

Newsletter



We have had a very busy November and we are looking forward to welcoming you into school over the next couple of weeks as part of our Christmas celebrations.

Thank you to the children (and their families) who were at the War Memorial on **Remembrance Sunday**, we have never had such a large contingent representing the school and I am very proud of these pupils.

Congratulations to the children in Y6 who have recently initiated fund raising events for Children in Need and Zoe's place – they are setting us all a great example - Well done!

We are launching our **Yarm Primary Christmas postbox** on Monday 2nd December. A group of Y6 pupils will be managing this and ask that you ensure your children put some information on the envelopes to help them do their job – name (full name if possible) and class they are in please. Deliveries will be made every day towards the end of lunchtime.

On the 2nd we will also be **decorating our Christmas Tree** in the main hall from 3.30pm - We hope that you will bring a decoration along to put on our tree (homemade ones look great) and then stay on to make some more decorations to take home for your tree! School Council will be hosting the event, which will involve mince pies and festive music.

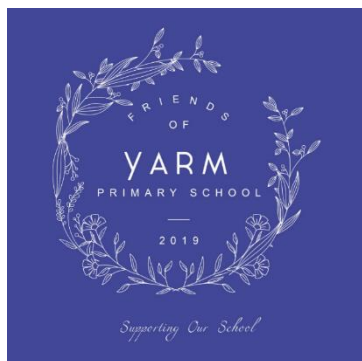
Please let us know by Friday 6th December if you wish for your child to have **Christmas Lunch** this year on Monday 16th December (we will assume that if your child usually has school lunch that they will be doing so). Thank you.

We hope that you will join us for our **School Council Christmas Family Fun Event & Sing-a-long** on Thursday 5th December 3.30 – 5.00pm; lots to do – don't miss it!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the **Smartie tube challenge** – we will let you know the total raised when we can. As already shared, we will put the funds to some outdoor planting projects. It has been really enjoyable to hear what some children have been doing to 'earn' their 20p's. Well done everyone!

Due to your generosity during the last academic year, we have been able to purchase a range of books (reference, fiction and scheme) which all children in school are now accessing; resources for our Art Space to support the curriculum and the clubs which go on every week; fantastic resources to support early writing in lower school; a set of drum pads for the creativity suite and a number of other resources to support smaller projects across school. We hope that you find that you can continue to support our events, which often raise valuable funds for us to continue to be able to enrich our curriculum and what we can offer in school, in these uncertain and financially difficult times. **It is VERY MUCH appreciated.** I must also thank staff, Mrs Besterfield in particular, for their tenacity in seeking out funds and sponsorships which provide us with additional funding too.

We have a series of **sessions for parents** planned for the New Year – Understanding Phonics, KS1 & KS2 SATs and how to support mathematical understanding – we will send out the dates shortly. If you have any requests/ideas for an information session please let us know.



Following the well-attended AGM, the Friends of Yarm Primary School group ask that you continue to donate second hand uniform in the bins in the main corridor. Also, any Christmas jumpers which are no longer needed could also be gifted – these will then be available to buy at the Christmas Fun Event next week – so search out your pre-loved jumpers and pop them into school – Many Thanks.

We would like to invite you into school to share a **Christmas Story around the Christmas tree** – there will be a lower school (small hall) and KS2 session (main hall) on Tuesday 17th December from 3.30pm. Come along and let's get into the Christmas Spirit.

Other dates to note:

Tuesday 10 th December	KS1 performance 10.00am KS2 performance 2.00pm
Wednesday 11 th	Early Years performances: 10.00am & 2.00pm
Thursday 12 th	KS2 performance 10.00am KS1 performance 2.00pm
Friday 13 th	KS2 performance 10.00am
Monday 16 th	Christmas Food Bank collection – please contribute if you can for families in our area. * we will have a toiletries collection in January – an opportunity to regift?
Week beginning 16 th	Parties - year groups will be contacted separately with dates
Friday 20 th	Christmas jumper day

In January we will be working on a **Maths initiative** which will involve some whole school challenges (and a sponsored event) culminating in an after schools games session – more details to follow. This will support the work we are doing in school as part of the Archimedes NE Maths Hub, led by Mrs Hughes & Mrs Chisholm.

