



Small School Big Ideas

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A Nut Free School

27th September

Dear Parents,

A rallying call! I have now been with you for four weeks and I have already fallen in love with the school. I want to commend all the staff to you, who are working so hard to ensure your children are enjoying school, receiving high quality teaching and a stimulating curriculum. It is also important for me to acknowledge the role of the office staff who fulfil such a key role in communicating with you and ensuring that the school systems run smoothly.

I can assure you that you could not have a more dedicated, professional and skilled team willing the school to succeed after a good deal of upheaval and change over the last eighteen months. They are managing superbly. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for all they give and also for their kindness, patience and support of me as I find my feet.

Your children are wonderful. They are showing care and attention for each other and are understanding and appreciative of the new and developing school systems that have been put in place. I have enjoyed every interaction I have had with them and loved the challenge of remembering new names and getting to know their characters and personalities. This is a privilege for a new headteacher. Their desire to learn and improve has been most notably seen by me at my Thursday 8am extra maths session which all the Year 6 children attend! They also appear to enjoy it!

My next paragraph is a plea for your continued support and understanding. I have appreciated getting to know you during September and it is also always a privilege to take on the role of headteacher in a school community where a school is valued and treasured. This is clearly the case in Naburn. I see this very much as a team effort – a school cannot thrive and flourish without community support. With this in mind, I have really been heartened by the help from parents at rugby club, the number of parents who want to help out on educational visits and the number of people in the village who have responded to our plea to hear children read. All these things help the school succeed and enable it to get back on track post pandemic. There is much still to do, but together we will do it! Come on Naburn!

Ethos and vision

I have written in previous newsletters, that we are updating the school ethos and vision. Staff have met and together we have chosen a parable from the Bible for the school. This is the parable of the sower. As a staff we felt that the hope invested by the farmer as he sows seeds represented the hope invested by our school community into our children. The perseverance that he must show to create the right environment for the seeds, and the time invested in their future reflects the work put in by our whole school community to creating the right environment for our pupils to flourish, 'it's not about the seed, it is the soil in which it is sown' struck a chord with all the staff.

Compassion Trust Perseverance

We have also altered our three Christian Core values to 'Perseverance, Hope and Community'. Over the next couple of weeks you will see the header and footer of school letters alter to reflect the changes. We will add a new vision statement that we have been working on, along with a child friendly version that children can remember, retain, recite and apply to their life in school and at home.

The plan is that we introduce this to the children in theme week that will start on Monday 11th October. This will be the launch week and an opportunity for the children to learn, contribute, take part in and add to the work we have started. We are planning a week's worth of activities and will use this as a base for our Harvest Festival service at the Church on Thursday 21st October at 10.30am. All parents will be invited to this and more details will follow in the next fortnight.

Our weekly celebration worship will alter. Instead of the usual 'teacher awards' that are given out, teachers will hand out three awards - one for perseverance, one for hope and one for community. We believe that this will help the children to understand the meaning of these values, and that you as parents will be more interested and invested in them if you know that these values are recognised and looked for in your children.

We are incredibly excited about the potential for this new work and where it will lead the school.

School Council and Worship Team

Over the next couple of weeks we will be holding School Council and Worship Team elections. I thank Miss Brett for agreeing to take on the role of teacher in charge of the School Council. The children might have come home over the weekend expressing their desire to be a member of this group and some might even be thinking and planning their election speech and campaign! Please do encourage them if this is the case. We very much look forward to the contributions that they will make to our school and the projects that they involve themselves in and what this will add to our community.

After this, children will also be invited to become part of the School Worship Team. This group will have responsibility for helping me plan Worship Themes for the term, lead aspects of Worship and also lead Worship in school. I have already had numerous children keenly volunteering for this role. So many that we will need elections for this role as well!

Shoe Box Appeal

You received a letter last week explaining about our [Shoebox appeal](#) to help to support the wonderful work of '[Children in Distress](#)' - a charity which supports needy and sick children in Romania. Please remind yourself of the following details.

- Please wrap shoe boxes with Christmas paper. **Please wrap the lids separately in case the box needs to be opened up by customs.**
- Please complete the Shoebox label which can be found in the leaflet (boy/girl/age/items included) and stick the label to the lid of the box. Items placed in the boxes could include toothbrush / toothpaste / bar of soap / sponge / hair brush / hair accessories for girls / small new soft toy / small toy for girls and boys / stationery items / pencils / crayons / sweets – NOT chocolate / hats / gloves / socks.
- If you are able, we also ask for a donation of £2 to support the charity with the shipping of the boxes, which please keep separate and put in the donation money boxes when you drop off your shoebox.

Taking responsibility for the care of others is an important part of embracing our Church School distinctiveness. We are hoping that each child at school will fill a shoebox full of little gifts for children who really deserve a gift this Christmas and who without a shoe box would get nothing.

