

Small School Big Ideas

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A Nut Free School

2.2.24

Dear Parents,

'Just a Term' ... two and a half years later!

This will be my final newsletter before I leave Naburn CE Primary School so please allow me to reminisce, repeat myself, thank you and probably bore you for a couple of pages.

You may have noticed over the past two and a half years that my writing skills are limited, so please forgive me if I do not manage to get my message of thanks and appreciation over to you properly.

The initial time frame for my role at Naburn CE Primary School was **'just a term'**. That was based on the first conversation I had with the Local Authority in May 2021. Over the space of a week that had crept up to two terms. Nearly three years later I am just about to 'pack my bags' - but I want to tell you that it has been the best and most rewarding opportunity I have had the fortune to take on in my career - I would add that I have been very fortunate and blessed in every part of my career.

On 1st September 2021 I stepped onto a rollercoaster and the issue with those things is that you cannot get off the carts until the ride begins to slow down. I think you will agree that it has been a very exciting adventure from the early days pre Ofsted 2021, to the actual Ofsted inspection and the judgement of Inadequate in December 2021, to the fallout created by that inspection (staff leaving/possible school closure/meeting after meeting), to the stabilising period, to the numerous Ofsted monitoring visits (we became addicted to Ofsted!), to the involvement of Trusts, to the sponsorship of the school by TEAL, to the school being taken out of Special Measures (Whoopee!) in super quick time, to the school being able to recruit and appoint new members of staff! Quite something!

It has involved a good deal of firefighting work that has revolved around showing enough progress in time for the next Ofsted monitoring visit or inspection... and we have done it – **TOGETHER!** It has been the best example of **TEAMWORK** with the majority of the village seeing the value of keeping our lovely school. From **the Church**, to the **Village Hall Committee**, to **the Pub**, to **the shop**, to the **Knowles Foundation Trust**, to **senior members** of our community such as **Jean Dale** – there are more and I apologise if I have forgotten anyone - you have all helped.

Aspiration Respect Community

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The support has stretched further than the village boundary. We have been fortunate with the way the other schools in York have rallied round us. Particular appreciation goes to **Fishergate Primary School** who invested a good deal of time and effort to help us turn a corner. I would also like to make you aware of the extra funding that the **York Schools and Academies Board (YSAB)** granted us over five terms which helped us gain momentum and direction.

Thank you to **City of York Council** who have been with us every second of every day that I have been in school and to **The Education Alliance (TEAL)** who saw and understood our potential and have confidently taken us under their wing.

The publicity that the **York Press** has given us has given more power to our elbow and the added value of our local MP, **Julian Sturdy** along with **Councillor Christian Vassie** has helped to highlight the issues that small schools have and what they have to contend with. I hope that the Government listen and begin to act with greater support.

I spoke to **Governors** at my final Local Governing Body meeting last night about the incredible work they have done for the school and village community. They have been immense and I have the utmost admiration for every single one of them, because governance of a school in Special Measures is close to being a full time job. But not only that, they have been the greatest advocates of the school and the most gifted, supportive group that a school could wish for. I must give particular thanks to **Anne Clark** for her role as Chair. She took over at the most difficult of times and has led the board with dignity and great skill. The upshot is that I cannot imagine life without them!

The more I write, the more I realise how fortunate we have been. Our **Friends of Naburn School Committee (PTA)** with **Alexis Stephens** and **Rachel Atkinson** at the helm have taken their work to the **SUPER level** of commitment and dedication. The fundraising, functions and activities they arrange are second to none and on the world class scale. The most sensational committee.

Every single member of staff has played a part in keeping Naburn CE Primary School going whether they have left or stayed. I have come to trust that initial setbacks are good opportunities to develop and use to benefit the establishment. Thank you staff for your loyalty and understanding. You have all been brilliant!

As parents, you have lived with us and kept your faith in the school. You could have made other decisions about which school your children should attend, but you have been with us every step of the way and I am very grateful for the trust and support you continue to give us.

My final and most important recognition goes to the **brilliant pupils**. Children are so perceptive and they know what the school has had to endure. They have bought into Naburn CE Primary School and are totally invested. They have been loyal and have never wavered. Their level of enthusiasm and **'wonderfulness'** keeps every member of staff going. They are the reason that we have fought so hard and will continue to do so. **UNS!**

Now is the right time for me to step off the ride. There is still much work to do and **Mrs Durham** is the best person to do this. Her experience and skills are perfectly suited to what the school needs at this time. The children love her and I know that she has built up a great relationship with you all since her appointment in September. I send her my very best wishes as she takes up the role without me being able to interfere!

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I will always feel part of Naburn CE Primary School. When I lived in Bishopthorpe we used to go on regular walks up the cycle track stopping at the Blacksmith's Arms for a pint and then journeying on past the school. I remember saying to Jill that I would love to be head of such a beautiful looking school with such character and personality. My wish came true and I could not be happier.

