

Friday 19th September 2025 - Newsletter no.3

A message from Miss Towler....

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's newsletter I am sharing details regarding our school attendance strategy. We know that it is really important that children are in school, on time, every day and we ask our families to support us in ensuring your child doesn't miss out on their learning. Unfortunately due to a significant level of term time absences and illnesses this has led to our school attendance figure being the lowest it has been for a long time. For those families whose children have higher levels of absence we will be in touch more regularly to discuss how we can work with you to improve your child's attendance. Please support us to do this as we are simply adhering to Government guidance.

I am pleased to share that we will be holding our annual Open Evening for any families of children who will be starting school in September 2026. This year we will also offer an Open Day slot as well. If you or anyone you know has a child who is due to start Reception next year or is looking for a Nursery place please get in touch with our school office to add your name to our list.

*Have a lovely weekend,
Caroline Towler, Headteacher*

Our school R-Y6 attendance this week is: 95.76%

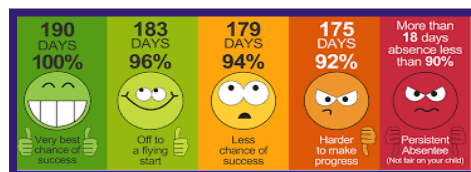
Our school attendance target is 97%.

Team Neptune: 93% Team Saturn: 95.94%

Team Venus Reception/Y1: 99.13% Top Team Attendance! 🙌

Team Nursery: 94.81%

***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.**



TPA Reception Open Day and Evening for September 2026 on Thursday 2nd October at 1.30pm and 5.00pm

We will be hosting an Open Day & Evening to show off our fantastic school and encourage any families to join Reception from September 2026.

This is also a great opportunity for any families of Nursery children to come and have a look if they are keen to visit our setting and start their Nursery child with us this year or next. Please spread the word about these events to any friends and families that might be interested. We appreciate your support in getting the word out there about our wonderful school!



Success at school starts with attendance!

Please help us to ensure that every child is in school, on time, every day

Contact school with the reason for absence

We ask that families contact the school office before 9am if your child will be absent. Please do so via the school admin email address admin.tad@ebor.academy or via phone on 01937 833795. Please specify the reason for their absence. Unwell, ill or feeling poorly unfortunately do not offer us the required information and so we will need to follow up on any absences if your child's illness and symptoms are not shared.



Home visit

If families do not let us know the reason for their child's absence we are duty bound to follow up any absences with phone calls to all contact numbers and in the eventuality that we are unable to get in touch we would need to make a home visit. This would involve two members of our school team being required to visit the family home. As you will understand this puts pressure on our staff team and so we ask that you let us know the reason for your child's absence **before 9am to avoid any staff having to leave school.**

Attendance

Unauthorised absence: If you do not tell us your child is ill or if you don't bring them to school when they are well enough to attend, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If your child is absent a member of the team including the teaching team will be in touch to check in with families.

Where children's attendance falls to 90% or below this means your child sits within the **Persistent Absentee category** and so we would be required to hold a meeting to review your child's attendance. It is important to note that if your child has had two absences or more since the start of this term your child will have fallen into this category and their attendance will already be below 90%. With good attendance this will improve.

Fines for absences

Where there are concerns regarding your child's absence figure we would need to communicate this with the Local Authority. Schools are required to issue a penalty notice (a fine) if your child

has 10 or more sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week period. This would then be investigated by North Yorkshire LA and is likely to lead to a fine. Please see the details here regarding the fining process.

Penalty Notice Fines - with effect from August 2024

First offence	Second offence	Third offence
A penalty notice fine could be issued, for term time leave or irregular attendance, and would be £160 per child paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 per child if paid within 21 days.	A penalty notice fine could be issued, within 3 years, for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per child paid within 28 days.	A penalty notice will not be issued for the third or any subsequent time an offence is committed, for term time leave or irregular attendance within 3 years – instead the case may be presented to a Magistrates' Court. Fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child. This can affect future DSB certificates under the category of "failure to safeguard a child's education."

What will my child be learning this term? Curriculum Update

Please take a look at the curriculum updates from your child's class teacher below to find out what your child is learning throughout the autumn term.

