



## WELCOME

This term it has been our great pleasure and privilege to welcome Bishopthorpe Infant School to SYMAT. Along with Archbishop of York's CE Junior School, Bishopthorpe Infant School has been successfully educating the children of Bishopthorpe for many years.

Both schools have always had a close working relationship. We look to build on this, providing a seamless primary experience for the children of the village. We were delighted to appoint Ms Kerry Davies as Executive Head Teacher. Kerry will take up post from September leading both schools. Kerry brings with her a wealth of leadership experience throughout the primary phase. She has a clear vision for the future of both schools within the MAT and is keen to get to know the pupils and parents in Bishopthorpe and work collaborate with all schools in the trust.

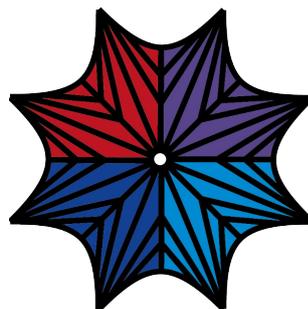
As our trust grows we will always ensure our core purpose and values remain central to our decision making.

We have made a pledge to you that our schools will always have:

- High expectations of all
- An engaging knowledge based curriculum
- High quality teaching
- Highly qualified and motivated staff who will always try their best
- A caring school environment that values diversity, equality and inclusivity

I hope you enjoying reading about just some of the things that have been happening in our schools during the Spring term.

Steve Lewis  
CEO



**SUPPORT**  
**INSPIRE**  
**ACHIEVE**  
**FLOURISH**

# Archbishop of York's CE Junior School

As we come to the end of another happy, very busy term of learning and fun at AYJS, we certainly have much to celebrate. We have continued to focus on the 5 ways to wellbeing: Be Active; Take notice; Give Connect; Learn something new.

**Be Active:** A super day was had by all, full of fun and fitness, raising money for Red Nose Day! Children and staff had a great time completing our 'Red obstacle run...for fitness and fun' on the field, joined by Norris the Knight from York City Knights.

**Take Notice:** On Thursday 3rd March we took a VERY active part in World Book Day recognising the huge importance and enjoyment of books. The costumes, masks and props worn and brought in by the children (and staff!) were AMAZING and certainly took us all into the characters of many popular books and stories. Children engaged in some great activities during the day: listening to staff sharing treasured books; engaging in shared and paired reading; guessing disguised readers; unravelling and delving into different stories and plots; taking part in quizzes; enjoying creative activities; recognising the value of stories and written words to help with positive mind-set and wellbeing; and visiting and enjoying time at our special library -The Burrow. It was a joy to walk around school and to feel the buzz of books and excitement.



**Give:** Children loved taking part in our 'It's cool to break a rule day' organised by the School Council to raise money for St Leonards Hospice. Lenny from St Leonards joined in too! Fortunately life at AYJS was not too chaotic! Families certainly gave generously.



**Connect:** I accompanied 8 members of JAM CLUB (AYJS 'Jesus and Me' club), and their families, to take part in the celebration service hosted by the Diocese to mark the end of the Diocese 'Children of Light' event. Pupil representatives from each Deanery were present taking part in this special service - presenting beautiful artwork, sharing readings, prayers, and choral singing. AYJS JAM club children led the singing of the song 'Children of Light' with Dave Godfrey - who works at AYJS as a maths consultant and worship leader. Our AYJS children were wonderful. I was so proud of them. They truly were beacons of light for Christ.

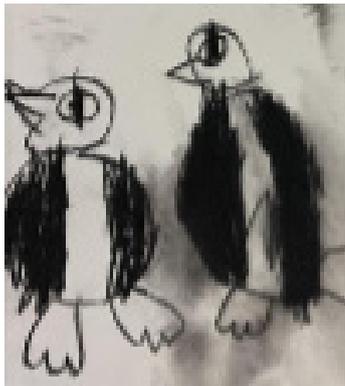
**Learn Something New:** We hosted a fabulous **STEM week** from 28th March to 1st April promoting STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths including computer science). We had a fantastic week challenging minds; nurturing problem solving skills; developing critical thinking - preparing the young people of AYJS for the 'world stage' as engineers, astronauts, medics, designers, computer analysts, pilots, surgeons, marine biologists, architects...