We say **Goodbye to Mrs Crellin** at the end of this week as she starts her maternity leave. I am sure you join me in wishing her Good Luck as she prepares for the long awaited birth of her twin babies. We can't wait to hear her news when they arrive!

Miss Williams will be working in the KS1 team, and has already been in school several times to meet the children and plan with the team – we welcome her into Team Yarm.

We have a **range of outdoor resources** which we will be putting out on the playgrounds shortly, we respectfully request that you encourage your children NOT to use these before and after school – We appreciate your support with this.

We have had many visitors this term including colleagues from the Trust carrying out a number of Enquiries, which are key events in supporting our school improvement. A consistent theme is the **strength of Team Yarm** – “Relationships between adults and children were exemplary.” I am thrilled to have such a strong team who support our children to be their best...

Please find the following - some information we have been sent from **Public Health England** about flu like illness and diarrhoea/vomiting in school:

General hygiene

The spread of most infectious illnesses is reduced through good hand hygiene. Please ensure that you and your child wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap, particularly after using the toilet, after using a tissue to catch a cough or sneeze, and before eating.

Influenza (flu)

Flu and flu-like viruses spread easily between people from coughs and sneezes. They can live on hands and surfaces for up to 24 hours. Symptoms of flu may develop quickly and can include:

- Sudden fever
- Dry, chesty cough
- Sore throat
- Aching body
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Diarrhoea or tummy pain
- Nausea

For most healthy people flu is an unpleasant but self-limiting illness. However, some people can be more at risk of developing severe illness or complications including the following groups:

- those aged 65 years or over
- pregnant women
- those with a long-term medical condition – for example, diabetes or a heart, lung, kidney or neurological disease
- those with a weakened immune system – for example, because of chemotherapy or HIV
- those resident in long term care facilities

If you or your child are in an at-risk group AND develop symptoms of flu, please seek prompt medical assessment via NHS 111, by a GP or a nurse who will be able to provide further advice.

If you or your child are in an at-risk group AND have not had the seasonal flu jab AND are concerned that you or your child have had contact with someone with flu, please seek prompt medical assessment via NHS 111, by a GP or nurse.

If you or your child are not in an at-risk group but develop flu like illness and are concerned about your symptoms, please consult NHS 111, your GP or nurse in the normal way.

Staff members and pupils should not attend school or other communal settings if they have symptoms of flu and should only return once they have recovered.

The flu vaccination is the best form of protection that we have against influenza (flu). There are several strains of flu and even if there has been illness at school, the vaccine may offer further protection against other strains of flu.

Please continue to engage in the school-based immunisation programme and to attend mop-up clinics if your child misses the scheduled sessions due to illness. (Flu immunisations will be carried out in our school for Reception – Y6 on Thursday 12th December.)

Toddlers aged two and three, children and adults who are in risk groups for flu (including those aged 65 years and over, pregnant women, people with long term medical conditions or weakened immune systems) should attend their GP or pharmacy for vaccination as soon as possible if they have not already been vaccinated.

For more information about any of the above and advice about treating flu please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>

Viral gastrointestinal illnesses

It is not uncommon for viruses which cause vomiting and diarrhoea to circulate among children (for example norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug').

If pupils or staff members develop vomiting or diarrhoea, it is important that they stay off school and away from other communal settings until 48 hours after they last had diarrhoea or vomiting. As always, please contact NHS 111 or your GP if you are concerned about your child's illness.

Further information, including advice on treatment, can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diarrhoea-and-vomiting/>.

School closures

Public Health England does not routinely advise that schools close when pupils and staff are affected by diarrhoea / vomiting or flu-like illness; this is because the viruses that cause illness are circulating in the community, so children will continue to be exposed to them even if not at school. However, schools may need to close for other reasons e.g. not enough staff to safely stay open, closing for a short time to allow a deep clean of the school buildings.

Any decision about school closure will be taken by school management and any enquiries should be addressed to the school.

We will be using our Art Space on Thursday 12th December as a **polling station** for the General Election. We will make the usual adjustments in the school day to ensure our children are safe and continue their learning undisturbed (beyond the Christmas performances and flu-immunisations planned for that day!)

Jill Wood