

Merry Christmas!

Friday 17th December 2021



Despite ongoing challenges and uncertainties it **has** been a Happy time in school...and there is LOTS of news to share:

- An update on the magnificent efforts of the Y5 team who have been making bracelets for Cancer Research UK – the current figure is a tremendous £45.28.
- This week there have been lots of reindeers marauding around the school site! This has been such a brilliant fundraiser from the Butterwick Hospice, a local charity which I know has touched many of our lives – we will update on the total raised in the new year, but I know that every penny of your generous contributions will be well used to support in our community.
- A wonderful bit of Christmas magic happened on Tuesday afternoon when Jenny from Yarm and Eaglescliffe Rocks came with a donation of £150 for the school – we are using this to purchase a mobile amp to support our outside projects in the future – a BIG thanks to them.
- Our reduced team in the kitchen continue to provide a much improved menu (since September) and we still have a great Christmas meal to look forward to later today – Thank you to Liz & Karen for their hard work and commitment to Team Yarm and we look forward to welcoming temporary chef Simon to school in January.
- Mr Graham also continues to support in his own inimitable way – what would we do without him? We are grateful everyday for his dedication to the school and to the safety of the community.
- Well done to the Y6 football teams who did really well in the recent tournament – I think we can all appreciate that to lose in the final on penalties is a particular life lesson – we are very proud of the teams who represented the school so brilliantly.
- Y3 also had a sporty time at the indoor athletics festival – a busy and enjoyable afternoon – well done!
- We have recently reinstated our daily mile, building on the success of the Rudolph run – this will continue in to 2022 and will lead into an in-house cross-country festival.
- Thank you for the mainly positive response to the road safety initiative the Junior Road Safety Officer's shared with you this week. Congratulations to Rose, Harriet & Jude who the team selected as 'winners' of their poster competition. We will be displaying the posters around school and as part of the continuing road safety work. Well done!
- The Christmas Shopping event, so brilliantly organised by FoYPs has raised a fantastic amount of money towards school funds – we will update in January around the figure raised and some of the plans for spending it which will benefit ALL our children – Thank you in particular to Heather and her team for the enormous amount of hard work which meant this was such a successful event, and to the staff who supported. The food bank linked to this event was

a great way for us to support families in our local area over this period –
THANK YOU.

- In January we will have a special 'foodbank Friday' when we will ask for any toiletries you may be able to contribute (regifting perhaps?) – toothbrushes & toothpaste for children would be particularly welcome – we will let you know the date in the new year – Thank you in anticipation.
- This morning the children will witness the premiere of the YPS version of Cinderella – the film rather than the live pantomime as in previous years due to restrictions – thank you to the staff who took part and for Mr Newton's technological wizardry in producing this 'never to be forgotten' spectacle!
- Message from Mrs Gartland – School Business Manager - A huge thank you to everyone for your positive reaction to the new MCAS system. We have had a fantastic uptake. As you will be aware ParentMail will be replaced in full from January 2022. To make sure that you continue to receive our communications please make sure that you have gone into MCAS, clicked "Data Collection Form", clicked the blue box "View Your Personal Details" (top right) and check that you have a valid e-mail in the "E-mail Details" box. Thank you.
- Please encourage your children to bring ALL their belongings home on Friday to allow us to deep clean before the end of the year.
- Thank you for the ways you have embraced our Christmas in school – from the fabulous decorations on the Christmas tree to your singing yesterday on the field – your collaboration really makes things more special. I was especially proud of the children yesterday, as performing 'live' is something which has not been possible in our typical way for some time, and for several year groups has never been experienced – Thank you for the warmth of your responses.
- Thank you for your kind words and gifts – your support makes a huge difference to us being able to do our work and have capacity to embrace change/challenges as they occur. Our intention remains to support the children in their learning and for them to have a safe, happy place to be proud to be a part of.
- We will be operating the address: covid@yarmprimary.ork.uk to report any news during the initial part of the holiday so that we can respond appropriately – as usual I have my fingers crossed that this will be a redundant service.

I understand that the days ahead may hold some uncertainties, but the Christmas wish to your family from our school family is that you stay safe and spend time with the people you love.

We look forward to seeing you back in school on TUESDAY 4th JANUARY 2022
after you have had a great break.

Mrs Wood