



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term: Issue 1 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### This week's **STAR LEARNERS!**

This week, our children have been settling back into our school routines. We have been reminding them of our three school rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe, as well as the importance of GOLD walking in the corridors.



Congratulations to the following children who all received a special mention this week:

EYFS – Dara, Bodhi

KS1 – Kara, Sarah

KS2 - Belle, Leon, Mikey, Rosalie, Mila E, Riley B

### Message from Mrs James

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, let me wish everyone a very Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas holiday and it has been great having all the children back in school.

At the end of this week's newsletter is some important information about arrangements for notifying you that school is closing if there is bad weather. Please take a moment to read this as listening to the forecast snow may be on its way in the coming days and weeks!

There is also some further information about the importance of good attendance at school and arriving at school on time. Thank you for your continued support of your child's attendance and punctuality at school. As always if you need any support from school with these please contact me.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs James

### Bilton Grange PTA News! Upcoming Events!!

Watch out for more details about:

Non-Uniform Day  
and  
Family Bingo Night

Please contact the school office if you would like to get involved in our PTA

### This Half Term:



- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**  
Reception Library Trip
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**  
Y3/4 Nell Bank Parent meeting
- **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
Years 2-6 Theatre Company Production in School
- **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**  
Parents evening - 3:20 – 7pm
- **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
Parents evening – 3:20 – 6pm
- **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**  
Young Voices
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**  
KS1 Dinosaur Day
- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February & Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Y4 Nell Bank Residential
- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
Number Day
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**  
Walk to school day and green jumper day
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
NSPCC Virtual assemblies
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**  
Whole-school Athlete Event

# What's Happening In School?

## Clubs in school

Our children have had a brilliant time at our clubs this week. Gymnastics Club started bright and early on Tuesday morning, with children making great use of the PE tables and mats. Our KS2 Dance Club also got moving with lots of enthusiasm, learning a brand-new routine. Check out our Facebook page to see the full performance!



## Music in School

Music has always been an important and enjoyable part of school life, helping children to build confidence, creativity and a love of learning. Through our lessons, clubs and ensembles, children have lots of chances to make music together and have fun. Peripatetic music lessons also give children the opportunity to develop their skills with specialist teachers and discover new talents. If your child is interested in learning an instrument in school, please contact the school office and Mrs Sawyer will get back to you.



## Reception and KS1 Nativity

We were incredibly proud of our Reception and KS1 children for their amazing nativity performances at St. John's Church. The children did an amazing job, remembering their lines and singing beautifully to tell the nativity story.



## Our visit from the BBC



What an amazing start it was to the first morning of the recent Christmas holidays! Our amazing children reviewed some of this year's top toys and were even joined by some of the original reviewers from 50 years ago. It was lovely to welcome them back into our school. If you missed it on the BBC Breakfast program, below is a link showing the whole clip. Enjoy!!

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/3zyd5uufb6q962kw8qk8n/toy-review-VT-to-share.mov?rlkey=03ywirzl6vmon28n4ysbf2bp&st=ap9jdvl&dl=0>

## This Term's Clubs

Monday – Schools Out

Tuesday – Gymnastics club AM – KS2

Tuesday – Football Club PM – KS2

Tuesday – Art Club KS1 and KS2

Wednesday – Drama Club – KS2

Wednesday – Nerf Club - KS2

Thursday – Gardening Club – Y3/4

Thursday – Lunchtime Book Clubs – UKS2

Friday – Football KS2 AM

Friday – Lunchtime Choir

## Mr Bolton's Wellbeing and Safety Corner

With the days shorter and the weather colder, it is still important to get outside for our physical and mental wellbeing, even if it is just 10–15 minutes a day. A short walk, fresh air, or outdoor play can help boost mood and energy levels, just remember to wrap up warm.

For indoor wellbeing, some of you may know **Deliciously Ella** as a food brand, but they also promote mental health and wellbeing for the whole family. They offer a lovely range of child-friendly mindfulness, yoga and affirmation videos which can be enjoyed at home. You can find them here:

<https://deliciouslyella.com/collection/wellness/kids/>



## School Office Updates

Parents evening booking links will go out early next week!

Have a lovely weekend

Thank you!

