



The Federation of Middleham (VA) & Spennithorne (VC) CE Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher – Mrs Marie Mann

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

Friday 28th February 2025 – Newsletter

This term our Christian Value, chosen by the Collective Worship Leaders, is Forgiveness

Spelling Shed

Earlier in the school year we shared with parents our plan to use a new programme called Spelling Shed to support spelling through games. We now have this in place and pupils in Year 2 to 6 will be bringing home their personal log in details.

In order for children to access their account please go to the Spelling Shed website www.edshed.com/en-gb/login. Highlight school username and search 148802 then add your child's username and password. Access via the website is free, an app is available but incurs a cost which is not necessary to access the games or assignments issued by class teachers.

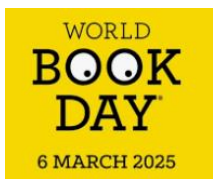
A step by step guide to log in is also attached to this newsletter.

Parents Evening

A letter has been sent home to all parents with further details of the parents evening, please use the online forms to book a time slot, confirmation of time will be emailed to parents late next week. We try our best to accommodate all requests.

A note from the school council *'We are organising a book sale to raise money for playground equipment . On Parents' Evening at each school there will be books for sale at 20p, 50p or £1 per book. We are asking for donations of books you no longer read to help our sale—children's books and grown-up books all welcome!'* Donations can be left at either school between now and the 10th March.

World Book Day



Next Thursday, 6.3.25, is World Book Day and across the Federation we will be celebrating this in lots of ways.

Wear something comfy day

We are inviting children to wear pyjamas or comfy clothes (no football kits please) to snuggle down and read! You can also choose to dress as your favourite book character if you would like to.

Book Swap

We invite you to bring a book into school to swap with another child. Wrap up your book and write a little clue about its contents... without giving too much away! You will get a new book in return. Please make sure you choose a book that you are happy to give away.

Design a Cover Competition

All children are invited to design a book cover for a book of their choice. These can then be sent into school before Thursday , 6th March and the School Council will choose their favourite. The winner will then receive a prize donated by North Yorkshire Catering. Please ensure your child's name and class are on the back of their design.

Lent Collective Worship Challenge - The Rhythm of Life

Relationships are an essential part of our lives. As we approach Lent, we will be taking time in our collective worships this half term to reflect on the relationships with people, with the world around us and with the things that we do. During Lent this year, we are going to use the seven Rhythm of Life habits (reflect, celebrate, share, encourage, pray, create and rest) to help us to reflect on these relationships in a positive way.

This week we have been thinking about parent and carers. The children thought about all the things that their parents/carers do for them.

This week the challenge is **celebrate** parents/carers by either offering to help with something at home this week without being asked or make a card/picture to say thank you.

The children will be given the opportunity to share their action in collective worship next week. We would love you to share these challenges in action by either sending in photos on dojo or to spennithorneadmin@fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk

This week's action is

Offer to help your grown ups at home, without being asked, or make a thank you card or picture.

An update on SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) from Mrs Barber and Wear Blue Day Friday 4th April 2025

Each week this half term, I will be including in the newsletter some information for parents regarding some learning differences and conditions which can affect children's learning in school. These articles are just a brief overview and should you wish for any further information on a particular subject, please see the links attached and/or speak to your child's class teacher or myself.

We invite children to wear something blue on Friday 4th April as a symbol of solidarity and to help raise awareness and show support for individual needs.

This week, we begin with:- **DYSLEXIA**

Dyslexia is a term used to describe a difficulty learning to read or interpret words, letters, and other symbols. It is known as a specific learning difference (SpLD) - indicating an obvious issue that does not affect general intelligence. There may be accompanying weaknesses in short term memory, visual and auditory perception, sequencing and the speed in processing information.



Dyslexia can affect an individual's ability to read, write and spell, and can have a profound effect on an individual's confidence and self-esteem.... depending on the way it is perceived! Viewing dyslexia as a learning disability can lead to parents/carers to search for interventions delivered by 'specialists', to improve, normalise or 'cure' the difficulty. Seeing dyslexia as a learning difference emphasises the uniqueness of the individual, embracing abilities and coping strategies.

Teachers adopt flexible instructional methods, adapt the learning environment, material presented, and utilise various teaching styles in order to accommodate the unique learner.

Although it is possible to receive a "diagnosis" of dyslexia from private providers, this is not something which is funded through North Yorkshire Schools. You may be offered a Neurodiversity Profile (NDP) by school which is to be completed by parents, the child and staff in school. This is a series of questions about the child's learning behaviours and analysis of the answers which help to pinpoint any dyslexia tendencies they might have and therefore the best way to support children.

Sometimes a difference such as dyslexia will occur along with other differences such as dyscalculia – look out for the information about that later this term in the newsletter.



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There are many sources of information available on the internet of course and below is a link to just one. However, if you are concerned about your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/guidance-for-parents>

For further information about how we support pupils with SEND needs across the federation, and information on how to contact Mrs Barber, please visit the school website: <https://fed-mas.n-yorks.sch.uk/about-us/send/>

Open Door Art

We are looking forward to having Chris Layfield in school on Monday for Open Door Art. Please send in donations of magazines, newspapers and bottle tops, preferably milk bottle tops, for Monday morning.

Stars of the week 28.2.25

Maple Class	Ruben for super sentence writing. Well done
Birch Class	Elspeth for listening well and making super effort in all her lessons Max for making great effort with handwriting and spelling.
Sycamore Class	Zac for working hard to learn his times table Molly B for her positivity and enthusiasm towards learning
Oak Class	Martha for a fantastic learning attitude Finlay for some super writing about volcanoes

Diary Dates

03.03 Chris Layfield, Open Door Art
03.03 Maple Class Forest School
06.03 World Book Day – wear something comfy day and book swap.
07.03 Sycamore Forest School
10.03 (Spennithorne) & 12.03 (Middleham) Parents Evening email has been sent home
14.03 Sycamore Forest School
18.03 Bags 2 School Collection
18.03 Dance the Dales Workshops
21.03 Sycamore Forest School
28.03 Wensleydale Tournament of Song
2.04 Easter Service followed by art gallery at Spennithorne – more information coming soon
3.04 FOMASS Chocolate Bingo, 5.45pm venue TBC
4.04 Wear Blue Day!
4.04 School closes for Easter
21.04 School closed for Bank Holiday
22.04 School opens to all pupils
21.06 Save the date – FOMASS Summer Fair



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