

Mrs Wolfe's Weekly Update

18th September 2026

Autumn Term Dates

21st Sept - Individual School Photos
22nd Sept - Y6 helping at Harvest Lunch
24th Sept - No Forest School
29th Sept - Flu Immunisations
30th Sept - Y3/4 Dodgeball @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
30th Sept - Y6 SATS Parent Information Meeting
2nd Oct - School Harvest Festival 9:15 @ St Leonards Church
8th Oct - Phonics Parent Information Meeting
wb 12th Oct - Parent Consultation Meetings (Teachers will inform parents of which days these will be held)
14th Oct - Year 5/6 Netball Tournament @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
26th-30th October - Half Term Break
2nd Nov - Teacher Training Day
3rd Nov - Children to return to school
4th Nov - Climate Change Pupil Event for Ambassadors & School Council @ RHS Harlow Carr (TBC)
25th Nov - Year 5/6 Football @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
9th Dec - Owl Class Nativity @ Burton Leonard Village Hall
10th Dec - Christmas Lunch
10th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
11th Dec - Owl Class Postal Museum Workshop
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
16th Dec - Merlin Class Christmas Party
17th Dec - Owl Class Christmas Party
18th Dec - End of Term Christmas Service 2pm @ St Leonards Church
21st - 1st Jan - Christmas Break
4th Jan - Teacher Training Day
5th Jan - Children return to school

Weekly Enrichment

Mondays

After-school Times Table Club with Mr Doohan

Tuesdays

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

Y1 - 10th Sept

Y2 - 17th Sept

Y3 - 1st Oct

Y4 - 8th Oct

Y5 - 15th Oct

Reception & Y6 - 22nd Oct

Mandarin Club with Mrs Cummings

Friday

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

Attendance

Our average whole school attendance so far this year is 98.8%

Well done to Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y4 for achieving 100% attendance this week!

This Week's News

What a great second week back it has been! It has been wonderful to see our children return after the weekend with such enthusiasm, positivity and excitement. As we begin a new term together, we continue to be guided by our school vision:

"Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world."

This vision sits at the heart of everything we do. It reminds us that every member of our school community is valued, has unique gifts to share and can make a positive difference to others through their words, actions and choices.

Living Our 3Rs

This week, our focus has been on our school 3Rs: Ready, Respectful and Responsible. During our collective worships, we have explored what these values look like in school and how they connect directly to our vision.

We talked about the importance of rules and why they exist. As members of a school community and a wider society, we all have rules that help us to live, work and learn together safely and successfully. Rules are not there to restrict us; they help us flourish. By being ready, respectful and responsible, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to shine.

We also reflected on how our rules help us to love and care for one another. When we show respect, act responsibly and make good choices, we are putting others first and demonstrating kindness, consideration and compassion. These are the qualities we hope our children will carry forward as they grow into responsible citizens who make a positive difference in the world.

Children's Collective Worship Committee

Our Children's Collective Worship Committee has been working closely with classes to deepen understanding of the story of the Good Samaritan, from which our school vision grows and which remains the root of all that we do. The children have shown great passion and maturity in helping others explore the message of loving our neighbour, showing kindness and helping those around us.

Today, we were incredibly proud of our committee members, Millie H, Alice F, Lyra, Matilda E and Theo. They spoke clearly, confidently and with great purpose, demonstrating fantastic oracy skills and representing our school wonderfully. They should be very proud of themselves.

Wonderful Role Models in Year 6

Our Year 6 buddies have continued to work brilliantly with their Reception friends. They have played an important role in helping our youngest children settle into school life and understand the importance of our 3Rs.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many outstanding role models in Year 6. Their kindness, patience and leadership shine through each day, and they do their very best to live out our school vision in all that they do.

School Council

I had the pleasure of meeting with our newly formed School Council this week for our first meeting of the year. It was fantastic to hear so many thoughtful ideas and aspirations for the months ahead.

Our next meeting will be chaired by Wilf in Year 6, who will take on the role of Chairperson this year. Alice H in Year 5 will serve as our Vice-Chair.

