



## WELCOME

We are delighted to share with you a small selection of what has been happening in our schools this term. Although the last 18 months have been dominated by the pandemic and lockdowns we have much to celebrate across our schools.

We have come together as one community supporting each other and doing all we can to ensure our children and young people get as varied and stimulating school experience as possible.

We have truly appreciated the support and encouragement of our pupils and parents and carers. Thank you.

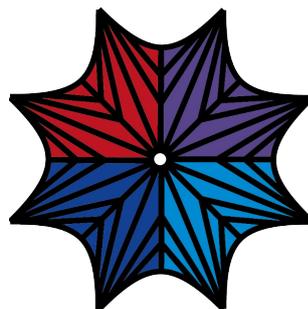
As we all enjoy a well-earned summer break, plans are already underway for the new academic year. We hope it will bring more certainty, more time in classrooms and a lot less disruption.

Whatever September brings we will build on our partnership working and shared values to do our best for our children, young people and the communities.

From all at SYMAT we wish you a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes

Steve Lewis  
CEO – SYMAT



**SUPPORT**  
**INSPIRE**  
**ACHIEVE**  
**FLOURISH**

# Archbishop of York Junior School

## Sports Day

The children in Year 3, 4 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their Sports Day. It was a shame that spectators could not attend, but the children still created a wonderful atmosphere of good spirit, excellent sporting behaviour and excitement. Thank you to all the Teachers for organising this very special annual event. It is so good that we are seeing more and more traditional whole school events taking place after last year.



## Midnight Walk

Mrs Block, Mrs Carrington and Miss Roberts (The Three Lions) have raised at the time of writing, £615 by completing the midnight walk last Saturday in aid of the amazing staff at St Leonards. They have asked me to thank all those people who sponsored them and enabled them to make such a difference. I would like to add my thanks and congratulations to the intrepid trio!



## Mr Hymer

We held a special party to say a very fond farewell, thank you and best wishes to Mr Hymer for being such a lovely part of our school for nearly twenty years, teaching brass and woodwind instruments to our wonderful children. It was also great to see members of Mr Hymer's family helping us to celebrate all that he has done for us at AYJS.

Please keep in touch Mr H!

## Y6 residential visit to Peat Rigg

On the Wednesday to Friday before half-term, Year 6 visited Peat Rigg, an outdoor educational centre situated on the edge of the North York Moors. The year group had a fantastic time - helped by the weather turning from cold and wet to warm and dry - and undertook many challenging activities: abseiling, crate climbing, archery, orienteering and keeping an egg safe, for example!

The focus of the trip was to improve the children's independence, to work as groups and for them to push themselves to be successful at new and challenging activities. Whilst there may have been a few pairs of footwear left lying around and a couple of eggs broken, the children were brilliant on camp and loved the opportunity to spend a few days out of school with their friends. By the end of the camp, there were a lot of tired but happy children ready to return home!



## Pentecost Praise!

To help to celebrate the Churches birthday on 23rd May, all year groups went to St Andrews on Thursday to take part in a variety of practical activities (see photos below). We are very grateful to the YoYo Team for leading these sessions. As you can see from the photographs the children got up to lots of really interesting things. We also held a lovely outside worship to mark the occasion on the playground. It was once again so lovely to come together as

a school and take part in this special event. Thank you to Mrs Sutton for organising and overseeing this exciting day.

## The Big Pedal Update

We maintained our success over the fortnight and our percentage active travel to school improved slightly day on day. By the end of the 10 days, we were averaging 95.44% of our school population making active journeys to and from school. I am delighted to confirm that we definitely achieved our most successful result, finishing 35th in the National League Table, third in our region of Yorkshire and Humber and first in the City of York. Congratulations and thank you Team AYJS!

# Dunnington

On Friday 11th June, our school took part in the World's Largest Lesson.

## THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



As part of our Connecting Classrooms and global learning project with Nepal, the World's Largest Lesson introduces the 17 Sustainable Development Global Goals (SDGs) agreed by world leaders in 2015. It's now six years on, and with the added pandemic, the world has more work than ever to do. These goals have the power to create a better world for all by 2030, by ending poverty, fighting inequality and addressing the urgency of climate change. Guided by the goals, it is now up to all of us, governments, businesses, civil society and the

general public to work together to build a better future for everyone. Young people are now forcing the global agenda more and more and increasingly getting their voices heard and recognised – it is their future! The World's Largest Lesson is one way of informing children of the SDGs so that they can participate in their future.

Our day began with a short introductory video fronted by Malala Yousafzai of what the SDGs are and an interesting 'apple' activity to demonstrate how fragile our world is. Each year group engaged in a variety of lessons for two SDGs. We then had an assembly at the end of the day to discuss what we had learned. Our hope is that the children had lots of fun whilst learning about empowerment, decision-making and their future.

## Staff Charity Run - Close to the Finish Line!

To raise money for Oscar's Paediatric Brain Tumour Trust and St Leonard's Hospice our staff have now run and walked a grand total of 1,580km! On our virtual journey from Land's End, we're now in the highlands and, so far, we've raised an amazing £1,811!

As we're heading into our final week, we have 164km more to go before we reach John O'Groats and we hope we can keep up the pace and make it in time! To cross the finish line, on Friday 16th July we will plan to complete the final km on the school field during our sports afternoon.



# Escrick CE Primary School

When we reflect over the past year and in particular, the summer term, it is amazing to see how many wonderful opportunities and enrichment activities our children have participated in.

Over the Easter holidays we had our EYFS outdoor area redeveloped and the children came back to a fantastic surprise. This new area allows the children to further explore and develop their learning and interests in a safe and fun way. The water feature and stage have been really positive in developing the children's investigative skills and confidence.

The children were also lucky as two new Hobbit houses also arrived over the Easter break, a very kind donation from our PTA. The children have lots of fun using them for many different purposes including a creative writing base when doing forest schools.



Our Reception children had an amazing Pirate Day; they dressed up, sailed on the Ocean, went on a treasure hunt and made some maps. A day that allowed them to celebrate their learning in a fun and memorable way. Their year may not have been the same as in the past but they have really enjoyed their learning and made lots of friends and memories.

Sports Day was held within our class bubbles but the children were not disappointed with the variety of events they took part in. From the traditional egg and spoon, running and the relay races, medals were won and lots of fun was had. The children upheld our Core Values of Commitment, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence and they all had a fantastic time. Thank you to all the staff for their determination and efforts to plan this event for them.

Our Sports week culminated in Carnival Day. All the classes had an outdoor workshop, learning to dance and celebrate music and Carnivals across the world. Children wore their brightest clothes and the air was filled with laughter.



Our Year 3 and 4 children took part in an outdoor activity day which allowed them to build up confidence, try new experiences and develop both independence and collaborative skills. The children taking part in laser tag, bushcraft and orienteering and had an amazing time and were really grateful for the opportunity.

The Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a new residential experience, here at school. They faced the challenge of the climbing wall and took part in many different team building activities. The children were superb and even went to sleep by eleven!

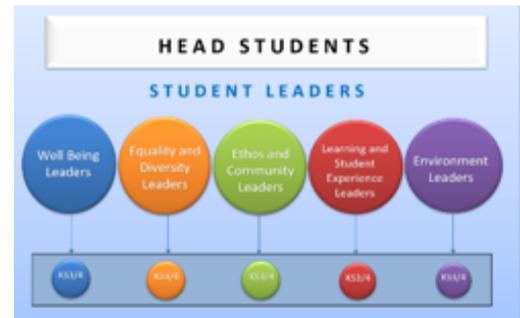


The Year 6 children are looking forward to their Leavers Service on the last day of term. The service will be held at St Helen's Church and will be led by Archdeacon Sam. This occasion is always well received by the children and their families as they reflect on their primary journey and prepare for their next chapter of learning. We wish all our Year 6 children the very best of luck, they are a wonderful cohort and we know they will enjoy their secondary schools.

# Fulford School

## Student Leadership

On return to school, we were delighted to relaunch our student leadership groups. We are very fortunate to have so many well informed, passionate young people who actively engage in national and international issues. The student leadership groups are led by sixth form students. The groups are made up of students from all year groups across the school.



**Well Being** - The group have a clear focus on raising awareness of support networks both inside and outside of school. They have led a poster campaign signposting students to key staff and resources for support. In addition, the group have created a new section of our website which is purely aimed at support for students, including information on appropriate external sources of support. As part of their work, the group have been instrumental in creating a new tool for reporting on our website. Students can now 'reach out for support' online without the need for a face to face conversation (which the group identified can be a barrier for some students to seeking support). This work will be launched with students in September.

**Ethos and Community** - This group are busy identifying local charities and organisations that they would like to support. The group will be working closely with students, local residents and local charities to identify areas of need within the local community. The group have plans for a collection for York Foodbank.

