



What a busy half term!

Staff and children have worked extremely hard to ensure that this academic year has got off to a great start.

We have welcomed children in almost every year group and are thrilled that the new provision we are running for the Local Authority is already at capacity, with the children doing really well in settling into their new setting.

**Welcome** to Miss Hodgson, the new teacher in the provision and to Mrs Stephenson who will soon be joining us in the role of school cook – they are great additions to the team.

Please find **attached a snapshot** from each year group, capturing an element of what they have been involved with this half term... please look out for the new half terms knowledge organisers and other curriculum information when we return after the holiday.

We hope that you were able to get to the recent Open-Door Friday. If you did not manage to attend at **Parent's evening** this week, please contact the school office and class teachers will be in touch after the autumn break to arrange a 'catch up.'

Thank you so much for your contributions to the **Harvest Food Bank** – this is becoming more and more crucial for families in the region... Thank you to our Nursery for co-ordinating this.



Congratulations to the classes who have been recognised for their **great attendance**. The children appear to have increased awareness and interest in this since we have started to celebrate and share with you every week. We appreciate your support around this crucial aspect of securing progress in school. If you ever need support in this area, please contact us in confidence.

**FoYPS** (Friend of Yarm Primary School) has relied on a very small group of dedicated parents, who have now decided to take a step back from this work – we are incredibly grateful for all they have done for us over a number of years. This means we have had to re-evaluate our approach to fundraising, and I have worked with School Council to develop a plan for across the year. Mrs Branton (parent) has also supported our thinking in this and has offered some support to us around this – if you feel you might be able to help to, please get in touch via the school office – many thanks.

You should have already received details about our planned Afternoon for Henry on 6<sup>th</sup> November – we hope you will support this very special event.

I have met with Claudia & Josh, our Head girl & Head boy, to set dates for the rest of the term, including our Christmas programme:

- Remembrance – upper school will take part in a commemoration at the Peace pathway on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.
- Step into Winter Disco – find attached poster for details
- Christmas Movie night - find attached poster for details
- Decorating the Christmas tree - please bring along your home-made decorations and each year group will have time making their additions to the tree in the main hall – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- Christmas Fair – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – more details to follow.
- EY Christmas performance – 9<sup>th</sup> December – in the main hall 10.00am
- KS1 & KS2 Christmas performance – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - 1.30pm - The Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Tickets for the performance –will go on sale in mid November via MCAS.\*We will not be making money on this event, but do need to offset the venue hire costs, and therefore charge £2 per ticket (limited to 2 tickets per child). We will continue to have a charity collection at the performances for Shelter, the homeless charity.
- Head boy & Head girl charity event – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Butterwick Hospice Reindeer run
- Year group Christmas parties – week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> December - year groups to send out details.
- After school club Christmas party - TBC
- Christmas Jumper & Christmas dinner day – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Ho Ho Ho!

Look out for this year's **Children in Need** charity collection on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – our oldest children in Y6 will be leading this event. Look out for posters to follow and dust off your Pudsey ears!

A **BIG thank you to DFC** who have generously purchased an additional cycle pod for us – we will get this installed as soon as we are able. They have also supported up in co-funding the upper school sessions with the charity 'Show Racism the red card' which have taken place today. We are very grateful for this partnership

While parents **WhatsApp groups** are not managed by school, as they are linked directly we are frequently contacted by parents to share content or query expressed views. We appreciate that WhatsApp groups among parents can serve as a valuable tool for supporting children's education by fostering communication, collaboration, and a sense of community. We understand that these groups enable parents to share important information about school events, homework reminders, or study resources, providing a collective support system. When used positively, they can enhance parental engagement and strengthen the partnership between home and school. However, we have been asked by the Trust to remind parents that it is vital to maintain the group's purpose by refraining from naming staff or children in a negative context. Such actions can lead to misunderstandings, strain relationships, and detract from the group's supportive intent. The advice we have from the police is that such behaviours could be seen as harassment or defamation and as such could be reported and acted upon. I am sure that the intent for parents at Yarm Primary is

for any WhatsApp groups to remain positive and productive spaces to support a child's educational journey. Thank you for your support with this.

A REMINDER that in school the Designated **Safeguarding** lead (DSL) is Jill Wood & the Deputy DSL is Jayne Barber. The mantra we use around our safeguarding work is 'Safeguarding is my business, your business, everyone's business.' We are always very grateful when you share any information in this arena and act with sensitivity and rigour, with the intent to support our children's safety.

In the summer the DfE typically issue updates, and this year was no different – one of the key areas was around the **Early Years** framework, which included a section on **fruit safety** – find a poster with the key points attached. We are of course complying with this, in school and we ask that if you send a packed lunch into school for your Early Years child that you also take this into account. We are very grateful for your support with this.

**REMINDER – The upcoming PDDay (so the school is not open to children) is on 1st December 2025.**

We hope that you have a lovely autumn break and that we will see you back in school safe and well on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Yours as ever  
Mrs Wood

