



December 2022



WELCOME

Welcome to our SYMAT newsletter. As we wrap up warm against the very cold December weather it seems a long time since the beginning of term. A lot has happened in a relatively short period of time.

Our schools marked the passing of the late Queen in September. We focussed our thoughts on the service she gave to the country over so many years with assemblies, books of condolence, prayer and reflection.

Schools serving their communities is central to SYMAT's mission. We are proud of our diversity and the inclusivity we share. This makes our schools stronger and better places to be. We have been particularly delighted to welcome children from Ukraine who are staying with host families. They have been a great addition to our schools.

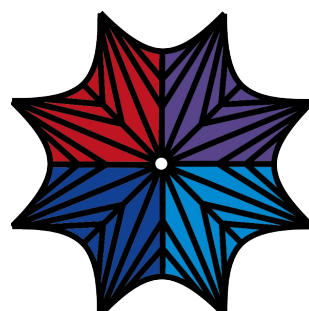
This term we welcomed Ms Davies as Executive Headteacher of Archbishop of York's CE Junior School and Bishopthorpe Infant School. Thank you to all the children and families in Bishopthorpe who have made Ms Davies so welcome.

Both Escrick and Wheldrake with Thorganby have had Ofsted visits this term. Whilst we are still awaiting the final reports, we are delighted that the inspection teams highlighted so many great things that are going on in both schools.

Dunnington had its Ofsted inspection report published in September. Congratulation to Ms Hancy and all at Dunnington on retaining their Ofsted good judgement. It really is a very impressive read and indicative of the great school Dunnington is.

Finally, may I wish you all a peaceful, safe and very Happy Christmas and a fantastic 2023.

Steve Lewis
CEO SYMAT



SUPPORT
INSPIRE
ACHIEVE
FLOURISH

Archbishop of York Junior School



It has been an exciting time for all at AYJS as the new academic year has brought a new era and a new Executive Headteacher, Mrs Kerry Davies, to lead both the schools in Bishopthorpe. She is enjoying the challenge that this role brings and is learning first-hand about what makes AYJS the special place it is. We have already celebrated many notable achievements and enjoyed lots of fun in this first term, getting the year off to an amazing start!

Jack Archer Award

During Walk to School Week, AYJS pupils and staff clocked up the highest percentage of sustainable journeys to school and managed to retain the Jack Archer trophy for the second year running! We are extremely proud of the whole school community for coming together to make this week such a success.



Martial Arts World Champion

In October, Mrs Bayne (Y5/6 teacher) travelled to Ireland, with a team from X Martial Arts, to compete in the WKC World Championships. We are pleased to say that it was a successful trip and she returned as World Champion! Congratulations Mrs Bayne, on achieving a gold medal in the continuous sparring category and a silver medal in points.



Christian Values

Throughout this term, we have taken the Christian values of 'Generosity' and 'Compassion through Love' as our focus. There have been many events and special occasions where children have been able to show these values in our school and in our community.

Shoobox Appeal

Children and families have shown incredible support for the Children in Distress shoebox appeal and we were thrilled to send around 250 shoeboxes to Romanian orphanages.

Fundraising

Two big events this term have supported local charities. On Friday 14th October both Bishopthorpe schools went 'Orange for Oscars', the York based charity set up by parents of 9 year old Oscar Hughes, who died of a brain tumour in 2014. Our fun afternoon penalty shoot-out competitions helped to raise just over £580 for the charity. On Friday 9th December, all the children of AYJS took part in a Reindeer Rush for St. Leonard's



Hospice. We dressed in festive antlers and chased Santa around the school field. Lots of muddy fun was had and we raised £795 - fantastic!



Christmas Festivities

We have enjoyed lots of festive fun in the run up to Christmas: our whole-school performance of 'Baboushka', musical performances at the local Methodist church, Christmas parties and of course, our delicious Christmas dinner!

Bishopthorpe Infant School



It has been an exciting time for all at Bishopthorpe Infants as the new academic year has brought a new era and a new Executive Headteacher, Mrs Kerry Davies, to lead both schools in Bishopthorpe. Mr Gargiulo has also joined as the Assistant Headteacher at the Infants. They are both enjoying the challenge that these roles bring and learning first-hand about what makes Bishopthorpe Infants the special place it is!

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EYFS

Birch class visited Bishopthorpe Library to find out about the job that a librarian does. We enjoyed listening to a story, looking at all the different types of books that we can borrow and learning how to use the machine to borrow or return a book. All the children collected their 'Time to Read' pack which included the book *We're Going to Find a Monster* by Malorie Blackman and

Dapo Adeola. We enjoyed reading this back at school and the children were really excited that they had a copy each to take home and enjoy sharing with their family. Thank you to Bishopthorpe Library for having us - we had a great time!



