



## Head teacher's note

It has been a wonderful half term in school, with the children showing great kindness towards one another and working incredibly hard in all that they do. We are very proud of their positive attitudes, helpfulness and determination—well done everyone!

Those of you whose children have school dinners will know how much bringing the service 'in-house' headed by our very own marvellous cook Lou, has led to great changes and fabulous dinners. Her team always do brilliantly in their termly audits, consistently scoring in the high 90%. In their latest visit they got a very rarely awarded 100%. Brilliant work Lou, Dawn, Roxy and Kim.

I hope Y3/4 and Y5/6 parents can join us next week for one of the assemblies celebrating their learning - either as part of their history topic or as a member of one of Alisun's singing groups.

Wishing our Muslim families Eid Mubarak.

## Friends of Fishergate

### Spring Disco

Get ready to dance the night away this Friday! Entry is £2.00 per child and we will have pocket-friendly snacks, face painting, fabulous bunny-themed glasses, ears and more for purchase.

- Early Years & KS1 Disco: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

- KS2 Disco: 7:15pm - 8:15pm

\*\* We will be accepting card payments at the door and cash only at the stalls inside.

### Announcing: Fishergate Family Quiz

Gather your team and save the date! We're hosting a family-friendly quiz on Tuesday 21 April. Join in to test your knowledge and come hungry for the amazing pan-Asian buffet, cooked up by some of our talented parent home cooks at Fishergate Primary. All students are welcome to join in, tickets will be sold at £3.50 for Fishergate students and £7 for everyone else.

### Bake sale review

Wow, what a fantastic event! The donated bakes were delicious and so many of our families visited the Early Years bake sale this week. A huge thank you to all who baked, volunteered and bought scrumptious treats from the sale!

### Mother's Day Stall review

A fantastic £130.95 was raised and we hope you enjoyed your daffodils and other gifts. The funds raised from this stall are all going towards our exciting goal of purchasing a Book Vending Machine, to inspire reading for pleasure among the children of Fishergate.

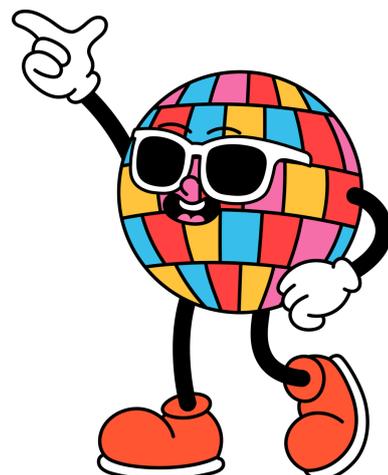
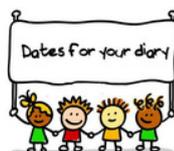
## Dates

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> - KS2 Singing Assemblies 9am and 10:15am  
- Y3/4 Egyptian Assembly 2:30pm

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> - Y5/6 netball team tournament - after school

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> - Y4 and Y6 choir St Oswalds - pm

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> - Robinwood Assembly 9am  
- Bodhi Day  
- Break up 2:30pm



## Phase group updates

**Early Years** - This week in Early Years, we have had a wonderful time exploring lots of new learning. In Forest School, we noticed the first signs of spring and enjoyed writing our own sentences about the season, while also learning about Ramadan and Eid. In maths, we have proudly reached the dizzy heights of number 10 and have been building confidence with counting and recognising numbers.

**Year 1/2** - It has been story writing week in Key Stage 1!! We've been creating our own stories based around the book 'Katie and the Impressionists' and using 'The Great Wave' picture as inspiration. Thank you to all our parents who came to Parents Evening last week. It was a pleasure to see you all and have the chance to talk about your fantastic children.

**Year 3/4** - The Yr 3/4 children have been working hard on their Ancient Egyptian dramas and song, to share with you on Mon 23rd March at 2:30pm in the upper hall. They have also written superb recounts on The Spider and the Fly, with super attention to descriptive vocabulary, fronted adverbials (sentence openers) and conjunctions (joining words).

