

Friday 9th December 2022- Newsletter 13

A message from Miss Towler...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week in school and another fantastic opportunity to see our families in school. Our staff team were blown away by how many Parents and Carers came along to celebrate Christmas and watch our Key stage One and Two children perform in their Children Around the World performance. Our Early Years Extravaganza was also a big hit with the families and Parents and Carers even got stuck in with a team boogie as well!



We are looking forward to next week's Christmas plans and seeing families both at St Mary's Church for our Carols by Candlelight and also for our big finale of the Children Around the World Christmas performance.

A big thank you to our wonderful kitchen team who created a fabulous Christmas dinner for Team TPA. It was delicious and we loved wearing our Christmas jumpers and singing along whilst eating with our friends.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Christmas Market after school tonight. Thank you in advance to TPAC who have really blown me away with their dedication to raising funds for our school. Their hard work is always appreciated. I know how many hours they put into preparing for tonight's market and all of this whilst they are busy working and being Mum's too! Wows all round for them!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Caroline Towler, Headteacher

🎄 Celebrating Christmas at TPA 🎄



Our school attendance this week is: 95.35%

Our school attendance target is 97%.

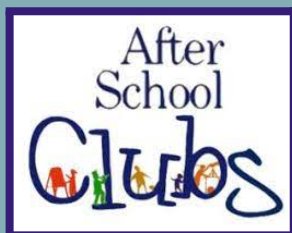
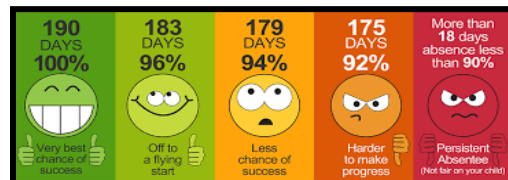
Neptune: 96.93% Top Team Attendance :)

Saturn: 96.80%

Jupiter: 94.29%

Venus Reception: 88.89%

*As Government guidance states, your child's attendance is compulsory in school and unless they are unwell we ask that you ensure they are in school, on time, every day.



After School Clubs at TPA

We are really excited to be able to share the details of our after school club offer from January. Please note there are some changes in clubs and the year groups that are eligible to take part (see below).

For spring term one (up to February half term) we will be offering a new dodgeball club which will run on Tuesdays for children in Years One to Six. This term we will also be offering a combined Key Stage One and Two Music and Singing club with Mrs Oldfield and also a Reception Craft Club.

We anticipate our clubs will be popular so ask that families act quickly as there are maximum numbers of places per club.

Please click on the link to the Booking Form to book your child's place:

<https://forms.gle/JghApSAsKZtWHZgt6>

Next terms after school clubs:

Monday - KS2 Football Club with York FC Foundation 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday - KS1/2 Music and Singing Games Club with Mrs Oldfield 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday KS1/2 - Dodgeball with Five Star Sports 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Thursday KS1/2 - Dance Club with York Dance Space 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Thursday Team Venus Reception - Art and Craft Club 3.20pm - 4.25pm
(please collect from the Early Years entrance)



TPAC update 🎅🎄🧑🎅🎄❄️🎁

Christmas Card designs: This fantastic little fundraiser has generated **£122** for our school, thank you for your support. We hope you're pleased with your orders 😊



Twitter at TPA

Please click on the link below to see if your child is appearing on Twitter right now! [Tadcaster Primary Academy](#) 🌈 (@TadPrimaryAcad)

Dates for your diary for the coming weeks



Dates	What's happening at TPA?
Monday 12th Dec	FINAL: Football Club with York FC Foundation 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please collect your child from the front school entrance. <i>Don't forget PE kits for those children in football club</i>
Tuesday 13th Dec <i>No clubs this evening due to Evening performance</i>	Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Church, Tadcaster from 2pm Years 1-6 one ticket per family (admits two)
	Christmas Performance at school - Children Around the World Years 1-6 5.30pm - 6.30pm one ticket per family (admits two) Please can children arrive for 5pm to get ready in costumes.
Thursday 15th Dec	FINAL: Dance Club with York Dance Space 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please collect your child from the front school entrance. <i>Don't forget PE kits for those children in dance club</i>
Friday 16th Dec	School closes for Christmas at usual end of day time
Tuesday 2nd Jan	School reopens for the Spring term
Monday 9th Jan	NEW: KS2 Football Club with York FC Foundation 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please collect your child from the front school entrance
Tuesday 10th Jan	NEW: KS1&2 Music and Singing Club with Mrs Oldfield 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please collect your child from the front school entrance
	NEW: KS1&2 Dodgeball 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please collect your child from the front school entrance
Wednesday 11th Jan	Team Saturn swimming session (see letter for further details)
Thursday 12th Jan	NEW: Team Venus Reception Craft Club with Miss Ambler 3.20pm - 4.25pm. Please collect your child from the EY front entrance.
	NEW: KS1&2 Dance Club with York Dance Space 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please collect your child from the front school entrance.

Parent Voice Update

Last week I shared the feedback we have received from our Parents and Carers who completed our questionnaire. The results were overwhelmingly positive which was great to see. However, as a school we are not complacent and so we always take on board thoughts and suggestions. See our thoughts based on what was shared:

'Be nice for reception for after school clubs' ~ Craft Club for Reception pupils will run in Spring term.

'Provision of wraparound care at school would make school more attractive to new families and greatly support the families of existing pupils.' ~ Now that we have implemented our full time Nursery provision this is the next thing on our 'to do list'. We will be discussing this within Governor meetings and with the Trust to look at how we could implement this in a cost effective way. Watch this space!

'More communication' ~ Without further explanation we are not sure what this specifically refers to.

Through weekly newsletters, letters, Twitter updates and Parenthub communication we hope that Parents feel that they have the key information. We plan to hold another Parent Forum in the Spring term so we will look at this in more detail to hopefully gain a bit more clarity.

'More communication and been notified of events happening in the school earlier' ~ We will try our best to get out information as soon as we can. Unfortunately this is not always in our control.

'I'd like to know how my children have done in their weekly spellings - Neptune & Saturn.' ~ We have discussed this with the teaching team and considered how these results could be communicated so Parents and Carers are aware of the results.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so entrains young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK – and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area of home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Ahmed is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of the book *Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday