Skelton
PRIMARY SCHOOL

BELONG - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE

The Skelton Starling

Newsletter - Friday 13th November 2026

A Message from Mrs Naylor

As we begin a new term following the half-term break, I hope that all our families have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable time together. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and see them settling back into their routines, ready for another busy and exciting term of learning. As we move through the weeks ahead, I would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of children attending school regularly and arriving on time each morning, ready to start the day positively and make the most of every learning opportunity. We also recognise that this is a time of year when seasonal illnesses are common. If your child is unwell, please allow them time to rest and recover before returning to school, and keep the school informed of any absences. However, where children are well enough to attend, it is important that they are in school every day, as even short periods of absence can mean missing valuable learning. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us ensure that every child has the best possible start to each school day. I look forward to a happy, productive and successful term ahead.

PCSO Workshop with Kingfishers

We were delighted to welcome our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) into Kingfishers this term. The children took part in an engaging and informative workshop focusing on antisocial behaviour, what it means and the impact it can have on individuals and the wider community. The session provided a valuable opportunity for the children to discuss different scenarios, consider the consequences of their actions and think about how we can all play a part in keeping our community safe, respectful and welcoming. It was a great opportunity to reinforce the importance of making positive choices, showing respect for others and understanding our responsibilities as members of the community. We would like to thank our PCSO for taking the time to visit and share such an important message with the children.

Bonfire Night

This term, the children have been learning about Bonfire Night, exploring the history behind the celebrations and discovering the story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. We made

links to our local area by looking at the connections between Guy Fawkes and York, where he was born and grew up. The children enjoyed finding out more about this significant event in British history and discussing how Bonfire Night is remembered today. Alongside learning about the history, we also focused on the importance of firework and bonfire safety, thinking carefully about how to keep ourselves and others safe during celebrations. It was a great opportunity to bring history to life while reinforcing important messages about making sensible and safe choices.

Remembrance Day

We marked Remembrance Day in school with a special assembly, giving the children an opportunity to reflect on the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts, both past and present. We talked about why we wear poppies and the significance of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. The whole school came together to observe the two minutes' silence, showing great respect and thoughtfulness during this important moment. We would also like to say a huge thank you to all our families and members of the school community who made donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated and help to support serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Foodbank

A huge thank you to all our families for their incredibly generous donations to our local foodbank. The response from our school community has been wonderful, and we are so grateful for your kindness and willingness to support local families who may be experiencing difficult times. The foodbank was extremely grateful for the donations and has asked us to pass on their heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed. It is lovely to see our school community coming together to make a positive difference to others, and the children should feel very proud of the part they have played in supporting such a worthwhile cause. Thank you once again for your continued generosity and support.

If you feel you may need support from the foodbank, Miss Chaplin is able to issue vouchers. Please be reassured that your request would be handled sensitively and in confidence.



Dispatches from Robins

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

SC - We learnt about Diwali. Diwali is the festival of light.
DG - They clean up their houses.
EH - and they watch fireworks!
DG - and they light candles in lamps.
HG - We made diya lamps out of clay and we're going to paint them!
We have started our new topic, Sparkle and Shine.
We know:
CH - We live on planet Earth!
AB - The Sun is a star that gives us heat and light.

BF - A constellation is a pattern of stars. I made one in the workshop!

We have started learning songs for our Wriggly Nativity! The songs are so catchy that we find ourselves singing them whilst we play!

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

VW - The dances in our Nativity are funny.

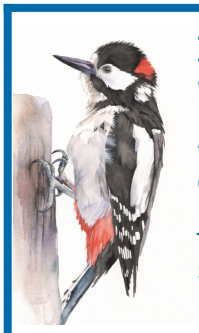
AB - I do a funny donkey dance!

What are you looking forward to this half term?

CB - I'm excited for the police officer who is coming to see us!

MS - and I'm excited for the Christmas show!

VW - I've made my own Angel song which I might sing too!



Dispatches from Woodpeckers

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

AT- In PE, we have been doing Invasion Games. We have learnt about attackers and defenders.

JP- In History, we have been comparing the 1950s and today. We looked at photos of shops and houses.

IW- In DT, we have been making sliders. Some were easy and some were tricky.

CC- In Science, we have looked at different weathers and seasons. In our books we drew the season we were born in.

EM- In PSHE we were looking at similarities and differences between us all. It is good to be different. If we all liked the same things it would be boring.

CC- We have read the story 'I want my hat back'. We all thought the Bear had eaten Rabbit but luckily he didn't.

RL- In Maths, we have been looking at doubles and near doubles.

JP- In Art, we were wrapping ribbons around a stick to make different patterns.

DP- We have started to rehearse our Christmas. I am so excited for it.

