



Head teacher's note

Another half term has flown by hasn't it! I was really proud of our children - even more than I usually am - this week. They did a great job of telling a group of adults, including a head teacher from another school and one of our governors, what playtimes are like at the moment (more details can be found in the OPAL section of this newsletter.) They were articulate, confident and great ambassadors for Fishergate school!

Very excitingly, we received a letter from the Prime Minister this week in which he congratulates us on becoming the first School of Sanctuary. Please find it below.

A heads up that Thursday 5th March is World Book Day, Children are invited to come in their pyjamas and bring a favourite bed time story.

I hope that you all have a happy half term and wish all of our Muslim families Ramadan Mubarak!

Dates

Mon 23rd - back to school

Mon 23rd - Y3/4 Ancient Egyptian Day

Fri 27th - Over and Above treat

Sat 28th Feb - OPAL Big Dig 10am - 12pm



Friends of Fishergate

Reaching Big Goals in 2026

We are feeling energised by our uptick in new members and offers of specialised skills, every bit of support makes a huge difference.

This school year so far we are funding:

- Visit from a geologist for our Year 3/4's
- Reader pen tool for our dyslexic children
- Askham Bryan visitor for entire school
- Manga books for the Year 6's
- Coach travel to the Young Voices Concert
- Robinwood coach travel costs
- Colouring supplies for Library Club

When you join us for bake sales, discos, fairs, etc., you are creating amazing experiences for our children!

We do have another request: Please use easyfundraising for your online shopping

When you book tickets via Trainline, buy school socks from Tu, or do your weekly food shop, a percentage is donated back to us at no extra cost to you!

It's so easy! Use the handy easyfundraising app or visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk online to get started today. And don't forget to share this with grandparents and your friends, it directly supports our children in school!

Phase group updates

Early Years Mud, mud, glorious mud!! This week we had lots of fun in a very wet and muddy forest. We made potions and lovely mud baths. In drawing club, we read Mr Wolf's Pancakes and today we will become chefs and make our own pancakes. Maths has been all about the number 8 and different ways to make that amount.

Year 1/2 have been finishing their work on the Arctic by writing some non-chronological reports, whilst in Maths we've been learning about money and applying our previous addition knowledge. Meanwhile Year 1 have been doing some Inuit inspired Art and mentally adding numbers to 10.

Year 3/4 We are looking forward to our Ancient Egyptian Day on the first Monday back and are excited to be working with Mrs Engelman our very own Egyptologist.

Year 5/6 - We have been so impressed at the effort and creativity shown in the children's Maya homework. On Thursday, we recreated Tikal, Chichen Itza and Palenque now archaeological sites in Guatemala and Mexico but once Maya citadels. The children made 3D models of different types of buildings - they looked incredible set out on the floor of the hall! In English, Year 5/6 have planned their persuasive writing for a Maya time-travel holiday. In Maths, Year 5s are learning to compare and simplify fractions while Year 6 are nailing algebra.



Bodhi Corner

Hello everyone! 🐶

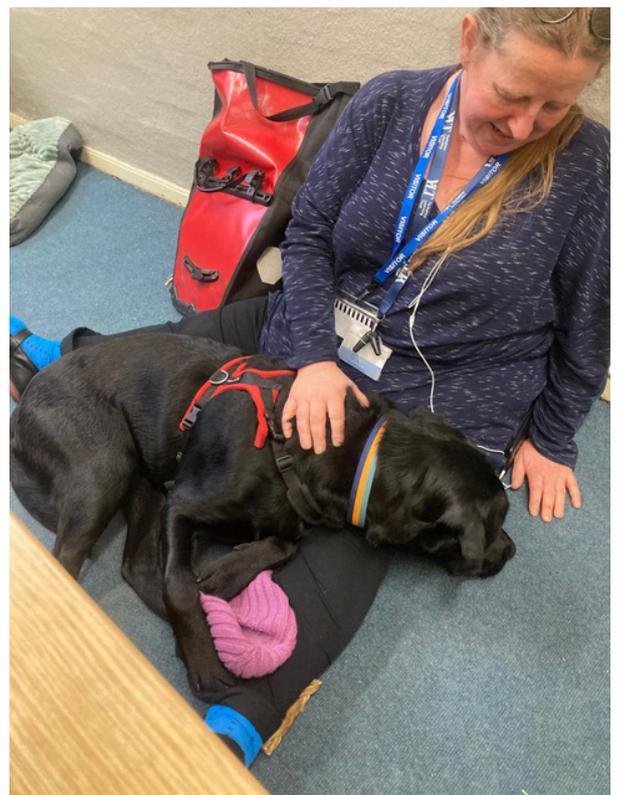
This week I met Kat properly – she's the one who looks after our website (including my very own section, which has been there for a while now... as it should be!).

I was a little unsure at first and managed two big barks – new people can make me a bit nervous – but I settled down very quickly once I realised she was kind. After that, I was more than happy to enjoy a lovely cuddle.

There's a photo of us together in the newsletter – I think I look very professional.

And some exciting news... from next half term I'll be awarding my very own Bodhi Kindness Certificates to children who show real kindness, care and thoughtfulness towards others. I'll be keeping a close eye out 👁️🐾

Love,
Bodhi 🐶



OPAL

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/V63GP0YM6S7P?ref_=wl_share

Hopefully the link above will work better than the one that we sent through last week! Please check it out.

This week we gathered pupil voice from across school to help shape our OPAL development. Children told us they feel safe at playtime and value the support of adults. They understand what bullying is, know who to speak to if worried, and describe play as a “happy” and important break that helps them feel ready to learn.

They were also very honest about what could be better. Football currently dominates much of the playground and is the main cause of disagreements. Children would like more variety, including creative activities, loose parts for building, greater access to natural spaces and more opportunities for physical challenge.

This feedback gives us a clear and helpful starting point. Our next steps include creating more balanced playground zones, expanding creative and construction opportunities, developing quieter spaces alongside active areas, and building a shared understanding of positive risk and independence. We are excited about the enthusiasm children have shown and look forward to developing play opportunities together.

We hope that we will have a good turn out of helpers on the 28th when we will be making a start in time for beginning to roll it out on Monday 9th March.

OUR NEW KINDNESS CERTIFICATE

I wonder who will be the first Fishergate child to be awarded one?



Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College®



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



10 DOWNING STREET
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9 February 2026

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Fishergate Primary School Pupils and Staff,

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent achievement of being awarded the School of Sanctuary Award.

Your MP, Ms Rachael Maskell, recently wrote to me to share this wonderful news. It is a fantastic accomplishment, and I hope you are all very proud of the amazing work you have done to deserve it. It was especially encouraging to learn that the changes you made to staff training and the curriculum, with a focus on inclusion and kindness, yielded such positive results.

I am acutely aware that schools and colleges are places of protection, as well as education. A vital part of schools meeting their duties includes creating a safe, calm and supportive environment, so that all pupils, no matter their faith or background, feel secure. Education plays a crucial part in promoting integration and preparing our children and young people for life in a modern and diverse Britain. The Government is keen to support community cohesion by fostering opportunities to build relationships between people from different backgrounds, tackling inequalities, and developing a positive climate of opinion to support diversity. It is great to hear about the positive work taking place at Fishergate Primary School towards these aims.

I want to thank the pupils, staff and parents of Fishergate Primary School for helping to ensure that your school is an inclusive and friendly place for all children.

All best wishes,