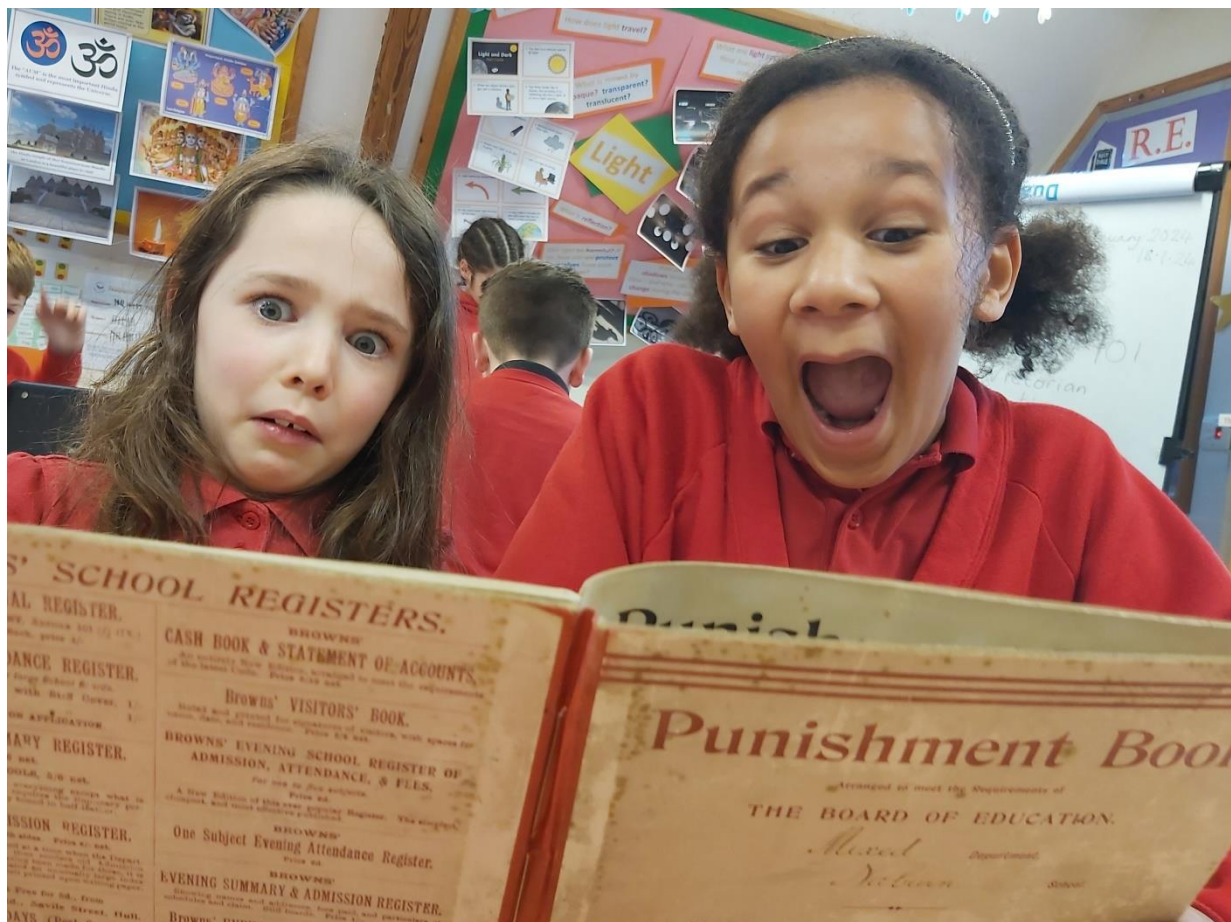
For me, I will keep my eye out for what is happening at the school and I might pop in over the next couple of months as part of my new role at TEAL. I don't know what lies beyond that, but I do want to keep on doing something in teaching. Thank you for putting up with me.

Half Term Activities

During half term there will be a special trail for children at York Minster linked to the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell's new book ***P is for Pilgrim*** – you can find out more [here](#). The trail is free for children accompanied by a paying adult, or if you are a resident of York you can enter the Minster for free.

