

# FOSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL BULLETIN

## Nursery & Reception

This week in Nursery and Reception we have started our new topic of 'Habitats' looking at where different animals live around the world. This week we were focussing on Woodlands, what it was like there and the animals we would find. The children also had a go at painting a woodland; based on what we had learnt about them and what a brilliant job they have done!



## Year 1 & 2

It's been lovely to see you all this week and to share stories about our festive break. We've had a wonderful start to 2024, working on understanding number lines and money in maths and improving our writing by using conjunctions in English. We also had a great time exploring percussion instruments and finding out how they play an important part in samba music. We may need to work on our skills at playing instruments quietly!



## Year 3 & 4

It's been lovely to welcome back all of Class 3 to school for the new year of 2024! We are looking forward to learning lots about Ancient Egypt (in History), Forces and Magnets (in Science), Sonic Music (in Computing), Levers and Linkages (in DT), the Holy Trinity (in RE) and Athletics (in PE). It's going to be an exciting term!

## Year 5 & 6

This week in Class 4 we have started learning about Gods and mythical creatures to coincide with our class text: Who Let The Gods Out? by Maz Evans. The children worked really well recalling lots of information from books, films and characters from last year's Rockin' Romans play! In science, we have also started to investigate forces and have learnt about drag, streamlining and gravity. Well done on a great start to the New Year!

## Message from the Head of School

I would like to wish all our families a Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school this week and to hear about their Christmas breaks. What a magical and exciting time of year! The children have quickly settled into our school routines and are eager to start their new topics.

I am very excited to start my new role as Head of School across Foston CE and Stillington Primary Schools and look forward to spending more time in each of the schools.

January is not a quiet month for us as the children will be researching and debating our new school charity. Please let us know if there are any charities which are close to the hearts of our families that the children could explore further. Also, keep an eye out for the launch of our new school website which we are very excited about!

Miss Katie Stringer  
Head of School  
Foston CE & Stillington Primary Schools

## Letter from Executive Headteacher

Please find attached a letter from Mrs Sarah Moore regarding a reminder of recent changes to our leadership structure.

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## KS2 Cross Country

On **Wednesday 17th January** all KS2 children have been invited to take part in a cross-country event at Malton Sports Centre, this event is part of the school day. The children will be having their lunch before they leave the school site. They will travel with staff by coach to and from the event and should be home by the end of the school day.

Children are asked to come into school in their uniform and will get changed at school into their PE kits, they will also be wearing their school jumpers. **Please can children bring in an extra set of jogging bottoms in on that day.**

## EYFS Library Visits

The children in Nursery and Reception will now be visiting the library every Monday rather than Thursday to get the opportunity to choose another book. Please make sure you return your library book every Monday so your child can be given a new book to take home, share together and enjoy. Any questions please talk to Miss Midwood.

## ParentPay & Residential

**ParentPay is up to date, please can I ask parents to check your accounts and clear any outstanding balance. For those whose children are attending the residential please make payment, unfortunately if we do not receive enough funds to cover costs the trip will not be viable.**

## School Meals

It is becomingly increasingly difficult to provide a two course school lunch at a reasonable cost and both ourselves and North Yorkshire Catering work together to keep the costs as low as possible whilst still ensuring the meal is nutritionally balanced. Occasionally there are changes which have to be made to the lunch menu, and where possible we will email parents before the day so that you are able to decide whether to send your children in with a packed lunch instead. Sometimes however, these are very last minute changes, possibly due to the cook not receiving an order on time or specific items being out of stock on the day of delivery. In these circumstances it may not be possible to inform parents of the change prior to the day, but there will always be an alternative choice or a jacket potato choice. We ask for your understanding that on these occasions it was out of our control to inform you earlier, and that as the meal has been cooked and served we are unable to reimburse the cost of it.

## Science

**If anyone has any empty jam jars left over we would be grateful if you could bring them into school for Science this term.**

## Attendance - Make Every Day Count

As a school we aim for 95% attendance from all our pupils. We realise this is not always possible when your child is poorly, but we kindly ask that if possible all appointments are made out of school time, again we know this cannot always be the case. We are sure you will agree we all want our children to succeed and good attendance is proven to give children the maximum learning time possible.

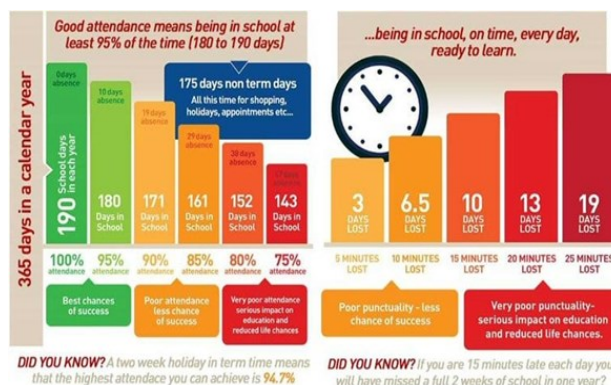
We have seen an increase in requests for holidays which is having a big impact on children's learning and wanted to point out to you what taking 5 days holiday in term time looks like in our schools.

Maths – 5 hours missed – Maths builds on prior learning each year to help children create that deeper understanding. Although our teachers address gaps in children's learning, making 5 hours up within school is impossible and addressing gaps missed, means time out of foundation subjects.

English – 7 ½ hours missed – English centres around a text in all of our classes. When children miss days they can often miss key parts of the text or the build up to writing tasks or even the writing task itself which in some instances will not be built upon again until the following academic year.

Phonics/SPAG (Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar) – Nearly 2 hours missed – Phonics lessons at the early stages teach a sound a day and 5 days can mean 5 new sounds missed, impacting both reading and writing. SPAG Lessons can often be linked to English and children can be given the opportunity to use what they have learnt that day in their writing.

Foundation Subjects – Missing a week in a foundation subject misses a stepping stone which are topics that are only covered sometime once in every four years. Practical sessions can be missed which for a lot of children can be very beneficial to their learning.



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### Diary Dates

KS2 Malton Sports	Wednesday 17th January
KS1 Malton Sports	Wednesday 7th February
<b>Spring half-term</b>	<b>Friday 9th February (last day at school)</b> <b>Monday 19th February (first day back)</b>
KS2 Residential Trip	Monday 19th February-Wednesday 21st February
<b>Easter</b>	<b>Friday 22nd March (last day at school)</b> <b>Tuesday 9th April (first day back)</b>
<b>May Day bank holiday</b>	<b>Friday 3rd May (last day at school)</b> <b>Tuesday 7th May (first day back)</b>
<b>Summer half-term</b>	<b>Friday 24th May (last day at school)</b> <b>Monday 3rd June (first day back)</b>
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Friday 19th July (last day at school)</b>