



Skelton
PRIMARY SCHOOL

BELONG - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE



Newsletter - Friday 24th April 2026

A Message from Mrs Naylor

I hope you all had a lovely and restful Easter holiday and were able to enjoy some quality time together. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school, and they have settled back into routines brilliantly.

As we move into the summer term, we are beginning to prepare for the upcoming assessments, including SATs, the Phonics Screening Check and the Multiplication Tables Check. The children have been working extremely hard, and we are very proud of their efforts so far. We will continue to support them in school and ensure they feel confident, well-prepared and not overwhelmed during this busy time.

SATs

As we approach the **Year 6** SATs, which begin in the week commencing 11th May, I would like to take a moment to recognise the tremendous hard work the children have shown in preparing for these assessments. They have demonstrated great determination and resilience, and we are very proud of their efforts. Staff have been working closely with pupils to ensure they feel confident and well-prepared, including offering additional after-school sessions to support their learning. Alongside this, we remain committed to supporting pupil wellbeing, ensuring that children feel calm, reassured and ready to do their best during SATs week.

This term, **Year 2** children will take part in the optional Key Stage 1 SATs assessments during May. These are informal, classroom-based assessments in reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling, and are used to support teacher judgements rather than being externally marked tests. The assessments are carried out in a relaxed and familiar environment, often in small groups, to help children feel confident and at ease. There is no need for any special preparation at home; however, you can support your child by continuing

to read regularly together, practising basic maths skills such as number bonds and simple calculations, and encouraging a positive attitude towards learning. Ensuring your child is well-rested, attends school regularly, and feels reassured that these activities are just a chance to show what they know will help them do their best.

Multiplication Tables Check

Year 4 pupils will be taking part in the Multiplication Tables Check later this term. This is a short, online assessment designed to check children's recall of multiplication facts up to 12×12 , with 25 questions to answer and a limited time for each. The aim is to ensure children have a secure foundation in times tables, which supports many areas of maths learning. To help at home, we recommend regular short practice sessions rather than long periods of revision. Using quick-fire questions, chanting tables, playing times tables games, and practising little and often can all make a big difference. We also recommend using Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRockstars), which is a fun and engaging app that helps children build speed and confidence. Encouraging your child to stay calm and positive will help build their confidence.

PSC

Year 1 pupils will be taking part in the Phonics Screening Check later this term. This is a short assessment designed to check children's ability to decode words using their phonics knowledge, including both real and 'alien' words. The check is carried out in a calm, one-to-one setting with a familiar adult, helping children to feel at ease. In school, we continue to practise daily, building confidence and fluency in reading. To support at home, please encourage your child to spot the 'special friends' (digraphs and trigraphs) first before Fred talking the word, as this helps them to read more accurately. Regular reading, revisiting sounds, and keeping practice positive and relaxed will all help your child feel confident and ready.

Swimming

Owls have been enjoying their swimming lessons this term, developing confidence in the water as well as important skills such as floating, breathing and basic stroke techniques. The children have shown great enthusiasm and should be very proud of their progress so far. Please note that there will be no swimming lesson on Friday 1st May, and the final session will take place on Friday 8th May. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children come prepared with the correct kit.



Dispatches from Robins

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

We are learning all about minibeasts. Minibeasts are animals without a backbone. They are called invertebrates. In our outdoor area, we have found: slugs, centipedes, caterpillars, millipedes, ladybirds, bees, flies, ants, spiders, worms and woodlice.

AR - We're learning about minibeasts and we've got caterpillars.

CY - They're going to turn into butterflies.

EM - We've learnt about the life cycle. It starts with an egg, then a caterpillar hatches, the caterpillar eats and grows then turns into a chrysalis. A butterfly comes out of the chrysalis, it lays eggs and the cycle happens again and again!

RL - We've learnt woodlice have 14 legs.

NW - and bees have 5 eyes!

Tell us a funny, silly or cool thing that happened in school this half term.

BR - We found a stick caterpillar in our outdoor area and it did a dance.

MS - It was so funny dancing!

What are you looking forward to this half term?

RB - I can't wait to see the butterflies!



Dispatches from Woodpeckers

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

CC- I have enjoyed learning about the suffragettes. They wanted votes for women. They wanted people to listen to them and they even did some naughty things to get attention.

