Mrs Wolfe's Weekly Update

21st November 2026

Autumn Term Dates

25th Nov - Year 5/6 Football @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
26th Nov - FOBLS Wreath-making for Grown-ups 7:30@School
2nd Dec - Christmas Crafternoon (funded by FOBLS)
4th Dec - Christingle Service @ St Leonards - 9:15am
5th Dec - Church Fayre - Children invited to sing for the community @2pm Village Hall
9th Dec - Owl Class Nativity @ Burton Leonard Village Hall 2pm & 5pm
10th Dec - Christmas Lunch
10th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
11th Dec - Recognition & HT Award Celebration and A Special Farewell
11th Dec - Owl Class Postal Museum Workshop
11th Dec - No swimmming
11th Dec - New Library Opening
12th Dec - KS2 Royal Hall Christmas Concert
14th Dec - Kite Class Christmas Party
15th Dec - Whole-school Theatre Trip to see Peter Pan at Bradford Alhambra @2pm
16th Dec - Merlin Class Christmas Party
17th Dec - Owl Class Christmas Party
18th Dec - End of Term Christmas Service 2pm @ St Leonards Church
18th Dec - School closes for Christmas Break
21st - 1st Jan - Christmas Break

Spring Term Dates

4th Jan - Teacher Training Day
5th Jan - Children return to school
wb 5th Jan - NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Week!
18th Jan - NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Workshops for Y2 & Y5/6
2nd Feb - Dance @Ashville College (TBC)
8th Feb-12th Feb - Half-Term
18th Mar - Merlin Performance
19th Mar - Easter End of Term Service

Weekly Enrichment

Mondays
After-school Times Table Club with Mr Doohan

Tuesdays
PE with Sporting Influence
After-school Sports Club with Miss M
After-school SATS Club with Mr Doohan

Wednesdays
Lunchtime Library Club with our Reading Ambassadors & Library Grannies
After-school Knitting Club with Granny Lesley

Thursdays
Forest School with Outdoor Adventures
Thursday 5th November- Year 3
Thursday 12th November - Reception
Thursday 19th November - Year 1
Thursday 26th November - Year 2
Thursday 3rd December- Year 4
Thursday 10th December - Year 5
Thursday 17th December - Year 6
Mandarin Club with Mrs Cummings

Before School Provision from 8am Mon-Fri
After-school Provision from 3:30-6pm Mon-Thurs

Vision & Values

Our Vision - To love our neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world.
'Love your neighbour as yourself'
Luke 10:27 Parable of the Good Samaritan
Our Values - Courage, Love, Resilience & Service
Our 3Rs - Be Ready, Be Responsible & Be Respectful
Join us every Friday, 9:15 @ St Leonards Church to hear about how we have been living out our vision and values and to celebrate our learning (parents are welcome to meet for tea & coffee at St Leonards Hall after drop-off)

Attendance & Engagement

Our average whole school attendance so far this year is 97.2%. A reminder that holidays should not be taken during term time, thank you. Please do read our attendance section further down below on why attendance is so important for every child - everyday of the school year.
Well done to Y2, Y3 & Y5 for 100% attendance (13th Nov - 19th Nov)

This Week's News

Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day

This week, we have been taking part in Anti-Bullying Week, exploring. Through class discussions and activities, children have considered the importance of kindness, speaking up for others and celebrating what makes us all unique.

On Odd Socks Day, children proudly wore their brightest and most mismatched socks to show that being different is something to celebrate. The day provided a wonderful opportunity to reinforce the message that our individuality is what makes our school such a special place.

Celebrating Diwali

Children across school have been learning about Diwali, the Festival of Light. They have explored the traditions and stories associated with this important celebration and reflected on the significance of light overcoming darkness. Through worship, discussions and classroom activities, children have considered how they can be a light to others through acts of kindness, friendship and generosity.

Switch Off Day

Today, school has been taking part in Switch Off Day as part of our commitment to caring for our environment. Children acted as energy detectives, keeping a close eye on electricity use around school. They have been identifying lights, screens and equipment that may be left on unnecessarily and thinking about simple ways we can reduce our energy consumption. We look forward to seeing how much energy we can save together and helping children understand the positive impact small actions can have on our planet.

