



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term: Issue 2 Friday 23rd January 2026

This week's **STAR LEARNERS!**

This week, children across the school have been learning about the values of fairness and kindness, while Years 1–6 have made links to the inspiring message of Martin Luther King Jr.



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

EYFS – Hugo C, Dara, Morgan

KS1 – Otis, Karine, Violet

KS2 - Raine, Benita, Willow, Archie F, Blessed

Message from Mrs James	Bilton Grange PTA News! Upcoming Events!!	<u>This Half Term:</u>
<p>Dear Parents and Carers,</p> <p>A quick reminder to sign up for a parent evening appointment if you haven't already done so. These are an important opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher about their education.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Have a lovely weekend!</p> <p>Mrs James</p>	<p>Watch out for more details about:</p> <p>Spring Discos!</p> <p>Thank you to our PTA, who work so hard to provide our children and families with such exciting events and experiences! The funds raised are truly appreciated. This week, we were able to purchase a fire pit using PTA funds—something all of our children will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy.</p> <p>Please contact the school office if you would like to get involved in our PTA</p>	<p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 27th January Parents evening - 3:20 – 7pm• Wednesday 28th January Parents evening – 3:20 – 6pm• Thursday 29th January Young Voices• Friday 30th January KS1 Dinosaur Day• Monday 2nd February & Tuesday 3rd February Y4 Nell Bank Residential• Thursday 5th February Number Day• Friday 6th February Walk to school day and green jumper day• Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th February NSPCC Virtual assemblies• Friday 13th February Whole-school Athlete Event

What's Happening In School?

What's Happening this Week

It has been another busy two weeks across the school. Oracy skills continue to be a key priority, with our children learning how to agree, build on one another's ideas, and challenge them politely using our sentence stems.

Our iPads remain an invaluable tool for supporting maths learning, with a current focus on decimals.

Forget-Me-Not have been making lots of noise with percussion instruments, using them to perform different parts of a story.

Poppy Class have been moving and positioning their bodies to create four-point, three-point, two-point and one-point balances—holding each for five seconds!

Reception have made the most of all weather opportunities while also learning about Chinese New Year.



Clubs in school

Drama Club have been exploring improvisation this week. Our Early Bird Maths group enjoyed setting their brains to work while also tucking into some delicious toast!

Gardening Club had a very wet first session, but everyone loved getting stuck in and planning what we'll be accomplishing in the coming weeks.



Look out for...

Firepit posts! The fire pit has arrived and we've had lots of donations offered from local companies too! We can't wait to get started.

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 – Dance Club AM – KS2
Thursday – Toast and Arithmetic AM - Yr6
Thursday – Gardening Club – Y3/4
Thursday – Lunchtime Book Clubs – UKS2
Friday – Football KS2 AM
Friday – Lunchtime Choir

Mr Bolton's Wellbeing and Safety Corner

As a gentle reminder, current paediatric first aid guidance recommends that certain foods are prepared in **batons** (long, finger-shaped pieces) rather than **rounds or circles**. This is because round foods can more easily block a child's airway if swallowed whole, increasing the risk of choking. Cutting foods into batons makes them safer to chew and easier for children to manage independently. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep children safe at mealtimes and snack times.

Foods to baton:

- Sausages
- Grapes (cut lengthways)
- Cherry tomatoes (cut lengthways)
- Carrots (sticks, not coins)
- Cucumber (sticks, not slices)
- Bananas (split lengthways, especially for younger children)



School Office Updates

Please remember to book your parent's evening slot – if you need any help please just contact the office.
Have a lovely weekend!
Thank you!
Mrs Hornby

Dates for your Diary!

Date	Event
Tuesday 27 th January	Parents Evening 3:20pm – 7pm
Wednesday 28 th January	Parents Evening 3:20pm – 6pm
Thursday 29 th January	Young Voices
Friday 30 th January	KS1 Dinosaur Day
Monday 2 nd February – Tuesday 3 rd February	Year 4 Residential Nell Bank
Thursday 5 th February	NSPCC Number Day
Friday 6 th February	Walk to school day
Tuesday 10 th – Thursday 12 th February	NSPCC Virtual Assemblies
Friday 13 th February	Whole-school Athlete Event
Half-Term	
Thursday 26 th February	KS1 Intra Sports Competition with Sporting Influence
Friday 27 th February	NSPCC Workshops, Y2, Y5, Y6.
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Non-Uniform Day – Rainbow Raffle
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Thursday 26 th March	Rock Steady Concert
Friday 27 th March School Closes 2PM	



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.



Attendance at Bilton Grange

Why is it important to be on time for school each day?



Tips for parents - Are you having trouble getting your child to school?

If so, a set routine can help:

Have a set time to go to bed

Have a set time to get out of bed

Have uniform and school bag ready the night before

Have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast

Set a time for daily homework activities

Speak about school positively

Be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

Thank you for your support in helping your child get to school on time each day!