

Head teacher's note

I hope that you all had a good half term. I am delighted to be able to tell you that we are the first school in York to be accredited as a School of Sanctuary. I have added the feedback a bit further down - it makes me so proud to work in such a fabulous school! Thank you to all who worked to put together the application, especially Dani Rees who did the lions share of the evidence gathering and who has led this with passion and conviction.

Take on the Activate Challenge!

BBC Children in Need this year is on Friday 14th November. Children are invited to join in both at home and school with the Joe Wicks workout created especially for Children in Need. The link to Joe's video is here:

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/primary-school/activate/> We are participating in the Activate Challenge instead of having a dressing up day, so please ensure your child is in uniform on Friday 14th. If you are able to donate, the following link has been created on Parentpay: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18770>

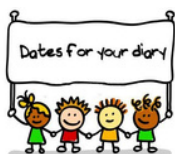
Dates

Tues 11th - Deadline for parent governor nominations

Weds 12th - Y1 Parents Maths meeting

Weds 12th - Interview for EYU teaching assistant

Fri 14th - Children in Need day



Friends of Fishergate

Bake sale on Monday

Year 1/2 is hosting a bake sale in the lower hall at 3:15pm on Monday 10th November. Y1/2 Families: please drop off your donated items in the office on Monday morning. All families are welcome to come by for a treat, items are sold at 50p each, cash only please. Pre-Loved Uniform collection bins will be present; donations of winter coats are being accepted. Thank you for your continued support!

Askham Bryan Wildlife 'class pets' & school visit
Did you know that the recent animal-related activity at school originated with the student council? The student members held an engaging presentation showing their keen interest in animal conservation, which led to the school visit from Connor of Askham Bryan Wildlife and Conservation Park, along with the adoption of the Wildlife Park's animals as 'class pets' for each classroom.

During Connor's visit, the children received bookmarks about their class's chosen animal, which has sparked further curiosity to learn more in class. He also left each class with a soft toy animal, some classes have embraced their cuddly new friend as a mascot in circle time. And one class of wildlife lovers is eager to go on a school trip to Askham Bryan Park next term.

Friends of Fishergate is delighted to have funded this visit as well as the adopted 'class pets', which your children might have shared with you. We love the collaborative spirit of this initiative and commend the council members for creating such a positive experience for the school.

Phase group updates

Early Years We have really enjoyed learning firework poems this week and using our big voices to perform them. Our Nursery children created some beautiful firework art. In Maths, we have been ordering numbers to 5 and exploring how numbers to 5 can be shown in different contexts. In the forest, we had a lovely muddy session following lots of rain. The children loved finding worms whilst digging in the mud.

Year 1/2 Key Stage 1 have been writing acrostic poems about Bonfire Night in Writing and have continued to learn about adding and subtracting 10s in Year 2 Maths. A special thanks to Mrs Moss for her fantastic Year 2 Maths workshop this week. Next week will be the Year 1 Maths workshop on Wednesday morning.

Year 3/4 Yr3/4 would like to thank you for all the 500 word competition entries. We were impressed with their creative ideas. This week in English, we have been exploring bonfire night descriptions using all our senses.

Year 5/6 The children have come back from half-term rested and ready to go! In English we have planned the stories we will write next week. In Maths, Year 6 are calculating with fractions and Year 5 have learnt to add decimals and subtract larger numbers. Your child is probably most excited about Design and Technology, where we tasted some 'magical' food and drink, before planning our own Harry Potter feast.



Other news

Every year the Salvation Army collects gifts and toys for children and teenagers who receive very little at Christmas – and this year they need our help more than ever. Last year, they distributed toys and gifts to over 500 children from York and the surrounding area – and our school donated over 100 toys towards this appeal.

If you would like to donate any new gifts, for children aged 0-17, please pass them to your child to bring into school between now and the end of November. The Salvation Army will come and collect any donated gifts on December 1st and give them to local children and teenagers who need them the most.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL GIFTS NEED TO BE NEW AND UNWRAPPED.

All gifts/toys are much appreciated, however they have made a request for board games and puzzles for 7 to 10 year olds and games for teenagers.

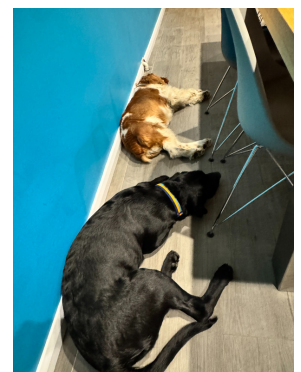
We do appreciate that this is an expensive time of year, so please do not feel obligated to bring in a gift. Any support for this charity appeal would be much appreciated.
Thank you.

Bodhi Corner

Woof hello everyone!

I had such an exciting half term. I went on a big adventure all the way from York to Reading on the train! I'll be honest — I was a bit nervous at first.

Trains are noisy and they wobble quite a lot! But once I realised I could have a nice snooze and get extra cuddles, I started to enjoy it. The best bit was meeting a new dog friend called Lewis. We ran around, played chase, and shared toys (well... mostly!)



Fishergate is the very first school to be recognised as a School of Sanctuary in York.

Final Feedback

Fishergate Primary School is a model example of a school going above and beyond to support their learners and community. Rather than being daunted by recent changes in the local community context, and the arrival of large number of new arrivals in the asylum system, the school proactively reviewed practice and identified areas to build expertise and practice and has seen it as an opportunity to build a strong and vibrant ethos that benefits every learner and staff member.

The school's efforts have extended beyond the day-to-day practice of school, to far-reaching support for families, including outreach to the local council and asylum hotel.

Whilst there are designated members of staff driving these efforts, this has been school-wide effort and there is enthusiasm and commitment from across the school staff. This was reaffirmed in comments by parent/carers and when speaking with learners from across the school.

The school has demonstrated they have thoughtfully reflected on their strengths and ongoing areas to improve and identified a number of ways they would like to take this effort forward over the coming year(s).

Importantly, whilst the school has invested significant effort and time in developing practice for their new arrivals and in the School of Sanctuary journey, they see learners seeking sanctuary, and their families, as an asset to their school community and that the development of practice has far-reaching benefits to all staff members and learners. We look forward, over the three-year duration of the award, to see how they continue to refine practice and provision and deepen and build new partnerships to strengthen their efforts to build a culture of welcome in school and beyond.

In summary, Fishergate Primary School is an exemplar of what a School of Sanctuary is all about and we are delighted to formally recognise them as the first awarded School for Sanctuary in York – a title of which they are truly worthy!



— School of —
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

STICKY QUESTIONS

Talking and discussion can have a huge impact on improving children's reading, writing, creativity, and overall development. They can also have a positive effect on a child's whole life. That's why we have decided to introduce "Sticky Questions."

Every Monday, the children will be introduced to a question designed to encourage conversation and debate — one that usually has no single 'right answer'. Throughout the week, the class will continue the discussion, bringing in ideas they've heard at home. On Friday, the children will bring the question home on a sticker to encourage further conversation over the weekend.

We hope you enjoy the discussions you have, and that you'll see your child grow in confidence as they get stuck into more Sticky Questions!

Please ask us if you need any guidance.
Mrs Renny and Mrs Moss

