



# NEWSLETTER



14.01.22

## Message from Mrs Hird

The children have been making the most of the good weather this week, spending time outdoors, and I had a lovely time chatting with Oak class about the range of activities they were undertaking in the gardens, from mud scrambling to shelter building, to insect hunting! I've also had a wonderful time in Acorn class this week, where they impressed me with their knowledge of money (always a handy skill!) and enthusiasm for geography. The atlases were very popular with Years 1 and 2!

## **Welcome**

We are delighted to welcome Miss Clay to the school, who will be working as a teaching assistant in Acorn class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons.

**Reminder** - we still have places available in our breakfast club, either for long term bookings or as a one-off. All children are welcome and will enjoy breakfast and a range of activities. Please contact the office if you would like your child to attend.

**COVID** - Please make sure you have read the emails and letters sent recently regarding covid. The latest guidance is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#NotRequired>

Have a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Hird*

## Staffing Information

As is the case in many schools, both locally and nationally, our staffing levels have been unavoidably impacted by the ongoing pandemic, along with the usual seasonal illnesses. We are very fortunate in that we have a comparatively large staff team for the number of pupils on roll and, where possible and appropriate to do so, staff will step into each other's roles, showing great flexibility. We are also fortunate that a number of close friends of the school, including Mrs Grace, Mrs Scholey and Mrs Woolf, are able to provide high-quality additional external support, without the need for us to bring in unfamiliar supply staff. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to provide 'like for like' cover but please be assured that we are working closely with our extended staff team to limit the impact of staff absence on pupils. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

## Forest Schools

As you may be aware, we have spent considerable time and money over recent months improving our outdoor areas in school, including the construction of a purpose-built outdoor classroom. We are incredibly lucky to have such extensive school grounds and have been working hard to develop our on-site outdoor learning provision, to ensure all pupils have regular access to this fantastic resource. Through our work with the North Yorkshire Educational Visits team, we continue to develop our outdoor learning curriculum to incorporate subject-specific learning activities, alongside the more familiar 'forest school' tasks, which reflects the latest thinking in good practice for learning outside the classroom. What this means in practice, is that children will continue to take their learning across a wide range of curriculum areas, including science, art, maths, etc. outside the classroom, in order to truly embed their learning within our unique setting.

We are currently working to resolve some logistical issues and intend to take some of our outdoor learning beyond the school gate as the year progresses, however, we are sure you will recognise the significant benefits in being able to access such a wide range of learning opportunities within our own grounds, and we will continue to extend and expand these over the coming months.

**Attendance:** This week's attendance was **96.84%**, so just below our target of at least **97%**.

### News from the Classes

In the *Acorn* class this week we had the excitement of going swimming to Loftus Pool for the first time in a long time, for some, and the first time ever for others. Everyone did extremely well and adapted to the new location and changing facilities without a problem. Especially well done to the Reception children who had their first experience of school swimming and, despite a few initial nerves from some, all managed to have a fun, action packed session. Some of our older members also needed to brave the shallow end of the big pool and did so without complaint, we are very proud of them indeed.



Our topic for Science this half term is Science Investigations and we are going to have lots of fun carrying out exciting investigations. This week, to tie in with our Money Maths, we had a go at cleaning tarnished pennies and tuppences. It was a very exciting, if rather smelly, investigation with lots of awe and wonder all round. Martha carried this out at home on a coin that was over 100 years old and it looked like a new coin!



As always, everyone was very busy and involved during our Outdoor Learning session. On the menu this week was den building, role play, building pretend fires, stick peeling, cooperative bank-scrambling and rope-pulling. We had lovely weather and everyone was very happy to be outside.



We would like to give a special mention this week to Ella, for resilience and good attitude towards Maths. Also to Connie, Esmae and Heidi who can now read all of the Speed Sounds!

The Acorn **Star of the week** is **Finley** for working independently and for his fantastic progress with Phonics.



### **Reminder and Appeal!**

Please could we remind you that toys from home should not be brought into school.

We would be very grateful for any donations of old PE clothes that we can use for spares, in particular girls' socks. Thank you!

### **Oak**

This week in Oak Class we enjoyed our first outdoor learning afternoon of 2022. We spotted the first snowdrops emerging and the pupils had a free choice of activities, from photography to den building. In science lessons, Y3 and Y4 were checking how magnets attract and repel; Y5 and Y6 were testing different parachutes - using square numbers - to observe changes and look for patterns in the speed of their fall.

There are **two stars of the week** in Oak Class:



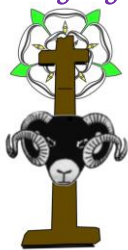
**Kobie**, for being ready to learn and striving to do his best at all times.

**Jessica**, for being a keen, settled reader and displaying a super attitude in music.





"Outstanding Together"



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## Height & Weight Checks for Children in Reception and Year 6

Further to the email sent to parents of Reception and Year 6 pupils on 16<sup>th</sup> December, attaching letter about the National Child Measurement Programme, please note that the checks are taking place in school next Tuesday morning. If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything. If you do not want your child to be included, you must contact the Team on: 0300 3030916 or email: [hdft.nyorksdtton@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.nyorksdtton@nhs.net). If you would like a further copy of the letter please email admin.

## Flu Immunisation Clinic at Whitby on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January

If your child / children have not had a flu immunisation yet, and you would like them to, there is a drop in clinic (no appointment needed) next Thursday, 3.30pm to 5pm at the Stakesby Arms, Whitby. Contact: [hdft.childhood.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.childhood.immunisations@nhs.net)

## No Youth Club at Danby on Mondays

We have been asked to pass on that the Youth Club, held in Danby Village Hall on Mondays, will not be running until further notice.

## Deadline for Reception Primary School Place - Tomorrow (Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> January)

If you, or anyone you know, have a child due to start school in September then the deadline to apply for a place is tomorrow (Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> January). All the information needed is at: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions)

## Reminder of Holiday Dates up to Summer

<b>February Half Term</b>	Monday, 21 February to Friday, 25 February
<b>Easter</b>	Monday, 11 April to Friday, 22 April
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday, 2 May
<b>May Half Term</b>	Monday, 30 May to Friday, 3 June
<b>Break up for Summer</b>	Friday, 22 July

## Next Week

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Swimming</b> at Loftus, afternoon. Please remember kit.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Height &amp; Weight Checks</b> for Reception and Year 6 pupils, morning. <b>Music Lessons</b> with Alix Lillie. Please remember instruments.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>All pupils Outdoor learning.</b> Children to come to school dressed in warm outdoor clothing, including gloves, waterproofs and wellies.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Choir</b> after school. Finish time 4.15pm.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>PE</b> for all pupils. Please make sure kit is in school, including joggers/tracksuit bottoms, if possible, as they will be walking down to the Village Hall <b>Year 6 Booster Club</b> after school. Finish time 4.15pm