

FOSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL BULLETIN

Class 1

We would like to welcome you all back after half term-it's always lovely to hear about your family adventures from the children. This week we have been finding out the story about Guy Fawkes to help us understand why we have Bonfire Night-it was great fun making our firework pictures! On Monday we had drama with Audrie, helping us to develop our speaking and listening skills as well as having lots of fun learning nursery rhymes. Exploring outside is always great fun-look at us all on our bumpy tractor ride!



Class 2

Welcome back everyone, it's so lovely to hear what fun you had during half term. Before we stopped for the holiday we had a great day creating decorations for a festive display at Nunnington Hall encouraging everyone to have an environmentally friendly Christmas. On Monday we had a great time doing drama with Audrie. These sessions help us to develop key communication skills as well as being lots of fun!



Class 3

We have had a wonderful first week back after half term, beginning our new topic on Medieval Monarchs. In art, the children demonstrated impressive colour-mixing skills, experimenting with different shades and tones to create their colour wheels. During drama, they showcased their creativity by performing spooky Halloween stories, using expressive actions and confident speech.

Class 4

Class 4 had a fantastic time with our drama teacher, Audrie, on Monday. The children created superb dramatic Halloween stories with clear lines and delivery, showcasing their acting skills.



PHSE

This half term in PSHE, we are learning about respecting ourselves and others.

In KS1 children will explore how to tell the difference between happy surprises and secrets that make them feel uncomfortable, and what to do if something feels unsafe or worrying. We'll also be learning how to resist pressure, ask for help, and use kind and respectful words when talking about what we have in common and what makes us unique.

In year 3 and 4 children will explore the difference between teasing, hurtful behaviour, and bullying, both in person and online. They'll learn how to respond safely if they or someone else is treated unkindly. We'll also talk about respecting differences and recognising the things we have in common.

In year 5 and 6 children will explore how to assess risks in online dares and challenges, and how to get advice or report concerns about their safety. We'll also discuss what consent means, how our values link to our behaviour, and how to be a positive role model. Pupils will practise listening respectfully, sharing opinions, and handling disagreements or online discussions in a kind and constructive way.

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Attendance in School

We wrote to all parents last year to explain the Department for Education (DfE) introducing new attendance guidance for schools for managing and supporting school attendance. You might have also noticed that attendance has been in the news recently regarding children who are classed as persistent absence (attendance below 90%). Evidence suggests for some children who fall into persistent absence thresholds early in the term, they can struggle to improve their attendance throughout the academic year.

At our Schools we aim for children to achieve at least 95% attendance for a full school year. There are clear links between poor attendance and poor attainment. If children are absent from school, they may miss key learning opportunities resulting in gaps in their knowledge and understanding. This can significantly impact upon their learning and development. Absence from school should only occur when a child is unfit to learn, where there is an exceptional circumstance, or when your child has a day of religious observance.

If you have exceptional circumstances and wish to request a leave of absence during term time, please complete the request form available from the school office and return it as far in advance of the requested leave period as possible.

Support first

The importance of regular attendance at school cannot be stressed enough. We will promote school attendance and provide support when a student is struggling to attend school. This may mean that we raise the issue of attendance even if your child has only had a couple of days off ill. This is not because we don't believe you. By working with you, the school can step in early to help to prevent patterns of absence developing. We may identify other underlying issues that are making your child reluctant to attend school and be able to help you and your child. For this to be successful we would ask you to support and work with the school.

National framework for penalty notices

To provide consistency, the Government introduced a new national framework for schools and Local Authorities last year. All schools are now required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 sessions (5 school days) for unauthorised reasons.

Fines are issued by the Local Authority and with effect from August 2024, the fine for school absences for each parent will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped at two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Term time holidays

Students should not be taken out of school during term time unless it is unavoidable. Schools are required to consider requests for leave of absence in term time, the DfE guidance states a family holiday is not an acceptable reason for a child to miss school. If a student is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to refer the matter for the consideration of a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority.

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.

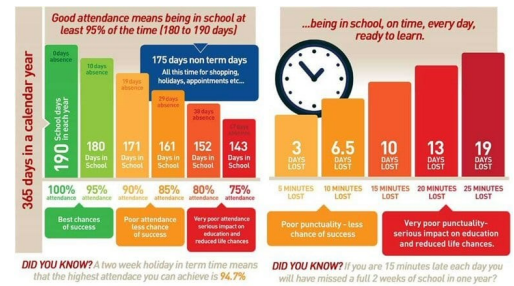
English – 7 ½ hours missed – English centres around a text in all of our classes. When children miss days they can often miss key parts of the text or the build up to writing tasks or even the writing task itself which in some instances will not be built upon again until the following academic year.

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.

For many of you, these will have little or no impact. However, if your child is struggling at school and you are worried about any aspect of your child's attendance, please speak with the school office member or our pastoral and attendance lead. We are here to explore what support can be provided to help your child to attend school regularly.

You can now monitor your child's attendance on the Arbor app. Letters from school will be issued half termly for children falling into the persistent absence threshold and termly for children falling below 95% and support arranged with our pastoral lead to look at support we can offer if attendance does not improve. We will also speak to children to support them to share any issues. Cases can be referred to the Local Authority at this stage and Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued.



