

Where did September go?

Children have made a super start to their learning and we have welcomed so many new faces – it has been really busy but really great!

I hope you have found the **calendar** useful; please let us know what would be a help in keeping you informed.

Following on from the information last year about the **lollipop patrol** at the front of school and the risk of 'use it or lose it' – unfortunately Jean has done her last patrol for us. The Head boy & Head Girl made a presentation to her on the school's behalf and we wish her well and give her our thanks for her years of service.

We have been able to meet the latest arrival in the Yarm Tribe – Mrs Rawling's **baby Noah** - congratulations and well done to Mrs Rawling!

Thank you to parents who popped into the presentations around **statutory testing** – I know that finding a time that is convenient for all can be difficult, but materials are put on the website for all to share, and of course staff are always willing to answer any questions.

It was lovely to see so many of you at **Open Door Friday**, and I'm sure you'll agree that the learning environments the staff develop to support the children's learning are fabulous. I am lucky to be in and around classrooms all the time and I know how the children use their classrooms and enjoy spending time in them.

We hope you can join us for the 'Grand (re) Opening' of our **Early Years** setting – watch out for the invitation...

Thank you for all the great **donations** you continue to bring in for us – in addition to the books you share, we really do recycle all we can – any tyres, wellie boots or unwanted crockery would be especially welcome, ALSO if you have any connections with anyone who has access to large logs (and transport!) that would be great – THANK YOU.

FoYPS continue to work hard on all our behalves – any parents/grandparents new to the school who could offer some of their time should contact them via the school office – you would be very much welcomed – look out for details of the latest fundraising events...

As you know the **MacMillan coffee morning**, arranged by Y6 was a great success with £295.77 going to the charity.

Well done Y5 for organising the **Harvest Foodbank Friday** collection – thank you for your support and generosity.

Y3 are organising this year's **Children in Need** charity collection in November - look out for their flyer coming out soon.

We are really lucky in school to have an avid gardener – **Mrs Meek** – who works tirelessly (including in the holidays) in keeping 'growing' a real positive in school. She has got some funding from Dobbies's Garden Centre, and is making this go 'a long way' involving all year groups. With Y6, she will be starting a 'digging for victory' garden, to support their learning around the WW2 topic later in the term. If you have any tools, seeds, bulbs, plants that you have 'spare' I know she will use them in a brilliant way! Thank you.

A REMINDER that in school the Designated **Safeguarding** lead (DSL) is Jill Wood & the Deputy DSL is Jayne Barber. The mantra we use around our safeguarding work is 'Safeguarding is my business, your business, everyone's business.' We really value your support in this arena.

Please find attached a couple of items about **Vaping**– which is becoming a reality for some Primary school children – for your information. We will be looking at this as part of our PSCHE Curriculum in school also.

AND finally – Parking around school seems to be worse *than ever*. I must remind you that we would like the turning circle and drive up to the main entrance reserving for the people who most need it i.e. Blue badge holders. Last week we had cars parked on the zebra crossing, grass areas, on both sides of the road and turning at speed into the area. All of these actions make things unsafe for our children – driving behind families walking into school is risky behaviour and I am genuinely concerned that there is an accident waiting to happen, unless things improve. At the other entrances, it is our neighbours who bear the brunt of irresponsible parking. I am aware that on Friday the police were called after a *near miss*. I am working with our Y6 pupils on this issue and will present their findings to the Local Authority once the work is done. I am aware that perhaps some of our 'new' families, including grandparents, may not be aware of these issues and ask that they support us in making things better. Thanking you in anticipation...

Looking forward to seeing you in school over the coming weeks.

Yours as ever

Mrs Wood