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Headteacher: Mrs J Dobbs NPQH MA BEd (hons)
9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Friends,



Well done to Class Three for their assembly this morning on the Maya. They shared some brilliant research about their topic and read it very clearly (even the tricky names!). Well done Class 3!

We had a disappointing turn out for the Internet Safety Sessions for our parents on Monday. On Tuesday I attended the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership Conference, and in the presentation by the police, they showed the slide in the Bulletin Bag which I wanted to share more widely. Perhaps over the weekend, you might consider what your children are accessing on their devices and how secure they are. Thank you for helping us to keep them all safe.



Please could we remind parents and carers that if children are bringing a snack to school it must be either fruit or cereal bars – not chocolate or crisps. Also, please could we politely remind you that water bottles should contain water. Thank you.



Don't forget to get your places booked for the forthcoming Pub Quiz on the 22nd – contact Abbie to secure your table and then pay on the night. Thank you for supporting this, it will be a fabulous evening!

We are still looking for anyone who may be able to support us at lunchtimes with serving dinners and supervising playtimes. If you can spare an hour, even on an ad hoc basis, please let us know. Thank you.



Thank you to those who have started off our Foodbank Appeal to support the local Churches' Foodbank. If you have anything that you wish to donate, there is a box in the Entrance Hall to put your goodies into – they suggest – **tinned rice-pudding, tinned custard, tinned spaghetti (NOT dry pasta of any sort please!), instant coffee, and sweet biscuits are the main gaps.** Thank you for supporting us.

Costumes



Dear parents and carers - thank you so much for all the fabulous donations to the dressing up box for wraparound club - the response was fantastic and much added to from the bring and buy sale last week - we have had a wonderfully theatrical week and started making puppets from anything we had loads of. We are now at capacity for storage so unless you have anything unmissable that is all we can hold on to for now.
Many thanks again
Karen Wilson



Please could all of the children bring an empty (washed) yoghurt pot to school on Thursday for our Eco Theme Day? If you have any spares that would be great too! Many thanks

Best Start in Life is a government strategy to give every child the strongest foundations in their early years by improving family support, strengthening early health services, expanding access to affordable childcare, and raising the quality of early education. It aims to reduce inequalities, improve school readiness, and ensure more children thrive by age five.
In North Yorkshire we are committed to ensuring every child has the best possible start in life. Building on this shared ambition, we are strengthening how we work with families, communities, and local services to create the conditions for strong, supportive local networks. These networks will enable every child to thrive, feel safe, and develop a strong sense of belonging within their own community. This plan sets out our collective priorities, and the actions we will take over the next three years to achieve this ambition. It provides a clear, sustainable framework that will guide our work now and lay firm foundations for a model that extends beyond 2029. Best Start In Life | North Yorkshire



If your child is in year 6, you can apply for a secondary school place from 12 September 2026 and you must submit your application by 31 October 2026. https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning



Please remember that we have a thriving Uniform Swap. Feel free to come along any time and see what goodies there are to be had. (It's just inside the front of school)

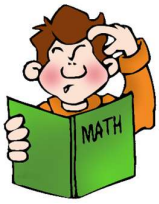
There is a really useful leaflet in the Bulletin Bag from the Child Accident Prevention Trust on Halloween Safety (if this is your thing). Please take a few moments to read through how you can keep your children safe. You can find out more here.



Have your say on proposed changes to North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy. Following a Post Implementation Review of the updated Home to School Travel policy introduced in 2024, North Yorkshire Council is inviting views on a number of recommended changes. The consultation is open now and runs until 4 November 2026.
If any recommendations are approved, they would not take effect before September 2027 and will apply to children starting in Reception and Year 7 in September 2028. Families should continue to make school preference decisions based on the existing arrangements while this process is completed.
Eligibility for free travel would continue to be based on a child's nearest suitable school with available places. The review does not propose a return to catchment-based transport eligibility. Find out more about the review and take part in the consultation at www.northyorks.gov.uk/PIRsurvey

Mr Jones writes, "After all the excitement last week, we have had a fairly sedate time in Class 3, although we have used our time well.





