Yaxley Infant School Newsletter



Play together, learn together, grow together

Issue 3 – November

Welcome back

Welcome back to one of my favourite half terms of the school year!

It has been a fantastic start to the term, and I am delighted with how well our Reception children have settled into school life. They are becoming increasingly confident and are developing a strong understanding of our school routines and expectations.

We began the half term with an assembly focused on railway safety, helping children to understand how to stay safe around trains and railway crossings. We also enjoyed a wonderful Diwali Day, where children from across the school worked together in mixed-age groups. It was lovely to see pupils learning collaboratively, sharing experiences and celebrating the Festival of Lights through a range of creative and engaging activities.

As always, there is plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks, and we are excited to continue building on the excellent start our children have made.

Story Cafés This Half Term

We're excited to welcome families into school for our Story Cafés this half term. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to share a love of reading with your child and enjoy spending time together in the classroom.

📚 **Reception families** – Monday 7th December, 2:15pm

📚 **Year 1 families** – Tuesday 8th December, 2:15pm

📚 **Year 2 families** – Wednesday 9th December, 2:15pm

We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing the joy of reading together. These events are always a lovely opportunity for children to showcase their learning and for families to enjoy a story alongside them.

Dates for your Diary – Autumn/Spring term

November

- **16th November** – Odd Socks Day (Anti-Bullying Week)
- **20th November** – Starlings Cake Sale

December

- **4th December** – Friends' Non-Uniform Day
- **Week Commencing 7th December** – Story Cafés (Parent Invitation)
- **10th December** – Christmas Jumper Day and Craft Day
- **11th December** – Coffee Morning
- **14th December, 2:15pm** – Christmas Songs Around the Tree and Christmas Raffle
- **16th December** – Whole-School Church Visit and Christmas lunch
- **18th December** – Final Day of Term

January

- **4th January** – Training Day
- **5th January** – Children Return to School
- **29th January** – Peacocks Bake Sale

February

- **Week Commencing 1st February** – Parents' Evening
- **10th February, 4:30pm to 5:30pm** – Friends' Valentine's Disco

Children in Need



Thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need fundraising activities. We are delighted to share that, together, we raised **£129.13** for this wonderful charity.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Christmas Coffee Morning 🎄



Join us on **Friday 11th December at 9:00am** for our festive **Christmas Coffee Morning**. Everyone is welcome!
As well as enjoying a warm drink and a festive treat, you will be treated to a special performance from our newly formed music group, **the Boomwhackers**. We look forward to sharing some Christmas cheer with you and showcasing the children's musical talents.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 4th December



Children can come to school in their own clothes for £1 or bring a raffle prize donation.
Thank you for supporting our school!

🎄 Singing around the tree 🎄

On **Monday 14th December** (**weather permitting**), we will be opening our **main playground gates** for a lovely afternoon of **Christmas Spirit**.
The children have been busy rehearsing their favourite **Christmas songs**, and we would like to invite you to come and join us.

🗓️ **Date:** Monday 14th December
🚪 **Side gates open: 2:15pm**
🎶 **Performance starts: 2:30pm**

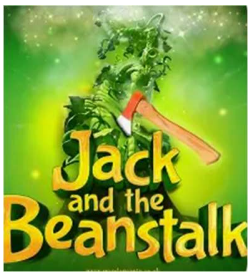
The children will be **Singing to the Christmas Tree**, sharing some festive cheer through song.



🎟️ **This year, we will be drawing the raffle after the singing.**
We look forward to celebrating the festive season with you! 🎄✨

Pantomime

A huge **THANK YOU** to **Friends of Yaxley Infant School** for generously funding our annual **Christmas Pantomime**.



This year's pantomime will take place on **Friday 11th December**, and the children are already looking forward to this exciting festive treat.

School Gifts - Amazon Wish List

We have created an **Amazon Wish List** containing much-needed **school supplies** and **reading books** to support the children's learning and enjoyment.
If you would like to purchase an item for the school, please click on the link below and choose a gift from the list.

https://amzn.eu/0gE36n7R

💝 There is also an opportunity to add a **gift message** when placing your order if you would like us to know who the gift is from

Every donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to our children.

Thank you for your kindness and support.

😊 🛍️ ✨

Christmas cards at Yaxley Infants

Some of our children have already told us their **Christmas decorations are up** – how lovely! 🎄 It's wonderful to hear that **Christmas lists** are in progress too.

📮 Our **School Christmas Post Box** will be ready from **Tuesday 1st December**.

Children can post their Christmas cards at any time, and our fantastic **Year 2 Posties** will make sure they are delivered to their friends around school.



✅ **Please remember:**

- Write the recipient's **class name** on the envelope.
- Add the recipient's **surname** if possible, as this really helps when children have the same first name.

🎅 ✨ We look forward to seeing our Christmas Post Box filled with festive messages and Christmas cheer! ✨ 🎅

Friends of Yaxley Infant School

The children will have brought home their **Christmas Raffle Tickets** in their book bags.



🎄 **This year we have some fantastic prizes, including:**

- 💷 **£100 Cash Prize**
- 🛍️ **Gift Vouchers from Local Businesses**
- 🎁 **Fabulous Christmas Hampers**

⭐ **Don't miss your chance to win!** ⭐

🗓️ **Please return all monies, completed ticket stubs and any unused tickets by Thursday 10th December.**

🎉 **The raffle will be drawn on Monday 14th December** following our **Singing to the Christmas Tree** event.

