

Mrs Wolfe's Weekly Update

25th September 2026

Autumn Term Dates

21st Sept - Individual School Photos
22nd Sept - Y6 helping at Harvest Lunch
24th Sept - No Forest School
29th Sept - Flu Immunisations
30th Sept - Y3/4 Dodgeball @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
30th Sept - Y6 SATS Parent Information Meeting
2nd Oct - School Harvest Festival 9:15 @ St Leonards Church
8th Oct - Phonics Parent Information Meeting
wb 12th Oct - Parent Consultation Meetings (Teachers will inform parents of which days these will be held)
14th Oct - Year 5/6 Netball Tournament @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
26th-30th October - Half Term Break
2nd Nov - Teacher Training Day
3rd Nov - Children to return to school
4th Nov - Climate Change Pupil Event for Ambassadors & School Council @ RHS Harlow Carr (TBC)
25th Nov - Year 5/6 Football @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
9th Dec - Owl Class Nativity @ Burton Leonard Village Hall
10th Dec - Christmas Lunch
10th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
11th Dec - Owl Class Postal Museum Workshop
12th Dec - KS2 Royal Hall Christmas Concert
14th Dec - Kite Class Christmas Party
15th Dec - Whole-school Theatre Trip to see Peter Pan at Bradford Alhambra
16th Dec - Merlin Class Christmas Party
17th Dec - Owl Class Christmas Party
18th Dec - End of Term Christmas Service 2pm @ St Leonards Church
21st - 1st Jan - Christmas Break
4th Jan - Teacher Training Day
5th Jan - Children return to school

Weekly Enrichment

Mondays

After-school Times Table Club with Mr Doohan

Tuesdays

After-school Sports Club with Miss M
After-school SATS Club with Mr Doohan

Wednesdays

Lunchtime Library Club with our Reading Ambassadors & Library Grannies
After-school Knitting Club with Granny Lesley

Thursdays

Forest School with Outdoor Adventures

Y1 - 10th Sept

Y2 - 17th Sept

Y3 - 1st Oct

Y4 - 8th Oct

Y5 - 15th Oct

Reception & Y6 - 22nd Oct

Mandarin Club with Mrs Cummings

Friday

Before School Provision from

8am Mon-Fri

After-school Provision from

3:30-6pm Mon-Thurs

Vision & Values

Our Vision - To love our neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world.

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Luke 10:27 Parable of the Good Samaritan

Our Values - Courage, Love, Resilience & Service

Our 3Rs - Be Ready, Be Responsible & Be Respectful

Attendance

Our average whole school attendance so far this year is 98.6%

Well done to Year 5 for achieving 100% attendance this week!

This Week's News

This Week's Worship

This week, our worships have focused on World Gratitude Day and World Clean Up Day, exploring how thankfulness should inspire action. Reflecting on our school vision, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the children considered how showing gratitude for our school, community and God's world means caring for them well. As part of this, members of our Collective Worship Committee shared the Bible story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, encouraging children to reflect on the many blessings we often take for granted and how gratitude grows when we recognise God's provision in our lives. Through discussion and reflection, pupils explored how our values of love, courage, resilience and service can be lived out through simple everyday actions, such as helping others, looking after shared spaces and taking pride in our environment. We have challenged all children to complete daily acts of care, helping to make our school and community cleaner, kinder and more welcoming places for everyone.

Year 6 Living Our Vision

This week, our Year 6 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our school vision of "Love your neighbour as yourself" through service to others. At the local Community Harvest Lunch, the children showed kindness, respect and responsibility as they served puddings to members of the local community. They were excellent ambassadors for our school, taking time to speak with guests and helping to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. We are incredibly proud of the way they lived out our values through their acts of service, showing how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference to those around us.

Class Learning

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning across the school!

Owl Class have been exploring the signs of autumn. Our Reception children proudly shared their learning during Celebration Worship, identifying the beautiful colours of autumn and creating wonderful pictures of autumn trees using broccoli and sweetcorn printing. In Year 1, children have been learning about the parts of the body, drawing around Max and carefully labelling different body parts to demonstrate their growing knowledge.

Merlin Class have been immersed in the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and have produced some fantastic writing. Year 2 children have been creating impressive Wanted Posters, while Year 3 pupils have been developing their narrative skills through writing their own engaging stories inspired by the tale.

