



BROUGH PRIMARY



NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

Welcome to the December edition of our school newsletter. I do hope that you are getting ready for the festive period and are enjoying all the excitement that this time of year brings.

It is an incredibly busy time in school and we have been enjoying all kinds of 'festive events' over these last few weeks. At the time of writing, we have had a number of Christmas plays. Our Y5/6 did a wonderful production of 'A Pudding for the Chimney Sweep' which included some amazing singing and acting, our Year one pupils put on a festive show and our EYFS pupils made their school performance 'debut' with their play. Our 'Christmas Choir' performed at the Elloughton-cum-Brough lights switch on, at our FOBS Christmas Fayre and visited three local residential homes to perform to residents.

Last week we had our Christmas dinner and 'Jolly Jumper' day which raised money for Save The Children. I would like to say an enormous thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for the Christmas lunch which was absolutely delicious. This week we have our final festive events with the choir singing in Morrisons, our Christmas parties and our Christmas song performance to parents/carers on Friday afternoon. I say this every year, but it really is a magical time in a primary school.

Whilst Christmas is a happy time for most people, it can be a sad and lonely time for others. For those who have lost someone close this year or who have challenges in their own lives, we extend our thoughts and care. We never know what is going on in anyone else's life so a little bit of kindness can go a long way.

On that note, I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who sponsored the children in our recent 'Tinsel Tree Trot' which raised an enormous £1,510 for Dove House Hospice with donations still coming in. We have run this event a number of times now and are always amazed by the amount of money raised, which shows just how valued the work Dove House do is by our community. On behalf of the school and Dove House we say an enormous thank you.

As we come to the end of 2025, it is a time to reflect on the year that has passed and the next one to come. In a school we see so many lives affected by the world around us, both positively and negatively, and we are privileged to be a part of the 'life stories' of the children we work with. As I watched Y5/6 perform, it struck me that these children started school, or had recently started school, when the Covid-19 pandemic struck. They started school with a different 'normal' facing working in bubbles, being isolated from the rest of the school and living in a world where fear of an illness was palpable. The impact of the pandemic on children has been well documented but watching the Y5/6 children perform I saw a group of confident, resilient, kind and caring children who celebrate and champion each other. We are all shaped by our life experiences, but children can demonstrate the most incredible resilience and zest for life – and we are proud of each and every child in our school.



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On behalf of the children, staff and governors of Brough Primary School, I wish you all the very best for the festive period and look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

As ever, if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions then please don't hesitate to get in touch, either via the school office or to me directly if it is after the office has closed.

Thank you

H Shepherdson
Headteacher
hshepherdson@broughprimaryschool.co.uk



STAFFING CHANGES

Mrs Campbell, who has been the teacher in The Bridge over the past couple of years, is leaving us at the end of December. Whilst we are very sad to see Mrs Campbell go, and wish her every success for the future, we are delighted that Miss Fletcher will be joining us as the lead teacher for The Bridge areas. Thank you Mrs Campbell – good luck.

We are also sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Sammons who has worked with many children across the school. Again, thank you for everything Mrs Sammons and good luck for the future.

Miss Clegg and Mrs Collis will be joining us in January and will be supporting children across the school in their roles as teaching assistants.

Mrs Pearson is also returning to work following her maternity leave. Mrs Pearson will be joining Mrs Skilleter in EYFS, working with our youngest children. A letter with further details has been sent to parents of EYFS children already.



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CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We have welcomed parents into school over the last 2 weeks to watch performances by our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 5/6 children. The dedication from our teachers and children to put these performances on does not go unnoticed and each show





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PARENT FORUM – DELAY SMARTPHONES

Thank you to those parents who got in touch following the last newsletter to express an interest in joining the above forum.

There is still time if you didn't email me but would like to be involved – please do get in touch.

Thank you to the parents who had a stall at the Christmas Fayre to promote awareness of this campaign – it was wonderful to see so many visitors stopping by to have a chat about this vital work.

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Kids and smartphones – what's the big deal?