Monday was full of sensational 'Silly Science' demonstrating gravity, friction, aerodynamics, air pressure, lift, heat, energy, bubbles ... and LOTS of excitement! On Tuesday and Friday, parents and volunteers gave STEM career presentations raising aspirations and celebrating equal opportunities in careers: mechanical engineer, ENT surgeon, pilot, palliative care doctor, software developer for a science company, chartered architectural engineer, automotive/maritime/aerospace STEM projects researcher, research scientist in cell biology, electrical engineer, environmental scientist, chemical scientist, research psychologist and professor - WOW! On Wednesday, we were challenged to understand 'Optical Illusions'. Y5/6 also had great 'Fun with Foam'. Thursday was a day of 'Maths Magic!' and lots of problem solving. Throughout the week, all children worked collaboratively, using problem-solving skills, to design a 'marshmallow catapult'! There were a few very sticky situations requiring re-designs and critical thinking skills! We are definitely nurturing some great minds and engineers.

Never a dull moment at AYJS!

# Bishophthorpe Infant School

These cold months of the year have given a perfect opportunity to find out about seasonal change. On frosty and snowy mornings the pupils have explored the properties of snow and ice and enjoyed watching it melt between their fingertips. They've made paper snowflakes and thought about the descriptive language they could use. The picture shows pupils in EYFS investigating the frost on the ground.



Following our Polar Bears and Penguins theme children across school have enjoyed learning about the cold and icy climate of the Arctic and Antarctic. They have learnt about the animals who live in both of these regions and how they have adapted to survive these cold climates. In KS1 they did lots of research about penguins. Year 1 pupils created penguin pictures using charcoal and in Year 2 they wrote reports about penguins. All of our pupils found out about the Inuit people and their way of life in the Arctic and also learnt about the explorer Ernest Shackleton. The children enjoyed finding out about the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) and have created their own Northern Lights chalk pictures.

We are always extremely grateful for the fundraising work of Friends of Bishophthorpe Infant School (FBIS). They secured a Ward Grant which was to be used for an Eco Learning project. We have recently used the funds to purchase items to go towards creating our outdoor classroom. We are very much looking forward to being able to use this area with the children in Forest School and outdoor learning sessions. We have also used the funds for planters, bug hotels and gardening resources too.

This half term the children have been learning about Keeping Fit and Healthy. They have learnt about different food groups and looked at healthy and unhealthy food. To support their wellbeing the children have participated in fun and energetic Get Active! P.E. sessions focussing on ball skills and team building work. The children planted cress seeds and looked at different growing conditions. They have also planted other seeds and will watch



them grow and mature into plants. The writing opposite is from one of our EYFS pupils in school who has been observing his seeds, 'my seeds are growing'.



At Bishophthorpe Infants we are always proud of the children's achievements in Maths!

We particularly love practical hands on maths using apparatus to investigate and problem solve.

# Dunnington CE Primary School



Reception and KS1 children were visited by circus performer and close-up magician, Joel, from Blooming Circus in January 2022. The children loved the show he put on for them in the first part of the morning. They then took part in class workshops. They were taught how to spin plates, use the Diablo, balance feathers and many more exciting things. The children were enthused and smiling throughout - a great time was had by all!



## Internet Safety – 9th March 2022

On Wednesday, Year 5 and 6 were visited by Oliver Maskell who is a Police Community Support Officer. He talked to the children about staying safe online by discussing the following topics:

- How the internet is used
- Age restrictions for various social media apps and games
- Cyber bullying
- What is personal/not personal information
- Safe online communication with others
- Sharing images and videos

There was an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session which encouraged discussion and helped to answer any misconceptions. We hope to see Mr Maskell again soon!