All three year groups have been solving maths problems using their knowledge of addition, subtraction and in the case of Yr6, factors and multiples. A large part of maths mastery is recalling and using key facts and understanding vocabulary, we are practising and consolidating these skills regularly and making sure each step is secure before moving on.

The history topic, the ancient Maya civilisation, is proving very interesting! Lots of examples of Mayan artwork have arrived in Class 3 and it has been fascinating to look at how a system of writing evolved based on stories and pictures rather than an alphabet and conventional words. We had a look for examples of communication without words and found a surprising number of examples just in the school grounds!



I do hope that the Class 3 assembly was informative, the children conducted their own research, organised their presentations and took responsibility for how to present their information! Great example of independent work and a real credit to Class 3.

Mrs Stokes writes, "We have been fully immersing ourselves in the Stone Age, and what an incredible topic it has been! It has been wonderful to see some fantastic independent homework, as well as plenty of Stone Age-inspired acting out in the playground. The children are really bringing their learning to life!





We are also beginning to look ahead to the exciting advancements into the Bronze and Iron Ages, thinking about how life and technology changed over time. We are so excited for our Stone Age Day on 20th October – more information will follow for parents!

We have enjoyed some fantastic hands-on activities in maths exploring how to partition numbers up to 100 and 1,000 in different ways. The children have shown great flexibility in their thinking and a good understanding of number.

In PE, we have been developing some amazing basketball skills, alongside learning attacking tactics and how to work effectively when faced with defenders. We have seen the children's ball control improving each week, which has been fantastic to see!



Our Class 2 school elections have taken place, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who put themselves forward. The children supported their ideas with fantastic posters and clearly thought-through reasons for why they would make a great representative. Well done to everyone who took part! There will be lots more opportunities for children to get involved and take on responsibilities throughout the year. New Year 2 and 3 representatives will be announced when all the other class elections have taken place!



Gardening Club has been busy too! Our gardeners have been planting hyacinth bulbs, with the hope that they will flower just in time for Christmas. We have also planted some mystery bulbs, making it even more exciting to see what will appear. We love experimenting, getting our hands in the soil, and watching things grow!

Joseph, the Conservation Officer from Nidderdale National Landscape, has also been helping us create the perfect spaces for native, locally harvested wildflower seeds to be sown. The grassy area between the playgrounds and the grassy strip alongside the driveway are now dedicated wildflower spaces. These areas will be left unmown until next April, and then again until August, giving the wildflowers time

to grow and providing beautiful habitats where wildlife can flourish. We can't wait to see what blooms and which wildlife these special spaces will attract!



Finally, a huge thank you to our parents and families who answered our plea for apples and old DVDs/CDs to support our Eco Day. We really appreciate your generosity and support. We need lots more though so any remaining DVDs/CDs will be recycled through the fantastic 'Every Disc Makes a Difference' scheme, helping us to make sure they are given a new purpose rather than going to waste.



Mrs Marshall writes, "What a busy week we've had in Class 1. Our topic for the next couple of weeks is about Mary Anning, a famous fossil collector and palaeontologist from England. Throughout her life, she discovered lots of important fossils including the first Pterosaur (Flying Reptile) in the UK. We'll be finding out more about her discoveries next week. Reception have been busy making dinosaur pictures using uncooked pasta and sand. I was very impressed with the children's knowledge of dinosaurs. I can't even pronounce their names!!



I have made a start on the DfE Baseline Assessments, and the children have enjoyed completing the different activities. The reports take a while to come through, but I hope to chat with you at parents evening about my observations.

Show and Tell: This week, Newbold Houseman have had the opportunity to bring photos or a small item into school to show the rest of the class. Next week, it will be Horace Gledhill's turn. We politely ask that the item is small enough to fit into their book bag and children don't bring anything into school until Friday.

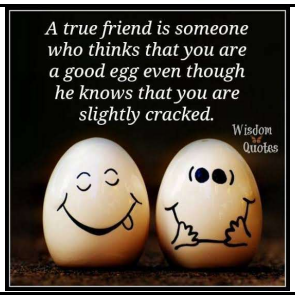
Have a great weekend, whatever you're up to!

