



Newsletter 4

Monday 20th October 2025

Welcome to the fourth of our newsletters for this academic year. We will publish a newsletter every other week on Monday afternoons (the next newsletter will be published on 10th November).



Walk to School Week

20th to 24th October 2025

York's Walk to School Week started today!

During this week, we will be tracking how children are getting to and from school, with prizes available for schools with the highest percentage of children walking, cycling or scooting. Leaving the car at home is environmentally and economically friendly, as well as the healthy option. Let's see if we can be the best in York!

Parent Governor Election

Thank you so much to the parents who came forward for our parent governor election and for everyone who voted. We are so lucky to have such a supportive community. Congratulations to Becky Cooper, who was elected to join the Full Governing Body.

REMEMBRANCE



We will be donating to the British Legion through their Poppy Appeal again this year. Poppies will be available in school from 3rd November. The older children will take them round the classes each day, with a collection box for any donations. This year we will have key ring poppies. Any donations are gratefully received.

Social Media Launch

We have just launched our brand new social media page on Facebook. Please make sure you follow and share with friends and family. Keep an eye out for updates from the school day, information about open days and more. We can't wait to share it with you! Either click the link or scan the QR code to find our page.

We will be using this page as our only form of social media from next half term meaning that our X page will no longer be in use.

If you don't believe that your child currently has permission to be posted on social media, please consider checking this.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Frank

Facebook Page Link:



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582074162756>



We are so excited to welcome the book fair back to our school! The book fair will be open after school from Tuesday 4th November until Monday 10th November with payments made by card or contactless (no cash please)

Please come along to support the school and your child's reading. Thanks to all your support last year we could buy lots of new books for the

library that the children have loved. We can't wait to welcome you and celebrate reading together!

SPORTS DESK

Congratulations to our Y5/6 girls football team, who played two games on Friday night. The first was a hard fought game against Lord Deramore's Primary, which we managed to win 1-0. The second game was against Park Grove, which finished 6-0! Through the games, the girls represented the school brilliantly and played some excellent football. A great start to the season!

Big on Books? Buy a Bracelet!

Two of our pupils, Abigail and Lilly, are looking to raise funds for Haxby and Wigginton Library as part of Guides. They have been busily making bracelets, which they will sell after school on the final Thursday and Friday of this half term (23rd and 24th October). Bracelets will be £1-£2 each. Please do support them if you can and bring change!

We regularly post on our latest news page on the website. This includes local events, clubs and community newsletters such as the Parent Carer Forum newsletter which is full of lots of support for SEND children and their families. Please do take a look.



Lunchtimes Update

We held our first parents/carers play session of the year last week on Tuesday 14th October. **Thank you so much** to everyone who came to look at our OPAL provision and to see what lunchtimes look like at Wigginton Primary School. We had approximately 80 parents/carers come to play and I think everyone had a great time. It was really lovely to be able to share all our hard work and we hope to run another similar event next term. Do let us know your thoughts by completing this short [survey](#).

I was fortunate enough to be able to go and visit another OPAL school near Newcastle last week which was very interesting and useful. It's always beneficial to see how other schools run their OPAL provision, to talk to other OPAL leaders and to share ideas for activities and resources. I picked up a number of ideas, such as including tyres in the water play area, which I'm hoping to start implementing very soon.

One item we can always use in a multitude of ways is wooden pallets. We do need these to be in good condition i.e. not broken or damaged in any way. If anyone has access to pallets or has any left behind from DIY projects, we'd be very grateful for them. These can be dropped off in the far corner of the school car park at any time.

As ever, if anyone has anything they think might be useful to us or is having a clear out, please do get in touch - l.ackrel1@wiggintonprimary.co.uk.

Thank you.

PTA News!

Halloween disco is TONIGHT!

We hope to see lots of witches, ghouls and werewolves coming along to join in the fun!

£3 cash entry - pay on the door. Please bring correct change for entry if possible as this really speeds

up the admission process. Thank you to the parent volunteers who are helping out at the event.

Winter term is always one of the busiest times for the PTA in terms of fundraising.

Provisional events for next term include

Christmas present room

Hamper raffles

End of term sweets & treats

Christmas cards

The first hurdle to get over however is ensuring that our annual general meeting on the 10th of November (7pm at the school) is attended by parents to vote in the committee.

The AGM lasts about 10-15 minutes. We will be unable to continue with our programme of events for the school year if we can't meet the quorum for voting.

