



Poppleton Ousebank

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Respect



Kindness



Resilience

Newsletter - Friday 13th February 2026

'Capturing the imagination of young minds'

A message from Miss Collier

What a final week of term! Early years started the week in style by creating and flipping their own pancakes. There were lots of smiles as the children got to create and taste their own. As part of their Viking topic Y4 have visited the Jorvik Centre and DIG. They have learned so many new facts from the trip having seen viking coins and anglo saxon artefacts. The ride and smell in the Viking museum seems to have been a highlight!

The children who took part in Young Voices did us incredibly proud. They represented our school beautifully and behaved impeccably. They sang with confidence and energy, joining the thousands of other children at Sheffield Arena to create a truly memorable evening. In the weeks leading up to the concert the children have shown great commitment during rehearsals learning a wide range of songs and actions. We are incredibly proud of each and every one. Well done.

As part of National Online Safety day children have taken part in workshops on online safety from Anna Sargantson from [screen safe](#). Anna's knowledge of the current risks online is extensive and we were lucky for her to share this with families after school this week. If you do have any worries or would like some guidance please do look at the website and contact her directly for help and support. We will forward further information as soon as we can. Thank you to all the parents who attended we hope you found it useful.

Staffing updates

Vice Principal - I am thrilled to announce that Mr Richard Smith will become our Vice Principal from 13th April 2026. Mr Smith is an exceptional teacher and leader who has demonstrated his ability to lead positive school improvement throughout our school. He impressed us all at the interview with his knowledge, experience, commitment and passion for school improvement. The Trustees, Local Governors and I were unanimous in our decision. We are very much looking forward to him joining the senior leadership team and we are confident he will be an excellent addition. Mr Smith will remain in Year 6 during the summer term to provide stability for the end of Year 6. From September, the role will be non-class based to further develop and build upon the rapid improvements we continue to make.

Mrs Walker - Our warmest wishes are with Mrs Walker and her family on her last day as she prepares to start her maternity leave. We hope you manage to have a few weeks of well-earned rest beforehand. Our very best wishes to you and your family. Ms Richardson will become class teacher for Douro after the half term break.

Mrs Schofield - Today is Mrs Schofield's last day as teaching assistant with us in Year 2. Please join me in wishing Mrs Schofield the best for her future endeavours and thanking her for her hard work and support.

Looking ahead

We look forward to welcoming you into school after the half term for parents' evening on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th February. Please enter through the main front gate, into the playground via Bradley's garden into the main reception area. We also can't wait to see you at Sharing Assemblies! We begin on Friday 27th February with Nile class. Please enter via the Y3 door into the KS2 hall.

Whatever your plans this half term, I wish you all a lovely break.
With warmest wishes,
Miss Collier

Safeguarding

What are AI chatbots?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbots – such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini and others are becoming more common in everyday life. Children may encounter them at school, in games or even through websites and apps. While these tools can be useful and fun, it's important for parents to understand how they work, the potential risks and how to keep children safe.

AI chatbots are computer programmes that can hold a conversation with a person.

They can:

- answer questions (e.g. helping with homework or explaining a tricky topic).
- spark creativity (e.g. helping write a poem, story or quiz).
- support hobbies and interests (e.g. generating recipe ideas, sports facts or coding tips).
- provide entertainment (e.g. riddles, jokes or role-play style games).

Used wisely, chatbots can be a helpful tool for learning and fun.

When conversations can become concerning

Although conversations may start out innocent, there are risks to be aware of:

- **Unpredictable responses:** chatbots sometimes give inaccurate, confusing or inappropriate information.
- **Role-play risks:** a child may ask the chatbot to pretend to be a friend, character or even a parent figure. This can blur the line between fantasy and reality.
- **Sensitive topics:** children may explore personal worries with a chatbot and the answers they receive might not always be supportive, accurate or safe.
- **Over-reliance:** a child might start turning to a chatbot for advice instead of trusted adults.



