



Where did September go?

Children have made a super start to their learning and we have welcomed so many new faces.

It has been a really busy half term, with lots of visits and visitors. Y6 went to Newcastle last week to visit the artist Jim Edwards in his studio and then worked en plein air on their canvases – a talented bunch of artists – look out for their gallery on the website coming soon. Y5 were off in Vindolanda to support their learning about the Romans. There have been lots of visits to the woods and to Yarm (especially last week – Fair week). Our Sunflowers (our 2-year-olds) are becoming well known around and about in their 6-seater wagon (with room for the shopping/leaves/conkers!) There has been sporting success across school – seeing children represent the school and feel proud to have given their best is a special thing – well done! We have had Blue Watch in school to support fire safety awareness, and just this week a representative from Stockton Children's book of the year launched this year's programme. We hope that you were able to attend **parents evening** – if not please get in touch with the main office so that we can arrange this for you.

Thank you for all the great **donations** you continue to bring in for us – we are always able to recycle and reuse. ALSO if you have any connections with anyone who has access to large logs (and transport!) to support the Y6 legacy project, that would be great – THANK YOU. We are using a lot of '**messy materials**' for our modelling, across school – if you could consider us if you have any suitable reusables - no containers which may have been in contact with nuts please – we would be really grateful.

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. BIG THANKS to FoYPS for arranging the Halloween Movie evening, and of course to staff who gave up their time to be spooked! The funds raised from these events is becoming more and more crucial to the work we do in school. **Look out for details of the Christmas shopping evening – sure to be a great event – 21ST NOVEMBER – keep the evening free!**

Thanks to our Cook, Liz and her team for a spooktastic **Halloween inspired lunch**. We are welcoming a new member to the team after half term – it will be great to be at full strength again.

You cannot have missed the arrival of the **poly tunnels!** We are working with a horticulturalist from the Trust to get things up and running. If you have any interest in helping us in this – any time you have available would be most welcome – let the office know and we'll be in touch.

Christmas is coming!

I met with the Head Boy and Head Girl (you can't miss them in their beautiful fushia sweatshirts) and we have planned out our Christmas programme:

- 3rd December - Decorating the Christmas Tree – please bring along your home-made decorations and each year group will have time making their additions to the tree in the main hall.
- 10th December – EY Christmas performance in main hall 10.00am – more details to follow.
- 11th December – KS1 & 2 Christmas performance – 1.30pm - The Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Tickets for the performance – A night of Hope & Love - will go on sale in mid-November via MCAS.*We will not be making money on this event, but do need to offset the venue hire costs, and therefore charge £1 per ticket. We will continue to have a charity collection at the performances for Shelter, the homeless charity.
- 16th – 20th – year group Christmas parties – year groups to send out details.
- 16th December – The Elf Run (in aid of mental health) – more details to follow.

- 20th December – Christmas Dinner Day/Christmas Jumper day (to support Save the Children).

I have undertaken the termly upper school wellbeing survey and wanted to share some 'highlights'; especially as many of you may be contemplating purchasing **electronic devices** in the next few weeks.

42% of the cohort of 83 children reported that they had received a message (chat) that upset them.

25% said they had sent a chat message or posted a comment that they later wished you hadn't.

30% shared that they had seen images online that upset them.

55% have a YouTube account and 23% have a Tik Tok account.

This is food for thought, as although we value much of what the internet and social media can offer there is most definitely a challenge for parents today to ensure safe use. The following may be of interest:

<https://www.e-safetysupport.com/stories/292/digital-christmas-tips-for-parents>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/internet-matters-b1048858.html>

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/christmas-2022/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/children-devices-online/>

Congratulations to those children who have had **100% attendance** this half term and to Miss Gott's class who are currently our attendance champions!

As you know the **MacMillan coffee morning**, was arranged by Y5 and was a great success, with £450 going to the charity.

Well done Y3 for organising the **Harvest Foodbank Friday** collection – thank you for your support and generosity. We have received a certificate from Billingham Food Bank thanking us for the contributions.

Look out for this year's **Children in Need** charity collection on Friday 15th November – our youngest children in Early Years, along with some Y6 helpers will be leading this event. Look out for posters to follow and dust off your Pudsey ears!

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.

Parking around school continues to be a challenge and now that more parents who have blue badges are having to come into school, (as the turning circle is often bumper to bumper – despite this being unofficially designated for Blue Badge holders for accessibility); the car park is a busy place at drop off and collection. Please use the site with care and ensure that if children are coming to school on bikes that they are not cycling across the car parks. Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.

REMINDER – The upcoming PDDays (so the school is not open to children) are on Friday 29th November and Monday 2nd December.

We hope that you have a lovely autumn break and that we will see you back in school safe and well on Monday 4th November.

Yours as ever
Mrs Wood

October 24