## Biome in a Bag!

The children planted seeds in a rainforest biome and observed what happened. The water inside the bag recycled (evaporated) to produce water droplets – this is called condensation. The condensation then fell back down to the ground, like rain. This is the water cycle – evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

## A visit from Florence Nightingale

Year 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from 'Florence Nightingale' on 14th March 2022. They learnt lots about 'The Lady with the Lamp' and particularly enjoyed imagining life as injured soldiers, doctors and nurses in Scutari Hospital during the Crimean War!



# Escrick CE Primary School

At our school this spring term we have had a large focus on Science, using our school grounds and fabulous scientific skills to bring science alive.

British Science Week took place between March 11th -20th and the theme this year was 'Growth'. To mark the week, the Year 6 children organised a 'Gadget Shop' for the whole school! The children advertised the event and sold science related items to younger children. We managed to raise over £400 and all this money will be invested back into helping us purchase new science equipment!



We also held a competition asking children the question, 'Why do you love science?'. We had some fantastic responses, including: "Science helps me understand how things work and we have fun working on investigations!"

In classes, children all completed work and investigations relating to the theme of growth; we planted some seeds, learnt about how plants develop and wrote instructions on how to grow them. Children in KS2 explored food miles and investigated how scientists can determine the age of living creatures. Year 6 focused on the oldest living vertebrate: The Greenland Shark. We found out that scientists can determine their age

based on the length of their bodies! All the children enjoyed the week and shared their work in a special assembly, we also gave awards relating to key science skills that children used during their work.



We have also been delighted to welcome York City Knights in for an assembly linked to exercise and the human heart. We are looking forward to the York City Knights running some of our PE lessons too!

We have also been busy promoting the importance of children in our school as both readers and writers. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 wrote stories and poems to read with the younger children in school. Year 3 also put together a scrapbook of mystery stories to share with Fulford Secondary School students. The children had a great

time reading and talking together about all the things they love about reading and books. The stories were then put together in a scrapbook and given to classes as a gift to keep in their reading areas.

Finally, we had a very special assembly with St Leonard's Hospice who came to talk to the children about the work of the Hospice. The whole school then took part in a Sponsored Hop to raise money for this local charity. Lenny Bear was a huge hit and the whole school community had a great day.

The children have all worked hard and look forward to the summer term when we have sports fixtures arranged, a residential and lots of outdoor learning.

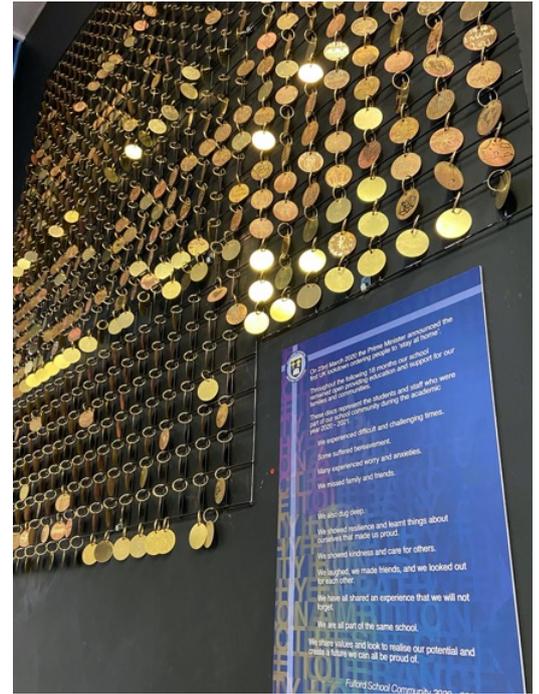


# Fulford School

We started the term with the unveiling of our installation marking our schools experience of the national lockdowns.

