

Bishop Monkton Church of England Primary School

Act Justly, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly with God; Micah 6:8

Newsletter

Autumn 1 week 4

2nd October 2026

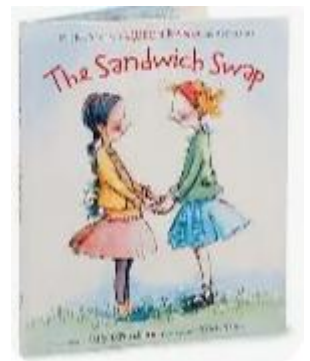


It has been another busy and productive week in school as we continue to put key developments in place ahead of half term. We are still awaiting the arrival of some of our new loose parts resources, along with reading books and curriculum schemes, but we are excited about the opportunities these will bring for our children. Across school, pupils are working hard and engaging positively with their current units of learning. We are also preparing to launch our new spelling programme for Years 2 to 6, which will support children in developing their understanding of spelling patterns and applying these accurately within their writing. We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Harvest Celebration on 16th October. This week, I also had the pleasure of meeting with our Church Wardens to explore ways in which we can strengthen our partnership and make the most of the fantastic resource we are fortunate to have at the heart of our village community. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Reppold.

Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship theme this half term is **Generosity**. Through our worship and Picture News sessions, pupils have been exploring The Bayeux Tapestry and Making a Difference. Out Story this week was The Sandwich Swap and was enjoyed by all.



We invite you to reflect on the following Bible verse together:

"Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning."



Proverbs 9:9

Family Reflection: Next week's Collective Worship will consider family 'heirlooms'. If you have anything children could bring into school to share in our worship, or in class, please bring along on Monday. If the item is incredibly valuable, you can send in a picture or email this to school. A little bit of information would be great!

Harvest Celebration: 16th October 9.30am St John's Church – All are welcome.

Harvest Festival arrangements will be confirmed next week as we continue to liaise with the Church. We will be collecting donations of **non-perishable items for Waste Not Wednesday**, which will be gratefully received and used to support members of our local community. A collection table will be placed outside school for donations from Monday.

This initiative links closely to our half-term theme of Generosity. However, we recognise that not all families are in a position to contribute financially at this time. Please remember that generosity can be shown in many different ways. If you are unable to donate, your support in attending the Harvest Service and celebrating with our school community will be just as valued and appreciated.





Upcoming Dates

Autumn Term 2026

September

6th October – Individual School

Photographs (Tempest)

12th October – Parents' Consultation Meetings
from 2.30pm onwards

Harvest Celebration- 16th October

19th October – Ospreys Sculpture Workshop in School

November

3rd November – Ospreys York Chocolate Story

11th November – Remembrance Service

15th November – Anti-Bullying Week Begins

29th November - FOBMS Christmas Fair

Reading in School

National Year of Reading 2026

At Bishop Monkton Primary School, we are committed to fostering a love of reading that extends beyond the classroom. Reading for pleasure plays a vital role in developing children's vocabulary, imagination, wellbeing and academic success. Even a few minutes of daily reading can make a significant difference. We encourage families to enjoy books together, discuss stories and celebrate reading at home. By providing children with access to high-quality, engaging texts and opportunities to choose books that interest them, we aim to nurture confident, enthusiastic readers who develop a lifelong love of reading. **These are highly recommended and current titles identified by literacy experts and children's book specialists.**

EYFS

- The Colour Monster (Anna Llenas)
- The Invisible (Tom Percival)
- Oi Frog! (Kes Gray)
- Supertato (Sue Hendra)
- Ruby's Worry (Tom Percival)
- The Paper Dolls (Julia Donaldson)

Year 1

- The Gruffalo (Julia Donaldson)
- Julian is a Mermaid (Jessica Love)
- The Dragon Machine (Helen Ward)
- Traction Man (Mini Grey)
- The Princess and the White Bear King (Tanya Robyn Batt)

Year 2

- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark (Jill Tomlinson)
- The Last Wolf (Mini Grey)
- The Abominables (Eva Ibbotson)
- The 13-Storey Treehouse (Andy Griffiths)
- Luna Loves Library Day (Joseph Coelho)
- The Magic Faraway Tree (Enid Blyton)

Year 3

- The Wild Robot (Peter Brown)
- Charlotte's Web (E.B. White)
- Leon and the Place Between (Angela McAllister)
- The Iron Man (Ted Hughes)
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (Kate DiCamillo)

Year 4

- The Boy at the Back of the Class (Onjali Q. Raúf)
- The Journey (Francesca Sanna)
- Varjak Paw (S.F. Said)
- The Last Bear (Hannah Gold)
- The Girl Who Stole an Elephant (Nizrana Farook)

Year 5

- The Explorer (Katherine Rundell)
- The Lost Happy Endings (Carol Ann Duffy)
- Cosmic (Frank Cottrell-Boyce)
- Orion Lost (Alastair Chisholm)
- The Midnight Guardians (Ross Montgomery)

Year 6

- Skellig (David Almond)
- A Kind of Spark (Elle McNicoll)
- Wolf Brother (Michelle Paver)
- The Final Year (Matt Goodfellow)
- When the Sky Falls (Phil Earle)

If anyone is in a position to donate to our reading library, we would welcome any of the above texts.

New research: the power of audio

Almost half (47.3%) of children and young people now listen to audiobooks or podcasts whilst more than a quarter of children and young people say listening to audio sparks their interest in reading books.

But what are some of the benefits of audio?

North Yorkshire Council Libraries have free audiobooks which can be downloaded if you join up. Download the app: www.northyorks.gov.uk



Play and Physical Activity in School

Please be reassured that children are getting plenty of breaks during the school day. If you are unsure about how this is working in your child's class, please ask their class teacher.

The trim trail is currently out of full use for large groups at any one time. Individual classes are using sections of this until we have had a health and safety check. Please can we ensure we leave the school premises once we have collected children at 3.30pm. It is also important that we do not use the wooden trim trail after school for health and safety reasons. This also enables Quackers to use the playground. Thank you.

Mrs Watson will be sending out a survey soon regarding **school swimming**. Please complete this online survey to allow us to proceed with plans for swimming in spring.



Labelling uniform

Please ensure that all items of school uniform, particularly jumpers and cardigans, are clearly named. As children often remove these during the school day, named uniform helps us return items promptly to their rightful owner.

We currently have a number of jumpers and cardigans that have been misplaced, and it appears that some named items may have been taken home in error. **We would appreciate it if you could check any spare uniform at home and return any items that do not belong to your child.** Your support in ensuring all uniform is clearly labelled will help us significantly reduce lost property and ensure children have their belongings returned quickly.

Safeguarding in School

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Kelly Reppold

Our Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Rachel West and Sarah Worthington.

Our Safeguarding Governor is Anna Kirby

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of any child, please speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

Absence from School

If your child is absent from school because of illness, we ask that you advise the school (email, Arbor App, telephone call, in person at the school office) to explain why your child will not be attending. If we are not notified then we will contact you to establish the reason for your child's absence.

Attendance this week:

99%

Medical Appointments

To minimise disruption to learning, we kindly ask parents to arrange routine medical appointments, including dental, optical and non-urgent medical appointments, outside of the school day wherever possible. We appreciate that this is not always feasible and, in some cases, appointments can only be offered during school hours. In these circumstances, please inform the school office in advance and provide appointment details where possible. Thank you for your support in helping us maximise children's time in school and ensure they benefit from every learning opportunity.