**Equality and Diversity** - The group have a very clear focus on raising awareness and tackling prejudicial behaviours. In recent weeks, the group have led an assembly for the whole school and arranged a number of events, including a non uniform day to celebrate Pride. They are currently working on a project with the Head students and the **Learning and Student Experience** group which looks to tackle the issue of Harmful Sexual Behaviour. This work includes a very powerful video which was created by the students alongside a poster campaign and student led assemblies. Alongside of this the two groups (Equality group and Learning group) are playing an active role in the review of our Personal Development curriculum. The review has a particular focus on the key issue of consent and healthy relationships. The input from the students into this review has helped us to shape our curriculum delivery for next year.

**The Environment group** have some great ideas for reforming areas of school and our use of materials. We've arranged for a section of the grass not to be cut on our school field to assist with the creation of a biodiverse environment. The group are exploring the removal of single use plastic from sections of school and a project to plant approximately 100 new trees. In addition, the group will be working to expand our existing nature reserve as part of the planned development to the school site.



**The Arts** are an integral part of life at Fulford. We were really disappointed that we have had to postpone our year 7 Arts festival but it will return in the new academic year. Please follow the link below to view our Art Exhibition.

<https://clipchamp.com/watch/cEutfVNzck2>

Over the past few months, each member of our school community has been asked to personalise a metal disc. Together these will form an outdoor art installation. A permanent reminder of how we all came together during the pandemic and associated lockdowns, showing resilience, strength, kindness and unity.

# Wheldrake with Thorganby



In April, the Reception children enjoyed the chance to look at and ask questions about a local farmer's tractor as part of their topic on farming. The children really enjoyed the visit and had lots of questions for Mr Crombie.

Also in April, eighteen members of staff spent the month participating in the Education Support charity's Strides against Stress challenge. The aim was to walk, run or cycle a mile a day. One member of the team, Alison Stevens, catering assistant, ran, biked and walked a total of 146.9 miles in the month, a fantastic achievement. We raised £825 - well done to the team!



Lower Key Stage 2 learnt about Ancient Rome and enjoyed getting to grips with the replica shield, helmet and sword that we were kindly gifted earlier this year. This history topic has lots of opportunities for cross curricular learning as can be seen in the year 3 DT and art/



craft work where the children planned and constructed working catapults and mini Roman soldiers.



On 6th July, the whole school participated in a Global Goals day for the second year. Each class explored one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our mission this time, was to become more familiar with the goals, which involved explaining to others about selected goal/s and its aim. Each class then had to think of an action for their goals in preparation for the zero waste project we will be undertaking in autumn with our Connecting Classrooms cluster of three UK and three Nepalese schools.

We were pleased that some events such as sports day could take place albeit slightly differently. We held a sports week with all the points for the week being added together-team Phoenix took the trophy. Some educational visits were also able to go ahead this term. Year 1 visited St

Helen's Church, Wheldrake as part of their RE work, Year 4 went to Murton Park and Year 2 to Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Year 6 had missed their residential in the autumn so we organised a selection of activities for them. They enjoyed a trip to the cinema with a screening just for them. The planned sleepover was unfortunately impacted by an isolation so instead we held a virtual party with packs delivered to each house. The class were super and fully embraced the event—we had singing, dancing, face paints and funny hair dos. It was great fun! The end of term was also spent rehearsing for their production of Mary Poppins – an outdoor production, filmed so that parents/carers could watch and enjoy the talents of this super group of young people.

# Role of the Chief Financial Officer

Hi, I'm Sam Bradford the Trust's Chief Financial Officer (CFO).



The Department for Education say that “The role of the Trust CFO is to be a key member of the Leadership Team, helping develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the Trust’s strategic objectives sustainably and in the public interest. They also lead the promotion and delivery of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.”

Fundamentally, it’s my job to make sure, along with the Headteachers and other leaders in our schools that our limited financial resources are used in the best way possible to benefit students.

I lead on the financial management, budgeting and processing within a small team of three and I am based at Fulford, though I visit (COVID permitting), the other Trust Schools on a monthly basis. We make sure that we pay our suppliers and staff on time and ensure that all the Trust money is accounted for appropriately.

Wider than this I also line manage the Estates and Facilities Manager, and MAT IT teams to ensure we are delivering an effective service to the Trust Schools. I have been heavily involved in improving Trust Schools through bidding for building improvement grants and grants to help grow and improve our Trust.

## Closing comment...

Jonathan Green has been part of the community in Bishopthorpe for 28 years. He has led Archbishops of York Junior School with integrity passion and an infectious joy. He has nurtured, challenged and enabled thousands of pupils, who whenever Mr Green’s name is mentioned have a ready smile of appreciation for who he is. I know he will be very much missed by all at the school. As he pursues new experiences, we wish him every happiness. We are grateful for all he has done and the rich legacy he leaves for his community. Thank you Mr Green!

