS CLUB

Please note **Monday 24th November**, is the last Gymnastics session this half term.

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school office.

INTERFAITH WEEK – HINDUISM FOCUS

On Monday we had a visitor in school teaching us about Hinduism and the Indian culture as part of our Interfaith week. Our whole school assembly started with the story of Rama and Sita then moved on to how Hindus traditionally pray and the festival of Diwali where we looked at some artefacts and images of Hindu gods and goddesses.



SNOWY DAYS

A lovely quote we have received at school:

Thankyou to all the staff for making it into school yesterday in the snowy weather and icy weather today. There were some schools closed yesterday and I really appreciate you being able to keep the school open. From the photos and conversations last night the children had a fantastic time playing in the snow. They are so lucky to have a lovely field so they could enjoy the snowy weather with all their friends. A big thankyou to you all though for travelling yesterday and to day now it's all very icy.



If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school office.



FARTHING WOOD DODGEBALL

The children in Y5 & Y6 will be taking part in a Dodgeball event at MCSC on **Wednesday, 3rd December.**

The children will travel with Perrys coaches and be accompanied by Mrs Bickerton and Mrs Wardell. We will leave school after lunch at 12.30 and return for the end of the school day.

Please wear warm PE kits to school for this event.

Pupils will need to take their own inhalers if necessary.

School carries insurance for all school trips. In case of emergency please contact school.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We have added more spaces to our After School Club so that more children are able to join us.

Priced at £5.50 for 1 hour or £8.50 for two hours, this is great value. Parents can use tax-free childcare vouchers from employers for childcare payment, saving 20% of this cost too.

Every child has 1 free session at the club per term.

Why not use your child's voucher to help with Christmas shopping or to ease some of the rush at this time of year? Please phone school to book the free session through the school office.

KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Rachel Wells

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Sheryl Woodward

Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Lou Todd

During school hours, should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school office on 01944 728286. We will take all concerns very seriously and do our best to support all involved.

To make a safeguarding referral directly to the local authority's multi agency safeguarding team, please contact the North Yorkshire Children and Families service on 0300 131 2 131. Outside of school hours, please contact North Yorkshire Emergency Safeguarding Duty Manager on 0300 131 2 131

PARKED CARS

When parking in the village dropping off children or waiting for them on collection, please can we request that car engines are switched off? Local residents are concerned for air quality in our village.

EARLY BIRDS

With the change in the weather, adults may need more time to get to work. Our Early Birds facility is available to book until 9pm at night for the following day. For £2 per child, you can drop your child at school from 8am to give more travel time. Your child will play with others in the hall with our teaching assistants before joining the whole school for an outdoor play at 8.30.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

NYC have issued FEAST vouchers to all families whose children/young people receive benefits-related free school meals. Vouchers entitle your child to free places on FEAST activities this Christmas holiday, where they'll also receive a free healthy meal. You should have received this voucher via email or text, from a platform called HolidayActivities. Follow the link to redeem your voucher and book your child's place on activities on offer in our area.

Please note, families can request places from Monday 17 November, but bookings won't be confirmed until Friday 21 November. This short wait gives everyone time to browse activities and express interest before places are allocated. You should hear back within a week to let you know if your child has a place. This new approach helps make things fairer, giving every family an equal chance to enjoy FEAST activities and meals.