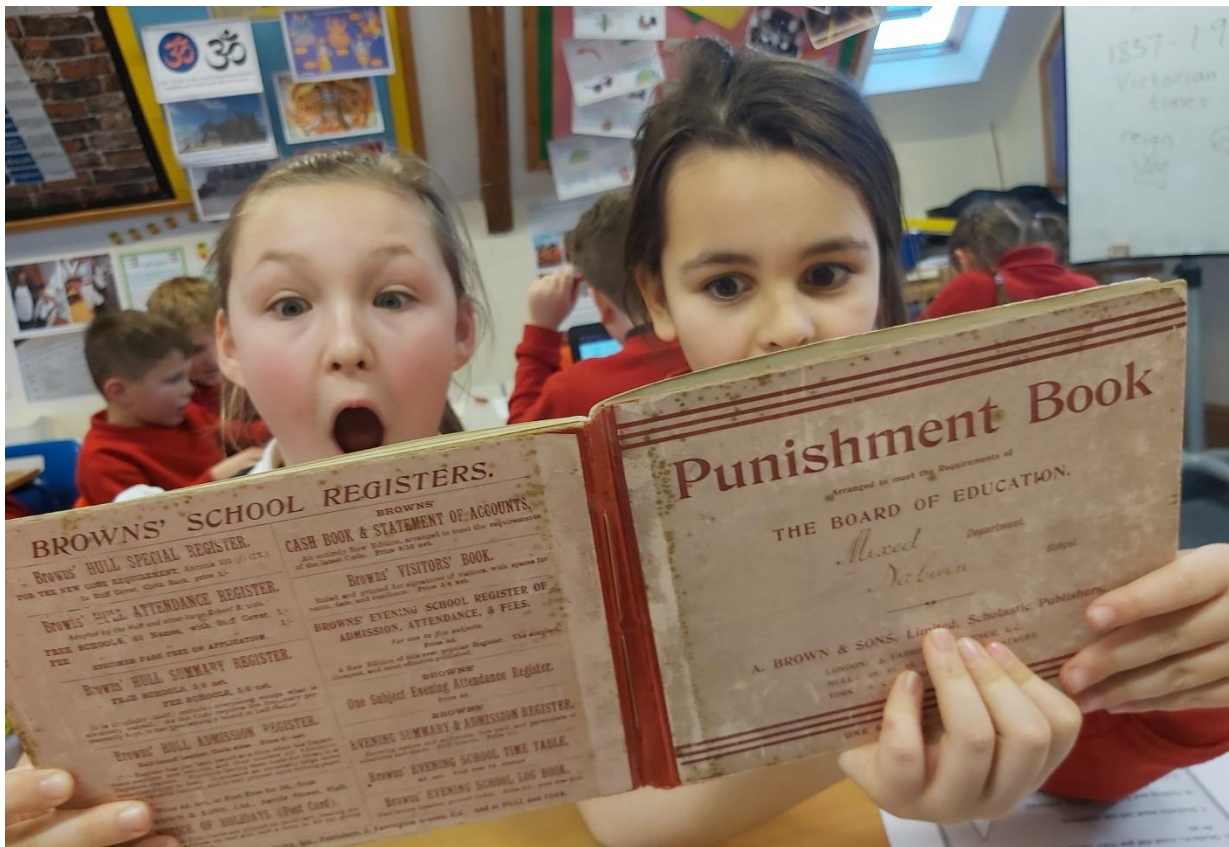
Ouch!

Shocked Sycamore children...horrified at the prospect of being beaten, in Naburn School 150 years ago, for 'offences' such as 'stupidity', 'daubing the gate in manure' or 'eating an orange'!



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Open the Book in School

Open the Book have led two wonderful Worship Times this half term in school. We have reached the New Testament and the stories they have told have been on the early life of Jesus. The first was 'Jesus meets the Priests in the Temple' and the second was 'Jesus is baptised by John'. Thank you OTB Team!



The Ark has arrived in school!

Isn't our Noah's Ark incredible! Thank you to Rebecca Fletcher for working so hard and creating such an impressive and brilliant display!



St Crux – Saturday 2nd March – PTA paragraphs

To everyone who has very kindly offered to make or buy supplies for St Crux, as well as help on the day, thank you so much! A slip will have come home with your child/children to confirm the items we would like you to bring and your time slot for if you've offered to help on the day. If there are any issues at all, please get in touch with the school office.

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The St Crux event takes place on Saturday 2nd March. As well as supplies and bakes for the café, we also need good quality, pre-loved items to sell. Do you have anything you no longer want, that's been clogging up your spare room? Any unwanted gifts from Christmas, or toys that your children have outgrown? Well this is your perfect opportunity for a spring clear out! Please keep your eyes out for things around the house you might want to donate and bring them to school drop of on Wednesday 28th or Thursday 29th February. Please note, we are unable to sell electrical items, videos, knives/sharps, clothing or books.

This is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year, so it would be amazing if as many people as possible could be involved.

We're also looking at re-vamping The Future Forest, to make it a fantastic space for learning, as well as a space the whole village community can share and enjoy. We'll be arranging a planning meeting soon but please get in touch if you have any ideas on what we can do in the meantime.

Online Safety

The link below will take you to the **TEAL website** and a section that will keep you as parents and families updated on online safety. Please take some time to have a look at it. It is really easy to navigate and shares with you good information, tips and advice.

