

22nd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, the last part of the summer term was certainly busy right up until the very last afternoon! Can I begin by thanking you, on behalf of myself and all the staff for your support for the school and for keeping your children coming to school on time, uniformed and ready to take part in whatever the day had to bring right up until the end of term. Thank you too for the kind words and gifts that have arrived at the end of term – that is so appreciated by us all.

We have, amongst the important job of learning, had a lot of fun and activity over the last seven weeks. Some of our pupils in Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 were 'lucky' enough to undertake some statutory and optional tests that all pupils across the country are involved in between May and July. We are really pleased with how well our pupils approached these and really tried their best. As in every term, staff were busy assessing children's progress and attainment and we hope that the annual school reports you received were useful in showing your child's achievements, as well as giving indication of their next steps to improve. Completing reports is a challenge for any Headteacher particularly if your typing is slower than your thought process. This year's I fortunately managed to correct my typing errors before reports went home, including where I'd accidentally referred to a child having a successful year of 'leaning' instead of 'learning' and wrote about a child's 'clam behaviour' instead of 'calm behaviour.'

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Sports Day event. The hot weather didn't prevent children from competing and joining in activities and races with great gusto. Particular highlights were some impressive personal bests, some happy smiles of competitors who finally beat their arch-rivals for speed and all local windows still being intact after the javelin throwing event. Thanks to the kind parents who put up a gazebo shelter for shade and provided a well-received ice lolly treat for all the pupils midway through. The Year 6 and staff bucket of water section just managed to sneak in ahead of water restrictions too – and we strategically sited the water throwing so that it ran towards the new copper beach tree to hopefully give the roots a boost.

Our Unicorn class enjoyed a fabulous trip to Holbeck windmill where they found out lots of fascinating facts about how the windmill works. Our Year 6 pupils planned a last session at Forest in the penultimate week of term that meant all the school had a really fabulous last session under Mrs Ritchie's guidance. The end of term play was an absolute triumph, with some very enthusiastic singing (including some super solo performances), some comedy gold moments and excellent comic timing ("It's Ke-lth!"); some wonderful acting, seriously impressively speedy costume changes, some amazing costumes and props and most efficient scene changes. Thank you to all the pupils who played a part in putting together such an entertaining and impressive performance. It was particularly impressive to see how the children worked so well together to help each other with props, lines and being in the right place at the right time. We're also so grateful to all the staff who worked so hard casting, rehearsing, preparing and advising the children so that they could shine so brilliantly during the performances.

Two really enjoyable musical performances were done by our Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils last Wednesday. In the morning they played their violins for the younger children and staff to listen to – it was very

impressive music making! Then in the afternoon they sang some of the songs which they have been learning this term down at the church for parents and younger pupils to listen to and celebrated some of the singing achievements they have made since Miss Bells started doing weekly singing lessons with them.

Our **house point total** for the year was well over the 5000 mark, so the reward was a 'Beach Party' on The Green on the penultimate afternoon. Six zones of beach activity included the sand digging and body boards area; the 'fun fair' zone complete with 'hook a duck'; the beach games zone; the beach café (with our Year 6 pupils operating the cocktail shakers to make beach mocktails); the water zone (much energy expended there!) and the Photo booth ice cream van / puppet show area. The children had a whale of a time and one of my favourite photos taken this year is the one below at the Puppet theatre zone. I think it captures the fun and excellent rapport that children and staff have at this school – the grin of the pupil operating the purple emu reflects the enjoyment of the occasion I think!



I have attached to this newsletter the **school term dates for 2025/26** and the new information about **term dates in 2026- 27** that have just been agreed. Please do refer to these when booking any family holidays as Headteachers cannot authorise holidays in term time and the Local Authority will be pursuing fines for any parent whose child is taken out of school without permission.

I have also attached to this email a copy of the current **Privacy notices** for your information.

The final touches are being put to our new **school website** which should be going live during August with up to date information and useful forms and policies. There is still a bit of tweaking to be completed but I will let you know when it is up and running.

As I sign off my final newsletter, can I just say a **HUGE thank you** to you all - for making me so welcome and for your support over the last couple of years. I leave with very mixed feelings as I'm sorry to leave such a lovely place and this gem of a school. However, I also need to be able to spend time with my family to an extent which I can no longer combine with the working hours of a Headteacher. Whilst I will not miss the traffic on the A59 or York's outer ring road, I will miss everyone in this wonderful school

community. The pupils are a delight and such a credit to you in their behaviour, their enthusiasm and keenness to learn. I wish them, you and the school community all the best for the future and I know the dedicated group of Governors that will carry on leading the school forward.

Whilst I will be elsewhere enjoying the good weather that the return to school in September always brings, the other staff look forward to seeing the children back in school again on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

With every best wish

Angela

Mrs A R Mitchell  
Headteacher

### **CONSENT FOR OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES AND VISITS**

Please find attached to this email a consent form for you to fill which gives permission for your child to go out of the school site (e.g. weekly walking down to Forest, Squash Court for PE or travelling on coach/ minibus to sporting events etc).

This needs to be filled in for every child who will be in Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in September. Please email it back to the school office for Ms Hirons by the start of the autumn term ([sbm@nunmonkton.n-yorks.gov.uk](mailto:sbm@nunmonkton.n-yorks.gov.uk))

*Parents of those children who are in Nursery or Reception year groups will already have been sent a copy of various forms asking for this permission so you don't need to do this one as well.*

### **CLOTHING FOR FOREST SCHOOL**

Every class will continue going to Forest each week from September.

As the shops area full of 'back to school' items already, this is a good point to remind you that your child will need to have **wellies** in school and their Forest clothes, including **waterproof trousers** and **waterproof coat** for Forest sessions (and they may have grown out of previous ones). Obviously if it is very warm and dry then children don't need insulated / waterproof trousers, so please use your discretion according to the vagaries of the weather each week.

Please note that children do need to have **long sleeves** and **long trousers** for going to Forest, so that their skin is covered whatever the weather.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Date	Time	Event	Who for/ Details
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	0900	Term re-starts	Every pupil <b>(But not Mrs Mitchell!!)</b>
Wed Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	morning	Sports event : Football tournament	Years 4, 5 and 6
Wed October 8 <sup>th</sup>	morning	Visit from author	Years 1 - 3