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Charity Day (Non Uniform) -Wednesday 12th November

Our schools charity this year will be Mind Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. On Wednesday 12th November children can come into school in non uniform, for a donation of £1 for our chosen charity. The children will be learning a little bit about how this charity helps support people who might be struggling and how supporting people with different activities such as Art Therapy or organising activities can boost their mental health. The children will be taking part in lots of activities including reading, mindfulness colouring, sporting activities and talking about things they are good at and things to boost their mood.

Giz a Squid For Mental Health



Mental health affects us all, and sometimes a little support can make a huge difference. That's why Mind Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale have launched the Giz a Squid campaign — a fun, simple way to help people access vital mental health services.

For just £1, you can contribute to:

- 1:1 support sessions for people who are struggling
 - Creative and physical activities that boost wellbeing
 - Group workshops and community programs that make support accessible to everyone
- Every squid counts! Even small donations add up to big impact when lots of people take part. Quick, easy, and meaningful — your £1 can help someone take a step towards better mental health today.

Reception September 2026

You can now apply for a primary school place for them to start school in Reception in September 2026 and the deadline to apply is **15 January 2026**. For more information please see the letter attached to the bulletin.

Poppy Appeal 2025

When we return after half term we will be supporting the Royal legion once again this year by selling an array of items. Payment can be cash or scan the QR code on the box.

Your help is needed with Tree Decorating

Do you have an artistic flare for decorating trees? As part of our Fantastic Friday, the children created Christmas Decorations for the trees at Nunnington Hall. We are looking for parent or community volunteers to support the decorating of these trees on behalf of our school. The tree decorating will take place at Nunnington Hall on the 17th, 18th and 19th November, between 11am and 2pm. Please contact the school if you are able to support us by decorating the tree.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November, with the theme: Power for Good. This year the aim is to empower children and young people to use their Power for Good to speak out, support others, and build a world where kindness wins.

We'll be using resources from the Anti-Bullying Alliance to complete a whole school assembly, which you can also access if you'd like to learn more. Together, we'll be thinking about what bullying is, how to stand up to it, and how we can all help make our school a kind and respectful place.

Find out more on the Anti-Bullying Alliance website: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

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Reminder of Early Years Food Choking Hazards.

Please be mindful when your child is bringing a pack lunch or snack into school.



Early years food choking hazards

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	Advice
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	Advice
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	Advice
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	Advice
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	Advice
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/>

It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/>

and How to resuscitate a child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>

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Feast

This Christmas, FEAST is trialling a new, fairer booking process. Please help families understand how it works and when to book.

We know FEAST activities are popular, so to allocate places in a way more children can join in:

- Parents / carers can make their booking requests from **midday Monday 17th November**
- Places will be allocated from **Friday 21st November**

This window gives families a few days to browse activities and make their booking requests **before** any spaces are allocated, and helps ensure as many children and young people as possible can take part. Parents / carers will receive confirmation if their child has a booking from Friday 21st November onwards.

After the first week, remaining places will be allocated on an ongoing basis.

Waiting Lists

Our activity providers will be using a Waiting List system to allocate places to the children and young people. Please make your families are aware of the importance of adding their child/young person to a Waiting List. In most cases the activity will not be full immediately. Our activity providers will allocate places to ensure as many children/young people as possible have access to at least one activity

For more information about FEAST, please visit the website. If you have any questions about FEAST, please feel free to contact me or for support setting up / using your HolidayActivities account, email support@holidayactivities.com

Best wishes,

Jenny McArthur (She/Her)

Schools and Family Lead | FEAST | North Yorkshire Together | Rural Arts

St Peter's School

St Peter's School are holding a Year 7 Taster Morning on Saturday 15 November. By taking part in an exciting range of activities, this event will provide pupils with the opportunity to experience life at St Peter's.



Year 7 Taster Morning

Saturday 15 November 2025

Current Year 6 pupils are invited to join us for a morning of exciting activities to experience Senior School at St Peter's

Schedule for the morning

9am Registration
9-9.30am Breakfast
9.30am Head Master's Welcome
9.40am-12pm Carousel of Activities
12pm Departure



Please register your attendance here

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Diary Dates

Event	Date	Key Points
Stay and Play	Monday's 1.30pm-3.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children age 2-4 years to come with their parents
Stay and Celebrate	Monday 10th November 3.30pm – 4.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join your child in looking at their work and celebrating their progress before Parent's Evening.
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 11th November 5-7pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheets available to book in the entrance or contact the office.
Charity Day	Wednesday 12th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children can come into school in non uniform, for a donation of £1 for our chosen charity.
Parents' Evening	Thursday 13th November 3.40-5.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheets available to book in the entrance or contact the office.
Nasal Flu Vaccination	Monday 24th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Years Please visit the website to consent or decline. https://yny.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/northyorkshire
KS2 Dodgeball	Wednesday 3rd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malton Sports Centre. PE Kits Required
Open Events	Thursday 4th December 4-5.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the school office to book a visit fostonoffice@foston.n-york.sch.uk 01653 618265
KS2 Christingle Service	Tuesday 9th December 2.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information to follow.
EYFS/KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 9th December 4.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information to follow.
Community Lunch (KS2 Singing)	Wednesday 10th December 12.30pm	
Christmas	Last day at School 19th December 2025. First day back Tuesday 06th January 2026	
Winter Half Term	Last day at school Friday 13th February 2026 First day back Monday 23rd February 2026	