If you have any ideas for fundraising events or suggestions on how we should spend the money we raise please just get in contact. We welcome all suggestions!

Wishing you all a great half term and we hope you enjoy the spooky season!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER

7 PM AT THE SCHOOL

**ALL PARENTS
WELCOME!**

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



New Menu

Our new three week rolling menu starts on the 1st week back after half term. The menu for that week is below. All of the menus are on the website: [School Dinners Information](#)

Please note that Option 1 is now the vegetarian option and Option 2 is the meat option.

Jacket potatoes and filled rolls are still available every day, along with some delicious puddings!

MENU WEEK 2
SERVED W/C: 3rd Nov | 24th Nov | 15th Dec | 5th Jan | 6th Jan | 16th Feb | 9th Mar | 30th Mar | 20th Apr

THE
FOOD
EXPLORERS

Hutchison

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">MAIN MEAL</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.7em;">1</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">OPTION 2</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.7em;">2</div> </div> </div>	Margherita Pizza & Wedges	Vegan Sausage with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Vegan Cottage Pie & Gravy	Baked Mac 'n' Cheese	Tex-Mex Vegetable Fajita Wrap
	MSC Approved Salmon Pasta Bake	Pork & Beef Sausage, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Creamy Chicken Curry, Carrot Rice	Oven Baked Fish & Chips
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">VEGGIES</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">🥦</div> </div>	Peas	Carrot & Peas	Broccoli & Cauliflower	Carrot & Mixed Salad	Baked Beans
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">FILLED ROLLS</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">🍔</div> </div>	Ham Cheese	Tuna Mayo Cheese	Ham Cheese	Tuna Mayo Cheese	Ham Cheese
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY Our crunchy colourful salad & jacket potatoes with cheese, beans, tuna mayo or cheese and beans					
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 5px;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">SWEET TREATS</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">🍰</div> </div>	Strawberry Mousse	Oaty Apple Crumble & Custard	Original Flapjack	Chocolate & Carrot Muffin	Lemon Sponge & Custard

Desserts available every day – a choice of jelly, fruit or yoghurt

KEY

Nutritionist's Choice

🌈

Vegetarian

🌱 Vegan

🌾 Added Wholewheat

A note about school trips

We have come very close to cancelling a couple of school trips recently as we have not received enough voluntary contributions. Whilst the contributions are voluntary, we need the majority of the parents/carers to make these contributions in order for the trip to go ahead. We also need the consent forms completing as they tell us about any medical or dietary requirements along with other necessary information.

👻 **Disco is TONIGHT** 👻

**Please bring correct change if
you are able to.**

**HALLOWEEN
Disco**

**MONDAY
20 OCTOBER**

**£3
ENTRY**

**SWEETS &
DRINK
INCLUDED**



**R & KS1
17:30PM
TO 18:30PM**

**KS2
18:45PM
TO 19:45PM**

**FANCY DRESS (SPOOKY OR NOT) IS OPTIONAL
NO MOBILE PHONES PLEASE**

COMPETITION TIME!

Looking for something to keep the children busy during half term? Perhaps you could win some prizes or tickets!

COMPETITION!!

A FACE FROM THE PAST

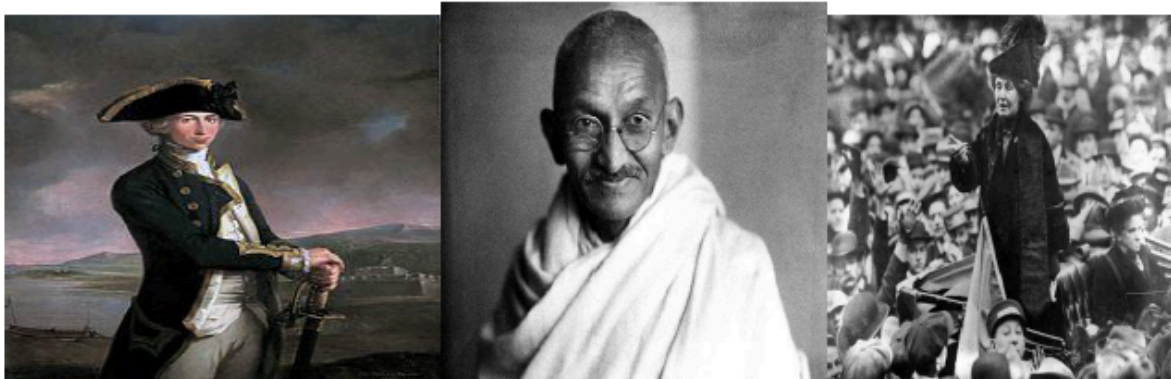
This letter announces the start of the 'Face from the Past' history book competition!

