



What an eventful half term this has been...

Firstly, I want to wish all the children (and families) who are **isolating** at this time a speedy recovery and we very much want to welcome them back into school safe and well after the break.

We have had reducing rates of infection and children going for tests for the last 4 days, so I have my fingers crossed that for now we are coming through this period which has impacted on so many pupils and families.

We would appreciate it if you would use the address: covid@yarmprimary.ork.uk to report any news during the holiday so that we can respond appropriately.

You should all have had information about **parents 'meetings'** and I appreciate your support and patience in using the new communication system to arrange this. If you wish to speak to me about how your child has settled into school this academic year please contact the school office and I will get back to you. Any technical issues should be directed to Mrs Gartland and Mrs Tyerman.

Information about the **Flu vaccination** for the children has been distributed and there is action to take if you wish to consent – the NHS crew will be in school all day on Wednesday 3rd November.

Congratulations to the following children; who will be bringing home a copy of Pantosaurus and the Power of Pants, as their prize in the recent KS1 design a swimsuit competition:

Hattie S. RG

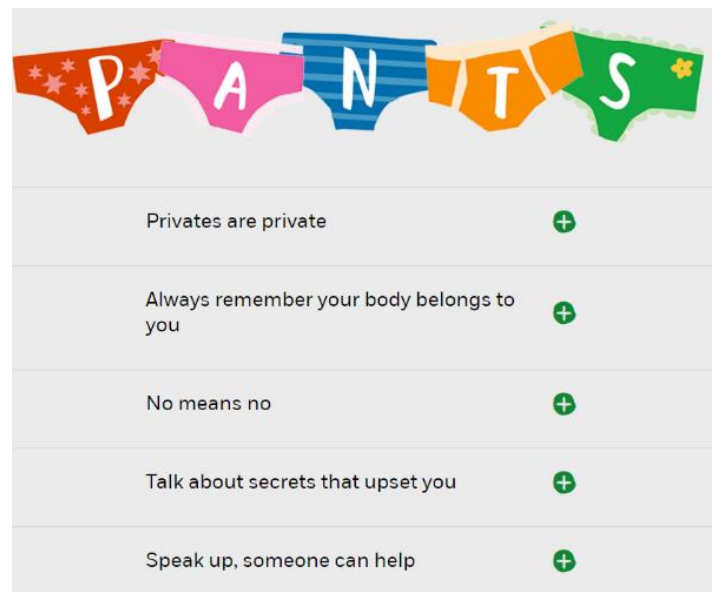
Hannah M. VH

Khadijah K. NB

Alexander P. AW

The classes have all used the book and other NSPCC resources to support the PANTS messages around personal safety. Resources can be found on the NSPCC website

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>



Thank you to **FoYPS** for their creative and fun approach to fundraising (and so much more) for our school. It is great to see a new influx of volunteers – you are most warmly welcome. Last night's spooky happenings gave me pause for thought – it was the first time we had been together as a community since before the pandemic began and I felt immensely grateful that the children were there having fun and feeling carefree (as they should) – THANK YOU to everyone who supported the event and for the FoYPS team - with special mention to Heather who used her flair and enthusiasm to drive the event.

As you will have seen in other communications, the **school menus** will revert back to the previous options as the substitute cook returns to us after half term. Karen & Liz in the kitchen have once again risen to the considerable challenge of 'stepping in', they have done a great job and we are very grateful to them.



Congratulations to Harriet (Y5) who was a winner in the Tees Valley Big Green Week Poster Competition. Some great ideas, creatively expressed – well done Harriet! Who is now waiting to see what her Big Green Prize will be...

It has been great to see the first steps into being able to enhance our curriculum again with visits – Stewart Park, the woods & Conyers – and visitors – Local MP & Fire Brigade – this will continue as we move forward. We will be in touch about **residential**, following the consultation, in the first week after the break.

Well done to all the pupils who have taken part in **sporting events** outside of school this half term – our ability to take part in festivals is still linked to working to guidance and capacity around staffing. The Y4 Rugby skills event and KS1 festival were opportunities to represent the school in the wider community – well done to the children for doing this so brilliantly. The Y6 Tag Rugby team got through to the Stockton final, where they came 2nd – a great effort! As we know the Y6 cross country group made a great showing in the first round and during the final Emilia & Austin both won their events – we are hopeful this inspires others to give their all to the daily mile! Well done everyone...

We will be selling items to support the **Royal British Legions poppy appeal** – as in recent times we will not sell poppies (as these get lost/passed around etc.) but will sell the merchandise (see separate message for details) from 3.00pm from Monday 1st November, with the expectation that the children can bring them home rather than keep them in school. This of course supports our continued drive to limit the movement of unnecessary items in and out of school. We will have a representation from the school at the war memorial on Remembrance Day.

Thank you for the positive feedback I have had around the free year group after **school clubs**. Many of the lunchtime clubs are also working with large numbers of enthusiastic pupils (I am rather biased towards the Y6 Sewing group!!!).

You will receive the **knowledge organiser** about the topic work your children will be involved in after the break, today. The newsletter and PSCHC organiser will be published on Monday 1st November, so please look out for them.

I want to thank you all for supporting us in the work we are trying to do, in what are still challenging times. I am thankful for a school community who knows we have the children at the centre of all we do and children who are working well and bringing so much joy to life in school.

I wish you all a great break and hope you keep safe and well.

Yours as ever
Mrs Wood