Key message: AI chatbots can be a useful tool, but they are not a replacement for safe, supportive human relationships. With guidance, supervision and open conversations, parents can help children explore this technology in a safe and balanced way.

SEND

Hello everyone! During my first half term as SENCO at Poppleton Ousebank Primary, it has been my priority to simply listen and learn. I am a firm believer that you, as parents, are the true experts on your children, and our dedicated staff are the engines that drive their daily progress. This half term, I have been focused on 'the team around the child'—spending time in classrooms with our brilliant staff and meeting with many of you to understand your stories. I look forward to working together to ensure every child feels seen, heard, and supported. Any concerns please email: senco@pop.hlt.academy Please can we signpost you to some amazing support groups and networks including an educational support line and the autism specialist teaching team.



Educational Psychology (EP) Support Line

A confidential telephone support service, staffed by Educational Psychologists, to talk through questions or concerns about children and young people's wellbeing or learning.

Open to all parents/carers of children with additional needs or SEND living in the City of York (who have not had recent EP involvement), and practitioners working with children who live in/attend an educational setting in York.



"It's invaluable" *"I feel confident in the next steps we can take"* *"Great service. Very easy to arrange"* *"I felt really listened to and supported"*

Calls of up to 30 minutes are available

Monthly – the last Wednesday of each month 9.00am – 3.30 pm

Term time only (September 2025 - July 2026)

To book a slot, please e-mail: EPsupportline@york.gov.uk with your name and a contact telephone number.

Bookings will close on the Friday before each session at 5pm. We will then email you with a time slot for your consultation on the Tuesday.

This is a one-off consultation provided by City of York Educational Psychologists on a rota basis.

Please note: the helpline offers short slots to talk with a psychologist about specific concerns; unfortunately, within the time available, we cannot advise on complex situations where different agencies need to work together to support a child or young person.

September 24th 2025
October 22nd 2025
November 26th 2025
December 17th 2025
January 28th 2026
February 25th 2026
March 25th 2026
April 22nd 2026
May 20th 2026
June 24th 2026
July 15th 2026

SEND CENTRAL is York's Family Hub that specialises in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This is a hub that families can seek advice and information about what's available in York when they have children and young people who have additional needs, any age from 0 to 25.

This is a place where families can meet multiple professionals and agencies all under one roof, meet other parents and carers of children and young people with SEND and where they and their child can access a range of information about events and activities.

If you're looking for some advice, information and don't know where to turn, pop along between 9.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and chat to one of our friendly navigators. If you're unable to physically come to the hub you can email: sendcentral@york.gov.uk or telephone: 01904 555076 and a navigator will call you back.



Autism Support for Parents from the Specialist Teaching Team for Autism

Wednesdays Spring 2026



Weekly Parent/Carer Afternoon Drop-in Sessions at SEND Central

In-person drop-in support, **Wednesday afternoons, 1.30-2.30 p.m. at the YIKs All About Autism Hub, Clifton SEND Hub, (In front of Clifton Green School), YO30 6BF**. No need to book, just come along and meet a Specialist teacher and a Specialist TA from the Autism Team and other parents to discuss general issues and concerns, find information and look at some useful resources.

Wednesday **7th January** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **14th January** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **21st January** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **28th January** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **4th February** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **25th February** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **4th March** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **11th March** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday **18th March** 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Fortnightly Morning Phone line Sessions

To book a 20 minute phone call within the sessions below, please email parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk with your name and a contact telephone number for us to call you on. We will send you a time slot for your 20 minute call. If we receive a high volume of requests we may need to allocate spaces on the session on a first come, first served basis.

