

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term may only have been relatively short, but we have packed in a great deal and have plenty more to look forward to in the remaining seven weeks of the school year.

We have now finalised some key dates and would ask that you have a good look through the information below so that you know dates and times of events like Sports Day etc after the half term break.

This half term, children have learnt a lot about the events leading up to VE day, including some songs from that era and what life was like then. Our older two classes have found out about rationing and evacuation, the Blitz and other aspects of how the war impacted the lives of people at that time. During the last week they have been considering how life changed in the UK after the Second World War - learning about the arrival of people from other countries and on the Windrush from 1948 onwards. I think we have some budding journalists in Phoenix Class having seen how well they wrote diaries and newspaper articles about the facts they had discovered in their History learning this week!

Children have also been doing DT activities using fabric – some most impressive fabric cushions and bags have been made and no one this week found they had accidentally managed to sew their creations onto their clothes! Our Year 3 – 6 children have been continuing to learn to play the violin and also to be led by York Minster's singing teacher. We are hoping to arrange a performance to show-case their music towards the end of term and I will let you know the details of this as soon as I can finalise the dates.

A huge thank you to all the parents, Governors and staff who gave up their time to transform our school site over the first May Bank Holiday weekend. The playground area, the side areas and the front of school are all so much smarter and attractive – the children were aghast at how wonderful it looked when they arrived on the Tuesday morning. The bright blue gates, yellow gate, herb trough and re-siting of the welly rack have made the front of our school something to be really proud of.

We had some professional photos taken of activities in school during early May, which we are going to use for our new website. I have attached a few of those photos to this newsletter (including of the newly-improved outside area) to show a small fraction of the 500 taken. Hopefully our new website will be up and running very soon (dependant on how fast if I can type the remaining content in the next week or so!) The photos showing children in the Forest, at school and the happiness of playtimes are really good at showing the enthusiasm, focus and great behaviour for learning that we see every day in our school (as well as the really positive relationships between the pupils).

Finally, well done to our Year 6 pupils who tried so hard in the National Year 6 Assessment Tests a couple of weeks ago. Tests in Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Reading, Arithmetic and two Maths papers had their challenges, but they all approached the situation really sensibly and tried their best. A celebratory McFlurry Treat at the end of the last test helped to ease them through the rest of the week!

I hope that the children have a lovely week on their half term break and we look forward to seeing them back at school on Monday 2nd June – how can we already be going into the last half term of the year?

With every best wish

Angela

Angela Mitchell
Headteacher

A few official photos to whet your appetite





FEAST DAY (Saturday 28th June)

We are looking forward to the Feast Day on Saturday 28th June and you will already have seen from the PTFA letter that there are many exciting things happening at this annual event.

As is traditional, the pupils of the school will be taking a full part in the festivities. All children are invited to take part in the fancy dress competition which will begin at 12 noon. After the fancy dress ends, all children will be coming into school to get changed for the Dancing. At that point school staff will take over responsibility for the school pupils and during the times when children are changing for the dancing no adults apart from staff will be allowed onto the school site. All children will be involved in the Maypole dancing, which we will be rehearsing in school until Feast Day. If for any reason your child will not be available for the Feast Day, please would you let the class teacher know that as soon as possible.

EVERY child will need a white polo shirt and a pair of short, white socks for this (please can these be white, rather than grey-white!) School will provide the shorts/ skirt for each child to wear. Each child will need to bring those into school on **Monday 24th June** in a clearly labelled carrier bag please. That enables us to have all the costumes checked and laid out ready on the Friday evening the day before Feast Day.

Following the dancing, children will come back into school to change and then staff will hand over the children back into the care of at least one of their parents.

Once children have been re-united with their parents, we hope that you will take the opportunity to come into the school and see the children's fabulous art work which will be on display throughout the afternoon. There are also options for donkey rides, eating and much more on The Green for the rest of the afternoon.

National Gardening Association event at Nun Monkton (Thurs 12th June)

This year the grounds at The Priory will again be open to visitors, giving them chance to look around the fabulous gardens. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been invited to be part of this and will be serving refreshments at the event in a 'pop up' café. This will give our pupils opportunity to develop their team work, social skills, financial skills, creative skills and organisational skills. They will be closely supervised at all times by staff, but will be serving cakes and drinks to visitors, handling real money and honing their tidying away and washing up skills. Hopefully the benefits may also be seen at home in future! All the money taken for refreshments will go to Nun Monkton School, which is an incredible opportunity to help our school budget in the current financial climate.

