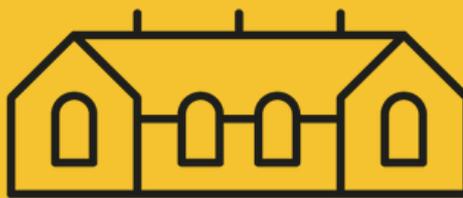


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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a fun (and .not too manic!) Christmas with family and friends . As lovely as Christmas is, it has been great to get back into routine and welcome you all back for another jam packed half term. As I take on this new role, I have been so touched by all of your well wishes, support and positivity. Everyone has made it to the end of the week and I haven't broken anything so I'm off to a flying start!

I also have some exciting, if not mildly terrifying, news to share with you all and that is that I am expecting a baby! Although taking on a headship and being pregnant at the same time hadn't been part of the life plan, I'm just going to go with it and let the fun times roll! However, I'm not the only one on this adventure and I'm thrilled to share with you that Mrs Howarth is also expecting or, as one of her class proudly told me, "she's got a baby in her belly!" In true Dring style, plans are already in the pipe line to ensure a smooth transition for children, staff and families and we will update you as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

Here's to a great half term!

Best wishes,

Mrs Scott-South

DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

w/c 15th January - Y5 Bikeability every afternoon (separate email regarding this)

Wednesday 17th January - KSI Titanic workshops. Parents are invited in at 2:30pm to watch what the children have been working on.

w/c 22nd January - Y5 Bikeability every afternoon (separate email regarding this)

Monday 22nd and Wednesday 24th January - Y3 Pedestrian Training (pm)

Friday 26th January - Yo Yo "What is a Christian?" workshops for KSI classes (am)

Monday 29th and Wednesday 31st January - Y3 Pedestrian Training (pm)

Wednesday 31st January - NSPCC Number Day for the whole school (more information can be found on page 3)

Thursday 1st February - FODs meeting, 7:30-8:30pm, in school

Monday 5th February - Y6 SATs information session for parents, 5pm

Monday 5th February - LKS2 River/Bridges Walk

Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th February - Winter themed activities in the school library, 3:15-4pm.

Wednesday 7th February - Parents and carers of neuro-diverse children to meet with Mrs Murray, 8:30-9:30am.

Thursday 8th February - LKS2 Art gallery and collaging session with families, 2:15-3:15pm.

Friday 9th February - KSI parents welcome into classes to share this half term's learning with their child, 8:35-9am.

Friday 9th February - Last day of the half term

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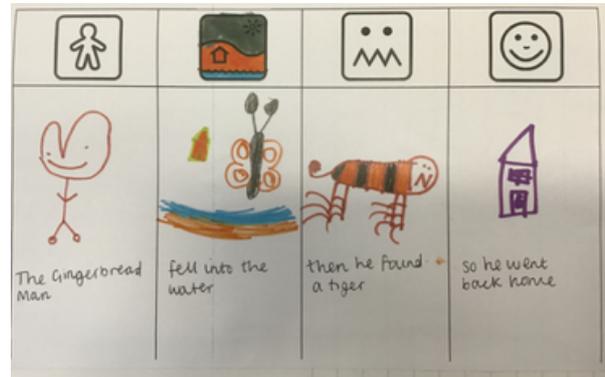
EYFS



EYFS have had a fantastic start to our Spring term! We have settled back into our learning environment and have had fun exploring our new provision. This half term we are learning about things in the sky, including space and birds. This week we have started to learn about rockets, how they are made and how they are able to blast off into space. Some of us have even pretended to blast off in our own rockets!

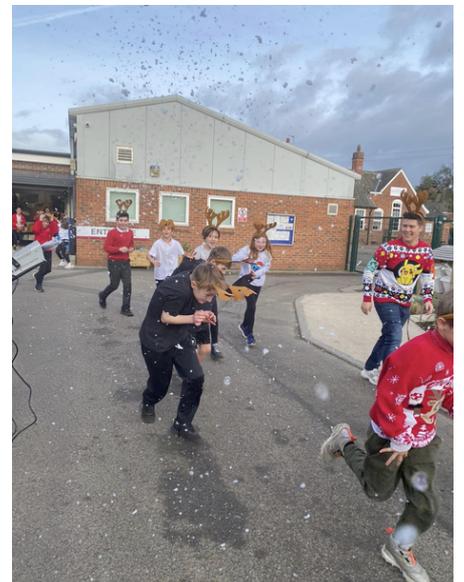
Class 1 took part in a Winter walk to find signs of Winter, however soon found out that it wasn't quite cold enough to see ice! Class 2 made some delicious yoghurt muesli pots - what a healthy start to the new year! In the mud kitchen we have been making a picnic to eat on the moon - we even had chocolate soup for the journey. We are excited to find out more about space and next week we will learn interesting facts about different planets in our solar system.