<https://theeducationalliance.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

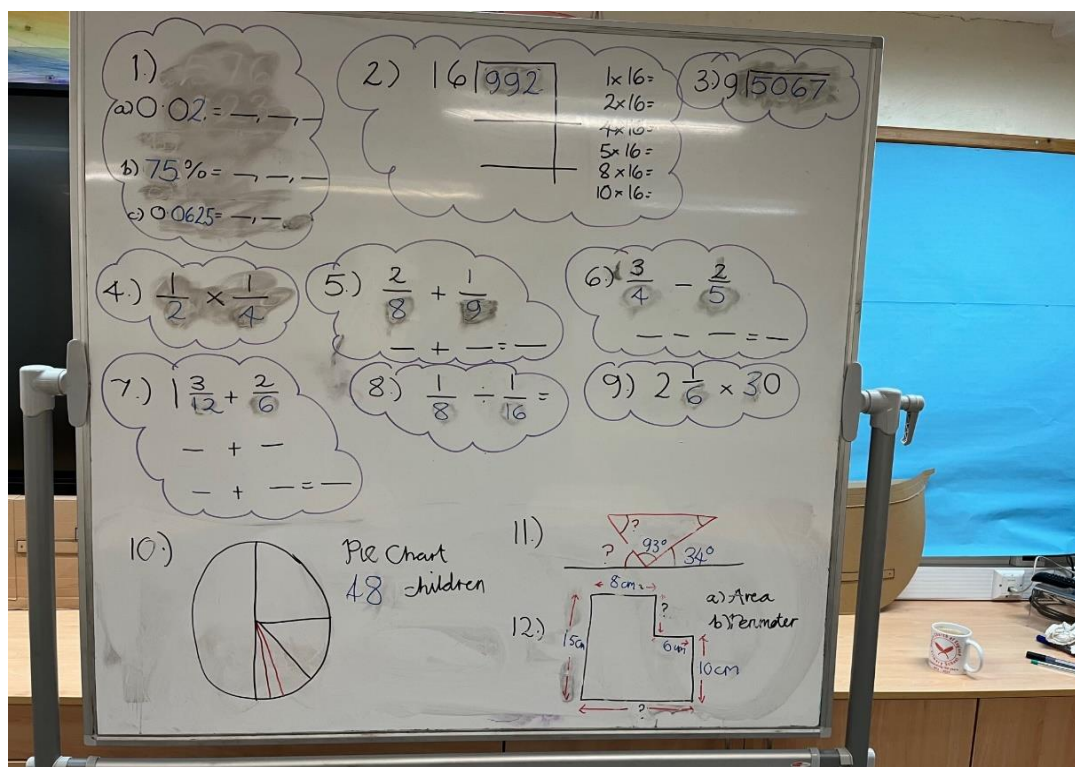
One in three 8-year-olds in Britain own a smartphone and that rises to more than 90% by the time children reach 12. This makes it all the more valuable for young people to know how to use such devices safely. Indeed, more than half of parents (52%) surveyed by Ofcom said they worried about their child being bullied via their mobile phone – and with hazards like scams, screen addiction and inappropriate content to consider, that's far from the only risk around. We have shared on the Naburn school website a guide that pulls together some simple but solid smartphone safety tips: <https://www.naburnschool.com/e-safety-parent-information/e-safety-quick-read-smartphones>

'Ave a Go!

Go on and have a go at the Maths Board! Sorry, I forgot one of the angles in question 11, but I am happy for you to make up a measurement for it.

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Picture News

Story: 45-year-old Mar Galcerán from Spain has become the country's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome.

Question: What makes someone inspirational?

Virtual Picture News: Found here: www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

Attendance figures Attendance figures

- This week's School Attendance W/C 29/01/24 = 81.10% - Unauthorised absence = 4.38%
- Last week's School attendance W/C 22/01/24 = 80.75% - Unauthorised absence = 2.50%
- Whole School Attendance School Year to date = 86.79% - Unauthorised absence = 2.98%

WE NEED EVERY CHILD IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY AND IF THEY ARE NOT IN OUR SCHOOL THEY SHOULD BE ATTENDING ANOTHER.

Thank you for everything. Hope you have a great weekend! **UNS!!!!!! And Up The Blades!**

Best wishes

Jonathan Green
Headteacher

PS – Tree planting at the Future Forest tomorrow morning (Vicarage Lane). Meet there at 10am. Refreshments available over the course of the morning at the Village Hall. Thank you

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Safeguarding

If you have significant concerns for the welfare of a child, in addition to being able to contact Mr Green, Mrs Burton or Mrs Noble during school hours, you may wish to make direct contact with the [York MASH \(Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub\)](#) on T: 01904 551900, option 3. They operate an out-of-hours service so concerns can be raised with them at any time.

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