Year 4 have been busy acting as language detectives in Guided Reading, exploring the question, "Why is the Prince no normal prince?" in *Zombierella*. We were particularly proud of Evie, who shared a fantastic explanation during today's church celebration, using quotations, evidence and clear reasoning to support her ideas.

Kite Class have also been producing some excellent writing. The children have been writing diary entries based on *The Three Little Pigs*, and Isla M shared a wonderful diary piece from the perspective of the second pig. In Geography, pupils have been exploring the lives of Indigenous peoples, learning about how communities survive, adapt and thrive in different environments around the world.

Across the school, we are particularly proud of the children's growing oracy skills. Providing opportunities for children to speak confidently, share their ideas, justify their thinking and present their learning remains a key priority. It has been wonderful to see so many children confidently sharing their work and achievements with their peers, families and the wider community.

Attendance, Safeguarding & Health & Safety Updates & Reminders

The Importance of Attendance

At Burton Leonard, we know that every day counts. Good attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children thrive both academically and socially. Each day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, as well as chances to build friendships, develop confidence and take part in the wider life of our school community.

Our vision of "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world" reminds us that being present matters. When children attend regularly, they are able to contribute fully to their class, support their peers and take advantage of every opportunity to learn, grow and shine. It also helps children to develop important habits of responsibility and commitment that will serve them well throughout their lives.

We understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable, particularly when children are unwell. However, we encourage families to prioritise attendance wherever possible and to avoid arranging holidays during term time. Holidays taken during term time will not be authorised except in the most exceptional circumstances.

At Burton Leonard, one of our teaching mottos is "Keep Up, Not Catch Up." We believe that children make the strongest progress when they are learning alongside their peers every day. When absence does occur, teachers will work with families to ensure that children have opportunities to access and recover key learning so that they can continue to keep up with the curriculum and remain confident learners.

If a class teacher feels there is any concern about the amount of learning that has been missed, they will arrange a meeting with parents to discuss the impact of the absence and agree the best plan of action moving forward. By working together, we can identify any barriers, provide appropriate support and ensure that every child remains on track with their learning.

If attendance begins to fall to a level that causes concern, we will work proactively with families to understand the reasons and provide support wherever possible. In the first instance, this may involve discussions with your child's class teacher or myself, Attendance Lead. However, where concerns remain and attendance does not improve, school may engage with appropriate external agencies and support services to help ensure that children receive the education to which they are entitled. Our aim is always to work in partnership with families, providing timely support so that every child can attend regularly, keep up with their learning and continue to thrive both academically and socially.

We are delighted that so many of our children attend school regularly and arrive each day ready, respectful and responsible. Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote excellent attendance and punctuality. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the very best opportunity to flourish, reach their potential and make a positive difference in the world.

As part of our celebration worship each week, we will continue to recognise year groups with strong attendance and celebrate the collective effort that goes into making attendance a priority. Together, we can help every child make the most of every school day and ensure that every child has the opportunity to shine.

Being on Time Matters

A positive start to the day makes a real difference. School opens at 8:45am for our Early Bird activities, and we expect all children to be in school and ready to learn no later than 8:55am.

As we have now moved Collective Worship to the afternoon, it is even more important that children arrive on time each morning so that they do not miss the start of their learning. The first few minutes of every lesson are crucial for setting expectations, introducing new learning and helping children feel ready and confident for the day ahead. Thank you for your support in ensuring that children arrive promptly and begin each day ready, respectful and responsible.

Allergies, Food in School and Healthy Choices

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our highest priority. Following the increased national focus on food allergies, including the introduction of Benedict's Law, it is important that we continue to work together to keep all members of our school community safe.

We have both children and staff in school with diagnosed allergies and food intolerances. As a result, we are a strictly no-nut school and ask all families to support us by ensuring that no nut products are included in packed lunches or snacks brought into school. This includes items such as nuts, peanut butter, spreads containing nuts and products that contain nuts.

We take allergies and food safety extremely seriously and appreciate your support in helping us create a safe environment for everyone. By being mindful of what we send into school, we demonstrate our vision of "Loving our neighbour" and caring for those around us.

As a school, we are also committed to promoting healthy lifestyles. Recent guidance and legislation continue to strengthen the expectation that schools encourage healthy food choices and develop positive attitudes towards nutrition from an early age. We therefore ask families to support us by ensuring that packed lunches contain healthy, balanced options wherever possible.