Wednesday **14th January** 9 a.m. -12 noon

Wednesday **28th January** 9 a.m. -12 noon

Wednesday **11th February** 9 a.m. -12 noon

Wednesday **25th February** 9 a.m. -12 noon

Wednesday **11th March** 9 a.m. -12 noon

Wednesday **25th March** 9 a.m. -12 noon

This is an admin email address and we are unable to forward or respond to queries via this email. Bookings close the Thursday before the session.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing Ambassadors update

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors recently led a fantastic whole-school assembly, sharing how birdwatching can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. They explained how spending time noticing nature can help us feel calmer, happier and more connected to the world around us.

Following the assembly, pupils were invited to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch during lunchtimes, organised and run by the Ambassadors. It was wonderful to see so many children getting involved, observing different birds and contributing to our data collection. We are proud to have received a smart certificate to celebrate the positive data we collated together.

This week our Wellbeing Ambassadors have been busy again as they helped to run a lunchtime stall in school alongside the Wellbeing in Mind Team. This marked Children's Mental Health Week, which this year has the theme of Belonging.

The Ambassadors have lots of thoughtful ideas for promoting wellbeing and supporting others across school, helping to ensure that everyone feels valued, included and that they truly belong.



The image is a flyer for a 'WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM' event. At the top left is a logo with a colorful speech bubble and clouds. To the right of the logo, the text 'WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM' is written in pink and blue. In the top right corner, the 'NHS' logo is present with the text 'Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust' below it. The main title 'PARENT DROP IN' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'POP IN TO SEE THE WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM (WIMT) TO DISCUSS TOPICS RELATED TO YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING'. Further down, another section of text reads: 'THE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE POPSOC BUILDING. PLEASE WAIT BY POPSOC AND THE WIMT WILL COME AND MEET YOU'. At the bottom, there is a pink box containing three session details: 'TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY - SELF-ESTEEM AND RESILIENCE 08:45 - 09:45', 'TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY - EMOTION REGULATION 08:45-9:45', and 'TUESDAY 10TH MARCH - DROP IN 08:45 - 09:45'.

What is The International Day of Happiness?

The International Day of Happiness is a global holiday observed every year on March 20th to promote happiness, well-being, and a more compassionate world. It is a day to celebrate and recognize the importance of happiness in people's lives and encourage individuals, communities, and organizations to take action to promote happiness and well-being.

When is The International Day of Happiness?

International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on March 20th, which falls on a Monday in 2026.



The Raise York website is designed to support parents, carers, children, young people and anyone who works with children, young people and families. If you're not sure where to find information or answers to your questions contact

York Family Information Service on telephone: 01904 554444; text telephone: 07786202241 or email: fis@york.gov.uk and an Information Officer will try and help you. <https://www.raiseyork.co.uk/>

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Success at school starts with **good attendance**

190 DAYS at school each year	180 DAYS at school each year	171 DAYS at school each year	161 DAYS at school each year	152 DAYS at school each year	143 DAYS at school each year
▼ Maximum attendance WELL DONE!	▼ 10 DAYS of missed learning	▼ 19 DAYS of missed learning	▼ 29 DAYS of missed learning	▼ 38 DAYS of missed learning	▼ 47 DAYS of missed learning
100% attendance	95% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance

There are **175 non-school** days a year.

That's 175 days for wellbeing, socialising
and non-urgent appointments.

Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child or adult's safety, welfare or general wellbeing, please ensure that you speak with a member of our safeguarding team straight away.



Vicky Mitchinson
Vice Principal & Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Senior Mental Health Trained
v.mitchinson@pop.hlt.academy



Linda Collier
Principal & Designated
Safeguarding Lead
Adult Mental Health Trained
l.collier@pop.hlt.academy



Holly Comb
Designated Safeguarding
Officer
hello@pop.hlt.academy



Dave Card
Designated Governor for
Safeguarding
hello@pop.hlt.academy



Ross Darvill
Health & Safety and
Site Management
r.darvill@pop.hlt.academy

If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm
please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub in York.

Phone: 01904 551900 | Email: MASH@york.gov.uk

Outside office hours, at weekends and on public holidays contact
the emergency duty team on 01609 780780.