Owls' Secret Storyteller

The children in Owls have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming this week's Secret Storyteller into their classroom – Mr Carter! These special reading experiences help foster a love of books and demonstrate the joy that can be found in sharing stories together.

FOBLS Readathon Success

A huge well done to all of our children and families who supported FOBLS' Readathon. We are delighted to share that, thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, we have raised approximately £1,000. This is a fantastic achievement and will help to support the growth of our fantastic new library.

We are incredibly proud of the commitment shown by our pupils, who embraced the challenge and demonstrated a real love of reading. Thank you to everyone who sponsored, encouraged and celebrated our young readers. Together, we have shown how a love of books can make a real difference to the lives of others.

What's Been Happening in Class this Week

Owl Class

What a wonderful week we have had in Owl Class!

Reception have been busy exploring numbers to 10 using tens frame stamps and spots! We have loved spotting patterns, working out how many more we need to make 10 and exploring how many less than 10 we can see. The children have been fantastic at spotting number patterns and sharing their mathematical thinking.

Thursday was a very special day as we celebrated Elmer's Birthday Party! The children had a wonderful time helping to get everything ready, from setting the party table to counting the candles. There was lots of excitement as we celebrated Elmer's special day together!

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed continuing their Curious Quest journey. This week, they received a letter from Professor Klunk introducing them to two very special characters: Noodle and Titch! Professor Klunk needed the children's help to remember what their jobs were, so the children set to work organising a wonderful tea party for them.

The next morning, a little magic had taken place! Inside the Magic Mustard Tin, the children discovered a photograph of Noodle and Titch enjoying their tea party, along with some delicious Jammie Dodgers for everyone to share! Professor Klunk has sent Noodle (a capital letter) and Titch (a full stop) to help the children remember two very important rules when writing sentences: they always begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop. We wonder what other surprises Professor Klunk has in store for us!

Both year groups have also been working incredibly hard practising for our Nativity. We are so proud of their enthusiasm, confidence and growing excitement as we get ready to share our special performance.

Well done, Owls! We are so proud of all your wonderful learning, creativity and teamwork this week. Keep shining!

Merlin Class

Our class book is The BFG. This week, we have enjoyed exploring the giant language and words like babblement, sizzlepan and gobblefunking. We even had a go at writing our own giant words!

In History, we are learning about schools in the past. This week we have thought about how we learn about the past. We looked at the books and objects that would be in the classroom and talked about what was the same and what was different. We also thought about living memory and how we can find out about the past from people through their memories. We wrote questions and then interviewed Granny Lesley to find out all about her time at school.

Our writing is inspired by The Dragon Machine. This week we have been writing dragon guides, using different types of sentences, adjectives and prepositions.

Robin's Nest

The children in Robins Nest have been thoroughly enjoying exploring two exciting class texts: The Matchbox Diary and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. They have loved venturing into the magical world of Narnia and using their inference skills to deepen their understanding of the characters, their thoughts and their motivations. In Writing, the children have become detectives, carefully gathering clues from the texts to uncover and piece together the protagonist's story, developing their understanding of how authors reveal information to their readers.

In Maths, the children have been building their confidence and reasoning skills by tackling missing number problems within increasingly challenging calculations. They have demonstrated great perseverance as they worked systematically to solve problems and explain their mathematical thinking. Well done, Robins Nest, for another fantastic week of learning!

Kite Class

Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed a busy and engaging week of learning across the curriculum. In Science, the children explored electrical circuits before applying their knowledge to create their own wire buzzer games. Using a metal handle to trace a wire, they had to carefully avoid touching the two together and setting off the buzzer, much like the classic game Operation! This exciting challenge helped develop their understanding of complete circuits and electrical conductivity.

In History, pupils became archaeologists as they investigated the famous Anglo-Saxon burial site of Sutton Hoo. By examining artefacts discovered at the site, they used their inference skills to make thoughtful judgements about Anglo-Saxon life, beliefs and society, uncovering clues from the past and discussing what these remarkable discoveries can tell us about those who lived over a thousand years ago.

