



# Poppleton Ousebank PRIMARY SCHOOL

**'Capturing the imagination of young minds'**

## **Newsletter - Friday 14th February 2025**

### **Smartphone free - a joint statement on smartphones by York Primary Headteachers.**

Working in education, the health, happiness and well-being of children is at the forefront of our minds.

As you may be aware, there is increasing evidence showing the potential harms of children owning smartphones. Across our city, we've seen a number of incidents requiring police involvement, including bullying, sharing adult content and grooming children through social media.

As headteachers, we are committed to promoting our schools as **smartphone free**. We are asking parents to delay giving their child a smartphone for the duration of primary school and beyond.

We understand the importance of being able to contact your child as they become more independent, walking to and from school. A basic brick phone, without internet access, can allow you to contact them via text or calling.

You may find these websites helpful; they include information on smartphone alternatives:

[www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk) [www.delaysmartphones.org.uk](http://www.delaysmartphones.org.uk)

If your child already owns a smartphone, these websites contain useful information to help your child be safer online:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk> <https://www.papayaparents.com>

We believe that by joining together, we can reduce the pressure on parents to buy smartphones for their children. Thank you for your support in helping the children across our city to be safe, happy and healthy.

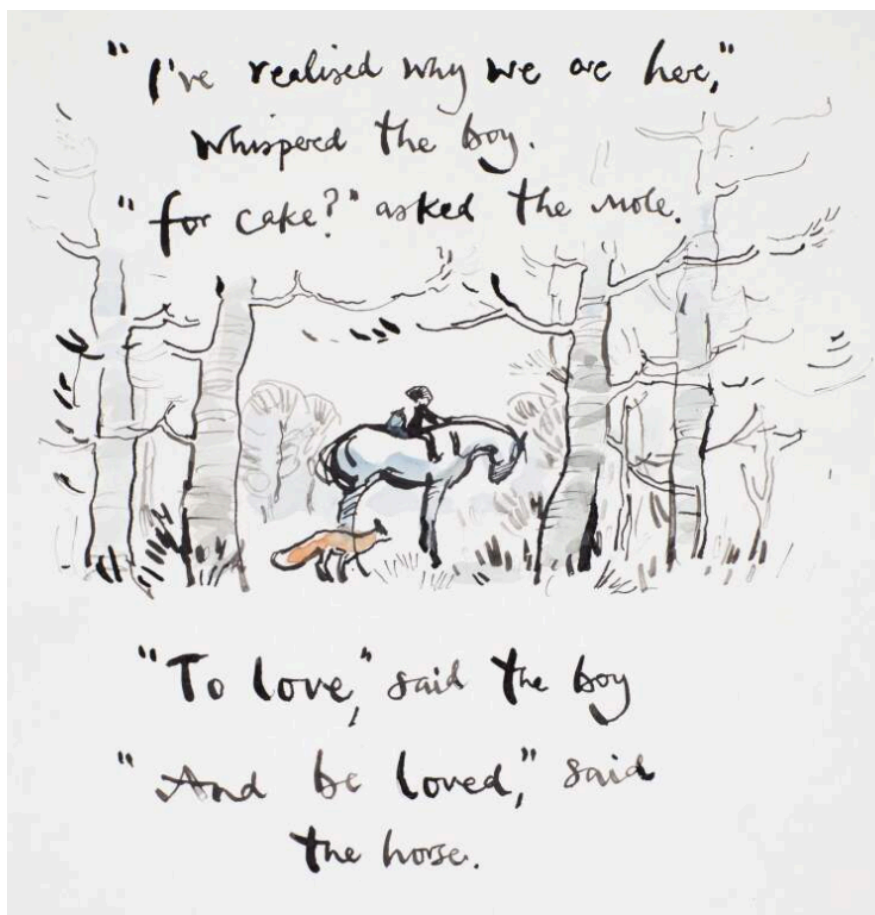
**Smartphone Free at POPS** - We aim to be a fully 'Smartphone Free school' by September 2025. Smartphones and smart watches will not be allowed on school premises. We please ask that if you feel your child needs a phone in Year 6 then you look to purchase a 'brick phone' as a basic communication device.

We currently have a very small number of children in Y5/6 who have smartphones in school. We do not allow children to use this on school site, including before and after school. We expect smartphones to be turned off in school and handed in to their class teacher.

Next half term, our KS2 classes are going to complete a unit of work on the pros and cons of smartphones and tablets. As well as undertaking research of their own, they will also be debating the important subject before presenting balanced arguments, posters and letters to share.

As well as educating the children on this important matter we are also hoping to plan some sessions to support and inform parents also. If you have not yet watched the C4 documentary Swiped: The school that banned smartphones then please do so. The impact of smartphones is incredibly worrying.

Wishing you a lovely half term break and Happy Valentines!



**Sharing assemblies are back** - We are really excited to begin our sharing assemblies when we return after the break starting with Nile class. Please can we remind family members to enter through the upper school hall doors. We will serve teas and coffees from 8:45am. Assembly will begin at 9:00am.

**Staffing update** - Sadly at the end of the Spring term (Friday 4th March) we will be saying farewell to Mrs Johnson as she leaves us after 22 years of service. Mrs Johnson has been an integral part of our school. Her unwavering commitment, passion for teaching and genuine love and kindness for our children has left a mark on so many families over the years. Thank you so much, we will miss you!