Each pupil and member of staff were asked to decorate a metal disc with an image or words that had meaning to their experience of lockdown. All 1800 discs have been displayed in our main hall. The experiences we had during the pandemic were shared by us all but are also very personal. Our hope is that the installation will remind us of the resilience, courage, support and friendship we all shared and experienced during difficult times.

One of the great joys of Fulford School is being able to share the talents of all our pupils. Often this happens in classrooms but just as important are the events which take place outside of normal lessons. This is certainly the case with Art, Music and Drama. Together these three subject have a great impact on what it means to be part of our school.



Any walk around the school cannot fail to leave you impressed by the Art works that are displayed on our walls. A new addition to this is the Head Teacher's Gallery. Each half term an artist from each year group is recognised and placed in the gallery. The work is of the highest quality and it is great to hear the admiring comments of both staff and pupils as they pass by.

Last half term our school hall became both Kansas and the Land of Oz as we were proud to present our version of 'The Wizard of Oz'. Pupils from across all year groups gave fantastic performances. We cannot perform a musical without the talent of our musicians. Our school musicians are great. They are always ready to share their skills with us. They not only play in the school show, they also perform in assemblies and are looking forward to further entertain us at the Spring concert on Thursday 7th March.

Over the term we have been able to continue the celebration of our pupils' achievements in assemblies. We have also had time to learn and reflect on local, national and international issues. We have shared the joy of reading, celebrated international women's day, remembered and commemorated the horrors and the lessons of the Holocaust, learnt about what keeps us safe and healthy and reflected on the reasons that lead people to become refugees. Within all our assemblies we challenge our young people to address sometimes challenging issues in line with our HEART Core Values of Honesty, Empathy, Ambition, Respect and Tolerance.



# Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School

What a busy term it has been! Whilst it has at times been challenging, with high COVID-19 rates at the start of the term, it has been filled with lots of highlights and we have loved returning to a more normal feeling at school. Whole school assemblies, school trips and extracurricular activities have felt like a real treat and the children have been as wonderful as they always are.



## School trips:

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a school trip to a Gurdwara and Bombay Stores in Bradford. Mrs Patrick, one of our governor's, and Mrs Botterill, a parent helper, both attended the trip and emailed me the next day to tell me how beautifully behaved the children were and what a credit to the school they are, which was so lovely to hear.

Key Stage 1 and Upper Key Stage 2 also enjoyed a visit to the mosque in York. I was lucky enough to attend and was incredibly impressed with the children's behaviour. We learned so much. The Imam really highlighted how important being charitable is to the Muslim community in York - something we have all been inspired by.

Year 2 have been asked to design a meadow for the Pavers Shoes Foundation on a local site called Pavers Wood. To help with their designs, the children were invited to Pavers Wood for a tour. They were bused out to the site and worked in groups with an adult from school to help plant the trees with The Conservation Volunteers charity. They planted 150 trees and were in unanimous agreement that planting trees is fun!



Reception class are going on their very first school trip to Askham Bryan Wildlife Park this week. They are very excited and we can't wait to hear all about it!

## Extra-curricular clubs:

We have really focussed on increasing the number of extra-curricular activities we have on offer. We have a dedicated group of junior journalists, who contribute to our weekly newsletter. In addition to the newspaper club, we also run football club, kickboxing club, drawing club, multi sports club, construction club, debate club, drama club, netball club, year 6 booster groups, worship group and choir. Thank you to all of the magnificent staff who have given up their time to run these clubs - the children are really enjoying them. Look at the lovely drawings produced at key stage one drawing club last week when they were experimenting with different types of pencils.

## Visioning workshop:

We had a fantastic turn out at our visioning workshop for staff and governors. We developed the 5 key words that are most important to the pupils - happy, resilient, kind, aspirational and healthy - and we considered what we do and what more we can do in relation to these words. We are now in the process of pulling the ideas we generated together to create our new vision statement which will coincide with our Christian values of hope, faith and love and the SYMAT pledges. After Easter, we look forward to sharing this with all stakeholders to make sure the statement represents everyone in our community.