Design your own history booklet or poster that tells us about a famous person from the past. Do your research, check your facts and get writing! It could be someone who has inspired you. It could be a pop star, a king or queen, an astronaut or a footballer. It could be any famous person/people from the past. We cannot wait to see who will come to life in the pages of your book. You could design a 1 page, handwritten information sheet or a 10 page slideshow to share. It is completely up to you to decide how to present your information.

We have three top prizes of family tickets to attractions around York available for you to win. The booklets/posters will be judged on content, presentation and style! Entries should be returned to your teacher either as a paper copy or by Seesaw/ Google Classrooms by Friday **14th November**, who will then send them onto Mrs Fox, and winners will be announced by **Friday 21st November**.

Good luck everyone!

Mrs Fox





Yorklight

We are thrilled to be bringing the beloved musical Annie to the York Theatre Royal stage in February 2026 and we are inviting York area primary school children to be part of it!

In collaboration with the theatre we are running an Annie poster competition for York children with prizes including two tickets to see the show, a personal letter from our Annies and their poster displayed at the York Theatre Royal.

This is following our popular The Little Mermaid poster competition (2024), which saw children from 7 York schools take part. A number of schools fed back that it was a great project to do in class, whilst others had children bring in posters they'd made at home. There was a lot of excitement amongst the kids and the winners had a fabulous time watching the show and seeing their poster up at the theatre.

How it works:

- Pupils design a poster for York Light's performance of Annie
- Designs are submitted to the school office, each clearly marked on the back with the **child's name, school year and school**
- All posters need to be delivered or posted to the York Theatre Royal, St Leonard's Place, YO1 7HD, arriving no later than Friday 23rd January (collection from the school office may be possible, please get in touch if you require this)
- The winning designs will be chosen by the cast, including our Annies, and the winners informed by email to the school office by 30th January

All posters must be:

- A4, Portrait orientation
- Include the following details: Annie, 12-21 February 2026, York Theatre Royal
- Other than that, we'd love to see the children's creativity in celebrating this wonderful show

The prizes:

There will be **three** posters selected to win - one from each age group - Early Years (Reception), KS1 and KS2. Each chosen artist will win:

- 2 tickets to see Annie at York Theatre Royal on Sunday 15 Feb 2026 at 15:00 or Thursday 19 Feb 2026 at 2.30pm (their choice)
- Their poster displayed at the York Theatre Royal and in the show's programme
- A personal letter of congratulations from our Annies

Coming up.....

Day	Date	Time	Event	Details on Website?
Mon	20th Oct	R&KS1 5.30pm-6.30pm KS2 6.45pm-7.45pm	Halloween Disco	Newsletter 3 Newsletters
Mon- Thurs	20th - 23rd Oct	Bikeability for Year 6		Letter sent 22nd September
Fri	24th Oct	School closes at normal time for October half-term holiday		
Mon	3rd Nov	Pupils return to school after half-term holiday		
Mon	3rd Nov	9.15am - 3.15pm	Year 5/6 Trip to York Minster	Letter sent 6th October Class Letters Yr 5/6
Tues - Mon	4th-10th Nov	Book Fair		Newsletter 4 Newsletters
Tues	25th Nov	Parent Consultation Evening		To follow
Thurs	27th Nov	Parent Consultation Evening		To Follow
Mon	8th Dec	1.30pm-2.30pm	Year 3/4 Christmas Performance	To follow
Mon	8th Dec	5.30pm- 6.30pm	Year 3/4 Christmas Performance	To follow
Tues	9th Dec	9.30am	EYFS Wriggly Nativity	To follow
Tues	9th Dec	Christmas Present Room		To follow
Thurs	11th Dec	5.30-6.30pm	KS1 Christmas Performance	To follow
Fri	12th Dec	9.15-10.15am	KS1 Christmas Performance	To follow
Weds	17th Dec	6-7pm	Year 5/6 Christmas Performance	To follow
Fri	19th Dec	School closes at normal time for Christmas holiday		
Mon	5th Jan	School closed to pupils for staff training day		
Tues	6th Jan	Pupils return to school after Christmas Holidays for Autumn 2		