**Poppleton
Ousebank**
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spring Term

w/c 16th February Half Term		
Tuesday 24th February	Parents' Evening	3:30-6:30pm Classrooms
Thursday 26th February	Parents' Evening	3:30-6:30pm Classrooms
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day	Dress as a character or bring your favourite bedtime story and pyjamas.
Thursday 5th March	Friends Book Bonanza	All children to receive a free book
Thursday 5th March	Reception 'Someone Special' reading	Reception Ouse/Foss 2:30 - 3:00pm
Wednesday 11th March	Y2 Art Gallery trip	
Thursday 12th March	Y1 Yorkshire Wildlife Park trip	
Thursday 19th March	Friends Disco	Y1/2 3:15 - 4:00pm Y3/4 4:15 -5:15pm Y5/6 5:30-6:30pm
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day	Plans TBC by School council
Tuesday 24th March	Y3/4 Production	5:00pm
Wednesday 25th March	Nursery Stay and Play - phonics	9:00 - 9:30am
Thursday 26th March	Y3/4 Production	2:00pm 5:00pm
Friday 27th March	Last day of school	

Summer Term

Monday 13th April	Back to school Careers Week	
Monday 20th April	Clubs begin	
Monday 20th April	Y4 Residential Meeting	3:30 - 4:00pm Classrooms
Tuesday 21st April	Class Photographs	
Monday 4th May Bank holiday. School closed.		
w/c 11th May	Y6 SATs	
w/c 18th May	Walk to school week	
Monday 18th May	Y6 Parent meeting for Residential	3:30pm Classrooms
Tuesday 19th May	Early Years/ KS1 Phonic workshops	3:30 - 4:15pm Classrooms
Thursday 21st May	POPS Got Talent	2:00pm Hosted by School Council
w/c 25th May Half Term		
Friday 5th June	Pride -TBC	Wear colour/rainbow celebrate difference
w/c 8th June	Y1 Phonic Screening check	Y4 Multiplication check
Wednesday 10th June	Nursery sports morning	10:30- 11:00am, Picnic lunch with parents
Friday 12th June	Sports Day	R/KS1 9:15am KS2 2:00pm School field
Friday 12th June	Non uniform day	Donation for the summer fair
w/c 15th June	Y6 Bikeability	
Monday 15th- 16th June	Y4 Residential	Malham Cove
Tuesday 16th June	Welcome to Early Years	4:00-5:00pm
Wednesday 24th -26th	Y6 Residential	Robin Wood
Friday 26th June	Staffing for next year/Classes go out	TBC
Weds 1st Thurs 2nd July	Whole School Transition days	TBC
Friday 3rd July	Popfest / Summer fair	All day / 3:15-5:30 pm
Tuesday 7th July	Y6 Production	2:00 pm 5:00pm
Thursday 9th July	Y6 Production	5:00pm
Friday 10th July	Reports go out	
Thursday 16th July	Y6 Colour Run	2:00pm
Friday 17th July	Y6 Leavers' assembly	2:30pm Hall
Friday 17th July	Last day of term	
Monday 20th - School closed Training day		

Other important dates for your diary

Training days

Monday 1st September
Friday 24th October
Friday 19th December
Monday 5th January
Monday 20th July

Class sharing assemblies

Friday 27th February Y6 Nile
Friday 6th March Y6 Niagara
Friday 13th March Y5 Mekong
Friday 20th March Y5 Mississippi
Friday 27th March Y4 Danube
Friday 17th April Y4 Douro
Friday 24th April Y3 Rhone
Friday 1st May Y3 Rhine
Friday 8th May Y2 Avon
Friday 15th May Y2 Aire
Friday 22nd May Y1 Tyne
Friday 5th June Y1 Thames
Friday 12th June R Foss Graduation
Friday 19th June R Ouse Graduation