🍀 **Good luck, and thank you for supporting our school!** 🍀

Christmas/Winter jumpers



On **Thursday 10th December**, children and staff are invited to come to school wearing their favourite **Christmas jumper** or **winter jumper** to celebrate the festive season together.

🎄 Christmas Lunch, Church Visit and Parties

⛪ **Wednesday 16th December**

On **Wednesday 16th December**, the children will enjoy a **whole-school trip to the church** during the morning, followed by a delicious **Christmas lunch** back at school.

🍽️ A **Forms link** will be sent out soon for you to order your child's lunch for this special day.

🎉 **Friday 18th December**

On **Friday 18th December**, the children are invited to come to school in their **party clothes** for a fun-filled day of festive celebrations.

🎈 In the afternoon, we will be enjoying **traditional party games** and, if we're very lucky, a **very special guest** may even pop in to visit us! 🎅

✨ We are looking forward to ending the term with lots of **Christmas fun and festive cheer**.



Eco Team update



Our school Eco Team has been carrying out weekly classroom checks every Friday to see which classes are most eco-friendly! The team has been looking out for simple ways we can all help to protect our environment, including switching off lights and computers, making sure taps are turned off, recycling and using the correct bins, and keeping our classrooms tidy. Each week, the Eco team is encouraging everyone to play their part by making small changes that can make a big difference. We wonder which class will earn the title of our most eco-conscious classroom!

Gardening club update

The Year 2 Gardening Leads, **Matilda, Samuel, Liam, Alessio, Ciara and Toby**, met to check on the lettuce they planted for Tommy





and Timmy in the poly greenhouse. They were pleased to see that it is growing well, although it is not quite big enough to harvest yet. As the children have not seen the lettuce so far, the Gardening Leads are looking forward to showing them its progress.

At their next meeting, the Gardening Leads will be planting mung beans and a Christmas amaryllis. As there is limited gardening that can be done outdoors at this time of year, they will start the plants indoors so they can observe and care for them more easily. Once the plants are established, they will be moved outside.
The Gardening Leads are excited to continue monitoring the lettuce and watching their new plants grow over the coming weeks. 🌱🌷

School Council



The School Council have had a successful time supporting the sale of Remembrance items across the school. Their efforts helped to raise money while encouraging children to reflect on the importance of Remembrance.
At their next meeting, the School Council will be discussing ideas for a special reward for the class that sells the most cakes at **Tommy's Tuck Shop**. Council members will be speaking with children in their classes to gather suggestions and find out what prize would be most exciting and motivating.
One early idea that has already been suggested is a week with **"no learning"**, although the School Council will be exploring a range of options before making any decisions. They are looking forward to hearing everyone's ideas and choosing a reward that the whole school will enjoy. 🍰⭐



Safeguarding update

At **Yaxley Infant School**, **safeguarding** remains our **highest priority**. We are committed to ensuring that every child feels **safe**, **happy** and **supported** throughout their time in school. Children regularly take part in lessons and activities that promote **online safety**, **healthy friendships**, **kindness**, **respect** and understanding how to seek help from a **trusted adult** if they have a worry or concern.



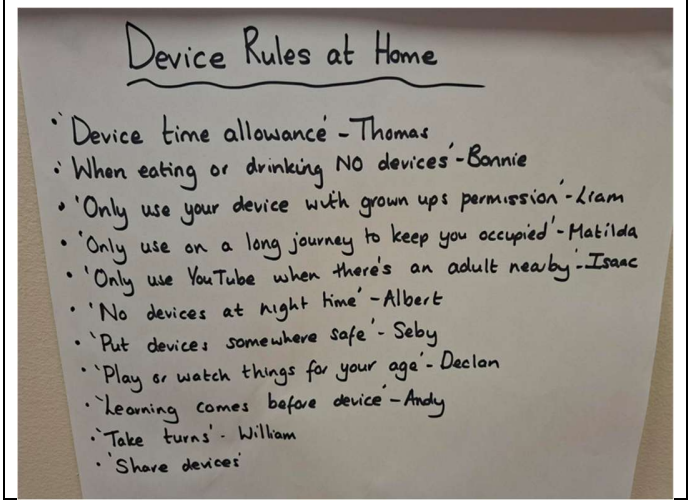
We would also like to remind families about the importance of supporting children's **online safety** at home. Please be aware of **age restrictions** on apps, games and social media platforms, and encourage open conversations about staying safe online. Using **parental controls** and monitoring online activity can help to protect children from potential risks.

Online Safety

Many children enjoy using tablets, games and online videos. We encourage families to:

- Check age ratings on apps, games and websites.
- Use parental controls where available.
- Keep devices in shared family spaces.
- Talk regularly with children about what they are watching and playing.

Child voice



Parent Pact

You may have seen information about the *Parent Pact* from Smartphone Free Childhood, a parent-led initiative that encourages families to work together when making decisions about children's access to smartphones and social media. The pledge asks participating families to consider delaying smartphone ownership until at least age 14 and social media access until age 16.

The idea behind the Parent Pact is that some parents find it easier to delay introducing smartphones when other families in their child's friendship group are making similar choices. The initiative provides information, resources and opportunities for parents to connect with others who are interested in the approach.

Parents who are interested in learning more are encouraged to review the information available and make the decision that is right for their child and family.
Further information can be found via the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact website https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/

Anti-bullying

Anti-Bullying Week is an important part of our safeguarding curriculum. Children learn about kindness, respect and how to seek help if they are worried about themselves or someone else. We encourage all children to speak to a trusted adult and help create a school where everyone feels safe, valued and included. 💙