Mrs Hornby

### Dates for your Diary!

Date	Event
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception Library Trip
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Y3/4 Nell Bank Parent Meeting
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Years 2-6 Theatre Company Production in School
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents Evening 3:20pm – 7pm
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents Evening 3:20pm – 6pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	KS1 Dinosaur Day
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 4 Residential Nell Bank
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Walk to school day
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC Virtual Assemblies
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole-school Athlete Event
Half-Term	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March School Closes 2PM	

### Attendance at Bilton Grange – Autumn Term

Regular attendance and arriving on time help children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn each day. When pupils are in school every day and on time, they don't miss out on important learning, routines, or time with friends. Building these good habits early sets them up for success both in school and beyond.

At the end of the Autumn Term, our whole-school attendance stood at 95.7%, which is above the national average of 92.8%. Our target for good attendance is 96%, and our aim is to be above this figure by the end of the Spring Term.

Well done to the following classes whose attendance was over 96% at the end of the Autumn Term:

Silver Birch (97.3%), Buttercup (97%), Maple (96.7%), Sycamore (96.5%), and Oak (96%).



## Bad weather arrangements



*Whilst we make every effort for school to remain open in bad weather, there are times when we need to close. Over the years, school closures due to severe weather or a loss of utilities have proven to be rare at Bilton Grange and we certainly want to keep it that way!*

We understand that the majority of our children live within walking distance of school, however many of our staff live further afield and have difficulty getting into work during heavy snow. This often makes it impossible for us to maintain appropriate supervision ratios to ensure our children are safe in school.

In the event of severe weather such as snow, there are a number of factors to consider when making the decision to close. This includes: is the school site safe enough for children, parents and staff to enter and use throughout the day? Does the school have a safe ratio of adults to pupils? Are there enough qualified teachers to teach pupils? The decision to close the school is always a challenging one and is based on the safety of all of our school community at its heart.

Our procedures are as follows and are also in place in the event of a loss of utilities:

1. Inform parents via text and email at the earliest opportunity. We will let you know as soon as possible if the school needs to close. Please make sure the school office has up-to-date contact details.
2. Inform parents via local radio: Your Harrogate or Greatest Hits Radio Harrogate (formerly Stray FM). Listen on air or check their website. Search "Greatest Hits Radio Harrogate".
3. Inform the Local Authority- North Yorkshire County Council. Check their dedicated website for school closures. If you have any further questions regarding our procedures, please contact the school office.
4. Please do not telephone the school but use the above- we try to keep these lines open so staff can let us know of their situation.





Bilton Grange  
Primary School

## IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

**Come and see what makes  
our school such a special  
place to learn and grow**

- we'd love to welcome you to our  
open day sessions!

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 9:30 – 11:30am**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 9:30 – 11:30am**

**School tours: Wednesday mornings at 11am**

(starting from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025)

You are welcome to attend an open session,  
a school tour, or both!

Please register your interest by emailing  
[biltongrane@ycatschools.co.uk](mailto:biltongrane@ycatschools.co.uk) or calling **01423 502375**.

Spaces for school tours are limited to ensure a personal  
experience and plenty of time for your questions.

**Together we can achieve anything!**



Bilton Grange  
Primary School

## WHY CHOOSE BILTON GRANGE PRIMARY?

✓ **Inspiring environment**

Modern facilities, outdoor learning,  
and great resources

✓ **Excellent education**

High-quality teaching, broad  
curriculum with fantastic results  
consistently above national average

✓ **Creative & active focus**

Strong arts and sports opportunities

✓ **Caring community**

Nurturing ethos with friendly staff  
and children

✓ **Outstanding nursery**

On-site provision rated Outstanding

✓ **Wraparound care**

High-quality before and after school  
childcare to support families



**If you would like to visit our fantastic  
school, please call **01423 502375**  
or email [biltongrane@ycatschools.co.uk](mailto:biltongrane@ycatschools.co.uk)**

**Together we can achieve anything!**

# ATTENDANCE

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do **YOU** measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

**89% & Below**  
Drastic effect on academic achievement



**95%-90%**  
Cause for concern

**100%-96%**  
Excellent