



Newsletter



What a way to start 2022!

January has been a rather challenging month for several reasons - however this weekend I have had the fewest number of reported positive Covid cases than for several weeks – so fingers crossed that this trend continues. Thank you for your understanding and support during this continuing testing time(!). Best wishes to all families who are still experiencing Covid – we look forward to welcoming the children back at the earliest opportunity.

Some **great news** from the start of the month – Mrs Brunskill and her new baby girl are both safe and well – Congratulations to the family!

We welcomed **Miss McHale** into KS1 just prior to the holiday and we are delighted in the contributions she is making and her commitment to the children. Welcome to the team!

In school new topics are well under way and you will continue to receive knowledge organisers and curriculum letters as the rest of the year moves on – please contact us if you do not receive these – I know there have been a few hiccups in communication lines during the changeover to MCAS.

Another reason why we need our lines of communication working is that **Parents evening** is coming up at the start of the next half term – we will be offering appointments via teams – your child's teacher will be in contact soon to arrange times. If your child has additional needs you will be contacted prior to half term so that the graduated approach process can be completed. As this is typically the session where we share the children's work with you and this looks unlikely to be possible – we will send home some work from school prior to half term for you to have – not the same I know but a gesture to show what is going on with your child's learning prior to the conversation. Please ensure that if your child requires more than one appointment to discuss with a number of parents/carers separately, that we are aware of this – as you can imagine this does require planning for – thank you.

On Friday as you may know we will be working on the **NSPCC Number day** activities – to support us and the charity, please send in any loose change you may have – we have an investigation around 'coppers' which we are keen to share with the children – all monies then go to the NSPCC – so please check your pockets and down the back of the sofa! Thank you for your support.

Your generosity in term 1 has supported our local charity - **Butterwick Hospice** to the tune of £2862.72 – a tremendous effort - Thank you so much and well done to all the reindeer who were racing around school with such enthusiasm! We plan for another event in the summer, through the Head Girl & Head Boy – so look out for details next term.

Due to staff absence some of the planned **lunchtime clubs** had been suspended, these are now back in place with the commitment that should staff be off moving forward that someone will cover the clubs – please remind your children Y1 – Y6 that they have access to a wide range of activities. On that note, if you have any unused fabric you don't want, or indeed threads (sewing machines?) fabric scissors etc. my sewing club would be able to use them – they are an enthusiastic group and we have some great plans for the rest of the year – thank you.

FoYPS will be in touch soon about a **Valentines fundraiser** on Monday 14th February (of course!). We will also have a themed lunch menu on that day – a poster will

follow shortly – so if your children don't usually have a school lunch they may want to on this occasion – just let us know in the usual way.

Following on from the message in the newsletter prior to the Christmas break – we will hold a **toiletries 'food bank Friday'** on Friday 11th February – please send any donations in with the children and the foodbank team will collect them – any toiletries for the children will be especially welcome – toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrushes etc. Thank you in anticipation.

Concerns from neighbours around **parking** continue – please be thoughtful and considerate in your actions around this. And a reminder about the use of the turning circle at the front of school – we have asked for safety reasons that this be reserved for the parking of blue badge holders – if you are finding this request, which I believe benefits all our children, difficult to comply with, I would appreciate you approaching me at the front of school – where I am most mornings from 8.45am, to discuss your views or needs – Thank you.

COMING UP – **World Book day** – 3rd March - we aim to mark this occasion in the usual way and have our fingers crossed that the library and book shop visits we have made in the past may be a part of this year's planning. So if your child wishes to dress up to share a favourite book character that would be great – we love your imaginative home-made creations and in the past repurposed oversized t-shirts decorated with a favourite book cover have been especially eye-catching. Some children may not wish to and we will of course support them with this. This year is the 25th Anniversary of world book day, so let's make it a good one! Mr Jefferies, our English lead will be in touch nearer the time and will circulate the gift vouchers as soon as we receive them.

Last week, KS2 had an assembly (in their year groups of course) about **Yarm Fun Run** – Sunday 5th June - which we have always supported through use of our site on the route. This year we would like to be a little more direct in our support and intend to offer opportunities for members of each class to enter as a team – this of course will mean typically running as a team – We have commitment from staff to race with the classes and they will discuss this in class over the coming weeks to support the daily mile. We will also run an internal cross country, once repairs around the site are in place, to support the children in perhaps deciding if they wish to take part in the race in June. We have reserved a 'chunk' of entries and will fund these through our sports fund for the children who want to take part. You may want to talk to your children about this or may wish to enter yourself or as a family – find more details - facebook.com/yarmrun/ Any enquires to our sports lead Mr Smith – thank you.

As you may notice we are making some changes to outdoor provision – with the installation of some new equipment. These are not generally part of playtime provision but will form part of the curriculum offer in EY & KS1 – we therefore ask that you do not support the children or their siblings in using these before and after school and especially over the next couple of weeks when the installation may not be complete and therefore the equipment may not be safe to use – thank you. We thank the Trust for their support in the funding around these projects, as you know our general budget would not typically support the outlay for this type of equipment in these quantities. I am excited to see how this enhances the curriculum.

Several parents have asked about the dates **PDDays for the NEXT academic year**, so here they are:

Day 1 – Thursday 1st September 2022

Day 2 – Friday 2nd September 2022

So the new academic year begins for the children on Monday 5th September 2022

Day 3 – Friday 2nd December 2022

Day 4 – Monday 5th December 2022

Day 5 - Monday 13th March 2023.

*As you will be aware these are days when the school is closed to the children.

And, as there appeared to be some confusion about the end of the school year **this** academic year a reminder – school year 21/22 finishes on Thursday 21st July 2022 – Thank you.

FYI - We close school for half term at 3.30pm on Friday 18th February.
School reopens at 8.55am on Monday 28th February.

Jill Wood