English lessons have been equally impressive. Inspired by The Maya topic, the children wrote newspaper reports covering Pik's glorious Pok ta Pok victory over the rain god, Chac. We were treated to excellent examples from Art, Olivia and Lucy, whose reports included powerful adverbials, the passive voice, direct quotations from participants and a wide range of other writing techniques. The quality of the children's writing demonstrated both their creativity and their growing mastery of journalistic style.

Looking to the Week Ahead.

Wednesday

- Y5/6 Sporting Influence Football Tournament
- Canon Tony leading Collective Worship

Thursday

- Forest School - Year 2
- FOBLS Wreath-making for adults @7:30pm

Friday

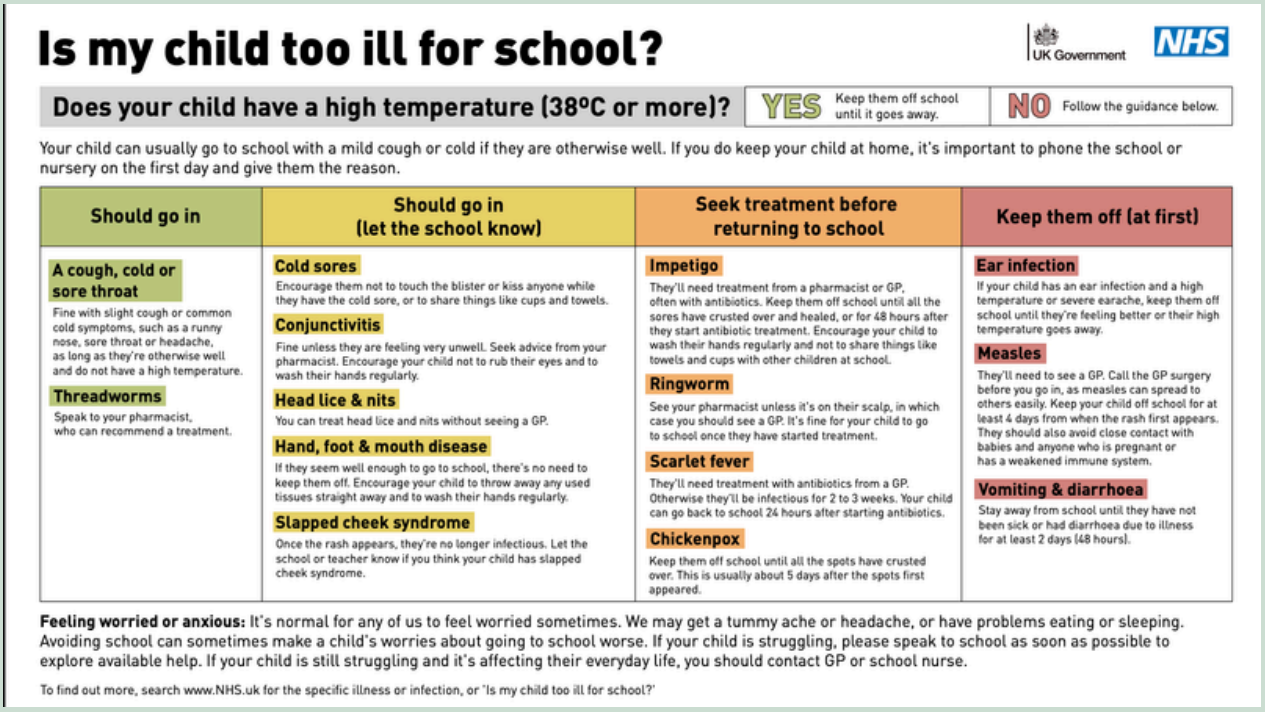
- Celebration Service 9:15am @ St Leonards Church
- Swimming @ Ashville will take place for Y2 and selected swimmers until further notice. Please ensure swimming kits are brought into school every Friday.

Attendance, Safeguarding & Health & Safety Updates & Reminders

Winter Illness Reminder (typically October-March in the UK)

As we move into the winter months, we would like to remind families that, in line with NHS guidance, children can usually continue to attend school if they have common cold symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose or cough. Children should stay at home if they have a high temperature and can return to school once they no longer have a fever and are well enough to take part in normal activities. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend, please check the NHS page here and let us know as soon as possible if your child needs to remain at home. Working together helps us to support both children's learning and wellbeing.

We understand that on occasions medical and other important appointments cannot be avoided during school hours. If you have to request time out of school hours, it's important your child attends school before and after the appointment.



Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

A Prompt Start to the School Day

We encourage all children to make the most of our Early Bird activities, which begin when school opens at 8:45am. Children should arrive and be ready to start learning by 8:55am at the latest.

With Collective Worship now taking place in the afternoon, our mornings begin straight away with important learning opportunities. Arriving on time ensures that children are present for key instructions, lesson introductions and the chance to settle positively into the day alongside their classmates. Thank you for your continued support in helping children arrive promptly, prepared and ready to make the most of every learning opportunity.

Supporting Children with School Drop-Offs

It is not unusual for children to go through periods where they feel worried or upset about coming to school. If your child is finding mornings difficult, try to keep routines calm and consistent, talk positively about the school day ahead, and maintain a confident and reassuring farewell. Although it can be hard, a brief goodbye is often more helpful than a prolonged one. If your child is experiencing ongoing difficulties, please do speak to us. We are here to work in partnership with families and can provide support to help children feel happy, safe and ready to learn.

Attendance Matters

At Burton Leonard, we know that excellent attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children to achieve their very best. Every lesson counts, and regular attendance helps children to build confidence, maintain friendships, develop positive routines and make strong academic progress.

A child who attends school every day has access to the full range of learning experiences, whilst missing just a few days each term can quickly add up and create gaps in learning that can be difficult to bridge. Arriving on time is equally important, ensuring that children begin the day calmly and are ready to learn alongside their peers.

We understand that children will occasionally be unwell and, of course, should remain at home when they are genuinely too poorly to attend school. However, wherever possible, we encourage families to support regular attendance and to book routine appointments and holidays outside of term time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high attendance across the school. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive, achieve and enjoy all that school has to offer.

Every day really does count!

Online Safety Support

This month's theme is Digital Wellbeing. Please click to watch a video providing a quick overview on how to help children build healthier tech habits. October 2026: Digital Wellbeing.

Staying Safe Online

At Burton Leonard, we recognise that technology plays an important role in our children's lives and offers many exciting opportunities for learning, creativity and communication. We also know that helping children to stay safe online is a shared responsibility between school and home.

Throughout the year, children are regularly reminded about how to stay safe online, how to protect their personal information and what to do if they encounter something online that worries them. As new apps, games and technologies continue to emerge, it is important that we all stay informed.

We encourage parents and carers to visit the Online Safety section of our school website, where you will find a wealth of guidance and resources on parental controls, social media, gaming, online communication and keeping children safe in the digital world.

By working together, we can help our children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to enjoy technology safely and responsibly.

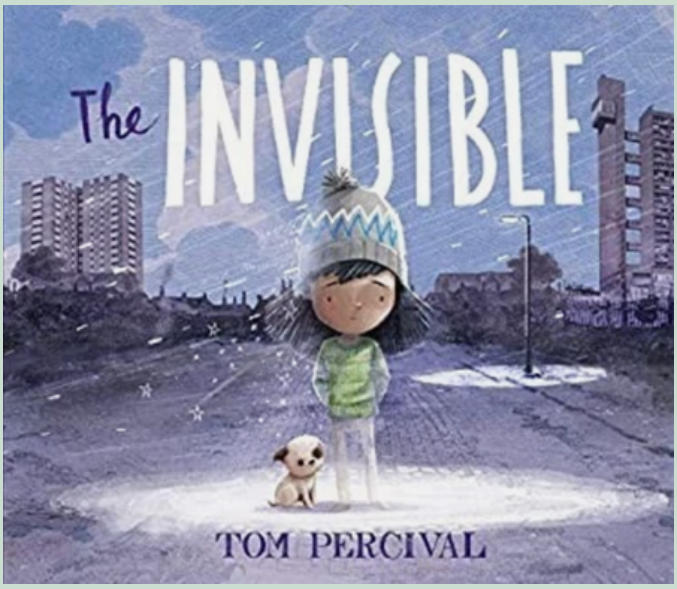
Visit the Online Safety page on our website for the latest advice, support and resources for families.