As part of this commitment:

- Children should not bring sweets or chocolate bars chocolate confectionery bars or other high-sugar treats.
- as part of their packed lunch.
- Snacks brought into school should be fruit or another healthy option.
- Water remains the preferred drink throughout the school day.

We would also like to remind families of the importance of preparing food safely for children. To reduce the risk of choking, any small, round foods should be cut appropriately before being brought into school. This includes:

- Grapes
- Blueberries
- Cherry tomatoes
- Large berries
- Popcorn
- Other similar small, round fruits or foods

These items should be sliced lengthways before being packed in lunchboxes or snack pots.

Our staff remain vigilant regarding food safety and, where concerns arise, will contact families to discuss how we can work together to ensure that food brought into school is both safe and suitable.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a safe, healthy and caring school environment. By working together, we can ensure that all children are able to enjoy their time in school safely, develop healthy habits for life and continue to shine and make a difference in the world.

Celebrating Birthdays in School

If your child would like to bring in a birthday treat to share with their classmates, please speak to the class teacher beforehand. This helps us check for any allergies, dietary requirements and food safety considerations to ensure that, wherever possible, the treat can be enjoyed by all children in the class.

Please remember that any treats brought into school must support our no-nut policy. Thank you for helping us ensure that birthday celebrations are safe, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a wonderful start to the term, and I am excited to see all that our children will achieve in the weeks ahead as they continue to love their neighbour, shine brightly and make a difference in the world.

Looking to the Week Ahead...

Tuesday -

Flu Immunisations. Please contact Mrs Drake if you require signposting to any further information.

Wednesday -

Y3/4 Dodgeball Tournament@Outwood Academy. Please contact Mrs Corrin for further information.

Library Club

Our Library Club takes place every Wednesday with our wonderful Reading Ambassadors and Library Grannies, supporting a love of reading across the school. Library Grannies are also in school to change children's library books.

Kite Class SATS Information session @3:30pm - open to Y4, Y5 & Y6 parents and carers. Please contact Mr Doohan for further information.

Thursday - Year 3 Forest School with Outdoor Adventures

Friday - Harvest Service 9:15 @ St Leonards Church. Children are invited to bring dried and tinned goods, which will be shared between The Salvation Army, Harrogate Homeless Project and Food Bank.

Swimming will also take place for selected swimmers until further notice. Please ensure swimming kits are brought into school.



House Cup

This week's team with the
most house points is
Turing Reds



Mrs Wolfe's RECOMMENDED PICTURE BOOK READ OF THE WEEK...



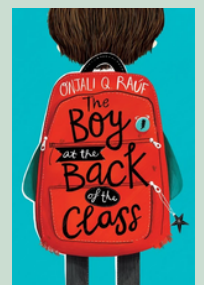
The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater is my picture book recommendation of the week.

As the seasons begin to change, this funny and engaging story follows Squirrel as he becomes convinced that someone is stealing the leaves from his tree. With the help of his friend Bird, he discovers the wonders of autumn and learns that sometimes nature has its own plans!

This beautifully illustrated book is perfect for sharing at home and provides a wonderful opportunity to talk about the changing seasons, friendship and how the natural world changes throughout the year. As you read together, encourage your child to spot signs of autumn in your local area and discuss why leaves change colour and fall from the trees.

Family Challenge: Take an autumn walk together and see how many different coloured leaves you can find. Can you create your own autumn picture inspired by The Leaf Thief?

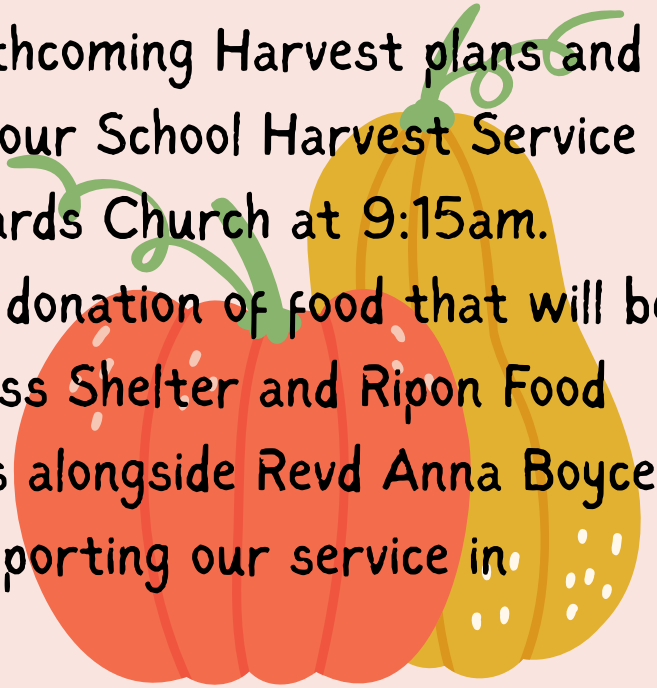
Mrs Wolfe's RECOMMENDED CHAPTER BOOK READ OF THE HALF TERM...