Team Venus (Nursery, Reception and Year One)

This term we are learning about 'Ourselves', we will be looking at what makes us special and why. Team Venus, Year 1, will be learning about 'The Gunpowder Plot' in History and what really happened all those years ago at the Houses of Parliament. In Religious Education we are looking at 'What is Christianity'. In Science this term we are learning about 'Everyday materials'. We will be identifying materials around the classroom and their properties. In PE we are focusing on hand eye coordination. To begin with we will focus on using rugby balls and then progress onto small balls such as tennis balls. In Geography this term we will be exploring 'Where we live' - we will investigate our local area starting with school and then moving out into Tadcaster. Mrs Oldfield and Miss Ambler will be teaching more new techniques in music and art. In Art the children will be exploring colour using paint and print. In Music Year 1 will be learning how to create musical sound effects and short sequences of sound. Team Venus reception will be playing sound games linked to prior learning.

Team Saturn (Years Two, Three and Four)

Team Saturn has a lot of exciting learning this term. In History we are learning about 'The Great Fire of London'. We will study when, where, how and what happened in this tragic event. In Geography we will learn about 'The Lake District'. The geography of the Lake District will enable us to learn about the different physical and human features of the landscape and the different activities that take place there. In RE we will look at 'Sacred Books' in different religions. We will look at these books to learn their different stories and how they are used by their religious communities. In Science we will be looking at 'Plants'. This will include learning about the parts of a plant, what a plant needs to grow and the importance of plants. In PE we will be learning tag rugby and basketball skills. Skills such as catching, throwing, dodging, weaving and teamwork. In English we will be carrying out various writing and reading tasks linked to the following books: The Magic Finger, Stuck, Bob the Artist and The Fairy Tale Fanclub. In Maths a lot of our work will be around place value and the four number operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Mrs Oldfield and Miss Ambler will be teaching more new techniques in music and art respectively.

Team Neptune (Years Four, Five and Six)

In English we are working on setting and character descriptions and writing stories based on the film "Swing of Change". We will be writing our own versions of the narrative poem The Lion and Albert and using the poem to learn about dialect and formal and informal language. For one last time before everyone forgets who she is we will be writing persuasive adverts about the "Lady Gaga Fashion Range" and roleplaying as Estate Agents making sales presentations. In History we are finding out about the Ancient Maya: Who were they and how have they influenced the modern world? In Geography we will be exploring the question "Why are rainforests important?" Maths will include working on Place Value, the Four Number operations and Fractions. Our RE topic is exploring the question of "What do religions have to say to us when times are hard?" comparing beliefs about an afterlife and why we have suffering in the world if there is a God. In PE we will be focussing on skills in Invasion Games including basketball, preparing for the Dance Festival on an international theme including music and dance styles from around the world. We are continuing learning German both recapping vocabulary from last year & new work on ordinal numbers to 32 and months. In DT we will create 3D Mayan masks using paper mache linked into 2D designs done in Art. Our focus in Computing is on Digital Literacy and understanding what plagiarism and copyright means and its impact. In Science our topics are Living things and their habitats including plants and animals and the Circulation System.

Wrap Around Care - Childcare Bookings for Schools



Our Wrap Around Care offer After School

Option One

Children can access Hub Club after school with Miss Bell and Miss Wu either for Session One (3.30pm - 4.30pm) or Session One and Two (3.30pm - 5.30pm) for a chilled out session with music, crafts and games

Option Two

Children can access one of the sessions that is on offer (see below)

Monday - 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Session One) Dodgeball with Danny from Five Star Sports

Tuesday - 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Session One) Music with Mrs Oldfield

Wednesday - 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Session One) Multiskills with Danny from Five Star Sports

Thursday - 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Session One) Dance with York Dance Space

Option Three

Children can access one of the sessions on offer (see choices above) and then join Hub Club with Miss Bell and Miss Wu from 4.30pm - 5.30pm

All clubs can be booked as part of the after school club offer and will be charged at the rate of £4.50 for the first hour or £9.00 for two hours. In all clubs children will be given the choice of a cheese or ham wrap and fruit.

You can access the Childcare Bookings system by clicking here: <https://tadcaster.cbfs.uk/>

Please support our school by taking the opportunity to use our Wrap Around Care service. We will only be able to maintain this by having children accessing it regularly. Thank you for your support.

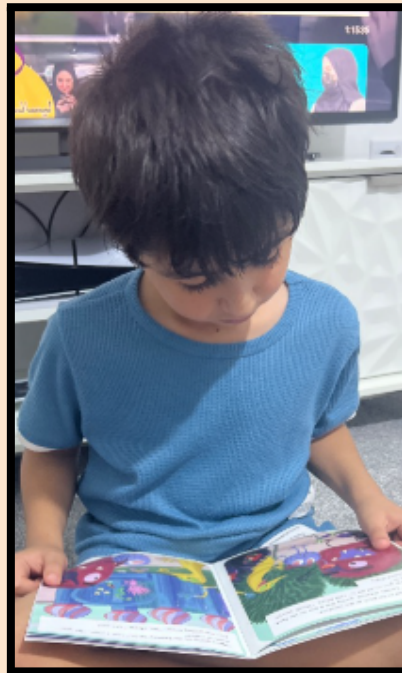
Updated: Dates for your diary for next academic year.

Dates	What's happening at TPA?
Wednesday 24th September	Bikeability for children in Years 5 and 6 who have signed up
Thursday 25th September	Bikeability for children in Years 5 and 6 who have signed up
	TPAC AGM Meeting in the school hall at 5.30pm. All Parents/ Carers are welcome!
Thursday 2nd October	Reception 2026 Open Day and Evening (1.30pm and 5.00pm)
Monday 6th October	MSP meetings for children on the SEND register
Tuesday 21st October	Harvest Festival at 2pm at St Mary's Church for all families (Nursery - Y6) More details to follow.
Monday 27th October	Break up for Half Term
Monday 3rd November	Back to school
	Team Neptune - Everybody Dance event at York Theatre Royal
Friday 14th November	Training Day - School closed to children
Friday 19th December	Break up for Christmas

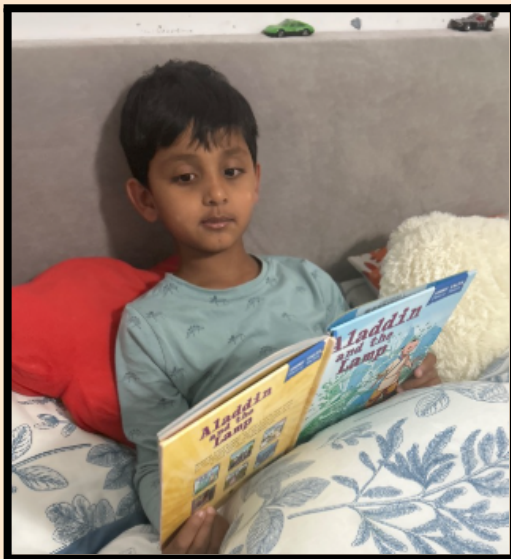


Have you logged into our School Digital Reading Log?

WELL DONE AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE FAMILIES WHO HAVE SIGNED UP AND ADDED READING TO LEARNING WITH PARENTS. KEEP IT UP!



[Click here to find out how to use Learning with Parents Reading Log](#)



We are now on Instagram!

This week we have launched our new social media account and so we will be sharing images of children learning on Instagram. Please sign up to Tadcasterprimaryacad and see if your child is appearing on Instagram.



Welcome to Mrs Houchen

You may have already met Mrs Houchen who is working in Team Venus. Mrs Houchen is on her Initial Teacher Training placement and will be working in Team Venus both this term and later in the year. Mrs Houchen has experience of working in schools and is definitely excited about working in Team TPA. We know she will be a fantastic member of the team and the children are really loving getting to know her.



Mrs Gemma Houchen



Tadcaster
PRIMARY ACADEMY

1.30pm and 5.00pm
Thursday 2 October 2025

Open Day

We can't wait to show you around our amazing nursery and reception!

Please come for a visit - or contact our school for more details.



Tadcaster Primary Academy
Grange Avenue, LS24 8AN
T: 01937 833795
E: admin.tad@ebor.academy
www.tadcaster.ebor.academy