Alongside them, Evie, Daisy, Billy and Luca have all shown great promise and enthusiasm. They are already busy gathering pupil voice from their classes on a range of topics and helping to ensure that children's views help shape our school community.

Class Learning

There has already been so much wonderful learning taking place across the school.

- Reception delighted us by sharing a fantastic song about the months of the year.
- Year 1 sang a great medley about their maths learning.
- Merlins impressed us with their knowledge of science and explained their learning with confidence and enthusiasm.
- Kites showcased some wonderful writing. Zara shared thoughtful interview questions that Ernest Shackleton would ask, while our Year 5 and 6 pupils demonstrated excellent writing skills and creativity in their own learning.

It has been wonderful to see the pride children are taking in their work and the confidence they show when sharing it with others.

Clubs Are Back!

Our after-school clubs started again this week, and it was fantastic to see so many children enjoying a wide range of enriching opportunities.

Children have already been taking part in activities such as:

- Times Table Club
- SATs Club
- Knitting Club
- Mandarin Club
- Sports Club

It is wonderful to see children developing new skills, interests and friendships through these experiences. If you have any questions about clubs, please do speak with Mrs Drake, who will be happy to help.

Celebrating Success and Living Our Values

We are always looking for ways to celebrate our children's achievements and recognise the many ways they live out our school vision and values each day.

This year, we will continue to share our Star of the Week Award. Each week, one child from every year group will be selected by their class teacher to receive this special award. This will celebrate children who have demonstrated our school values to the full. We are excited to share and celebrate these successes together during our celebration worships. Following discussions with the School Council, we have also made some changes to our Headteacher's Award. Rather than being presented weekly, this award will now be given at the end of each half term. This will allow us to recognise children who have consistently demonstrated our vision and values over a sustained period of time who have truly gone 'over and above'. Our School Council are currently consulting with their classes about what special reward or treat successful recipients might enjoy, and we look forward to sharing the outcome of this pupil-led decision making.

We have also refreshed our Recognition Awards to ensure that they reflect the values that sit at the heart of our school community. Children can now be recognised for demonstrating any of our four core values:

- Love
- Courage
- Resilience
- Service

When a child is recognised for one of these values, their team colour will be added to the Recognition Board in their classroom. Throughout the half term, teams will work together to collect as many recognitions as possible. At the end of each half term, the winning team will receive a certificate in recognition of their collective efforts.

This new approach celebrates not only individual success but also the importance of supporting one another and achieving together. It is another way of encouraging our children to shine together, value one another's contributions and make a positive difference within our school community. By recognising acts of love, courage, resilience and service, we hope to reinforce the qualities that help us all to live out our vision of loving our neighbour and enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world.

Special Members of Our School Community

Our two resident guinea pigs, Enzo and Milo, have also returned and have been receiving lots of love and attention from the children.

They are extremely well cared for, very well fed and remain much-loved members of our school community! It is always lovely to see the responsibility and care that children show when helping to look after them. Their commitment demonstrates many of the values we encourage through our 3Rs and our school vision.

Attendance, Safeguarding & Health & Safety Updates

The Importance of Attendance

At Burton Leonard, we know that every day counts. Good attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children thrive both academically and socially. Each day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, as well as chances to build friendships, develop confidence and take part in the wider life of our school community.

Our vision of "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world" reminds us that being present matters. When children attend regularly, they are able to contribute fully to their class, support their peers and take advantage of every opportunity to learn, grow and shine. It also helps children to develop important habits of responsibility and commitment that will serve them well throughout their lives.

We understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable, particularly when children are unwell. However, we encourage families to prioritise attendance wherever possible and to avoid arranging holidays during term time. Holidays taken during term time will not be authorised except in the most exceptional circumstances.

At Burton Leonard, one of our teaching mottos is "Keep Up, Not Catch Up." We believe that children make the strongest progress when they are learning alongside their peers every day. When absence does occur, teachers will work with families to ensure that children have opportunities to access and recover key learning so that they can continue to keep up with the curriculum and remain confident learners.

If a class teacher feels there is any concern about the amount of learning that has been missed, they will arrange a meeting with parents to discuss the impact of the absence and agree the best plan of action moving forward. By working together, we can identify any barriers, provide appropriate support and ensure that every child remains on track with their learning.

