



Where children come first

Headteacher : Lamara Taylor

Askham Lane
Acomb
YORK
YO24 3HP
Tel: 01904 555295

Email: westfield.primary@york.gov.uk
Website: www.westfieldprimary.co.uk
Twitter: [@WfieldPrimary](https://twitter.com/WfieldPrimary)

Friday, 11 March 2022

Spring Newsletter

Year 5 and 6 Café Assemblies

It has been a pleasure to welcome families back into school to celebrate their children's learning. The children have not performed in front of an audience for such a long time so we were really proud of their achievements. We were very impressed with the circuit building skills shown – a particular thank you to some of our Year 5 families who showed extra resilience when we were left with some worn out batteries and buzzers by the end of workshop number six!

Parents' Evenings

Invitations to our Spring Term Parents' Evenings have been sent home today. These are an opportunity for you to hear about your child's learning and discuss their progress. Please look out for the email and letter with further details.

Wellbeing In Mind Team (WiMT)

We have had some great feedback from parents about the pastoral support we provide. Mrs Eland and Mrs Benton undertake specific work to support the wellbeing of our children and families.

Since the autumn term, we have had a team of NHS clinical practitioners on site with a view to further supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing across school. The team have met the staff and children and we would now like to invite you to meet them too. **On Thursday 31st March at 2pm** they will be joining us at a Parent Drop to introduce themselves. Mrs Benton and Mrs Eland will also explain some of the work they've been doing to support your children. We would love to see you in the Dining Hall and promise a cup of tea and some something sweet! We will hold further parent drop-ins on the following dates. The focus of these will be guided by your ideas from the first meeting.

- 28th April
- 26th May
- 30th June

Please note that to protect our children the school gates are locked between the hours of 8.30am and 9.05am and 2.45pm and 3.30pm. If you are travelling to school by car during these times, please be aware that you could be locked in the school car park. Please find alternative parking outside the school gates, if required.



The War in Ukraine

As we fundraised for Children in Need in November, we will not be asking for donations for Red Nose Day this year. We have however, appreciated the children sharing their understanding of what is happening in Ukraine and have spent time discussing this with them. Thank you for having these discussions with your children – the quality of the discussions has been great.

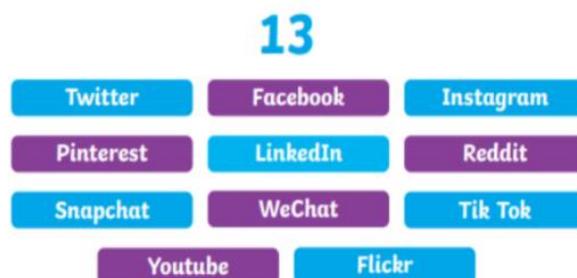
As a school, we would like to do something to support Ukraine. As the spirit of Red Nose Day is about supporting people both within the UK and worldwide, we would like to hold a special day for Ukraine. We will be having a Challenge the Teacher Day where the children will put the staff's knowledge, skills and aptitudes to the test. This will not involve an ice bucket challenge!

Children are welcome to come wearing yellow or blue on **Friday 18th March**. We are not expecting donations but if families wish to send a contribution, these would be gratefully received and added to the staff donations.

Online Safety

There has been a significant number of incidents involving the inappropriate use of social media and apps outside of school. This frequently leads to conflict within friendships and has a negative impact on pupils' emotional wellbeing and learning.

Please could parents/ carers familiarise themselves with their children's online activity, who they are speaking to online and review the age restrictions of the apps and social media they are using. Technology moves quickly and it can sometimes be difficult keeping up to date but regular monitoring and parent link apps allow an awareness of our children are doing online. We would appreciate all parents having discussions with children about keeping safe online to complement the work we do around online in school. These apps all have an age restriction of 13 years:



Uniform and PE

We have three expectations of all children: **Ready, Respectful and Safe**.

Part of being **ready** is wearing the correct uniform. We are seeing an increase in leggings, incorrect footwear, nail polish and shaved patterns in hair. The uniform policy (including expectations of PE kit) is linked below and we would appreciate families taking the time to read this.

The children are encouraged to be **respectful** towards school property and also their belongings. We know how frustrating lost property, including PE kits, can be and regularly remind children to take care of their possessions. To keep the children **safe**, they are required to wear appropriate footwear for school and in PE sessions. Warm clothing is essential for outdoor PE sessions.

<https://www.westfieldprimary.co.uk/parents/school-uniform>

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Governor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy if you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining the Governing board. We are looking for someone to support the current board with SEND or HR knowledge. If you would like further information, please contact the school office and we will arrange a conversation to discuss the role in greater detail.

Have a lovely weekend,

Lamara Taylor and Claire Gomez

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