This Week's Team Cup Winners...

Seacole Yellows



Mrs Wolfe's Recommended Picture Book Read of the Week...



Mrs Wolfe's Recommended Chapter Book Read of the Half Term...



My chapter book recommnedation for this half term is one of my all-time favourites. Wonder. by R J Palacio.This heartwarming story follows August Pullman. a young boy who was born with a facial difference and is starting school for the first time. Through Auggie's journey, readers learn powerful lessons about friendship. courage. acceptance and empathy.

What makes Wonder so special is its simple but important message: always choose kind. The book reminds us that we never truly know what someone else may be going through and that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a lasting impact.

I would highly recommend Wonder to children and adults alike. It is a book that makes you laugh. think and reflect on the way we treat others. Long after you have finished reading. its message stays with you. encouraging everyone to be a little more understanding. compassionate and kind.

As the book famously reminds us:

"When given the choice between being right or being kind. choose kind."

A truly unforgettable read and one that deserves a place on every bookshelf.



School, FOBLS, Community & National News



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Speech, Language and Communication Advice

Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough, Craven

Would you like to discuss your child's speech, language, or communication development?

Bring your child along to our drop-in session to meet with our Speech and Language Therapists, discuss any concerns, and receive advice and information about local support and services. **Booking is essential.**

Where & When

- **Tuesday 8th December 12pm – 3pm**
- **Friday 11th December 9.30am – 11.30am**

These sessions will be held at North Yorkshire Council, 80 High Street, Starbeck.

Who will be there?