Year 1

In November we had an open afternoon where parents and grandparents were able to come into the classroom to do some craft activities with their children or grandchildren. As it was a few days before Remembrance Sunday we made some Poppy wreaths. It was lovely to see the children working with a parent or grandparent to make their wreaths and everyone did a brilliant job. There was also time for the children to share their work books with their grown-ups and also to show them around the classroom and the different areas of provision.



Year 2

In October we had a 'Go Orange' day when we all supported Oscar's brain tumour Charity. We all wore Orange and had a whole school penalty shoot-out. As well as this we had a bake sale at the end of the day that raised lots of money for a worthy cause. We have enjoyed our forest school work and have been making our own pieces of art from the nature that surrounds us.

Dunnington Primary School

French Curriculum Enrichment Day – Thursday 29th September 2022

We had a fantastic day celebrating French and our love of languages. It was really wonderful to see the children arrive dressed up in an array of red, white and blue with painted faces, coloured hair and homemade accessories! Each class focussed on a different town in France and completed a range of activities, from collage to computing and singing to postcard writing.

Here are a few sketches of the Eiffel Tower drawn by children in Mrs Jones and Mrs Todd's class.



Lego Day -Wednesday 16th November 2022

The whole school enjoyed taking part in a STEM Electro City Workshop. It was fantastic to see the children working together, across year groups, to design and create a building of their choice. Lots of teamwork and problem solving was needed as the children

designed a wide range of buildings from treehouses to restaurants to hospitals and a variety of very posh apartments. As the buildings had to light up, they had to create a circuit. It certainly looked magical when the hall lights were switched off.



Yorkshire Schools' Dance Festival 2022

Our Year 5/6 Dance Club performed at the Yorkshire Schools' Dance Festival 2022. They put on an outstanding performance, showing great maturity, skill and expression in their dancing.



Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting – Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Key Stage One children joined in with the country's tree-planting efforts by being part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The children planted 30 new trees on the school field. Derek from the Woodlands Trust came to help. Children learnt how to make a T-cut in the grass and how to correctly plant all the different seedlings so that they can grow straight and be protected from wildlife whilst they are growing. A variety of trees were planted including wild cherry, silver birch and dog wood. All the children had great fun, especially as the rain had created huge muddy puddles so they could splash in them with their wellies on! After all their hard work, they enjoyed a hot chocolate treat at story time!



Escrick CE Primary School

We have had a fantastic Autumn term at Escrick and all the pupils have worked very hard and are enjoying their learning. There have been lots of exciting events and opportunities for pupils to build their skills and experiences, while focusing on our key values: FLOURISH - Friendship; Learning; Opportunities; Unique; Respect and Resilience; Included; Solving problems and be Happy.



EYFS: Our youngest children have thoroughly enjoyed their first term at Escrick and they are now flourishing with all other pupils in our school. Children have been learning all about the changing seasons and gone on many muddy walks in the woodlands, as well as baking hedgehog bread. EYFS also performed a stunning Christmas production of 'BAARMY BETHLEHEM' for parents and KS2 pupils!

Year 1: Year 1 children have been learning about how life was different for their grandparents. Children invited their grandparents in and had the opportunity to ask them questions and listen to stories about their childhoods. Year 1 children have also taken part in a nativity performance of 'OUR FIRESIDE NATIVITY' for parents, and it was a great chance to show off their best musical skills!

Year 2: The children in Year 2 made land art from items found in the woodland, and then photographed them. This helped them with digital photography learning where they have been exploring the most effective techniques when taking pictures. Year 2 children also took part in the nativity production for parents and pupils!

Year 3: Year 3 have enjoyed learning about The Bayeux Tapestry through drama and performing freeze frames. They have also designed and created stop frame animations in computing related to their topic using plasticine.

York Minster Visit: A group of Year 3 and 5 children took their lovely Christmas crafts to decorate a tree at York Minster. We created a range of 'Escrick themed' decorations that focused on our FLOURISH values to celebrate our school.



Year 4: This half-term in Year 4 we have been learning all about electricity. In English, we have read 'The Electrical Wizard' and wrote biographies about Nikola Tesla's life and in Science, we have learned how to create complete circuits using the correct components. We have now put together everything we have learned, to design and make light-up Christmas cards!