We are also excited about a visit from the York Bird of Prey Centre. We are just waiting for the date of this visit to be confirmed and we will share it with you as soon as we can.

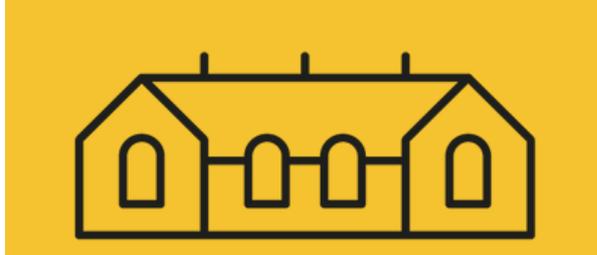


THANK YOU!

A massive thank you to our whole school community for your wonderful support of the Reindeer Run that we took part in before the Christmas holidays to raise money for St Leonard's Hospice. We raised a **fantastic £937** which will go a long way in supporting the invaluable work that St Leonard's do to support patients and their families at such a difficult time.



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MUSIC

Congratulations to everyone on their outstanding Christmas performances. From Nativities, the Christingle, the Christmas Fair, church, Rocksteady and carol-singing we really made a lot of music throughout December & we were really proud of the contribution that every child in the school made to our musical celebrations.

York Guildhall Orchestra, Sunday February 11th 2024 3pm

York Music Hub and York Guildhall Orchestra are delighted to be working in partnership to provide up to 200 free tickets for school-aged children/young people and accompanying adults, to YGO's upcoming concert at York Barbican on Sunday 11th February at 3pm.

The free ticket allocation per family works as follows:

1 child ticket + 1 accompanying adult ticket

2 or more child tickets + up to 2 accompanying adult tickets

This form needs to be completed by a parent/carer, and submitted by Sunday 28th January at the latest. In order to avoid disappointment, don't delay submitting the form, as tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Choir and Orchestra

Choir begins this Friday, 3.15–4.00pm for anyone in KS2 who enjoys singing.

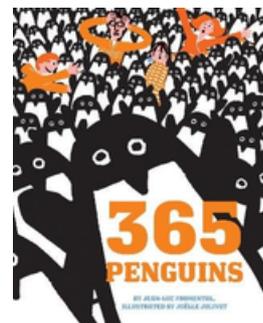
Orchestra begins on Monday 15th, 3.15–4.15. If you are already a member, just turn up—if you would like to join let Mrs Clarke know: cclarke@dringhouses.co.uk. Please include how your child will be getting home afterwards.

Musical dates...

KS2 Spring Concert: 2.00pm Thursday 21st March (everyone in KS2)

Rocksteady Concert – 9.30am Friday 22nd March (Rocksteady students)

NSPCC NUMBER DAY



We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in **Number Day on Wednesday 31st January 2024**. Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents abuse tomorrow but the NSPCC needs our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline. On average, a child contacts Childline every 25 seconds.

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We are taking on a whole school book study project where each class will link their maths learning to the text '365 Penguins' by Jean-Luc Fromental.

We are taking part in some fun maths activities and will be **dressing up in black and white (penguin style!)**. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a **suggested donation of £1**, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.



WE'RE LISTENING....

Before Christmas we sent out a parents/carers questionnaire. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond and share your thoughts and opinions. I have shared all of the positives and strengths with staff and it was very much appreciated. It is also important for us as a school to continue to listen and evolve and ensure that everyone in the school community feels happy, safe and valued.

Parking

A few of you raised concerns around the safety of children and families because of parking outside of school. This is what has happened as a result:

- only blue badge holders are permitted to park outside of the school building
- increased SLT and site manager monitoring of improper parking
- the gate to the car park opposite of school will be locked from 8:24-8:45 and 3-3:30. On-street parking and free parking in the Cross Keys car park are both available.
- road safety addressed in whole school assemblies as well as discussions in classes
- the school gate will be opened 5 minutes before the end of clubs such as choir and sports club to allow for families to wait in the sensory garden to collect children from the main entrance as opposed to the street/road outside of school
- all of this information was shared via email on Monday 8th January. If other relatives or family friends also drop off and pick up your child from school, please can you pass this information on to them as well. We are happy to resend the email or provide you with a paper copy if needed.

Communication

- In the weekly newsletter, dates for the half term will always be displayed on the front page so that families can stay more easily informed about what is happening and when. By always being on the front page, it will hopefully give a quick access point for this information. The newsletter will be emailed on a Friday so please ensure that the office has your up to date details. Alternatively, if you would like a paper copy then please request one from the office.
- The notice board at the front of school, near the main entrance, will become a community notice board. This will mean that news, events and competitions happening in the local area can be shared without the number of emails being shared or the length of communication from school becoming overwhelming.

The SLT team and I will continue to discuss and action other points raised throughout the term.

FODS

The next FODS meeting will be on **Thursday 1st February, 7:30-8:30pm**, in school. We would love to see you there!