 <p>Opportunity cost</p> <p>More scrolling mean less time for play, movement, reading and real-life connection – the building blocks of a healthy childhood.</p>	 <p>Harmful content</p> <p>Extreme, explicit content is just a click away – often served by algorithms, even when kids aren't looking for it.</p>	 <p>Mental health</p> <p>Since smartphones became widespread, teen anxiety, depression and self-harm have surged. Early use is linked to poorer mental health.</p>
 <p>Addiction</p> <p>Apps are designed to hook kids in. The longer they scroll, the more money tech companies make – at any cost.</p>	 <p>Attention</p> <p>Smartphones hijack focus. Constant pings and notifications make it harder for kids to concentrate, learn, and enjoy deep focus.</p>	 <p>Family life</p> <p>Phones can quietly dominate home life – fueling arguments, draining attention, and crowding out real connection between parents and kids.</p>
 <p>Cyberbullying</p> <p>Fallouts don't end at school anymore. They follow kids home, with no off switch and nowhere to escape the pressure.</p>	 <p>Sleep</p> <p>Blue light and late-night scrolling disrupt rest and recovery – leaving kids wind, over-tired, and struggling to function the next day.</p>	 <p>Grooming</p> <p>Predators target kids on popular apps like Tik Tok and Snapchat – especially when they first get unsupervised smartphone access.</p>

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay smartphones and social media.

SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

COLDER WEATHER

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, we ask that children all bring a coat to school now that the weather is colder and that all coats are named. In addition to coats, please send your child in wellies/boots, with a change of shoes for indoors, if it is particularly wet. We don't want any children to have cold and wet feet in school.

NUTS AND ALLERGIES

We have been a nut-free school for many years now as we have had, and continue to have, children in the school with severe nut allergies. I ask that all parents are vigilant around any packed lunch items containing nuts and ensure that these are not sent into school. Some children can have an airborne allergic reaction, so it is essential that there are no nuts, or nut products, in our school.



We are on Facebook!!
Please 'follow us' – Brough
Primary School



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COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF

It has been brought to my attention that some staff receive emails very late at night, or over a weekend. As with any other job, teachers are entitled to a break and we have a policy of non-communication between school staff from 6pm to 7:30am each weekday and over a weekend, except in urgent cases.

I ask that parents/carers respect the above hours so that teaching staff can have a well-deserved break over evenings/weekends.

I understand that sometimes it is easier for a quick email to be sent at a convenient time but if this is outside of 6pm-7:30am I ask that you 'schedule send' or send it within working hours. If it has been previously agreed with a member of staff for emails to be sent then that is different but, in most cases, we do ask that parents/carers respect the above.

In the event of an emergency, or if something really cannot wait until the next day, then please send emails to me directly and I will make sure the relevant staff receive these.

hshepherdson@broughprimaryschool.co.uk

We care very much about our jobs and work very hard to provide the best possible education and care for your children, but teachers also have families and lives outside of work and part of my job is to support them in ensuring they have quality time away from work.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Our Christmas parties will take place in school in the final week of the term.

EYFS - Monday 15th December

Year 1&2 - Tuesday 16th December

Year 5&6 - Wednesday 17th December

Year 3&4 - Thursday 18th December



On their party day, the children are welcome to come to school out of uniform. Please consider the weather when guiding the children with choosing what clothes and footwear to use; we will have an outdoor play in the morning and at lunchtime.

Please could you prepare and cling-film a (named) paper plate for your child with their choice of food (small items are sufficient when the children have only just had their lunch!) We don't have the facilities to refrigerate them, unfortunately, so please bear this in mind when choosing your food.

We must also ask that you don't send anything containing nuts as some allergies can be triggered by being in the same room as someone who has eaten them.



PARKING ON ELLOUGHTON ROAD

We have been made aware that, despite the signs displayed, and our previous messages, some parents are still parking dangerously on Elloughton Road. Thank you to those parents who have been in contact with us about this issue and have provided photographic evidence of cars parked illegally. We have contacted our local PCSO to seek further support with this matter to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children.

I include the information that we previously sent out below for your reference.

Parking on Elloughton Road

Please note that we continue to receive concerns about parking on Springfield Avenue and ask that all parents/carers are mindful of parking safely so as not to endanger any pupils or adults and to be respectful of local residents.