We will be collecting completed boxes at school drop off on Thursday 14th October. If needed, we have extra leaflets available in the office. Thank you

Volunteers to hear children read in school

Please still get in touch with the school office if you can afford any amount of time to hear children read during the school day. This is particularly important for the children's learning after all the lost time last year due to the pandemic. You can play a big part in helping children to develop a love of reading and get them back on track with their learning. As you will know, it is essential for learning and is the key to children enjoying their school experience. Reading is our main drive and you can help play a part.

Walk to School Week 11th – 15th October 2021

York will be holding October's Walk to School Week which we are excited to be entering and the competition for the Jack Archer Award from 11th – 15th October. The winning school will be awarded the much coveted Trophy and £300 prize money to be spent on equipment to encourage active travel or sports. As in previous years cycling and scooting counts as well as walking, and even the school bus, so everyone can join in. We just ask that the car is left at home and not used at all for the journey to school, especially because we are entering the competition for the Jack Archer Trophy. The prize is awarded to the school that has the highest percentage of children leaving the car at home and walking, cycling or scooting to school over the week.

This will be the 18th year of the very popular Jack Archer Award and the event continues to get better each year. Jack was an Alderman of York who never owned a car, preferring to walk everywhere and lived to aged 92. He was also Chairman and President of Age UK York, who have regularly supported our annual Walk to School Week as part of their intergenerational work.

Children love walking, cycling and scooting to school, and it helps keep them fit and healthy. Reducing the number of cars on the journey to school helps make the roads safer and helps cut harmful air pollution around school, which children are more susceptible to. This is even more important now at a time when everyone is being encouraged to walk or cycle their journeys where they can.

To help encourage more walking and cycling to school please use the link provided to an [animation](#) which shows how inconsiderate driver behaviour around school affects children *from their point of view* and how school could be if everyone walked, cycled or parked further away from the school. More information about tackling the school run can be found on the [iTravel website](#).

The LA have added a further challenge for schools during Walk to School Week. [COP26](#) is the 2021 United Nations annual climate change conference, which will bring together world leaders to commit to urgent global climate action. Each of us has a part to play, and travelling actively and sustainably to school is a great way for everyday people to go about their lives in quietly revolutionary ways – helping cut carbon emissions and making the UK and the wider world a greener place!

It's 210 miles between Glasgow and York, and we want our school to challenge itself to 'walk' all of the way there over the week!

- Schools will take part as normal by recording all of our active/sustainable journeys, so there's no extra work for us or the pupils to do.
- Each journey we record will be classed as '1 mile' towards the 210 mile target. We might even want to challenge ourselves to walk to Glasgow and back!
- The LA want to see how many trips to Glasgow we can collectively complete, and will calculate how much CO₂ we've saved together!
- If there are enough schools taking part, with every class getting involved, we could even walk all the way around the globe!

KS1 Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all the parents who attended the KS1 'Meet the Teacher' session on Thursday. I know that those parents who came along found it very helpful in understanding class organisation and systems and how they can best support their child's learning at school. Thank you to Mrs Wood, Mrs Rotchell and Mrs Sloan-King for arranging, preparing and leading this session.

Parent/Headteacher Meetings

I am looking forward to meeting more of you this week at my first headteacher/parent meetings. These will take place today, beginning at 4.30pm. Parents who wished to attend should have already received appointment times for this particular date. If you would like to meet me individually in the future, please see the dates below.

Meeting Date	Time
Monday 8 th November	4.30pm to 6pm
Monday 22 nd November	4.30pm to 6pm
Monday 6 th December	4.30pm to 6pm

Picture News

Story: It is estimated that people in Britain are sending over 1.6 billion non-biodegradable face masks to landfill every single month. In Wales, one company is working to turn hospital waste into new masks with 65% recycled materials.

Question: Should disposable face masks be banned?

Virtual Assembly: Found on the Picture News website, just add /discuss

TT Rockstars

Quick reminder about the TT Rockstars battles. See details below. The times have been set to only allow the coins to be earned between the hours of 7am to 7pm.

Date	Year Groups Battling
27.9.21-4.10.21	Year 5, Year 3 and Year 2
4.10.21-11.10.21	Year 3 and Year 4
11.10.21-18.10.21	Year 5 and Year 6
18.10.21- 01.11.21	Whole School Battle- All Year Groups (Year 1 -6)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone practising their tables and challenging themselves to improve every week.

Thank you to Mrs Mann for organising these for the year groups and classes.

Jean Dale's 90th Birthday

Jean is celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday and everyone is invited to celebrate with her in the church. Call in anytime between 9.30 and 12.30pm for a hot drink and a biscuit. There will also be a tombola and other stalls.

I hope that you all have a good week and I look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes



Jonathan Green