My chapter book recommendation this half term is The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf. This powerful and heartwarming story follows a group of children who befriend a new classmate, Ahmet, a refugee who has experienced many challenges in his journey to safety. The book beautifully reflects our school vision of "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world." Through themes of kindness, empathy, courage and friendship, it encourages children to think about how their actions can positively impact others and reminds us of the importance of welcoming, supporting and standing up for those around us. A thoughtful and inspiring read for children and adults alike, it provides many opportunities for discussion about compassion, inclusion and what it truly means to make a difference in the world.

School, FOBLs, Community & National News

We are looking forward to our forthcoming Harvest plans and would like to invite our families to our School Harvest Service on Friday 2nd October, at St Leonards Church at 9:15am. Children are invited to bring a gift donation of food that will be shared between Harrogate Homeless Shelter and Ripon Food Bank. We hope that you can join us alongside Revd Anna Boyce, the Cathedral Curate, who will be supporting our service in Church.



We look forward to celebrating harvest with you all over the next few weeks!

Our aims:

- We encourage our siblings to be independent, confident and unapologetically themselves.
- Experience the outside world via group trips by public transport.
- To create friendships with those of similar age and circumstance, and develop a community.

To sign up your child contact us

Contact info
hannah@thesiblinggroup.org
www.thesiblinggroup.org
 Find us on facebook and Instagram too

The sibling group

See for your self!

About us:

The Sibling Group was founded by our CEO Grace, Grace who was born in Harrogate, North Yorkshire had two siblings an elder sister and younger brother Oscar. Oscar was diagnosed with severe learning disabilities and Autism at the age of 3. At this time like many others, Grace's family were unsure what this meant for their future. Grace and her elder sister struggled with the many challenges of having a sibling with SEN and felt isolated and misunderstood by the world around them. They felt lucky to have each other to talk to but wished they could have known others in similar positions as them, as they didn't want to burden their parents with their concerns and feelings surrounding their brother's needs. Grace and her sister feel that siblings of SEN children are often overlooked or discredited as they are not the ones with the needs so therefore are expected to be fine. Often children take on the worries or concerns surrounding the welfare of their SEN sibling which can lead to their own mental health issues.

Grace went on to gain a first degree in Special Education and a distinction in her PGCE & qualified teaching status and worked as a SEN teacher in London. She is currently studying her masters in Autism and Inclusion. Whilst writing her dissertation she based it on the effect a child with special needs has on their sibling, to which she found herself interviewing her sister and revisiting their shared experience growing up with a sibling with special needs and the emotional effects this had on them. Reminding her of their lack of support.

These events inspired the creation of The Sibling Group Charity.

What we do

We run groups for children aged 5-11 years old who have a sibling with additional needs but do not have these needs themselves. Our groups allow children to meet others of similar age and circumstance encouraging them to create friendships and build support networks to last a life time. Our groups take place in Harrogate.

Some things we do at our groups:

- Games
- Crafts
- Cooking/baking
- Themed days
- Trips
- Lots of fun!

North Yorkshire families: Build everyday emotional resilience!

Your free online learning. Big feelings, how the brain works, and relationship ideas for happier lives.

North Yorkshire Council

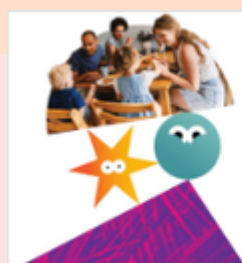
gives families free access to Togetherness resources to support wellbeing. For parents, carers, grandparents, and young people.

Learn from NHS clinical psychologists, practitioners, and other parents. The pathways will help you and your family understand and manage emotions in everyday life.

Browse pathways

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 Big feelings, how the brain works, and relationship ideas for happier lives. Togetherness pathways for parents, carers,...

Togetherness