



Newsletter



November 2020

I begin the newsletter by wishing you all well - I am, along with a number of families across school isolating at the moment, but am continuing to work from home and am available if you need me (and can't wait to get back to school!)...

Thank you for your support of Children in need, last week – your generosity means that £265.40 is being sent to the charity from Yarm Primary.

We have been reflecting on the recent Ofsted report about the visits they have been making since September – we recognise many of the findings, particularly around some of our pupils changing behaviours as the pandemic continues; especially around anxiety. With this in mind, in addition to the resources I have already distributed we have been sent information about Ollee – an app targeted at children's mental health.

Meet Ollee – Your virtual friend

Stressed about school? Ollee can help with that!

Frustrated by your family? Ollee can help with that too!

In fact Ollee can help with lots of things – it's the virtual friend you can always rely on.

What is Ollee?

Ollee is a new app to help children aged 8-11 with their emotional wellbeing.

You can tell Ollee how you're feeling about lots of different things – for instance school, your family, friends and your body – then Ollee will give you advice about it.

Your parents and other trusted adults can also get advice from it – and you can easily share that advice with each other either just by pressing a button.

Try Ollee today: ollee.org.uk



What's
on your
mind?



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We continue to offer more direct support for all of our children in school – however, if you would like to discuss your child's needs please contact the office and I will be in touch.

Thank you to the Friends of Yarm Primary group, who are continuing to work to benefit Team Yarm – there is some exciting news to share about links they have made in the community – Thank you to this team...

FOYPS would like to thank everyone who participated in the Halloween colouring competition. We had some amazing entries, and the winning entries from every year are posted on our Facebook group (please join our group for more fun and Christmas inspiration! We also have a pass it on/selling site, which is proving to be very popular.) Shortly everyone will receive a virtual Christmas fayre booklet, with lots of fantastic offers from local businesses and we're planning on a lovely local quiz trail soon. Thank you for all your support!

I know it must seem that I only contact you about behaviour around the site to complain; but I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for your support in continuing to try to keep the start and end of the school day safe. We rely on you being punctual, keeping your children safe around the site and leaving promptly before the next group arrive – all of which I know happens every day and is supported by a huge majority of our families. I am so appreciative of the positive comments made around how this is working, from lots of people – it's great to be able to share these messages with staff.

Thank you to the small group who have returned their reading surveys for me – I am really enjoying analysing the surveys from the children, and am learning a lot – it would be great to have some more parent's views please. Thank you.

Thank you for the continuing supplies of hand wash and tissues – you do not know the difference this is making to us being able to keep the handwash stations and classrooms well stocked – THANK YOU .

Typically, our November newsletter is packed with news about Christmas – things as we know will be different this year, but that does not mean that we aren't looking forward to an exciting time in school.

We will be decorating our Christmas trees – and working on alternative ways of creating that special Christmas spirit we could all do with this year. We will be having whole school Christmas celebrations (in bubbles), there will be a special visitor (socially distanced of course) and an intent to make sure the children feel happy and safe.

The Youth Sport Trust have taken the step to deliver a free virtual after school club as part of a national response to the second lockdown. The 30-minute club will take place at 5pm each weekday and be led by a different member of the YST's athlete mentor network. The first one aired on Thursday with world no.1 female inline skater and 10-time British Champion Jenna Downing. The After School Sport Club will then run for five weeks starting on Monday 16th November until December 18 and children and young people can take part live by visiting our YouTube channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/YouthSportTrust>
Aimed mainly at primary-aged children, a different theme has been assigned for each day of the club - Adventure Monday, Tuesday Play, Wild Wednesday, Thinking Thursday and Fun Friday. The YST hope that this will provide support, capacity and inspiration ...

Dates for the diary:

- Food bank collection 1 – Friday 27th November
- 4th & 7th December - PDDays - school will be closed to pupils.
- Food bank collection – Friday 11th December
- Christmas jumper day – Friday 11th December
- 18th December – school closes for the Christmas holiday and reopens again on 4th January 2021

I would like to end by acknowledging how difficult this last term has been for some parents who would usually be able to be in school for welcome events, presentations, celebratory curriculum classroom based events or simply to support their children coming into school – you have been great and shown real trust in us, which we appreciate.

Take care and keep safe.

Sending my love

Mrs Wood