It has been brought to our attention that some parents/carers are stopping on the yellow 'keep clear' lines near the school entrance on Elloughton Road.

As I am sure you will realise, this is putting children, and any accompanying adults, at risk and we ask that anyone dropping their child off in this area does not stop on these markings.

It seems that there is a misconception that it is ok to stop on these markings if it is just to drop off, but not park. This isn't the case between the times indicated on the sign. The sign clearly states 'No stopping Mon-Fri 8.15-9.15am 3-4pm on entrance markings.'

We have been provided with clarity from East Riding of Yorkshire who have provided the following information.

The Keep Clear Marking to diagram 1027.1 as prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulation and General Directions 2016 is for use outside schools. The marking means no stopping and is advisory unless an upright sign is present, then it is mandatory and enforceable by civil enforcement officers and the police. Time periods will be shown on the upright supporting signs, generally there will be a morning time and an afternoon time for example 8.30-9.30am & 3-4pm during these times stopping by any motorists is an offence and can only stop in an emergency. Outside of the times vehicles are permitted and able to stop/park on the restrictions.

As this information clearly states, because there is also an upright sign present then it is an offence for motorists to stop on the entrance markings between the times shown.

Please can all adults who are dropping off or collecting from this entrance ensure that they are following the information on the sign and are not stopping on the lines between the times stated.

We appreciate your support in this matter.





ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES (TERM TIME HOLIDAYS)

As you know, holidays in term time are unauthorised and may result in fines from the local authority. This is on a '10 in 10' rolling basis with 10 unauthorised absences in 10 rolling weeks prompting a referral to the local authority. Please note that the rolling basis goes across academic years so unauthorised absences in the last weeks of the Summer term and first weeks of the Autumn term can result in the '10 in '10' criteria being met and referrals being made.

As a school, we apply the local authority policy across the board and follow the guidance given to us by the educational welfare team. This includes where pupils are reported as absent due to illness but we are made aware that actually they are on holiday. In this situation, our guidance is to make the referral as we usually would with unauthorised absences and that it is for parents/carers to 'prove' that the child was indeed unwell.

Attendance at school is crucial and whilst we all agree that holidays can be hugely beneficial to families and children, these should not be taken in term time.

Please see the link below to the ERYC website with further details.

[https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/holidays-during-term-time-and-authorised-absence-from-school/Penalty%20Notices%20and%20Absence%20from%20School%20for%20Exceptional%20Circumstances%20\(ASEC\)%20FAQs%202025.pdf](https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/holidays-during-term-time-and-authorised-absence-from-school/Penalty%20Notices%20and%20Absence%20from%20School%20for%20Exceptional%20Circumstances%20(ASEC)%20FAQs%202025.pdf)

FOBS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The FOBS Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 6th December. We welcomed a range of craft fairs as well as York Circus Skills and an inflatable assault course.

Thank you to the staff and children who supported on the day with the class craft stalls.

FOBS hosted a hot food stall, chocolate tombola and raffle and overall made a fantastic **£1,013.41**. Every single penny raised goes straight back into supporting the school and children so thank you from all of FOBS and the school for showing your support.





DECEMBER

- Mon 15th: EYFS Christmas Party
Tues 16th: Year 1/2 Christmas Party
Wed 17th: Year 5/6 Christmas Party
Y2 Share Day
Thur 18th: Year 3/4 Share Day
Fri 19th: Break up for Christmas

JANUARY

- Tues 6th: Back to school
Wed 7th: 'Shaping the Future' Year 5/6
14th - 16th: Theatre Club Visit to London
Thur 22nd: Y6 Puberty Talk

FEBRUARY

- Tues 3rd: EYFS & Y6 Weights and Measures
Fri 13th: Break up for half term
Mon 23rd: Back to school

MARCH

- Thur 26th: Break up for Easter

APRIL

- Mon 13th: Back to school

MAY

- W/c 11th: Y6 SATs Week
Fri 22nd: Break up for Half Term

JUNE

- Mon 1st: Back to school
26th - 28th: Y5/6 High Adventure Visit

JULY

- Fri 17th: Break up for Summer