If attendance begins to fall to a level that causes concern, we will work proactively with families to understand the reasons and provide support wherever possible. In the first instance, this may involve discussions with your child's class teacher or myself, Attendance Lead. However, where concerns remain and attendance does not improve, school may engage with appropriate external agencies and support services to help ensure that children receive the education to which they are entitled. Our aim is always to work in partnership with families, providing timely support so that every child can attend regularly, keep up with their learning and continue to thrive both academically and socially.

We are delighted that so many of our children attend school regularly and arrive each day ready, respectful and responsible. Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote excellent attendance and punctuality. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the very best opportunity to flourish, reach their potential and make a positive difference in the world.

As part of our celebration worship each week, we will continue to recognise year groups with strong attendance and celebrate the collective effort that goes into making attendance a priority. Together, we can help every child make the most of every school day and ensure that every child has the opportunity to shine.

Being on Time Matters

A positive start to the day makes a real difference. School opens at 8:45am for our Early Bird activities, and we expect all children to be in school and ready to learn no later than 8:55am.

As we have now moved Collective Worship to the afternoon, it is even more important that children arrive on time each morning so that they do not miss the start of their learning. The first few minutes of every lesson are crucial for setting expectations, introducing new learning and helping children feel ready and confident for the day ahead. Thank you for your support in ensuring that children arrive promptly and begin each day ready, respectful and responsible.

Allergies, Food in School and Healthy Choices

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our highest priority. Following the increased national focus on food allergies, including the introduction of Benedict's Law, it is important that we continue to work together to keep all members of our school community safe.

We have both children and staff in school with diagnosed allergies and food intolerances. As a result, we are a strictly no-nut school and ask all families to support us by ensuring that no nut products are included in packed lunches or snacks brought into school. This includes items such as nuts, peanut butter, spreads containing nuts and products that contain nuts.

We take allergies and food safety extremely seriously and appreciate your support in helping us create a safe environment for everyone. By being mindful of what we send into school, we demonstrate our vision of "Loving our neighbour" and caring for those around us.

As a school, we are also committed to promoting healthy lifestyles. Recent guidance and legislation continue to strengthen the expectation that schools encourage healthy food choices and develop positive attitudes towards nutrition from an early age. We therefore ask families to support us by ensuring that packed lunches contain healthy, balanced options wherever possible.

As part of this commitment:

- Children should not bring sweets or chocolate bars chocolate confectionery bars or other high-sugar treats.
- as part of their packed lunch.
- Snacks brought into school should be fruit or another healthy option.
- Water remains the preferred drink throughout the school day.

We would also like to remind families of the importance of preparing food safely for children. To reduce the risk of choking, any small, round foods should be cut appropriately before being brought into school. This includes:

- Grapes
- Blueberries
- Cherry tomatoes
- Large berries
- Popcorn
- Other similar small, round fruits or foods

These items should be sliced lengthways before being packed in lunchboxes or snack pots.

Our staff remain vigilant regarding food safety and, where concerns arise, will contact families to discuss how we can work together to ensure that food brought into school is both safe and suitable.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a safe, healthy and caring school environment. By working together, we can ensure that all children are able to enjoy their time in school safely, develop healthy habits for life and continue to shine and make a difference in the world.

Celebrating Birthdays in School

If your child would like to bring in a birthday treat to share with their classmates, please speak to the class teacher beforehand. This helps us check for any allergies, dietary requirements and food safety considerations to ensure that, wherever possible, the treat can be enjoyed by all children in the class.

Please remember that any treats brought into school must support our no-nut policy. Thank you for helping us ensure that birthday celebrations are safe, inclusive and enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a wonderful start to the term, and I am excited to see all that our children will achieve in the weeks ahead as they continue to love their neighbour, shine brightly and make a difference in the world.

Looking to the Week Ahead...

Monday – Individual School Photographs

Individual school photographs will take place throughout the day. Please note that sibling photographs will only be taken for siblings who attend school.

Tuesday – Y6 Helping at Harvest Community Lunch & Sporting Influence PE

Year 6 children will be demonstrating service at the annual Harvest lunch at the Village Hall. Mr Doohan will be communicating with Y6 parents about this.

Children will enjoy their Sporting Influence PE sessions with Miss M, developing their physical skills, teamwork and confidence.

Wednesday – Library Club

Our Library Club will take place with our wonderful Reading Ambassadors and Library Grannies, supporting a love of reading across the school. Library Grannies are also in school to change children's library books.

Thursday – No Forest School this week

Friday – Celebration Worship & Swimming

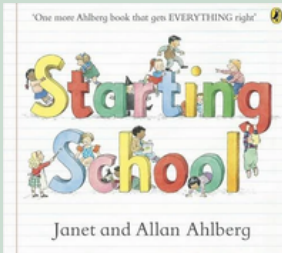
Our weekly Celebration Worship will take place in church at 9:15am. Families are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate children's achievements from across the week.

Swimming will also take place for selected swimmers until further notice. Please ensure swimming kits are brought into school.

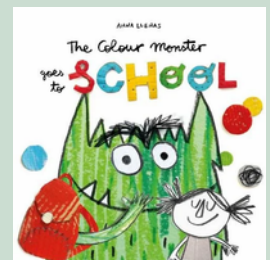
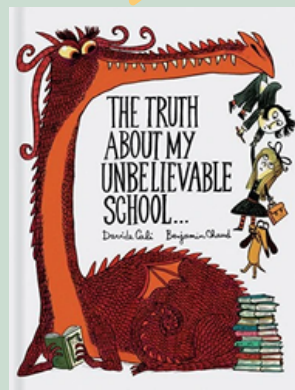
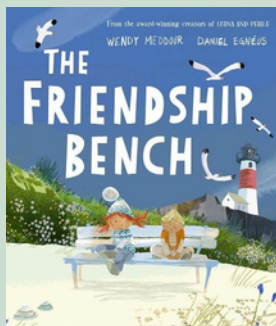
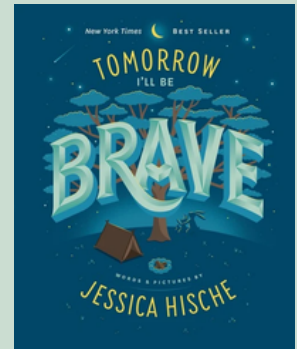


House Cup

This week's team with the
most house points is
Seacole Yellows



Mrs Wolfe's RECOMMENDED READS ABOUT STARTING & RETURNING TO SCHOOL...



Mrs Wolfe's RECOMMENDED PICTURE BOOK READ OF THE WEEK...

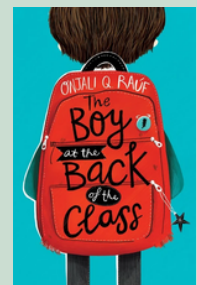


My picture book recommendation this week is 'Our Class is a Family' by Shannon Olsen. This heartwarming story reminds children that a classroom is much more than a place to learn; it is a community where everyone belongs, feels valued and supports one another through both successes and challenges.

The book links beautifully to our school vision of "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world." It encourages children to show kindness, respect and understanding, helping them to build positive relationships and recognise the important role they play within our school family. I hope you enjoy sharing and discussing this lovely story together at home.



Mrs Wolfe's RECOMMENDED CHAPTER BOOK READ OF THE HALF TERM...



My chapter book recommendation this half term is The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf. This powerful and heartwarming story follows a group of children who befriend a new classmate, Ahmet, a refugee who has experienced many challenges in his journey to safety.

The book beautifully reflects our school vision of "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world." Through themes of kindness, empathy, courage and friendship, it encourages children to think about how their actions can positively impact others and reminds us of the importance of welcoming, supporting and standing up for those around us. A thoughtful and inspiring read for children and adults alike, it provides many opportunities for discussion about compassion, inclusion and what it truly means to make a difference in the world.

School, FOBLs, Community & National News

We are looking forward to our forthcoming Harvest plans and would like to invite our families to our School Harvest Service on Friday 2nd October, at St Leonards Church at 9:15am. Children are invited to bring a gift donation of food that will be shared between Harrogate Homeless Shelter and Ripon Food Bank. We hope that you can join us alongside Revd Anna Boyce, the Cathedral Curate, who will be supporting our service in Church.