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

BM- We have been looking after worms but some of the teachers thought they were yucky.

IW- In Maths, Mrs Teasdale told us that doubles would be our new best friends. We all laughed.

DP- It was lovely to see Miss Fry when she popped in with her baby.

What are you looking forward to this half term?

Whole class- We are all looking forward to our Christmas play. We are all looking forward to our walk around the Skelton as part of Geography.



Dispatches from Owls

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

BW - The Barnabus Project because it's about animals that have been created by scientists!

OW - Rocks and fossils in science because I like looking at the different patterns and how they were formed.

JG - French, we have been learning colours and numbers.

IR - This half term in French we have been drawing and labelling fireworks.

AP - We have been reading The BFG!

BW - We have been practising subtraction and addition in maths and using rounding to estimate numbers.

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

OW - LP and I have found giant feet around the playground...

JG and IR - We made a den out of sticks at playtime.

AP - We chose characters and gave them actions on scratch.

What are you looking forward to this half term?

JG - Finding out what happens in The BFG.

LGA - The school Christmas Fair.

IR - The fun run.

AA - The Multiplication Check (in June).



Dispatches from Kingfishers

What have you enjoyed learning about this term?

(LG) Even though we haven't got far into our learning yet, I am enjoying learning music as I like using intonation and fluency. It's really fun to express yourself using your body and voice and soon, I'll go to Young Voices. I can't wait. (PN) I am enjoying learning about maths as it is helping me to improve. I like learning about fractions as they can be tricky but to me they are quite easy. A fraction has a denominator, which is how many pieces you need to make a whole and the numerator is how many pieces you have. (BC) I am enjoying learning about The Tempest because my mum took me to see it in the theatre when I was about 4 or 5.

(HG) In science we are learning about forces including push, pull and twist. It's very fun as we have been allowed to draw examples of each force. (JS) In PE, we are learning about fitness and I really like this because we get to run around, have a bit of a laugh and it's helping us to get fitter. (SW) In DT (or art) we were sketching a design for a piece of architecture that we shall construct out of cardboard.

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

(SB) In the nest, at break time, it was me and my friends and one of my friends drew a picture of

someone on a whiteboard but it was accidentally a permanent marker and it wouldn't come off. (HG) IN PE, we were playing a warm up game (North, South, East and West). We were at West and we were told to go West again and accidentally my classmate went the wrong way - he looked so surprised.

What are you looking forward to this half term?

(MW) I am looking forward to creating our own musical theatre performance. (BC) I can't wait to learn more about the Yorkshire Dales (JS) Next school trip (SW) More of the Tempest writing!

Looking ahead: key messages and reminders

Children in Need

We are looking forward to supporting BBC Children in Need this year and raising money for such a worthwhile cause. On Friday 20th November, we will be holding a non-uniform day and inviting children to make a donation to support children and young people across the UK who need a little extra help. To add to the fun, the children will also be taking part in a sponsored-style fun run on the school playground at 11am, giving everyone the opportunity to get active, have fun and help raise awareness and funds. We would be very grateful for any donations, no matter how big or small. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support in helping us make a difference to the lives of children and families in need.

Coffee and Cake

A little reminder that we will be holding our Coffee and Cake afternoon with Mrs Naylor on Wednesday 18th November at 2.30pm. We would love to welcome as many parents and carers as possible to join us for a relaxed and friendly get-together. It will be a lovely opportunity to enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, catch up with other families and spend a little time together as part of our school community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Owls Trip to the Dig

The children in Owls class are looking forward to an exciting visit to The DIG on Friday 27th November. This will be a fantastic opportunity to bring their learning to life through hands-on activities and interactive experiences, exploring the world of archaeology and discovering more about the past. The children will have the chance to investigate, ask questions and develop their understanding in a fun and engaging environment. We are sure they will have a wonderful day and return to school full of exciting things to share!

Christmas Decoration Workshop

Get ready to get festive! We are holding a Christmas Decoration Workshop in the school hall on Monday 30th November from 3.30pm–4.30pm. This will be a lovely opportunity for the children to get creative and make their very own Christmas bauble to take home and hang on their tree. The cost will be £2.50 per child, payable on ParentPay. We look forward to an afternoon of festive fun, creativity and Christmas cheer!

Christmas Fair

We are looking forward to our Christmas Fair, organised in partnership with the Friends of Skelton, on Thursday 3rd December from 3.30pm–4.30pm. Join us for a festive afternoon filled with Christmas fun, with a variety of stalls and craft activities to enjoy. There will also be a special Christmas performance from our KS2 children, who will be singing a festive song to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. And, of course, no Christmas Fair would be complete without a very special visit from Santa! We hope lots of families will be able to join us for what promises to be a lovely afternoon of festive fun and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nativity

Our Early Years and KS1 children are busy preparing for their Christmas Nativity performances, and we are looking forward to sharing their festive celebrations with you! Performances will take place on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December, both starting at 2.30pm. We are sure the children will be very excited to showcase their singing, acting and Christmas cheer. There is no need for tickets, and we simply invite families to make a donation on the door if they wish. We hope you can join us to celebrate the festive season and support the children in what is always a very special occasion!

