

NEWSLETTER

‘Capturing the imagination of young minds.’

Issue 4— October 2022



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon



Thank you so much for contributing to and attending our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon— together we raised **£591.88**.



Poppy Appeal

Week commencing 31st October.

Walk to school week

Last week we were pleased to see children and families making an extra effort to either cycle or walk to school. Mr Langhamer collected the numbers per class over the week and I am delighted to announce that Swift were the winning class!



A message from Mrs O’Hara

What a busy half term we have had! Our feet have not touched the ground and we are so pleased at how the children are settling to work and demonstrating the 9Rs. We already have children gaining their Base Camp certificates and many who are well on their way to achieving their Bronze 5 Ways to Wellbeing certificate.

New Website

A couple of weeks ago, our website changed to a Trust format—information from the previous website is still on the new one.

Don’t forget, the school curriculum is on our website, so you can see an overview of what children will be learning in each year group, in each subject. Simply go to the school website and click on ‘Curriculum’.

<https://pop.hslt.academy>

Knowing more about reading and phonics in school

There is a host of information on the website to help parents understand how we teach reading. If you go to ‘Curriculum’, ‘Subjects’, ‘Literacy’, you will find guidance on phonics and links for families to support at home. Please continue to look out for the Phonics events in school.

With half term on the horizon, a visit to the village library and also a browse on the class bookshelf, is sure to ensure children have access to reading material over the break.

Sharing pupil progress

Over the year, we host a number of events to share pupil progress with families. We have two Parents Evenings—one in the Autumn term (face to face) and one in the Spring Term (Virtual). We also have two opportunities for families to view children’s work—in the Autumn term, it is the Festive Open Evening and in the Spring Term, Open Classrooms. In the Summer Term, we welcome families into school to see other aspects of pupils’ education—music, dance and poetry at POPFEST and also P.E during Sports Day.

At the end of the year, families receive an annual report—providing information on their child’s attitude to learning and also their effort and attainment in subjects. Included in this document is a child’s progress through the school reward system—C.L.I.M.B certificates and 5 Ways to Well being as well as our school values, The 9Rs.

Each term, families will be provided with a traffic light colour linked to attendance and punctuality. This raises awareness of current attendance patterns, that families may not be aware of. If the school has concerns, families will be contacted by Mrs Mitchinson to discuss this further. See page 3 for Traffic lights.

Staffing

Having been a teacher at POPS for over 7 Years, Mr Buckett has decided to move on to pastures new. He is currently teaching Tamar Class in Year 4 and will leave at the end of the Autumn Term. Interviews will be held after half term and the successful candidate will be introduced to the children. We will then make arrangements to ensure a smooth transition for the New Year.

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Personal Development

At POPS, Personal Development is enhanced by our Young Leaders Programme. In September, children in KS2 were invited to apply for a role as either an Eco Leader, a Charity leader, a Playground Ranger, a Build-it Leader, a member of the Corridor Crew or a Digital Leader. I am absolutely delighted to tell you that we have 104 Young Leaders (and rising) in school! Children will be trained and will have a timetabled slot to carry out their role. After half term, our Charity Leaders will introduce their first event, which is the Poppy Appeal. They have already distributed posters to classrooms and will introduce the two week window for Poppy donations when we return.



Positive parenting

In the Endurio Parent Survey, families said they would appreciate some guidance on parenting. There is no secret book to perfect parenting and that's because all children are different, as are their families and circumstances. Parenting styles have changed considerably since we were children and families today have different understandings of what is deemed as acceptable behaviours or what qualifies as a reasonable request from children. Added to this, children are smart—very early on they learn to 'play parents off each other' or even worse, compare you to a friend's parents—eek! Parenting skills develop as your child does and what works when they are 5, no longer does when they are 7 years old.

The NSPCC has produced a brief guidance paper called 'Positive Parenting', that some may find helpful. The important thing for us to remember is that children are constantly learning about themselves and their emotions and so like us, they don't always get it right—but it's a process. We lay down rules and boundaries because they are prevalent in our society and so from an early age, children need to understand right from wrong, that they can't always have what they want and that there are often consequences if they fail to follow instructions. The best solution is to talk—to the child, to friends, family and school. When you feel like you are hitting a brick wall or failing as a parent because 'the Jones family' don't have this problem, take a breath and remember that you are not alone and 'the Jones Family' maybe isn't all that perfect after all.