Emma Pollock – North Yorkshire Council Speech & Language Therapist

Carol Moxon -North Yorkshire Council Speech & Language Therapy Assistant

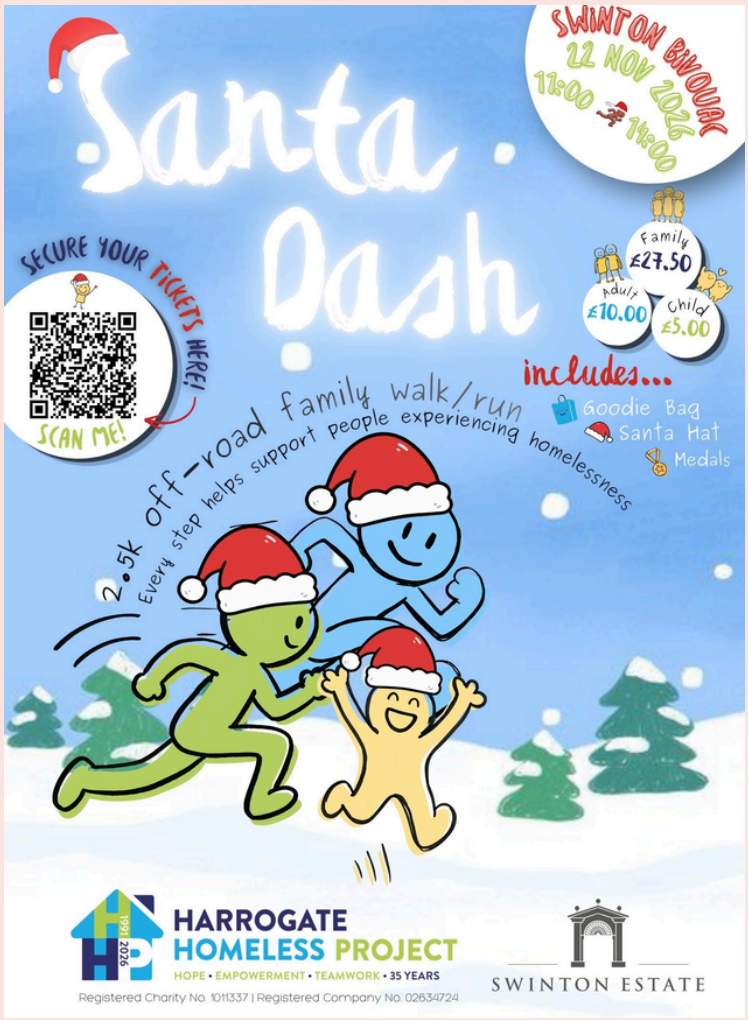
PLEASE EMAIL TO BOOK A 15 MINUTE SLOT

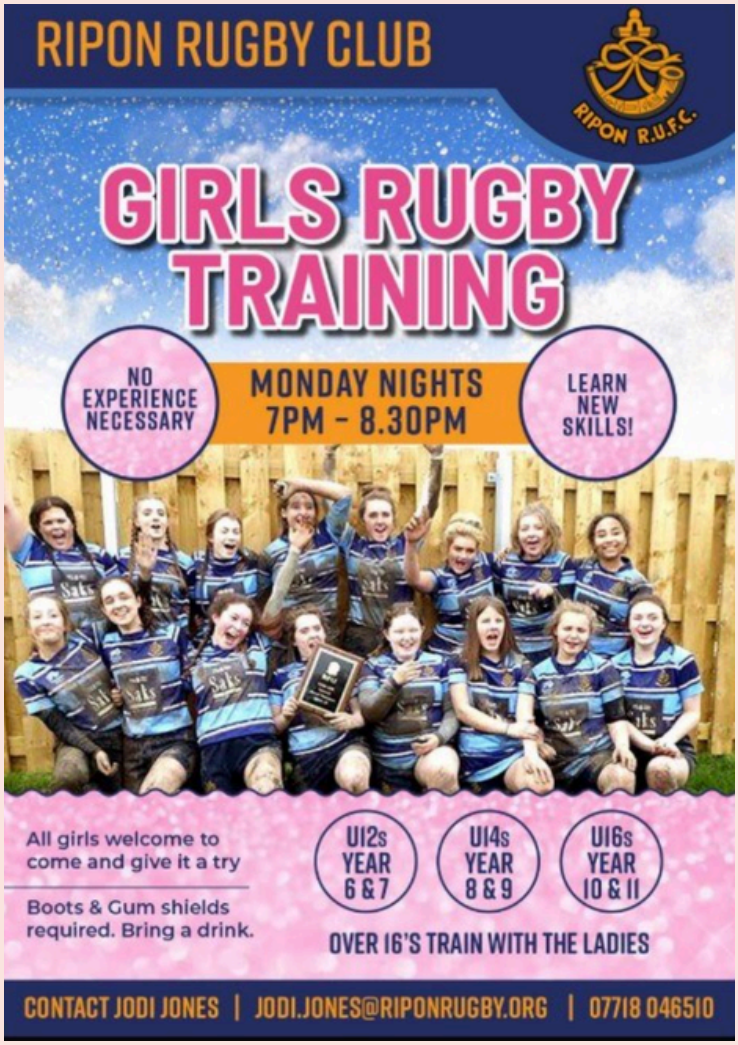
carol.moxon@northyorks.gov.uk

Thank you.



OFFICIAL


Santa Dash
SWINTON BIVOUAK
22 NOV 2026
11:00 - 14:00
SECURE YOUR TICKETS HERE!
SCAN ME!
Family £27.50
Adult £10.00
Child £5.00
includes...
Goodie Bag
Santa Hat
Medals
2.5k off-road family walk/run
Every step helps support people experiencing homelessness
HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT
HOPE • EMPOWERMENT • TEAMWORK • 35 YEARS
Registered Charity No. 1011337 | Registered Company No. 02634724
SWINTON ESTATE


RIPON RUGBY CLUB
RIPON R.U.F.C.
GIRLS RUGBY TRAINING
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
MONDAY NIGHTS 7PM - 8.30PM
LEARN NEW SKILLS!
All girls welcome to come and give it a try
Boots & Gum shields required. Bring a drink.
U12s YEAR 6&7
U14s YEAR 8&9
U16s YEAR 10&11
OVER 16'S TRAIN WITH THE LADIES
CONTACT JODI JONES | JODI.JONES@RIPONRUGBY.ORG | 07718 046510