Class Attendance

2.11.26-13.11.26

 Robins	 Woodpeckers	 Owls	 Kingfishers
95%	95%	97%	87%

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.		
Autumn Term		
2026		
Date	**Focus**	**Time and place**
Wednesday 18th November	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Naylor	School Hall 2.30-3
Friday 20th November	Children in Need Non-uniform	All Day
Wednesday 25th November	Woodpeckers Local Area Walk	Morning
Thursday 26th November	Sporting Event Selected Y3/4	Fulford School Afternoon
Friday 27th November	Owls Trip to The Dig	The Dig 9-3
Monday 30th November	Non-uniform day Donations for Christmas Fair	All Day
Monday 30th November	Christmas decoration workshop	School Hall, 3.30-4.30

Tuesday 1st December	Owls' Parent Meeting - Timestables	School Hall 2.45-3.10
Thursday 3rd December	Christmas Fair	School Hall 3.30-4.30
Tuesday 8th December	EY/KS1 Nativity	School Hall 2.30-3.15
Wednesday 9th December	EY/KS1 Nativity	School Hall 2.30-3.15
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day
Wednesday 16th December	Reindeer Rush! in aid of St Leonard's Hospice	More info and sponsorship forms to follow
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner	Lunch time
Thursday 17th December	Non-uniform day	All Day
Friday 18th December	Disaggregated Day	School closed
Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January		
2027		
Monday 4th January	Training Day - teachers only	School closed
Tuesday 5th January	Return to School	Classrooms 8.45
Wednesday 20th January	Story Craft Theatre Visit (kindly funded by the Friends of School)	Afternoon
Wednesday 20th January	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Naylor PCSO Attending for informal drop-in	School Hall 2.30-3
Tuesday 26th January	Owls Trip to The Yorkshire Museum	Yorkshire Museum 9-3
Friday 5th February	Non-uniform day	All Day
Half Term holiday Monday 8th February - Friday 12th February		

Monday 15th February	Back to school	Classrooms 8.45
Tuesday 16th February	Valentine's Disco	EY/KS1 3.15-4.00 KS2 4.15-5.00
Friday 26th February	Young Voices	Year 4/5/6
Wednesday 3rd March	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Naylor	School Hall 2.30-3
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day Non-uniform - Pyjamas	All Day
Tuesday 9th March	EY/KS1 Mother's Day Afternoon Tea	School Hall 2.30-3.00
Monday 15th March	Trip to the Farm	Robins All Day
Tuesday 16th March	Parents' Evening	School Hall 3.30-5.30
Thursday 18th March	Parents' Evening	School Hall 3.30-5.30
Friday 19th March	Red Nose Day Non-uniform	All Day
Easter Holiday Monday 22nd March - Friday 2nd April		
Monday 5th April	Back to school	Classrooms 8.45
Wednesday 21st April	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Naylor	School Hall 2.30-3
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Monday 10th May	Start of Y6 SATs week Mon-Thurs	In school Mornings
Thursday 13th May	Kingfishers Trip to Footgolf	Afternoon
Friday 14th May	Y6 Celebration Trip (TBC)	All day

Friday 28th May	Non-uniform day	All day
Half term Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June		
Monday 7th June	Back to school	Classrooms 8.45
Monday 7th June	Y4 Multiplication Timetables Check (over 2 weeks)	In school
Tuesday 8th June	Class photos	School Hall Morning
Monday 14th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check week	In school
Tuesday 15th June	Reception New Starter Parent meeting	School Hall 4.00-4.30
Thursday 17th June	EY/KS1 Father's Day Afternoon Tea	School Hall 2.30-3.00
Monday 21st June	Reception New Starter Stay and play	Robins Class 3.45-4.30
Wednesday 23rd June	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Naylor	School Hall 2.30-3
Friday 25th June	Sports Day	KS2 9.00-10.30 EY/KS1 1.30-3.00
Tuesday 29th June	Big Talk	All classes During the day
Thursday 1st July	Reception New Starter Whole school transition	All classes 9.15-12.00
Friday 9th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly (Y6 Parents invited)	School Hall 2.30
Friday 9th July	School Reports sent home	End of the day
Friday 23rd July	Last day of school - non-uniform day House Point Celebration	All day
Summer Holidays Monday 26th July - Friday 3rd September		

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HEARTWOOD LEARNING TRUST