Please remember that we are always here to listen and we can sometimes offer advice or support from external people. No parent is in this on their own.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/parent-leaflets>

Lego wanted

Whilst you are having your clear out over half term, could you please save any unwanted Lego, or even better, sets of Lego if you have them. We are constantly looking to replenish our boxes and so additional gifted pieces would be amazing! Thank you.



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Attendance—know what it means.

To benefit fully from their education, children's attendance needs to be **96% or above**.

90% is **not** good!

In one school year, an attendance of 90% equates to 4 whole weeks of missed lessons.

That's 100 hours of learning missed!

We understand that children will become unwell and will be unable to attend school, but ask that families are mindful of the attendance ladder.

Holidays during term time

The City of York are no longer permitting holidays due to missed holidays over the Covid period. Requests after half term, will not be authorised and any absence due to unauthorised holidays could result in a fine.

Long hair

For health and safety reasons, we ask that all long hair is tied back, either in a pony tail or plaits. Please keep colourful and flamboyant headbands to a minimum.

Books wanted!

Do you have a school books or a shelf of quality books that your child/ren have finished reading and no longer want? If so, please take half term to sort them out and bring them into school when we return. Although we put lots of money into resourcing our class libraries,



Attendance Ladder



Bikes and scooters in school

Could I please remind families that children **MUST DISMOUNT** from bikes and scooters before entering school site. This rule is irrespective of a child's age or whether or not they yet attend school. There are far too many people coming to and from school which makes avoiding pedestrians difficult.

I ask parents to please remind their child/ren to get off their bike or scooter and to walk it into school—there is nothing worse than having to remind children first thing in the morning. Thank you.



November diary dates

Nov 11th—Remembrance Day
Nov 14th —**Odd socks day** (Part of Anti-bullying Week)

Nov 18th—**Children in Need**

Nov 25th—**INSET Day**

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School Clubs

Last year we introduced Board Club in KS2 to support Personal Development and to provide additional clubs and activities for pupils to engage with. This year we have extended our Clubs and activity offer during school time—these clubs are all timetabled and are free. We are also adding a Film Club for Years 4, 5 and 6 after school on Thursdays. The Film Club will promote discussion about films as well as promote film making. This will be supported by school staff and so will be free. This is a new initiative and so if it works well, we can adapt it in the Spring Term to involve other year groups. All films are suitable for watching with young children. This club will not run the first week back after half term, but the second Thursday (10th November) Further information and times will be sent out after half term.

The clubs will be displayed in school, and staff will speak to children and remind them when their club opportunities are. Please see the timetable below. If you wish to attend an after school club, please book these with the school office.

	Lunchtime - FREE				After school		
	Activity room – KS1	Upper School Corridor – KS2	Lower School Hall	Classroom / outside	Lower School Hall	Upper School Hall	Classroom
Monday	Year 1 Board Club	Chess Club KS2	Reception Free Dance	Year 5 TT Rock Star			
Tuesday	Colour Me Calm Lower School	Year 4 Board Club	Year 1 / 2 Free Dance	Year 3 TT Rock Star	TOTAL SPORTS	TOTAL SPORTS	
Wednesday	Year 2 Board Club	Year 5 Board Club	Year 3 / 4 Free Dance	Year 6 TT Rock Star KS2 Boys Football	TOTAL SPORTS	TOTAL SPORTS	
Thursday	Reception Board Club	Year 3 Board Club	Year 5 / 6 Free Dance	Year 4 TT Rock Star KS2 Girls Football	DANCE FACTORY	TAEKWONDO	FILM CLUB – FREE KS2
Friday	Colour Me Calm Upper School	Year 6 Board Club	Choir – KS2	Coding Club Mr Smith’s classroom			

Message from FRIENDS (Our school fund raising group of parents.)

As a way of promoting reduce, re-use and recycle as well as support our families during these tough economic times, we will be holding two Pre-loved sales—A Christmas Jumper one and a Uniform sale. Items of clothing must be in good condition e.g no frayed cuffs. We will also be supporting the Cauliflower Card sale for Christmas (letters have already gone home with the children) Dates for your diaries for the above events are:

Cauliflower card forms to be returned by 2nd November.

Pre-loved Christmas jumpers and uniforms to be washed and sent into school by the 4th November

Christmas Jumper sale will be after school on the 18th Nov

Uniform sale will be after school on the 28th Nov