



## Newsletter – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

*Educating ‘for life in all its fullness.’*

Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

### Global Citizenship Thread

Last half term the children focused on **VALUES AND PERCEPTIONS**. This half term our whole school Thread is **SOCIAL JUSTICE**.

#### Spring 1 – Social Justice



**EYFS** What makes a good friend?

**YEAR 1/2** Do I understand and value fairness?

**YEAR 3/4** Do I recognise that actions have intended and unintended consequences?

**YEAR 5/6** Can I challenge injustice and develop a prophetic voice?

Growth in SPIRIT

### Staffing

It has been wonderful to welcome Julie Phoenix this week. Julie has joined our team as a cleaner and is already settling in really well.

Growth in SPIRIT

### Values for Life

This half term in collective worship the children will be focusing upon the value of: **JUSTICE**

This week's focus will be: **EVEN-HANDED**

*‘Follow justice and justice alone.’ - Deuteronomy 16:20*

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### \*\*\*Dinner Debate\*\*\*

**This week's question to debate with family and friends at home:**

*‘Which would be better, to time-travel into the past, or the future?’*

Dear Parents/Carers,

*A very happy new year to all our children, parents, carers, staff and governors. I hope that you have all had a safe and enjoyable Christmas.*

*During the Christmas break, I updated and distributed the school's operational guidance, which I hope that you all received. There was then a further update to reflect local amendments on Wednesday. If you have any questions about the content, please do let us know. The document can be found on our website here: [Covid-19 School's Guidance – Spring 1](#)*

*As always, the advice remains subject to change and actions may need to be taken as a result of school, local and national circumstances.*

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### Diary Dates

#### January

- 13<sup>th</sup> – Dodgeball Competition
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Y4 Jorvik Viking Centre Visit
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Class Worship (9:15am Parents Invited)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Governors School Development Committee Meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Florence Nightingale Workshop (Y2)

*If any parents/carers are struggling with LFT supplies, please let us know. We have a contact through Wakefield Council that can advise on sources of available stock for parents to collect.*

### Christmas Events

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Despite a few extra challenges, what a wonderful couple of weeks it was leading up to Christmas in school and we are so glad you could be involved. It was great to see the children enjoying the pantomime, Christmas productions, the church carol service and their Christmas parties.

There were so many happy faces during the productions, both performing in and watching the shows, a delight to see after the last couple of years!!! The children and the staff worked extremely hard and we were tremendously proud to see the end results. Thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported the productions.

Key Stage 2 were delightful in their carol service at St. Cuthbert's too which was a wonderful way to finish the term. We felt humbled by how the children shared the true message of Christmas.

The children also enjoyed a special video treat from the staff which if you haven't seen is available on the school's Facebook page. It seems to have become a Christmas tradition now at The Howard School. The accompanying song was recorded by Key Stage 2.

<https://www.facebook.com/AckworthHowardSchool>



Ackworth Howard  
**POPPY APPEAL**

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 371.22  
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

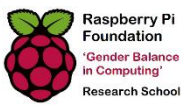
Yours sincerely

Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £ 301,298

Registered Charity No. 219279





## Wakefield Children's Services

On Wednesday, Ofsted published a report summarising their findings from the recent full re-inspection of children's services that took place between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The authority are pleased to announce that they made the jump from inadequate to good, with outstanding leadership.

You can read the report in full on the Ofsted website [here](#) and also the Council's Press Release following publication of the report [here](#).

### Join Our Team...

We currently have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisor / Play Leader. If you are interested contact school or view the advert on the Wakefield Council website.



## Family Hubs – Parent Consultation

In Wakefield, 9 Family Hubs are being created that will work with families with children from pre-birth to 19 years (or 25 years with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)).

The existing Children's Centre bases will become 'Family Hubs' and will connect with local community and statutory services to build a comprehensive offer of early help and support for the whole family in each of the six cluster areas in the district.

As such, they are keen to engage with parents and carers to understand what support programmes they would like to see available from each of the Family Hub locations, and to identify what services would help the most. They have created an online survey that you can complete here: <https://forms.office.com/r/HHJZCEmpyq>

## Severe Weather

In the event of severe weather, we have, on occasions, been forced to close due to health and safety issues. If the school has to close, we will endeavour to make a decision as soon as possible on the day. Parents will be informed by the following methods:

- A text message will be sent out to parents/carers.
- The Local Authority will be informed and they will update the details on their website.

## Reading and Phonics Provision Review – 25.11.21

Sarah Wright, our Local Authority School Improvement Advisor, visited school to conduct a review of reading and phonics provision with us recently. Having now received the report, I wanted to provide you with a summary of the findings.

### Strengths:

- *Phonics is taught very well in Early Years. Staff are skilled and experienced and children learn well. The learning environment is engaging and enabling.*
- *The Go Read App has been transformational in enabling the reading leader to track children's reading across school. This has been particularly important in ensuring that the lowest 20% of readers are heard read daily in school.*
- *The VIPERS reading system is now well-established across school and children from Y2 to Y6 enjoy a 45 minute daily diet of high-quality whole class reading. Y1 pupils read daily in guided groups.*
- *High quality texts have been woven into the curriculum to ensure pupils have access to whole class novels twice per week.*
- *The reading ambassadors work closely with the library service representative to promote a love of reading in school. They are enthusiastic and pro-active in their work!*
- *The Y4 reading area provides a good model for other year groups.*

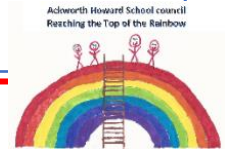
### Agreed Next Steps:

- *Ensure regular pupil conversations are planned with children in the lowest 20% from across school. This will enable leaders to unpick how well the new reading curriculum is supporting less able pupils to rapidly catch up with their peers.*
- *Consider how questioning and modelling teaching strategies can be introduced to support children's articulation of their answers.*
- *Establish how leaders can capture the enthusiasm of the reading ambassadors so that all children benefit from their ideas, particularly those children who are disadvantaged.*

The review has provided us with further evidence to inform future school improvement planning.

## Climate Change Weekly Challenge

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We are all well aware of the issue of climate change and the impact it is increasingly going to have on our lives. When we speak to children in school, it frequently comes up as one of their priorities which is why the School Council have made it their campaign for this school year and have already undertaken some great work!

The children are keen to encourage change and to inspire us all to undertake action. They have therefore developed their own initiative to run for 5 weeks up to the February half term. Each week there will be a different focus where they will inspire us to make changes in school and at home. Below is an overview and each week the children will provide further information.

- **Week 1 – Beg. 17th January (Recycling)**
- **Week 2 – Beg. 24th January (Food Waste – Including a No Meat Day)**
- **Week 3 – Beg. 31st January (Energy)**
- **Week 4 – Beg. 7th February (Water)**
- **Week 5 – Beg. 14th February (Outdoor Learning / Activities)**

Thank you for your continued support, I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Mr Michael Walker – Headteacher

Proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School Bega Kwa

Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)



# School Uniform Shop

Help our school as well as the environment. Buy pre-loved school uniform items by making a donation to Howard School Association.

Order your pre-loved school uniform items by emailing [admin@howard.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:admin@howard.wakefield.sch.uk), subject to stock availability.