Mrs. Jo Dobbs
Headteacher





Our new Christian Value this half term is **Friendship**.
This week's thought for the week is a brilliant quote from Bernard Meltzer (and was supplied by Mrs. Hayward – one of our Governors!) It is. **"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked".**
This made me laugh! I wonder if you did too?



9

Share an important goal with someone you trust

This month's Action for Happiness Calendar is entitled **"Optimistic October 2026".**
Today's encouragement is -
"Share an important goal with someone you trust
https://actionforhappiness.org/calendar





Bee Safe

Continuing our support for parents with keeping their children safe and happy, this week in the Bulletin Bag there is a really helpful leaflet with lots of useful tips and links to support parents and carers with Wellbeing Conversations

To find all of the Parent Safeguarding leaflets, please go to https://www.dacrebraithwaite.n-yorks.sch.uk/safeguarding



This week: National Average Primary School Attendance = 95.68%

This week we looked like this

EYFS	**97.22%**
Year 1	**97.22%**
Year 2	**90.74%**
Year 3	**98.15%**
Year 4	**97.22%**
Year 5	**98.15%**
Year 6	**88.89%**

School Lunch Week 3 – W/C 12th October 2026



Monday	Margherita Pizza / Ham Pizza / Baked Bean &/or Cheese or Tuna Jacket Potato Watermelon Wedge / Fruit Jelly / Fresh Fruit / Fruit Yoghurt
Tuesday	Penne Pasta with Tomato Sauce/ Beef & Lentil Bolognaise/ Ham, Cheese or Tuna Roll Oaty Apple Crumble & Custard / Fruit Jelly / Fresh Fruit / Fruit Yoghurt
Wednesday	**Roast Quorn / Roast Chicken & Roast Potatoes / Baked Bean &/or Cheese or Tuna Jacket Potato** Orange Jelly & Mandarins / Fruit Jelly / Fresh Fruit / Fruit Yoghurt
Thursday	Veggie Stir Fry / Sticky Chinese Chicken & Rice/ Ham, Cheese or Tuna Roll Chocolate & Banana Brownie Sponge/ Fruit Jelly / Fresh Fruit / Fruit Yoghurt
Friday	Veggie Sausages & Chips / Fish Fingers & Chips / Baked Bean &/or Cheese or Tuna Jacket Potato Lemon Shortbread / Fresh Fruit / Fruit Yoghurt

Dates for your diary



October			
15th	Eco Theme Day	All Day	Parents to be aware
20th	Parents Evenings	15:30 – 18:30	Parents to be aware
21st	Parents Evenings	15:30 – 18:30	Parents to be aware
22nd	School Closes for half term	15:30	Parents to be aware
23rd	School Closed for Staff Training Day	All day	Parents to be aware
November			
2nd	School Opens	08:40	Parents to be aware
11th	Remembrance Service	09:00 – 09:30	Parents to be aware
13th	Children in Need non uniform day (wear spots or stripes and bring a suggested £1 donation)	All Day	Parents to be aware
26th	Advent Theme Day	All Day	Parents to be aware
30th	School Closed for Staff Training Day	All day	Parents to be aware
December			
10th	Whole School Nativity	14:30 – 15:00	Parents to be aware
11th	Whole School Nativity	09:00 –09:45	Parents to be aware
14th	Class 1 Christmas Party	13:00 – 15:10	Parents to be aware
15th	Class 3 Christmas Party	13:00 – 15:10	Parents to be aware
16th	Class 2 Christmas Party	13:00 – 15:10	Parents to be aware
18th	Christmas Lunch - tbc	12:00 – 13:00	Parents to be aware

17th	Christingle Service, Holy Trinity Church, Dacre Banks	18:00 – 19:00	Parents to be aware
18th	School Closes for Christmas	15:15	Parents to be aware
January			
4th	School Closed for Staff Training Day	All day	Parents to be aware
5th	School Opens for the Spring Term		Parents to be aware

VX Shortlist was Theo C, Theo M and Tobias Winner was Theo M	