**Year 5/6** - In English, Year 5 are writing balanced arguments while Year 6 have finished their letters, written from the point of view of a character in Shaun Tan's The Arrival. In Maths, Year 5 are multiplying fractions and Year 6 are solving reasoning problems about line graphs. We have explored the Maya number system and had great fun buying and trading cacao beans in a Maya market.



## Bodhi Corner

Bodhi Day is Coming!

Woof! I am so excited for next Friday—it's going to be Bodhi Day in school! Even better... it's nearly my very first birthday in the Easter holidays. I think that definitely calls for extra tail wags!

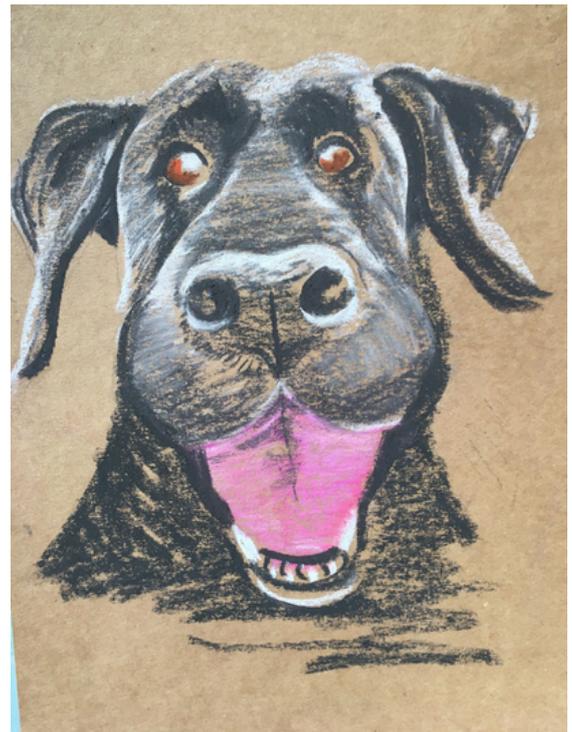
The children will be doing lots of fun activities all about me (I do love being the centre of attention), with plenty of chances to be creative and have fun.

I can't wait for Mrs Engleman to teach everyone how to use pastels to draw pictures of me. I'm very curious to see all your amazing, colourful artwork—will you draw my nice wet nose? My floppy ears? I love the portrait that Mrs Engleman has done as an example.

I've also heard a very pawsome idea from the School Council! They would love everyone who wants to bring in donations for the RSPCA, to help other animals who need care, cuddles and kindness—just like me.

It's going to be such a fun and special day. I'll be ready with my biggest woofs, waggiest tail and lots of excitement!

Love,  
Bodhi



## OPAL

Thank you for the steady stream of donations - it is hard to believe that this is only the second week of our new playtimes. It has been wonderful to hear from the parents who have told me how happy it has made their child.

This week's plea is for toy shopping trolleys and large plastic pipes, like the one in EYU that children can fit inside.



## BUDDING ACTORS

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We have been contacted by a production company requiring children to perform in a new TV production called "Black Palace", a period drama, that is going to be filmed in and around Leeds, Hull, Halifax, Derbyshire or similar.

Therefore, they are looking for local girls and boys, ages between 7 - 14 years, to play children in various scenes. So this is a wonderful opportunity for any that may fit this request, as well as an incredible experience and to confirm, it is a paid job!

Experience is not a requirement, but good behaviour is, as well as children being able to follow direction, of course.

