

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Play together, learn together, grow together



It has been a wonderful first week back at school and the building feels much fuller again with the arrival of our new Reception children. They have settled incredibly well into school life and it has been lovely to hear comments such as, "I don't want to go home!" as children begin to build friendships and explore their new environment.

Our Year 1 children have also made a fantastic start to the year. They have been introduced to **Rainbow Challenges**, which are designed to make learning active, engaging and enjoyable while encouraging independence.

Year 2 have settled back into school exceptionally well and have quickly demonstrated our school values through their positive attitudes and focus.

Across the school, children have also been introduced to **Tommy's Golden Promises**, our simple set of rules that help everyone to learn, play and work together successfully. These promises support children both in school and at home by encouraging them to:



Be Safe



Be Kind



Be Ready

We are incredibly proud of how well all of our children have settled into the new school year and look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, independence and achievement over the coming weeks.

Laura Wales - Headteacher

School Day Timings

Morning

- Site access from **8:30am**
- Classroom doors open at **8:40am**
- Classroom doors close at **8:50am**
- Playground gates are locked at **8:50am**
- From **8.50am** please access school from the front entrance.

Afternoon

- Gates open at **3:05pm**
- School day ends at **3:10pm**

Please ensure that children arrive on time each day to support a calm and positive start to learning. If you arrive after 8:50am, please enter school via the front office.

Why Punctuality Matters

Arriving on time helps children settle quickly, take part in morning routines, and begin their learning positively alongside their classmates. Thank you for your support in ensuring children attend school punctually each day.

Coffee Morning

Starting school is a big milestone – and whether it brought a few tears or a proud celebration of independence, we'd love to welcome you to our **Coffee Morning**. **Join us on Monday 14th September at 9:00am** for a warm drink, a friendly chat, and the chance to meet other families in our school community. It's a lovely opportunity to connect, share experiences, and feel part of the Yaxley Infants family.

Dates for Your Diary – Autumn Term

September

- **14th Sept, 9:00am** – *Coffee Morning* – All welcome!
- **24th Sept, 7:00pm** – *Friends of Yaxley Infants AGM* – Open invitation
- **28th Sept**—Harvest donations

October

- **8th Oct** – *Individual School Photos*
- **20th, 21st & 22nd Oct** – *Parent-Teacher Consultations*
- **23rd Oct** – *Staff Training* – School closed to pupils

Half term Monday 26th –30th October

November

- **9th Nov**—*Whole school Diwali Day*
- **11th Nov**– *Flu Vaccinations* (in school)
- **13th Nov**—*Children in Need* (Non-uniform)
- **16th Nov**—*Odd Socks Day* (Anti-bullying)

December

- **w/c 7th Dec** *Story Cafés* (Parent invite)
- **10th Dec** – *Official Christmas Jumper Day & Craft Day*
- **14th Dec, 2.15pm**, *Christmas Songs Around the Tree*
- **16th Dec** - *Whole school Church visit*
- **18th Dec** – *Christmas Lunch in School & Final Day of Term*

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please notify the school **by telephone, email, or in person before the start of the school day**. This helps us ensure that all children are accounted for and enables us to fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our attendance records accurate and our children safe.

Safeguarding Team

At **Yaxley Infant School**, safeguarding remains our highest priority. We are committed to ensuring that all children are safe, happy and supported to achieve their full potential.

If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of a child, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team without delay.

Our Designated Safeguarding Team is:

- **Mrs Laura Wales** – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- **Mrs Abbie Richards** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mrs Bianca Liguori** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Our safeguarding team works closely with children, families and external agencies to ensure that any concerns are responded to promptly and appropriately. If you would like further information about our safeguarding arrangements, please visit the school website or contact the school office. Together, we can help keep all children safe.

AGM Invitation – Thursday 24th September, 7.00pm at School

The Friends are a small group of dedicated parents who come together to fundraise and organise events that our children enjoy throughout the school year. Thanks to their efforts, we're able to provide special treats like the annual pantomime and Christmas gifts, as well as fund larger projects such as playground equipment and library books. They also run popular events like the Easter Egg Hunt and various pop-up shops, which the children love taking part in. We're incredibly grateful for their support and the joy they bring to our school community.

Some of our wonderful members are stepping down this year as their children have moved on to the junior school, so we're looking forward to welcoming some new faces!

Could you join us?

It's not a big commitment – we meet just once per half term, and you don't need to attend every meeting. Even helping at one event a year makes a big difference if we have enough hands to share the load.

If you have any questions beforehand please feel free to email us on friends@yaxley.cambs.sch.uk

Harvest festival—28th September

On **28th September** we be collecting donations for the local foodbank. If you're able to, please send your child in with a non-perishable item—**pasta, rice, tinned vegetables, beans**, etc. Every contribution makes a difference.

Allergies and Healthcare Needs

To help us keep all children safe and well, please ensure that you **keep the school informed of any allergies, medical conditions, or healthcare needs** your child may have. This includes any updates to:

- Diagnosed allergies or intolerances
- Medication (e.g. inhalers or EpiPens)
- Healthcare plans or emergency procedures
- Changes in symptoms, treatment, or medical advice

Please notify the school as soon as possible if any of your child's medical information changes during the school year. Keeping our records up to date helps us provide the safest and most appropriate care for every child.