We would be really grateful if as many people as possible could donate any baking towards this cause please, so that the pupils can serve drinks and cake to the visitors. **This is a plea to the whole school, not just the families of Year 5 and 6, as we will need a lot of cakes to satisfy the number of visitors expected! Please bring any baking you are able to do to school during school drop off on the morning of Thurs 12th June between 0845 and 0900.** We will be loading the cakes up in a car to transport them up to the Priory. Anything you can make would be really appreciated (I'm told past experience shows that cakes and traybakes tend to be preferred to buns). Please make sure you label any tins/ containers so that we can return them to you afterwards. Many thanks for your help with this event.

PE sessions will continue for all pupils on **Fridays** each week. We are hoping that we will be able to use the Green for our PE sessions, but obviously that is weather dependent. If it is too wet / slippery to use the Green (if it's a typical British summer!) **please note that** we will use the Squash Courts as we did last term. Please could we ask if it's wet that **children bring their trainers to school, clean of mud on the soles and in a bag on Fridays please.** Please could your child bring their trainers in a carrier bag for PE, as it makes it so much easier for the children to transport their trainers and water bottles to the PE sessions if they just have to hold a carrier bag with those items in rather than juggling a variety of things in their hands along the route!

FOREST SCHOOL

Every class will be going to each week on **TUESDAY** each week, unless you are notified differently.

Please make sure your child has their wellies in school and their Forest clothes. 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.

SUN SAFETY

So, at the risk of putting the dampener on the lovely weather we've enjoyed recently, please could I ask parents to help us with keeping children safe in the sun. Our children do spend a significant amount of time outside. They **all need to bring a sun hat to school every day please**. Their hat needs to be named. We do not keep a supply of hats in school – not least because it is a really good way to spread any possible itchy visitors from head to head if children share hats.

We would be grateful if parents of younger children could apply sun cream to their child before they come to school. However, depending on the product used, you may want to send sun cream into school with your child to re-apply at lunchtime. Please, please name the sunscreen bottle as invariably there will be some similar bottles and we want to be able to reunite bottles with owners if they get left around the building, field or playground. Thank you for your help with this.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

As we approach summer, I would like to remind everyone to look carefully at term time dates **before** booking holidays. Headteachers are not able to grant time off for pupils in term time unless there are exceptional reasons. Exceptional reasons do not cover families booking holidays in term time 'by mistake' or 'because it's cheaper' or requests for pupils having an afternoon off school 'so we can get away ahead of the traffic'. Our school term dates have been published for both this academic year and for 2025/26 year, so please do consult those carefully if you are making any arrangements to be away, to avoid your child being absent during the term dates. I would also like to point out that learning will be taking place ***throughout*** the whole of the summer term, (yes, including the last week!) so we want every child to be in school to take part in that.

Could I also respectfully request that dental appointments for children are made during the school holidays or after school has finished. Unless it is an emergency situation, routine dental check-ups should not be booked during school time. Every lesson that children miss impacts on their learning, so it is important that every pupil is in school during term time, unless they are too ill to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Who for/ Details
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Mon 2 nd June	0900	Term re-starts	Every pupil
Wed 11 th June	Morning	Sports event (Striking Games) at Boroughbridge High	Phoenix Class (Years 4 – 6)
Thurs 12 th June	0845 - 0900	Baking donations gratefully received at school Year 6 and 5 pupils serving refreshments at the open garden event at the Priory	All Year 6 and 5 pupils serving / washing up at the event
Sat 28 th June	12	Feast Day – all children involved in events from 12 noon onwards	All pupils
Wed 2 nd July	Morning	Dodge Ball competition	Years 2 - 5
Wed 2 nd July	All day	Year 6 pupils visiting their secondary schools	Year 6
Thurs 3 rd July	All day	Year 6 pupils visiting their secondary schools	Year 6
Friday 11 th July	0930 - 1130	Sports Day	All pupils
w/c 14 th July	Date and time to be confirmed	End of Year performance	
Friday 18 th July	2pm	Leavers' assembly	Parents of all pupils
Friday 18 th July		School term ends for all pupils after Leavers' assembly.	