



Newsletter

Head teacher's note

It has been a wonderful week at school, with our children continuing to make fantastic progress and showing such positive attitudes to their learning. We are incredibly proud of the confidence and independence being demonstrated across the school. Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to the start of the KS2 talent assemblies next week — a fantastic idea suggested by our School Council. It promises to be a great opportunity to celebrate creativity, courage, and the many talents of our pupils. Thank you, as always, to our dedicated staff and supportive families for your continued support.

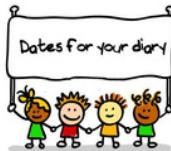
As a School of Sanctuary, we are committed to tackling misinformation about asylum. Have a look at the Facts about Sanctuary poster below.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Dates

Fri 6th - Over and Above Treat

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



Friends of Fishergate

Bake sale on Monday

The Year 5/6s will be selling yummy treats at 3.15pm on Monday 2nd February. Items are nut-free and sold at 50p, small change is much appreciated.

Parent helpers

Mums, dads, can you help? 1-2 more helpers are needed on Monday to run the bake sale. The money raised at these events funds extra learning experiences and resources for our children. Get in touch at friendsoffishergateschool@gmail.com if you can lend a helping hand, thanks!

The manga books are here!

For the uninitiated, children's manga books are Japanese comics and graphic novels for children aged 9+. They provide a fun slice of Japanese culture and offer diverse stories that go beyond traditional literature.

Friends of Fishergate are delighted to have funded this exciting new addition to our school's library. We love supporting our young readers and these visually captivating books are sure to broaden the reading horizons for the Year 5/6 students.

Phase group updates

Early Years This week in Early Years, the children have been busy making magical potions during Forest School, using natural materials and lots of imagination. In maths, we have been working on addition through practical activities and games. We also enjoyed a book swap, where the children chose and brought home two new books to share at home. In English, the children have been learning poems and loved performing them with confidence and expression.

Year 1/2 KS1 have been invaded by friendly aliens this week and Year 1 children have been discovering evidence and writing about their findings. Year 2 have been continuing their Arctic work by learning about how climate change is affecting the Arctic and writing an explanation text about how we can help stop it. We also enjoyed an amazing 'Book Swap' on Monday, which the children absolutely loved and many of them ended up taking home carrier bags full of books!!! Thank you again to everyone who donated old books to make this such an enjoyable experience for them.

Year 3/4 In Yr 3/4, we have been learning about Howard Carter's discovery in 1922. Ask your child what special event happened. What was found? We are collecting evidence this week to support us in writing a newspaper report next week.

Year 5/6 - Year 5/6 have enjoyed exploring the effect of adding extra components to their electrical circuits and are producing bold landscapes inspired by David Hockney. In English and History, we have tried to use our most formal voice when writing a Health and Safety Inspection report about the Maya game of Pok-ta-Pok.

Bodhi Corner

Hi everyone! This week I absolutely nailed my very first walk outside of school with Dani Rees and, not to brag, but I was a total superstar ★ I strutted my stuff on a beautiful loose lead, showing off just how clever I am – Dani was seriously impressed! I took all the new sights and smells in my stride, head high and tail wagging, like the confident legend I'm becoming.



OPAL

We started off the week with exciting assemblies about how playtimes are going to change - it is the first time that I have ever been given a round of applause after one of my assemblies!

We are starting off with buying the welly storage and some 'quick wins' on the play ground and field - the children will start to see some changes from Monday 9th March and we will grow our improvement from there.

We could really do with some help with getting things moved from one shed to another, some digging and some trips to the tip with rotten wood etc from Forest School. We are planning to have 'The OPAL Big Dig' on Saturday 28th February from 10am - 12pm. Please could you let me (Tina) or someone in the office know if you are able to help us out.

I am also going to set up an Amazon wishlist next week so keep your eyes out for that.

Sticky Question

Is being brave the same as not being scared?

- A child feels scared to speak in class but raises their hand anyway—are they brave?
- Someone is afraid of the dark but checks on a friend who needs help—what makes that brave?
- A child admits they are scared—does that take courage?

Final Question

- If bravery isn't about not being scared, what is it about?

We were ahead of ourselves last week so you are getting this again!



The FACTS about SANCTUARY

"What would you do to keep yourself and your family safe?"

Every person has asked themselves that question.



Why the UK?

The UK hosts 1% of the world's refugees. Germany, France, Spain and Italy receive far more asylum applications. People come here because they already have connections: family, language, community.

Safety alone isn't the same as belonging.

Common sense:
Create safe official routes so no one has to risk their life to reach safety.

Accommodation

Whilst people await a decision on their asylum claim they are housed in hotels or shared buildings. They are banned from working so cannot live independently.

- This is not luxury: cramped shared rooms, no privacy, no cooking facilities, no choice on location.
- Often outside towns with no services, transport or community.
- Unable to work so cannot put skills to use.
- Asylum accommodation is separate from council housing so council housing waiting lists are unaffected.

Common sense:
Process claims quickly, allow people to work, and invest public money in community housing, not private profit.



There's no evidence that people seeking sanctuary commit more crime than British citizens

Have you noticed how often we're told to look down, not up, when things feel unf air?

Channel crossings

When no safe route exists, people are left with impossible choices.

- Small boat arrivals make up less than 2% of the UK's overall migration.
- You can only claim asylum when on UK soil.
- Safe official resettlement and family reunion schemes are extremely limited.
- Nearly all people who cross the Channel claim asylum, showing these journeys are about survival, not opportunity.
- Everyone arriving is screened for safety.



The right to claim asylum applies regardless of how someone enters a country

If you were forced to flee your home, where would you go- and why?

Money

Whilst people await a decision on their asylum claim, they are unable to access any public benefits.

Most people receive £49.18 per person per week to cover food, clothing, toiletries, transport, data and other essentials.

If meals are provided, this drops to £9.95 per person per week.

Families

Reaching safety often means years apart from loved ones. Family reunion routes are very difficult, so many families remain separated indefinitely.

1 in 5 asylum seekers are children - some wait up to a year before starting school.

Facts can inform, but empathy transforms.

- Why does this matter to you?
- Have you ever experienced isolation, waiting, or fear?
- How can you bring these topics to life with real life stories and examples?

What does safety mean to you- and who deserves it?



A fairer system helps everyone

A system built on compassion and efficiency would:

- Process cases faster
- Let people work and contribute
- Save public money
- Build stronger, safer communities

This isn't generosity - it's common sense and shared humanity.

What kind of community do you want to live in- fearful or fair?