Individual School Photos – Wednesday 8th October

Tempest Photography will be visiting school on **Wednesday 8th October** to take **individual portraits** of the children.

Please make sure your child is in full school uniform and looking smart for the day.

This term in our **Key Stage 1 assemblies**, we have been exploring the theme of '*New Beginnings*' and what this means for us in school. We have thought about making a positive start to the year, building new friendships, and helping everyone feel welcome and valued within our school community.

Meet a governor



I am absolutely delighted to be joining Yaxley Infant School as a new governor. Although the role of a governor with you is new to me, I am not new to the school. I was originally asked to provide supply cover for a couple of weeks, but those few weeks turned into four very happy years!

During that time, I got to know the school, its staff, children and families well, and I developed a real affection for the whole school community. My professional background is in education and before coming to Yaxley Infant School, I worked as a deputy headteacher at a local primary school, where I was also a teacher governor. This gave me valuable experience of school leadership, strategic decision-making and the important role that governors play in supporting a school. I later left that position to establish my own private tuition business, which is now my current line of work. Through tuition, I continue to support children and families so remain closely connected to education.

I strongly believe that every child should be supported to reach their full potential, while being recognised and treated as an individual. I believe that children learn best when they feel happy, valued and included, and when they know they are an important part of their school community which I feel is very much in line with the aims of our school.

I hope that my experience, values and understanding of the school will enable me to make a positive contribution, and I am excited to continue to work with Yaxley Infant School in helping every child learn, grow and thrive.

Sleep Matters: Bedtime Guide for Children Aged 4-7. Good quality sleep is essential for children's learning, concentration, behaviour, emotional wellbeing and physical health. Recommended bedtime ranges:

4-5 years: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

6-7 years: 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Benedict's Law and Allergy Awareness

As many families will be aware, **Benedict's Law** has strengthened expectations around allergy management and awareness in schools, helping to ensure that children with allergies are kept safe and supported throughout the school day.

Since last year, **Yaxley Infant School has continued to strengthen its allergy procedures and staff awareness**, reviewing our practices and ensuring that staff are equipped with the knowledge and training needed to support pupils with allergies. We work closely with families to ensure individual healthcare needs are understood and appropriate support is in place.

We are pleased to share that **Mrs Tharme (Kites Class) is our Allergy Lead**. Mrs Tharme works alongside school leaders, staff, parents and healthcare professionals to promote effective allergy management across the school and to ensure that appropriate procedures are followed.

If your child's medical needs change, or if you have any questions regarding allergies or healthcare plans, please contact the school office so that we can ensure our records remain up to date and continue to provide the safest possible environment for all pupils.

AI and Online Safety

As technology continues to develop, children are increasingly likely to come across **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** through apps, games, websites and online content. While AI can be a useful tool, it can also create realistic images, videos and information that may not always be accurate or genuine.

At Yaxley Infant School, we teach children age-appropriate online safety skills, including the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if something they see online worries, confuses or upsets them. We encourage children to think carefully about the information they see and understand that not everything online is true.

Parents and carers can support this learning by:

- Talking regularly with their child about their online experiences.
- Reminding them that images, videos and information online may not always be real.
- Checking age ratings on apps, games and websites.
- Encouraging children to speak to a trusted adult if they are unsure about something they have seen online.

By working together, we can help children develop the skills they need to stay safe, responsible and confident in an increasingly digital world.

Keeping Information Up to Date

Please ensure the school office has current contact details, including telephone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts and any medical information. This helps us keep children safe and communicate effectively with families.

PSHE Curriculum Update

At **Yaxley Infant School**, we continually review our curriculum to ensure it reflects current statutory guidance and supports children in developing the knowledge and skills they need to stay safe, healthy and prepared for life in modern Britain.

As part of our updated **PSHE and Relationships Education curriculum**, children will receive age-appropriate teaching on a range of important safeguarding and personal safety topics, including:

- **Road safety**, helping children understand how to keep themselves safe when travelling in the community.
- **Water safety**, teaching children how to recognise risks and stay safe around water.
- **Online safety**, including how to use technology responsibly and where to seek help if they encounter something that worries them.
- **Healthy relationships and friendships**, promoting kindness, respect and positive social interactions.
- **Personal safety and trusted adults**, ensuring children know how to seek support when needed.
- **The correct names for body parts**, including private body parts, delivered in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner. This is an important aspect of safeguarding, enabling children to communicate clearly about their bodies, understand personal boundaries and seek help if they ever feel unsafe.
- **Mental health and wellbeing**, supporting children to recognise and manage emotions and develop resilience.

These areas form an important part of our statutory curriculum and safeguarding responsibilities. Through this learning, we aim to ensure that all children develop the knowledge, confidence and vocabulary needed to keep themselves safe and understand how to access help and support when required.

For further information about the PSHE curriculum content being taught in your child's year group, please contact your child's class teacher, who will be happy to discuss the curriculum in more detail.

Mrs Abbie Richards, our SENCO, plays a key role in ensuring every child feels valued, supported and able to thrive. She works closely with staff, families and external agencies to identify and remove barriers to learning, ensuring that children with additional needs can fully access school life and achieve their potential.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, development or wellbeing, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact Mrs Richards, who will be happy to offer support and guidance.