



**Skelton**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**BELONG - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE**



## **Newsletter - Friday 14th November 2025**

### **A Message from Mrs Naylor**

We've had a fantastic start to the new half term! The children have returned refreshed, enthusiastic, and ready for learning. It's been wonderful to see their positive attitudes and eagerness to take on new challenges across all subjects. Our classrooms are already buzzing with creativity, curiosity, and collaboration, setting a brilliant tone for the weeks ahead. As we move further into the term, we're looking forward to building on this momentum with exciting learning opportunities, nativity practice, and upcoming festive events. Thank you for your continued support in helping make this such a positive and productive start!

### **Go Ape**

Last week, the Kingfishers had an unforgettable day out at Go Ape! The children showed amazing courage, teamwork, and determination as they tackled treetop crossings, zip lines, and rope bridges high above the forest floor. It was wonderful to see everyone encouraging one another, conquering fears, and celebrating their successes together.

The instructors were very impressed by the class's listening skills and positive attitude — they truly embodied our school values throughout the day. We're so proud of how they represented our school!





A huge thank-you to our staff who helped make the trip such a success. The Kingfishers came back full of smiles (and a little muddy!), already asking to go again!

### **House Teams and House Points**

We're excited to announce our brand-new House Teams! The School Council played an important role in helping to decide both the theme and how the system will work. After class discussions and a school-wide vote, pupils chose the inspiring theme of mythical creatures. The four house names are: Phoenix, Dragon, Unicorn, and Sphinx.

Pupils can now earn **house points** for positive behaviour linked to our school behaviour chart — **1**

**point for Green, 2 for Bronze, 3 for Silver, and 5 for Gold.** Each week, the running totals will be announced during our Celebration Assembly, and at the end of every half term, the winning house will enjoy a special reward!

			
Phoenix	Dragon	Unicorn	Sphinx

### Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parents' Evenings this week. It was wonderful to see so many families taking the time to meet with teachers and celebrate the children's progress so far this term. We really value these opportunities to share achievements, discuss next steps, and work together to support every child's learning journey.

For any parents who were unable to attend, teachers will be making additional phone calls over the next week to ensure everyone has the chance to catch up and stay informed.

### Foodbank

A huge thank you to all our families for the generous contributions to the York Foodbank collection. The response has been incredible, with donations of tins, packets, and household essentials pouring in to support local families in need. Your support and community spirit truly reflect our school values of kindness and respect. The Foodbank team was extremely grateful for our support, and it's wonderful to see our school community making such a positive difference to others.

### Remembrance Day

This week, our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day. Pupils and staff took part in a minute silence to reflect and honour all those who have served and sacrificed in wars and conflicts. We were very proud of how respectfully the children observed this moment of remembrance. Thank you also to everyone who supported the **Royal British Legion** through donations for poppies — your generosity helps to provide vital care and support for veterans and their families.

### Children in Need

On Friday, our school was filled with colour and smiles as pupils took part in a Children in Need non-uniform day. Everyone enjoyed the chance to dress down (and sport a few Pudsey accessories!)

while raising money for a fantastic cause. We're so grateful for all the kind donations made by families, every contribution helps to support children and young people across the UK. A big thank you to everyone for showing such enthusiasm and generosity!



### **Dispatches from Robins**

#### **What have you enjoyed learning about this term?**

VP - We've been learning about constellations. I made a cat with special pens and black paper.

EM - I made a rocket. I used plastic and a cardboard box and paper. 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Blast off! Its flying to Saturn. Saturn has 7 rings.

RB - We learnt about the sun.

RL - The sun gives us heat and light.

NW - I've been learning phonics at home and at school. c-o-t- cot!

BM - In maths we've been learning about 4 and 5. 3 and 1 makes 4.

BR - and 4 and 1 makes 5

RL - and 3 and 2 makes 5!

RW - We made poppies in the dough area

ML - and we made poppies with paint

NW - I bought a poppy band

ER - that's to remember people

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

VP - We've got new, cool toys outside. We've got a climbing frame and a painting and colouring house.

#### **What are you looking forward to this half term?**

RB - the Christmas show!

CY - me too, I sing the songs in my bed!



### **Dispatches from Woodpeckers**

#### **What have you enjoyed learning about this term?**

We are enjoying our DT lessons this term: IR said " We enjoyed learning how to make Ferris wheels".

We have been planning how to make Ferris wheels and decorating it as a class. We have also been learning about how to make our planet safe in Science.

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

Anticipating Nativity play performance - getting ready with costumes and rehearsals for Christmas time. CC said " it was fun to learn acting out songs with the adults in the hall"

#### **What are you looking forward to this half term?**

Nativity performance



### **Dispatches from Owls**

#### **What have you enjoyed learning about this term?**

LB - When we made firework pictures in art.

NF - we have just started learning about states of matter in science, solid, gas and liquid.

BW - I have enjoyed English because we have been using our imagination.

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

CW - When the fake fire was on the board, Charlie shouted 'Ahhh yeah, that's the stuff!'

MW - Mrs Windsor's card had 'it's coffee time' on the front because she drinks so much coffee!

#### **What are you looking forward to this half term?**

WS - We have started to collect a lot of cardboard in the back of the classroom, I am excited to see what it is going to be used for!

OW - I am looking forward to cooking at the end of term.

RL - CHRISSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSTMASSSSSSSSSSSSSS!



### **Dispatches from Kingfishers**

#### **What have you enjoyed learning about this term?**

Easily one of my favourite subjects is biology, you can tell when people study and learn they put animals into different groups. For example, Carl Linnaeus sorted plants, microorganisms and other animals into groups in a process called classification (LG). I love to learn about fractions as we added algebra and BIDMAS into our afternoon maths sessions (KB). I am enjoying DT because we are making playgrounds and it's fun creating your own playground and making things like slides, swings and whatever we want (AW). We have been reading a book called Windrush Child. The boy called

Leonard's father was beaten up by the Teddy Boys and his mother has left his father. The book is helping us to understand and explore the effect of racism (PN). We went to Go Ape and it was really fun because we basically got to live like an ape for a day (TN). I have been enjoying learning about Sparta and Athens because we didn't know that in Sparta at the age of 7 you went to the Agoge to learn how to survive by yourself, how to hunt and learnt to become warriors.

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

At Go Ape, I was on a platform with swings and I stepped on it and I went flying forward and I ended up doing the splits in mid air! (LL). It was funny when Ben (the Go Ape worker) went down the wire and dabbed as he went (OL). We did the laser experiment - we shone red lasers through prisms and we discovered that the red light refracted through them (refraction is the action of making light bend) (JT).

**What are you looking forward to this half term?**

Our next DT project, I am really excited as it is fabrics and I can't wait to make something (GT). I am curious to see if Leonard's dad has actually been unfaithful in our story as I want to know if he is truthful or if he is a liar (PN). I'm excited for two things - we are going to get DNA out of fruit and I am also excited to do some sculpting (IG). I'm looking forward to art and DT and using different materials to make things (MF).

## Looking ahead: key messages and reminders

### Road safety reminder

As the days get darker, we've been reminding pupils about the importance of road safety — especially when crossing the road on their way to and from school. Children have been practising how to stop, look, and listen carefully before crossing, and we encourage all families to reinforce these vital habits at home. Please remind your child to use zebra crossings or traffic lights wherever possible and to stay alert near roads.

For more tips and guidance on helping children stay safe, visit the Think! Road Safety website: [www.think.gov.uk](http://www.think.gov.uk).

### Wrapping up warm

As the weather turns colder, we'd like to remind families to make sure children come to school with a **warm coat**, and, if needed, **hats, gloves, and scarves**. We go outside for playtimes and outdoor learning whenever possible, so it's important that pupils are dressed appropriately to stay warm and comfortable throughout the day. Please ensure all items are **clearly named** so they can be returned easily if misplaced. Thank you for helping everyone stay cosy and ready for learning!

### Woodpecker's Phonics Parent Workshop

We're looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our upcoming **Woodpecker Parent Phonics Morning**! This special session will give families the chance to see how phonics is taught in class and to join in with some fun, hands-on activities alongside the children. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how we support early reading and to pick up ideas for practising sounds and blending at home. We can't wait to see you there and share the fantastic phonics learning happening in Woodpecker Class!

### Christmas coming

We're excited to share all the festive fun planned for the lead-up to Christmas! Pupils will be taking part in a range of special events, including our **Christmas Fair**, the much-anticipated **Nativity performance**, **Christmas Dinner**, and **Christmas Jumper Day**. These activities are a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to come together, celebrate the season, and make happy memories. We can't wait to see the children enjoying the festive spirit and joining in all the fun!

### Celebrating Achievements

Earlier this year, a pupil in Owls spent nearly 9 weeks in hospital in Leeds, following an accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury. Since coming home, she has been fundraising. Thanks to people's generosity, we're pleased to announce that the sum raised is £2950! £2500 was donated to the neurorehabilitation ward in Leeds to enhance their resources, and £450 to The Millie Wright

Children's Charity, who support families across the whole hospital. The donations will help more children receive life changing help while in hospital. The fundraising has now closed, but if you are interested in donating to the hospital, please see the Leeds Hospitals Charity, who has a Christmas Wishlist to provide toys approved by the Play Therapy team for children who will be in hospital over the Christmas period.

### Used Stamp Appeal for the RNIB





We are once again collecting used postage stamps in support of the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). Your donated stamps help raise valuable funds for the charity, so even the smallest contribution can make a real difference.

If you'd like to take part, please cut or tear the stamps from their envelopes, leaving a small margin of paper all the way around the edge. This helps the RNIB process them more easily.

Please hand them in to class teachers or the office. Thank you in advance for your support!

### Class Attendance

3.11.25-14.11.25

			
Robins	Woodpeckers	Owls	Kingfishers
98%	94%	90%	95%

We are aiming for 96% for good attendance.

### Dates for your diary

Please see all important dates below. Further dates are in the process of being confirmed. We will inform parents via the newsletter when further dates are added.

<b>Autumn Term</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Time and place</b>

<b>Wednesday 19th November</b>	Woodpeckers' Phonics Parents' Session	9am - Woodpeckers
<b>Monday 1st December</b>	Non-Uniform Day - donations for Christmas Fair (information to follow)	School
<b>Monday 1st December</b>	Make a christmas tree decoration (information to follow)	School 3.30pm-4.15pm
<b>Thursday 4th December</b>	Christmas Fair	School Hall 3.30pm-4.30pm
<b>Wednesday 10th December</b>	EY/KS1 Nativity Performance	School Hall 2.30pm
<b>Thursday 11th December</b>	EY/KS1 Nativity Performance	School Hall 2.30pm
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	Christmas Jumper Day (donations) & Christmas dinner	School
<b>Friday 19th December</b>	School Closed - Training Day Start of Christmas break	

<b>Christmas Holiday Monday 22nd December - Monday 5th January (training day) Pupils start back on Tuesday 6th January</b>
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