Year 5: This term, Year Five's topic has been The Romans. As part of our work, we have written lots of cross curricular pieces of writing, including centurion diaries and Julius Caesar biographies. We have also made shields and partaken in some soldier training – 'dex, sin, dex, sin' – and also made bread using a method similar to that which the Romans would have used. The children have thoroughly loved their learning and improved their knowledge and facts too!

Year 6: This term in Year 6, we have enjoyed learning about the ancient Chinese civilisation of the Shang Dynasty. Children have discovered how the first forms of written language were developed through 'Dragon Bones' and then they made their own using clay! To celebrate this topic, children planned, prepared and cooked a Chinese inspired three course meal for parents! For one afternoon only, the Year 6 classroom turned into 'Dragons Den' and children took on waiter and waitress roles for our guests.

Fulford School

The Autumn term is the busiest of the year. At this time of year all thoughts are on the run up to the Christmas holidays. After 14 weeks everyone is ready for a 2-week break providing an opportunity for fun, relaxation and in many cases the reflection that happens this time of year.

We look ahead to the new year and all the possibilities that holds. However, it is the work done and experiences gained within the Autumn term that sets the foundations for what is to come.

The school year follows a very clear pattern. September saw us celebrate the achievements of our previous Year 11 and 13 pupils who did tremendously well in their GCSE and A Level examinations. After two years without external exams and the disruption all students have experienced, due to the pandemic, it is a testament to the commitment and determination of our young people that they achieved such a great set of results.

These enabled our Year 13 to take up places on their desired degree courses at high quality universities including Oxbridge. Our Year 11 students, who achieved the best GCSE grades that Fulford School has seen moved on to sixth form and college.

Now in Year 12 these students who came to our sixth form and were joined by a number of fantastic external applicants are doing a great job studying for A levels and Btects and continuing to be an important part of our school community.

I would like to give a special mention to the contribution our new Year 7 students have made to the school. They arrived from several different schools in September and very quickly formed a year identity based on team spirit, kindness and our school HEART values. They have got involved in all types of extracurricular activities, joined sports teams and many have auditioned for this year's school play – Beauty and the Beast. I know the transition from primary school to secondary can often cause concern, not only with students but also with parents. Fulford is a big school, but we do see each child as an individual with unique talents. It is great to see our pupils developing a sense of belonging to a year group and school. Within that security they move through the school comfortable within their own identity with an inquiring mind, meeting challenges and experiencing success.



This term we were delighted to achieve World Class School Quality Mark (WCSQM). It identifies the attributes and qualities expected from a World Class student. It is very much a student-centred award; our student body do amazing things and the award very much supports the challenge the whole school community gives itself: To be the change we wish to see in the world. Fulford students are working with our trust primary schools as they prepare for the WCSQM.

Talking of world class, it was great to see some of our Year 9 students working with the Royal Shakespeare Company in a production of Twelfth Night performed in school in October. As you know the Arts are so important to the life of Fulford school, this was again seen during our Winter Concert last week where talents from across the school were shared. A fabulous night was had by all.



Wheldrake with Thorganby

At the start of the autumn term, we introduced some changes to our teaching of writing to ensure that children had first hand experiences to help enthuse them. Coupled with a focus on vocabulary and high quality texts, we hope this will make a difference to the outcomes our children achieve. They have certainly enjoyed lots of the activities we have tried and we have seen some great writing throughout school. One of the activities was a campfire where we all toasted marshmallows and which inspired lots of poetry.



There have been school trips for most classes this term including the annual trip to Robinwood, Cumbria for our year 6 class at the end of September. This trip is a great bonding experience for the class and allows them to try a range of adventurous and outdoor activities.

This term we have been to church for harvest and Christingle and shall be there for our Christmas service. The school worship group has been to Wheldrake and Thorganby churches once a month, taking part in services including the Remembrance service.



There have been a range of fundraising events held over the last couple of months. We had a Spotacular Children in Need day with each class completing their own -athon. There were Keepy-uppy athons, beanbag-athons and the whole school Pudsey Bear Pong contest which was won by Unicorn house.



We also held a Reindeer Rush to raise money for St. Leonard's Hospice. PE coach Ben dressed in a Santa suit and everyone wore antlers and chased him around

the running track on the playground. We have raised a phenomenal £1000 to support the hospice which is very close to us and a number of families in our community.

The Wheldrake and Thorganby PTA have been busy hosting bake sales, film night, the Christmas fair and Elfridges, an exclusive shopping venue for children to buy presents for their family. They successfully combine raising money for school with ensuring a great atmosphere at social events.

The children in Key Stage 1 put on a wonderful nativity, Angel Small, which was written by our piano teacher, Karen Langtree. There were some lovely songs and it was great to see our youngest children on the stage.