**Emergency details** - Please ensure the school has been informed of any changes to medical, allergy and emergency contact details. It is vital that school has up to date records and are able to contact parents in an emergency. Please continue to update the school office if your details change.

**Attendance and lateness** - We are concerned by the increasing number of children arriving to school late or with persistent absence.. Please can you support us by ensuring your child attends school on time. Doors close at 8:45am. Sadly, the impact on children's confidence and self-esteem can be negative when they arrive after their peers and after lessons have started. It also has an impact on loss of lesson time and learning. If you are having difficulties bringing your

child to school on time and would like some support and/or guidance please contact Mrs Mitchinson our attendance lead on [hello@pop.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@pop.hslt.academy).

# Why every day counts

SUCCESS AT SCHOOL STARTS WITH ATTENDANCE

190 days at school each year	181 days at school means	171 days at school means	161 days at school means	152 days at school means	143 days at school means
Maximum attendance – well done!	9 days of missed learning	19 days of missed learning	29 days of missed learning	38 days of missed learning	47 days of missed learning
<b>100%</b> attendance	<b>96%</b> attendance	<b>90%</b> attendance	<b>85%</b> attendance	<b>80%</b> attendance	<b>75%</b> attendance
<b>GOOD</b>		<b>WORRYING</b>		<b>SERIOUS CONCERN</b>	
Best chance of success and ensures your child gets off to a flying start!		Less chance of success and makes it harder to make progress.		Significant disadvantage - could lead to court action.	

There are 175 non-school days a year



Capturing the imaginations of young minds

## Important dates for your diary 2024 - 2025

### Training days

Monday 21st July  
Tuesday 22nd July

### Class sharing assemblies

Friday 28th February Y6 Nile  
Friday 7th March Y6 Amazon  
Friday 14th March Y5 Mekong  
Friday 21st March Y5 Mississippi  
Friday 28th March Y4 Danube  
Friday 4th April Y4 Douro  
Friday 25th April Y3 Rhone  
Friday 2nd May Y3 Rhine  
Friday 9th May Y2 Avon  
Friday 16th May Y2 Aire  
Friday 23rd May Y1 Tyne  
Friday 6th June Y1 Thames  
Friday 13th June R Foss  
Friday 20th June R Ouse

## Spring Term

\*\* - updates

w/c 17th February Half Term		
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day	Author visit. Beth Walker
Thursday 6th March	Friends Book Bonanza	All children to receive a free book
Thursday 6th March	Reception 'Someone Special' reading in school	Reception Ouse/Foss 2:30 - 3:00pm
Thursday 20th March**	Y1 Yorkshire Wildlife Park	
Thursday 20th March	Friends Disco	Y1/2 3:15- 4:00 pm Y3/4 4:15 - 5:15 pm Y5/6 5:30 -6:30pm
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day	Plans TBC by School council
Tuesday 25th March	Early Years/ KS1 Phonic workshops	3:30 - 4:00pm Mr Holden's / Miss Goodwill's class
Tuesday 25th March**	Nursery Stay and Play - phonics	9:00 - 9:30am
Wednesday 26th March	Reception Stay and Play - phonics	9:00 -9:30am
Friday 4th April	Last day of school	

## Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April	Back to school	
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Wednesday 23rd April	Class photographs	
<b>Monday 5th May Bank holiday. School closed.</b>		
w/c 12th May	Y6 SATs	
Friday 16th May	Y6 Celebration day	events TBC
w/c 19th May	Walk to school week	
Monday 19th May	Early Years/ KS1 Phonic workshops	3:30 - 4:00pm Mr Holden's / Miss Goodwill's class
<b>w/c 26th May Half Term</b>		
Thur 5th -Fri 6th June	Y4 Residential	Ingleton
w/c 9th June	Y1 Phonic Screening check Y4 Multiplication check	
Monday 9th June	Sports Day	R/KS1 9:15am KS2 1:30pm School field
Wednesday 11th June	Nursery sports morning	10:30- 11:00am, Picnic lunch with parents
Friday 13th June	Non uniform day	Donation for the summer fair
Wed 25th- Fri 27th June	Y6 Residential	Robin Wood
Monday 30th June	Reception new starters taster session	1:30 - 2:30 pm
Tuesday 1st July	Y6 Production	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Wednesday 2nd July	Reception taster session	9:30 -10:30 am
Weds 2nd Thurs 3rd July	Y6 Transition days	TBC
Thursday 3rd July	Y6 Production	5:30 - 6:30 pm
Friday 4th July	Popfest / Summer fair	All day / 3:15-5:30 pm
Tuesday 8th July	Reception new starters 24/25 Stay and Play	3:30-4:30 pm
Thursday 10th July	Reception new starters 24/25 Stay and Play	3:30-4:30 pm
Friday 11th July	Reports go out/ Classes go out	
Monday 14th July	Reception Graduation	2:30 pm Hall
Tuesday 15th July	Meet your new teacher	9:30-11:30 am
Thursday 17th July	Meet your new teacher	9:30-11:30 am
Friday 18th July	Y6 Leavers' assembly	2:30pm Hall
Friday 18th July	Last day of term	
<b>Monday 21st and 22nd July School closed Training day</b>		

