



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

NEWSLETTER 9th JANUARY 2026

Our newsletters are available to view on the school website at:

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

DIARY DATES

Thursday 15th January, Pizza party for lunch.

- Pop up library.
- Gymnastics Club Y3 – Y6 week 2.

Thursday 22nd January, Gymnastics Club Y3 – Y6 week 3.

Monday 26th January, Community Cuppa Y5 2:15 – 3:15

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 about listening skills.

[Building listening skills for parents | Place2Be's](#)



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We have 20 spaces at our After School Club Monday to Thursday. Priced at £5.50 for 1 hour or £8.50 for two hours, this is great value childcare. 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 book ahead to use your child's voucher?

Please book the free session through the school office.

UNAUTHORISED LEAVE AND TERM-TIME HOLIDAYS

All term time holidays are classified as unauthorised leave. All leave without permission is considered unauthorised leave by authorities. 10 sessions of unauthorised absence (a session is a half day) in any 10 weeks will result in a penalty notice being issued. Please come and speak to school should you have an issue with attendance.

PUNCTUALITY

All children arriving after 8.55 when registers close are considered unauthorised by authorities. Arriving late 10 times in any 10 weeks will result in a penalty notice being issued. Please come and speak to school should you have an issue with getting to school on time. There are support systems in place to help those who struggle with punctuality.

FREE SESSIONS

One free After School Club session per child this term and one free Early Bird session per child this term. Please book through the office. Please note that spaces are limited and will be offered to those booking first.

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Please donate to Friends for their fundraising events.

SENT HOME

- London Y5 & Y6 residential – individual letters sent home today.

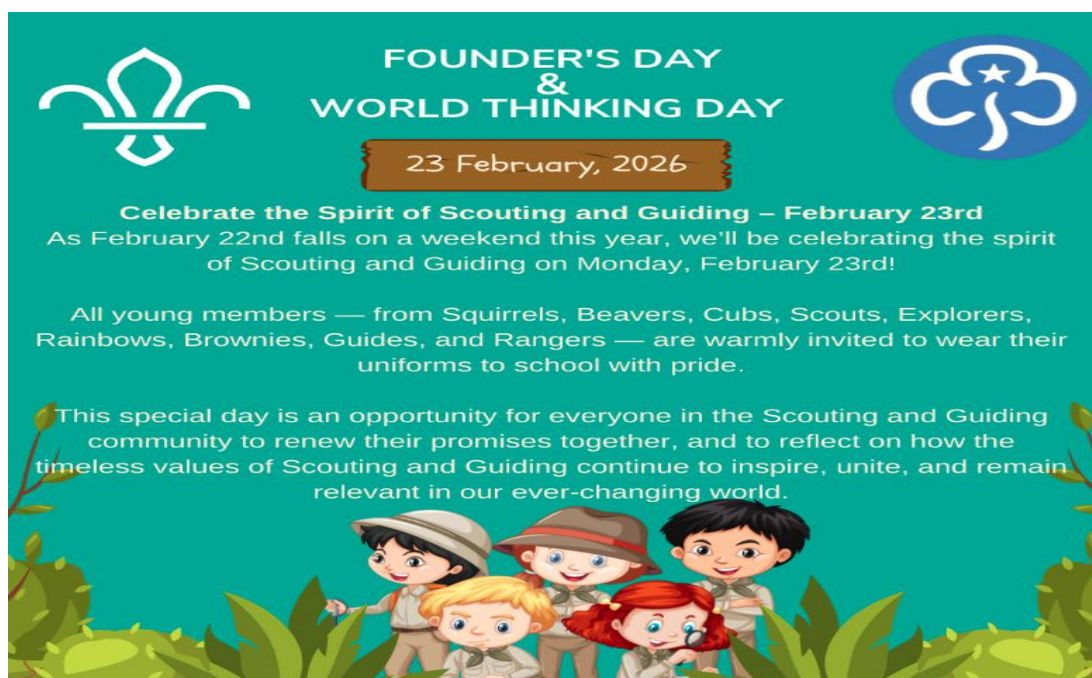
If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school office.



THINKING DAY

22nd February marks both Scouts' Founders Day and Guiding's World Thinking Day. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers can wear their uniforms to school on Monday 23rd February instead.

The 22nd February was chosen as it marks the birthdays of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of Scouting, and Lady Olave Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide. Around the world, Scouts and Guides celebrate the day by reflecting on their shared values, thinking about Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers across the globe, and recognising the impact of Scouting and Guiding in their communities. Taking part in this simple gesture may even help some of the children work towards earning a badge.



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

PARENTS EVENINGS

We will host our spring online parent appointments just after half term:

Badger Wood

1-40-3.30 Mon 23 February and 3.40-5.30 Thurs 26 February

Keeper Wood

1.10-3.30 Mon 23 February, 1.10-3.30 Thurs 26 February and 3.30-5.30 Wed 25 February

Farthing Wood

1-10-3.30 Wed 25 February and 3.30-5.20 Tues 24 February.