EM- I loved making our clay sculptures. My sculpture was a bunny rabbit.

RL- I have enjoyed reading our book Rosie Revere. She is an inventor and she builds lots of different inventions. We have done some writing about her.

JB- I have loved Science. We have been learning about animal habitats.

We have been busy already.

IR- We have been looking at balanced diets and naming food groups. We have done this in DT and PSHE. Also in geography we have been looking at maps. We had to find things on them, like places and landmarks.

CC- RE is really interesting. We have been enjoying recapping our knowledge of Muslims.

Tell us a funny, silly or cool thing that happened in school this half term.

LH- I told Miss Naylor a funny joke.

IW- Mrs Gaskell told us a funny joke too.

What is a pirate's favourite letter?

Everyone thinks it's rrrr but they prefer the c (SEA)!!!!

What are you looking forward to this half term?

We are looking forward to designing and making wraps in DT. We are also looking forward to

learning more about the suffragettes and famous women in history.
We are looking forward to doing more reading plus in our reading sessions.



Dispatches from Owls

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

OW - I enjoy writing about Weslandia because I love writing down all my ideas.

MW - Swimming!

Owls - We have enjoyed learning to tell the time in maths. We have done analog and digital clocks we are now learning about seconds and minutes.

MW - Learning about the tudors in History.

AA - We have been reading The Last Firefox in reading.

BC - In writing we have been learning about Weslandia and have been finding facts so we can write our own brochure.

Tell us a funny, silly or cool thing that happened in school this half term.

JD - When Miss Reed did team stop and I wanted to get a multiplication square and I said 'biscuits' because I couldn't get one in time.

LG - When I disguised myself as different objects at playtime during our game of tig because I didn't want to get caught.

What are you looking forward to this half term?

OW - To find out who will get a gold certificate!

BW - More swimming!

AF - New equipment on the playground!

JD - Reading Plus!



Dispatches from Kingfishers

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

(KB) I have enjoyed learning in art because we have learnt about circumference, radius and diameter can be used in art. (LG) I have enjoyed learning about the Grimm tales as I am quite a "grim" person - I enjoy scary, dangerous and dark things and those fairytales are scarier and darker. (AG) I have enjoyed the afternoon Wednesday writing sessions as you focus on one piece of writing allowing you to add in loads of description. You can use your imagination to come up with whatever you want to and you can create stories and it feels like you're in that world. (HG) We've been learning about

angles - reflex, right angle, acute and obtuse. (GT) I am enjoying PE because of the activities we are doing. I like that we have to work together as a team in outdoor adventure activities. (LG) I love learning about electricity as it is a really important part of our modern world. There is solar and other man made electricity. (JT) I have enjoyed doing SATS preparation.

Tell us a funny, silly or cool thing that happened in school this half term.

(KB) This happened today - we were outside doing gymnastics and a 4-year-old kid came along and she was doing needles, handstands and other things. I was amazed! (GT) When I was at lunch today, as it was my birthday, (AG) decided to embarrass me and sing happy birthday very loudly.

What are you looking forward to this half term?

(JL) SATS - because if we do it now we may get treats at the end. (HG) I am looking forward to creating sculptures in art. (JS) I am looking forward to possibly going on a trip out somewhere. (KB) SATS! (TN) I am excited for the Year 6 surprise after SATS.

Looking ahead: key messages and reminders

Showing Respect and Kindness

As the weather becomes warmer, we know many children will be spending more time playing outside in the local area. This is a lovely opportunity for them to be active and enjoy time with friends. We kindly ask that parents and carers remind children of the importance of being polite, kind and respectful to others in the community, including neighbours and members of the public. It is also important that children understand how to keep themselves safe, making sensible choices and being aware of their surroundings while out and about. Thank you for your support in helping our pupils represent the school positively.

Warmer Weather

As the weather becomes warmer, we kindly ask that children come to school dressed appropriately for the conditions. Lightweight clothing and suitable footwear will help them stay comfortable throughout the day. We also encourage all children to bring a water bottle to school each day so they can stay well hydrated, particularly during playtimes. Please also ensure that sun cream is applied before school on sunny days, comes to school in a named bag and where necessary, children should be taught how to reapply it themselves during the day if needed. Thank you for your support in helping us keep the children happy, healthy and ready to learn.

Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated each year on 22nd April and is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about protecting our planet and promoting environmental care. It encourages everyone to think about how small changes can make a big difference to the world around us. Pupils can get involved at home in a variety of simple ways, such as recycling household waste, turning off lights when leaving a room, saving water, or helping to reduce plastic use by using reusable bottles and containers. They could also take part in nature activities like planting flowers or trees, going on a

local nature walk, or helping to keep their local area clean. These small actions help children understand the importance of caring for the environment.

Bikes and Scooters





We have noticed that more children are using bikes and scooters to travel to and from school, which is a positive and healthy way to stay active. However, we would like to take this opportunity to remind families of the importance of safety. Please ensure that children wear a correctly fitted helmet when riding a bike or scooter, and that they are aware of road safety rules, including using crossings where available, staying alert, and being considerate of other road users and pedestrians. Encouraging safe habits will help children to enjoy their journey to school responsibly and confidently.

Coffee and Cake with Mrs Naylor

You are warmly invited to a Coffee and Cake afternoon with Mrs Naylor on Wednesday 29th April at 2:30pm, held in the school hall. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet informally, enjoy a drink and a sweet treat, and have a friendly chat. We hope you can join us for this relaxed and welcoming event.

Class Attendance

13.4.26-24.4.26

			
Robins	Woodpeckers	Owls	Kingfishers
96%	96%	94%	88%

We are aiming for 96% for good attendance.

Dates for your diary

Please see all important dates below. Dates are correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

Spring Term

Date	Focus	Time and place
Tuesday 28th April	Mayor of York School Tour	In classes
Wednesday 29th April	Coffee and cake with Mrs Naylor	School Hall 2.30-3
Friday 1st May	NO SWIMMING	Owls
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday	School Closed
Month of May	KS1 SATs	School
Thursday 7th May	Woodpeckers' Trip to the Yorkshire Arboretum	More info to follow
Friday 8th May	Last swimming lesson	Owls
w/c 11th May	Y6 SATs	School
Thursday 14th May	Kingfishers SATs reward (Year 5 and Year 6)	Footgolf 1-3
Friday 15th May	Year 6 SATs reward (Year 6 only)	Rainbow Ceramics and Pizza Express
Wednesday 20th May	Brownlee Triathlon Owls	York Sports Village 12.45-3.45
Friday 22nd May	Non-uniform day - collecting for Child Brain Injury Trust	School
May Half Term 25th May - 29th May		
1st June - 12th June	Y4 Multiplication Check	School
Wed 3rd June	Owls Trip to Merchant Adventurers' Hall	AM More info to follow
Wed 3rd June - Fri 5th June	Residential Trip	Kingfishers

w/c 8th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check (including Y2 retakes)	School
Tuesday 16th June	Reception New Starters Parent Meeting	Robins 4-4.30
Wednesday 17th June	Coffee and cake with Mrs Naylor	School Hall 2.30-3
Thursday 18th June	Father's Day Afternoon Tea	School Hall - EY/KS1 2-3
Thursday 18th June	Outwood Y6 Transition	All Day
Friday 19th June	Outwood Y6 Transition	All Day
Monday 22nd June	Reception New Starters Stay and Play	Robins 3.45-4.30
Friday 26th June	Sports Day	KS2 AM EY/KS1 PM
Tuesday 30th June	Big Talk Sessions	School - workshop with each year group during the day
Wednesday 1st July	Vale of York Y6 Transition	All Day
Thursday 2nd July	Vale of York Y6 Transition	All Day
Thursday 2nd July	Transition morning with new class, including new Reception	Visit new classrooms 9.15 - 12
Monday 6th July	Non-uniform day - donations for Summer Fair	School
Thursday 9th July	Summer Fair	3.30-4.30
Friday 10th July	Crucial Crew	Morning, Year 6
Friday 10th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly (Y6 Parents invited)	School Hall 2.30
Friday 10th July	School Reports sent home	End of the day
Wednesday 15th July	Leavers' Breakfast at Hickory's Year 6	Hickory's 9.30-11.30

Friday 17th July	Last day of school - non-uniform day	School
Summer Holidays 20th July		