The following link will allow you to complete and submit what is required for JAM2000 Agency to put their child or children forward.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQMdo90auf7LywVfqWwuMTmbDT4rEp3hAfYneQYsGtPD6Lpg/viewform>

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LOOT BOXES

Marketed as increasing a player's enjoyment of a game, loot boxes are usually purchased or given as rewards. When opened, they unlock items for use in the game, such as better weapons or new characters to play as. Loot boxes feature in many games and are therefore available to various age groups. They have often been criticised for emulating gambling: the odds of unlocking certain items can seem astronomical, while the money being spent is often high compared to the potential reward. It's imperative that trusted adults understand the risks that loot boxes can pose.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MOUNTING COSTS

Loot boxes can be bought with in-game currency or earned as rewards for completing tasks – but many of them are paid for with real money. Prices vary from game to game, and purchases can stack up quickly. It's easy for children to overspend on loot boxes, especially if they really want the item on offer – a recent study found that 31% of young gamers were unaware loot boxes actually had a cost at all.

### POTENTIAL ADDICTION

The sense of anticipation, and the feeling of joy when unearthing a rare or badly wanted item, can make opening loot boxes very addictive. As the boxes give out semi-random items which vary in usefulness or rarity, players often end up striving for the less common items – as well as chasing the 'buzz' of finding one. Loot boxes can be compared to scratch cards, delivering similar highs and lows.

### NORMALISING GAMBLING

Because loot boxes cost money for the chance – but no guarantee – of scooping a big reward, it's easy to see the link to gambling. Players spend a set amount of money, with no idea of what they'll get in return once the loot box is open: it could be the best item in the game, or the worst. Many games are beginning to phase out loot boxes completely to avoid breaking local gambling laws.

### ADVANCED SCAMS

Most games don't let players trade the items they get in loot boxes, but a few titles do allow exchanges with other players. This could lead to young gamers being tricked or harassed into trading items they paid for or won fairly. Rare items from some games can be quite valuable and are bought and sold on the 'grey market', using external sites – leaving children vulnerable to being scammed.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER THE ODDS

It's a smart move to check the odds on the items in the loot boxes, to see how hard it is to find a particular reward. Show your child and explain to them whether it's likely (or not) that they'll find the item they want inside the box. Of course, there's a sizeable element of chance – but if an item says it's likely to drop once out of every 10,000 boxes, it's wise to adjust your child's expectations.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most video gaming consoles, as well as the individual games, allow parents and carers to place purchasing restrictions on the child's account. This is an effective way to avoid overspending or prevent children from buying any loot boxes in the first place. Not all games offer this feature, so it's best to investigate your options on each new game before your child starts playing it.

### RESTRICT SPENDING

Even if you're happy for your child to purchase loot boxes, it's safest to restrict how much they can spend. Options include adding a temporary payment method, or making sure they ask permission first. If a credit or debit card is linked to the gaming account, excited young players could soon run up an eye-watering bill. Ensure your child recognises how much each box costs and understands that they're using real money.

### DISCUSS THE RISKS

Be open with your child about how much loot boxes (and individual item purchases) cost and how the system works, in terms of probability. If a child realises it's unlikely they'll get that rare reward, they may prefer to spend their money on a guaranteed item – like a skin in the online store – instead of gambling on a loot box. Outline how other people might try to exploit online trading systems to steal their valuable items.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

# Could you be a Parent Advocate?

Help Us To Support Parents When They Need It Most

Could you empower other parents to speak up and be heard when they are at their most vulnerable?

Do you have personal experience of Children's Social Care Services, either as a parent or a supportive family member?

Could you draw on your own experience to help others to navigate the Child Protection Process?

The City of York Council Volunteer Service is launching a new volunteer role for individuals with personal experience of Children's Social Care Services. Parent Advocates will provide practical and emotional support to parents navigating the child protection process to help them feel empowered and heard.

We need volunteers who can bring first-hand experience as someone who has engaged with Children's Services. They will need to be non-judgemental and empathetic with strong listening and communication skills.

Full training will be provided alongside regular support and supervision from an assigned Volunteer Officer. All costs will be reimbursed and volunteers will be part of a supportive community of fellow Parent Advocates. Volunteering will be flexible to ensure it fits around parents' busy lives. We will ask for an initial commitment of approx. 3-6 hours per month.

Get in touch with the Volunteer Team today by emailing [volunteer@york.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer@york.gov.uk) or call us on 07542 510430