These will be booked online by parents, details later this term.

COMMUNITY CUPPA

Residents of all ages, parents and pre-schoolers are invited to join our Year 5 pupils at the village hall for a chat and cuppa on **Monday 26th January** 2:15 – 3:15pm.

REVD TURNER

Revd Cate Turner continues to visit this term to support children. Please contact school if you think your child would benefit from speaking with her.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY REMINDER

Children are not permitted to have mobile phones or smart watches in school. If they need to bring these, they should be handed to the school office for safekeeping. This keeps children with no photo permissions safe from photographs, keeps internet access safely filtered and keeps expensive items more secure. Thank you for your help.

RELIEF TEACHING ASSISTANTS

We are always keen to hear from people who would wish to join our team. We are currently looking to appoint some relief teaching assistants. We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to assist in classrooms supporting teachers. There are no set hours for this role, we'll get in touch when we need cover in classes, at lunchtimes or after school. A clear DBS will be required for safeguarding reasons. Please contact the office for a person specification and application form.

MEET OUR GOVERNING BOARD

Governors and Their Roles

Co - Chair	Mr. David Shackley
Co - Chair	Mrs. Louisa Todd
Vice Chair	Dr. Jo White

3 x Parent Governors – elected by parents of pupils at the school

Mrs. Tracey Reynolds Appointed 1.3.2025, Governor until 28.2.2029

Mrs. Louisa Todd Appointed 10.1.2026, Governor until 9.1.2030

Mr. Stephen Pease Appointed 26.09.2025, Governor until 25.09.2029

1 x LA Governors – nominated by the Local Authority

Mrs. Ann Andrews Appointed 19.5.2022, Governor until 18.5.2026

3 x Co-opted Governors – Governors who have been asked to join the Governing Body

Mr. David Shackley Appointed 03.10.2024, Governor until 02.10.2028

Dr. Jo White Appointed 03.10.2024, Governor until 02.10.2028

Vacancy

1 x Staff Governors – elected by the staff

Mrs. Joanne Bickerton Appointed 31.3.2023, Governor until 30.3.2027

1 x Headteacher Governor

Mrs. Rachel Wells Ongoing Governor position

2 x Church Governors – nominated by the Diocese

Mr. Ian Pennock Appointed 20.10.2022, Governor until 19.10.2026

Vacancy

OUR STAFF TEAM LIST

Headteacher and SENDCo
Mrs. Rachel Wells

Class Teachers
Mrs. Sheryl Woodward
Miss. Hannah Shackley
Mrs. Joanne Bickerton

Subject Specialists
Mrs. Victoria Cordingley
Mrs. Angela Durant

Advanced Teaching Assistant
Mrs. Cath Triffitt
Mrs. Helen Wardell
Miss. Lucy Johnson

General Teaching Assistant
Miss. Lucy Johnson
Mrs. Lisa Taylor-Barber
Miss. Sarah Trueman
Miss. Alice Mitchell
Mrs. Lynn Lealman

OUR STAFF TEAM LIST

Office Staff
Mrs. Kate Scott
Mrs. Sally Mitchell

School Cook
Mrs. Gail Sefton

Kitchen Assistant
Mrs. Sandra Charlton

Lunchtime Assistants
Mrs. Lisa Taylor-Barber
Mrs. Helen Wardell
Miss. Lucy Johnson
Miss. Sarah Trueman
Miss. Alice Mitchell

Relief Teaching Assistants
Mrs. Lisa Taylor-Barber
Mrs. Beata Gazso

Cleaner/Caretaker
Mrs. Beata Gazso

BADGER WOOD POLICE VISIT



We have asked lots of questions about the role of a police officer in our community. The class listened carefully and enjoyed trying on the hats and hearing the car siren!

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

MY HAPPY MIND

We are teaching every child about how their brain works through the My Happy Mind programme, a project funded by the NHS. It teaches children in fun ways to understand how their mind works and detect when there are changes. When children experience these they can be self-aware and help their own mental wellbeing.

This programme comes with an App for parents accessible with a link. We will provide parent emails to the NHS My Happy Mind Team to send you a link unless you opt yourself out of this communication. You can opt out at any time after receiving their first correspondence. Please opt out by contacting the office by noon on Monday 19th January. Please look out for updates on our brain topics on newsletters as the term progresses.



Download your FREE myHappymind Parent App



...An online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappymind to support your child.



myHappymind for Parents

Exclusively for parents with children at a myHappymind School or Nursery.



Learn all about what your children are learning in school

myHappymind
Parent App

SCIENCE 🧪🔬👩

Dr Free (from Malton Secondary School) came into Keeper Wood to teach the children about 'Changing States'. Year 4s pretended to be solids, liquids and gases, by moving around the classroom. The children made ice and ice-cream using ice and salt to help. We saw a balloon fill with carbon dioxide from a bottle of water. We learnt that all matter has mass, you can touch it and it takes up space. An amazing afternoon. 😊 The children also learnt that everything is made of atoms. 🧬

