Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School

School Newsletter No 3

9th October 2026

Democracy

This week, the children in Key stage One, have been looking at democracy both in assemblies and in class. We have discussed democracy as a way of choosing people who will help somewhere to make decisions about how things happen, for example, Government, school governors, our school councillors and Eco Monitors. We shared the book 'The Class Vote' to look at how voting works and how this can be made as fair as possible. We have looked at one person = one vote and the children were very quick to tell me that my vote couldn't be counted as more just because I wanted my favourite ice-cream to be the winning flavour in assembly! They showed a good understanding that every vote is of equal importance in a fair and democratic system..







The children in each class discussed the necessary skills for the School councillors and Eco Monitors. If they wanted to stand for a position, they explained to their class why they would make a good councillor. Then they had the opportunity to vote within the classes to elect their class representatives, which were shared in class.

Handouts:

These will be sent home in book bags—don't forget to check for them!

- Individual school photos and covering letter
- Magic Mike Disco letter Rec, Yr1 and Yr2
- Ryedale Lion's Eye Screening letter - Rec, Yr1 & Yr2

Email:

These will be sent out via Arbor—so watch out for them on the App.

- 2026-2027 Term Dates
- 2027-2028 Term Dates



Attendance

Congratulations to **Badger Class** with **98.23%** attendance to 9th October 2026.



Newsletters - These are emailed to you - school newsletter and a class newsletter on alternate weeks.

Diary Dates - At the beginning of the term Mrs Cook prepares a dates sheet to help you with forward planning. We try and organise things in advance but do watch out for inevitable changes.

Handouts - Handouts may also come home. On the front of the school newsletter a list which details handouts over the last two weeks. Please check to make sure that you have them all.

Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are important to a child's success in all aspects of school life. It has an impact on progress and achievement as well as friendships. Thank you to all of those parents who ensure that they arrive at school on time every day. At this time of year in particular, children can ick up a number of different illnesses (as do we all!) It is sometimes difficult to know whether to send them to school or not. The following link has some useful information about different common illnesses — https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

From our own experiences, we know that some illnesses make us feel worse at the start and end of the day. If children start to feel better once this period is over, even after the start of the school day, please bring them to school as this will mean that they're not missing as much of their learning and still get to spend time with their friends. However, for sickness and diarrhoea, we do request that children are kept at home for 48 hours following the last bout of illness, to help reduce the spread of this unpleasant bug for the benefit of everyone in our school community.



Medicines

If your child requires prescribed medicines four times a day, but is still well enough to come to school, please contact the school office who will advise you on our policy for administration of medicines.



Drinking Water in school

Having regular drinks of water throughout the day is vital for us all to keep hydrated. Being hydrated supports children with their concentration and learning. Children have access to water during the day but it is far easier for them, and for classes, if children have their own water bottle in classrooms. These need to be filled with water, and not juice. They should be taken home each day to be washed and refilled. If you feel that your child is not drinking much water during the day, please speak to their class teacher.

Dates for your Diary



- ✎ **Friday 16th Oct**— October Birthday Assembly 9.10am
- ✎ **Friday 16th Oct -** Last Autumn 1 Sports Club
- ✎ **Tuesday 20th Oct—4pm** - Parent's evening booking system goes live
- ✎ **Tuesday 20th Oct - 3.30-4.30pm** -Spelling Workshop for Parents Rec, Yr1 and Yr2
- ✎ **Thursday 22nd Oct**—Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 - Magic Mike Disco 4.45 - 5.45pm or 6-7pm
- ✎ **Thursday 22nd Oct** - Break up for half term
- ✎ **Friday 23rd Oct - School Closed to Children**

Names in clothing



There are growing 'mountains' of unnamed clothes in school! Please, please, please ensure that all items, including tights, PE kits, shoes, coats etc are named. It may sound over the top but when changing for PE, trying to identify which shoes and tights belong to each child can be challenging, especially if they have no names in!

'I need to talk'

Life is incredibly busy and sometimes we all need the opportunity to sit down with someone and talk about things. Our staff work hard to build positive relationships with the children to ensure that they all feel that the staff across school are safe adults who they can talk to. Sometimes though they may be a little unsure about how to ask an adult for some time to talk. In every class, there is a 'feelings tree' where children are encouraged to put their photo on appropriate leaves to reflect their feelings across the day.The class teachers have a smaller version of this near their desk which children can put their photo from the larger tree onto to indicate that they need to talk. Please remind the children of this system at home to help them to understand that this is something that they should do if they need to.

Eye Screening - Ryedale Lion's

The National Health Service (NHS) believes 13% of young people under the age of 11 years currently have a sight issue that no one is aware of. Lions International in the British Isles is working to reduce the number of children with undiagnosed eye disorders. They are working in partnership with PlusoptiX to provide a camera screening opportunity for as many young people as they can. There is an information and consent letter in book bags tonight for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two. As part of our school intorduction to the scheme, I have had my eyes screened by one of the volunteers and the process was very quick and simple

School Day



Rec, Y1 and Y2 doors open at 8.55am and close at 9.05am. End of day is 3.25pm

Pupil Admission Number

Following discussions with the Local Authority, governors are proposing to reduce the school's Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 50, with the change taking effect from September 2028.

The PAN is the number of places a school is required to offer in Reception each year. Reducing this number would help us plan staffing and class arrangements more effectively, although it would not prevent the school from admitting more than 50 children where appropriate.

In recent years, we have typically had around 50 children joining Reception each year, giving us around 150 children across our three year groups. This has generally enabled us to operate five classes of up to 30 children. Governors believe that a PAN of 50 would better reflect the number of children we expect to attend the school and support more sustainable planning for the future.

The Local Authority will now take the proposal through a formal consultation process, and we will share details of how parents and carers can have their say. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Smith or I.



Individual School Photos

If you wish to place an order for your child's school photograph please don't forget that orders need to be made online **by Monday 12th October**. Instructions of how to access your child's photograph can be found on the proof sent home on 28th September.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we all have a role to play.

If you have concerns about your own or another child's safety then you can speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead—Mrs Sarah Gillam or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead—Mrs Nicky Smith.

Anyone can make a referral. If you believe a child to be at immediate risk, call 999. If you believe the situation to be urgent, please call: 0300 131 2 131

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.

Spare newsletters are available in the rack outside the office, together with term time dates, holiday forms, uniform order forms

Tel: 01751 472620 email: admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk

For attendance/absences - admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk