

**Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School**  
**School Newsletter No 13**  
**25th March 2022**



**OPAL**




You may remember on our social media pages a few weeks ago that we shared that we were beginning work with OPAL to focus on offering our children an even wider range of play opportunities and to open up more of our school grounds at lunchtimes. Mrs Kelly is our OPAL Play Leader and Mrs Carter is our OPAL Lead Teacher and they have led the first of our play assemblies this week to launch this work with the children. Our fabulous team of lunchtime staff will be leading the support for children alongside Mrs Kelly and Mrs Carter and started this today. Please see the final page of the newsletter for a request from the team and a disclaimer for parents.




Research tells us, and the experience of our children in Foundation Stage and of other OPAL schools, that widening the play opportunities that children have benefits children in developing resilience, confidence, negotiation skills, independence and also supports creativity and problem solving. All of these things are essential life skills and crucial in being a successful learner in and beyond the classroom.

**Handouts**

**Email attachments:**

-  Code of Conduct
-  Easter Fun at Helmsley Arts Centre
-  FoS Sun Inn Quiz

**Hard copies:**

-  FISH letters for some families

**Congratulations to Squirrel Class with  
94% attendance for the two weeks to  
25th March 2022**



## Reminders .....

-  Friday 8th April—School closes for Easter Break
-  Tuesday 26th April - First day of summer term
-  Thurs 28th April - Class photos
-  Fri 29th April— April Birthday Assembly at 9.10am

## School Crossing Patrol Vacancy

North Yorkshire County Council currently have a School Crossing Patrol vacancy for Park Street from April 2022, further details can be found at the link below.

<https://nyccjobs.engageats.co.uk/Vacancies/>

[W/8010/0/338531/22775/school-crossing-patrol-pickering-en0486](https://nyccjobs.engageats.co.uk/Vacancies/W/8010/0/338531/22775/school-crossing-patrol-pickering-en0486)

## Class Photos

Classes will be having their class photographs taken on Thursday 28th April.

## Window Safety

When coming to school in the mornings and leaving at the end of the school day could you please make sure that children stay on the paths at the front of the school and not walk in front of the kitchen and classroom windows. The kitchen and classroom windows may be open and are easily walked into. We also ask that children are encouraged not to play on the grass around the large tree at the front of school. We know that this is a tempting play space but our spring flowers can easily be damaged by lots of little feet.

## Nits/Head Lice

As in every school across the country there is always the likelihood that children could have head lice in school. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat when necessary. Once you have treated the hair, you will need to keep checking to make sure that all the eggs have gone. If you are unsure as to what to do contact either the doctors' surgery or a local pharmacy. Further guidance can be found at;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

## Red Nose Day Donations

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone for donating to Comic Relief through school last Friday. We raised £132.00.

## Water Bottles

Please make sure that your child brings a clearly named water bottle containing water (not juice or flavoured water) into school. Fruit squash and flavoured waters are acidic and can cause tooth erosion, particularly when drunk between meals. Water bottles in classes are for keeping children hydrated and must therefore contain only plain water.

## Before and After School Club

Our Before and After School Clubs are located in the bottom classroom on the east side of school. If you stand on Ruffa Lane, this is the furthest classroom to the right and nearest the modular building. We offer Before and After School Club places on either a



regular or ad-hoc basis, as and when you need the provision for any children who attend our school. Our school based staff Mrs Johnson and Mrs Nichols run our Before School Club and Miss Green, Mrs Davis and Mrs Kelly run our After School Club. Our After School Club runs from the end of the school day until 5pm (available until 6pm upon request) and includes a light tea and refreshment after a busy school day. The cost of the After School Club is £3.00 between 3.25pm and 4pm; £7.00 between 3.25pm and 5pm, including a light snack and drink; £3.00 between 5 and 6pm. Further information, photos and booking forms can all be found on our website at <http://pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk/before-and-after-school-club-provision/>

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

We are incredibly grateful that our school community work so well together for the good of our school and our children. We always encourage parents and staff to talk to each other about any concerns. As our annual update, please find attached our code of conduct.

### **Pickering Foodbank**

A new community foodbank for Ryedale is opening its doors for families as an independent charity to provide emergency food and support. There are a team of volunteers in place to support this work out of Hungate Centre. The foodbank is open every Thursday 4-6pm at Hungate Centre in Pickering. We are in the process of becoming a referring agency. If you

are in need of support with food, please do not hesitate to contact school to access vouchers for the service. Equally, volunteers at Hungate Centre can also put families in touch with people who can help with challenges around housing or energy bills. Other referring agencies who can provide vouchers for food include Pickering Surgery and Citizens Advice. If you require access to food but have missed the Thursday opening, please also get in touch as we may be able to provide support out of the opening times. We are all only too aware that increases in the cost of most things is going to make household finances tighter than ever. As a community school, we are here to help. Please get in touch via email, in person or over the phone.

### **Student Teachers**

As a school committed to professional development of staff within the education sector, we work closely with York St John University and Scarborough Teaching Alliance to offer placements and support to trainee teachers. We have recently said goodbye to Miss Scott who has been working in Rabbit Class this term, welcome Miss Turner back to school for her final placement in Squirrel Class and welcome Miss Clarke to school in Nursery. Whilst this is part of our commitment to supporting colleagues with high quality professional development, it also brings the added bonus for our school, staff and children of extra support in these classrooms, and lots of new ideas!



## Play Equipment

Thank you for the responses so far to our plea for play equipment for our children. We are trying to reuse and repurpose as much as we can. Mrs Kelly and Mrs Carter have sent out requests for some play equipment, including lots of what we call 'loose parts' including guttering, tyres and crates. Please continue to get in touch if you have access to equipment that looks like it could be used purposefully for play. Please call into the office, email or phone school if you're unsure if what you have might be what we're looking for.

Below are some labels and pictures of some large 'loose parts' equipment that would be very useful for the children in their play.

**Crates**

**Pipes and guttering**



**Laminate or wooden planks**



**Reels**

The team would also appreciate any donations of items that can be used for moving item, such as pushchairs that you've finished with or suitcases as you replace your old ones coming up to summer holidays!

### PLAY DISCLAIMER!

Our OPAL work comes with an explanation and plea to parents - play can be messy! Whilst we will spend time in play assemblies talking about safety and our rules for keeping safe, getting muddy and dirty is an inevitable part of play. Other than wellies when the weather is wetter than we hope that it's going to be in the coming months, children will not wear any protective clothing and so we ask that things like coats that children wear for school, as when children start in Nursery and Reception, are ones that are going to be relatively easy to regularly clean.

Uniform may also need cleaning on a more regular basis. We appreciate that this may be a little inconvenient but truly believe that the benefits to the children will be huge compared to extra washing. We hope that you will agree. Where families find extra washing a challenge, please let us know as we regularly get donations of uniform that we can share with families to reduce how often you're needing to wash.

*Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please let us know if there is any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone.*