Granny Lesley has asked us to send a reminder of the Community Harvest plans, which are as follows.

This Sunday, the 20th September at 6pm, the Church Harvest Festival Service will be held at St Leonard's Church followed by a Bring & Share Supper at St Leonard's Hall. All contributions gratefully received from 5:30pm onwards - please drop off at St Leonard's Hall.

On the 22nd September the Community Harvest Lunch will be held at the Village Hall from 12pm onwards. Our Y6 pupils will be serving at this event - Mr Doohan will send out further information to our Y6 parents prior to this next week.

We look forward to celebrating harvest with you all over the next few weeks!



**THE POTTING SHED
POP-UP**

**PROSPECT HOUSE,
SCARAH LANE,
BURTON LEONARD**

JOIN US IN THE COSY POTTING SHED.

HOT DRINKS & HOMEMADE CAKE FOR SALE

PLANTS & HANDMADE LOCAL CRAFTS FOR SALE

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026

9 AM TO 11 AM

CARDS AND CASH ACCEPTED

A Bright Prospect
Garden Workshops

www.abrightprospect.co.uk

Our aims:

- We encourage our siblings to be independent, confident and unapologetically themselves.
- Experience the outside world via group trips by public transport.
- To create friendships with those of similar age and circumstance, and develop a community.

To sign up your child contact us

Contact info
hannah@thesiblinggroup.org
www.thesiblinggroup.org
 Find us on facebook and Instagram too

The sibling group

See for your self!

About us:

The Sibling Group was founded by our CEO Grace, Grace who was born in Harrogate, North Yorkshire had two siblings an elder sister and younger brother Oscar. Oscar was diagnosed with severe learning disabilities and Autism at the age of 3. At this time like many others, Grace's family were unsure what this meant for their future. Grace and her elder sister struggled with the many challenges of having a sibling with SEN and felt isolated and misunderstood by the world around them. They felt lucky to have each other to talk to but wished they could have known others in similar positions as them, as they didn't want to burden their parents with their concerns and feelings surrounding their brother's needs. Grace and her sister feel that siblings of SEN children are often overlooked or discredited as they are not the ones with the needs so therefore are expected to be fine. Often children take on the worries or concerns surrounding the welfare of their SEN sibling which can lead to their own mental health issues.

Grace went on to gain a first degree in Special Education and a distinction in her PGCE & qualified teaching status and worked as a SEN teacher in London. She is currently studying her masters in Autism and Inclusion. Whilst writing her dissertation she based it on the effect a child with special needs has on their sibling, to which she found herself interviewing her sister and revisiting their shared experience growing up with a sibling with special needs and the emotional effects this had on them. Reminding her of their lack of support.

These events inspired the creation of The Sibling Group Charity.

What we do

We run groups for children aged 5-11 years old who have a sibling with additional needs but do not have these needs themselves. Our groups allow children to meet others of similar age and circumstance encouraging them to create friendships and build support networks to last a life time. Our groups take place in Harrogate.

Some things we do at our groups:

- Games
- Crafts
- Cooking/baking
- Themed days
- Trips
- Lots of fun!

North Yorkshire families: Build everyday emotional resilience!

Your free online learning. Big feelings, how the brain works, and relationship ideas for happier lives.

North Yorkshire Council

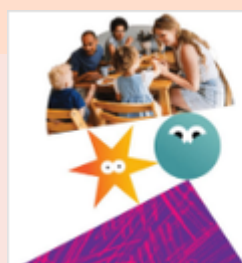
gives families free access to Togetherness resources to support wellbeing. For parents, carers, grandparents, and young people.

Learn from NHS clinical psychologists, practitioners, and other parents. The pathways will help you and your family understand and manage emotions in everyday life.

Browse pathways

Use the exclusive access code:

NYFAMILIES



Pathways library

Home > Learn > Pathway library Emotional health learning
 Big feelings, how the brain works, and relationship ideas for happier lives. Togetherness pathways for parents, carers,...

Togetherness