




Dear Parents, families, and community,
 Thank you all for your support again. Particular thanks to those of you who have been able to respond to my letter about in-school places and reduce your child's attendance where you are able. We continue to respond dynamically to demand for places; please do not hesitate to get in touch to talk to us about your circumstances.

Rapid Testing for Staff

You will have received a letter this week about rapid Covid testing for staff which will take place twice a week. Hopefully this is another measure to help prevent the spread of the virus. Please refer to the letter for more information.



SumDog... Hot of the Press...

 Miss Collins writes... 'The Sumdog North Yorkshire maths competition finished last night and we can reveal that three of our classes were in the top 20 - out of over 120 classes who competed. The Merlins came 9th, achieving the highest placing among our classes and making Mr Greenway very happy into the bargain (the cheering from his classroom at Askrigg could be heard in Leyburn, I have been told!). The Swallows came 15th and the Golden Eagles achieved 18th place. We also had some very highly placed individual children. Out of over 1000 children who took part, we had five in the top 50: Otis, Caleb, Rafael, Isaac S and Caelan. Well done to everyone who took part.'

No-Screens / No-Writing Friday

Whilst trying to provide high-quality remote learning for those of you whose children are at home, we have become mindful that our children are probably spending a lot of time on screens. In addition, we would like to recognise and address the challenges you are all facing with trying to help your children learn from home. This might be because you are trying to work yourself; or because your child doesn't respond well to your help/guidance; or because you feel you don't have the



right knowledge or skills to help them; or because you feel that some days you are just managing to survive lockdown without added pressures. Perhaps you are feeling a bit of all of these things?
 As such, next Friday is going to be a no-screens and no written-work day. You will be provided with a list of suggested activities that will be creative, active, and open-ended. They will be suitable for children to do either at home or at school in their bubble and will have scope for involving all of the family without requiring too much adult support. You are not obliged to do them but encouraged to send us pictures of your children enjoying some family time. We hope this helps and we welcome your feedback on this day so we can consider whether it might be appropriate to have a few more of them.

Big Bird Watch

It's that time of the year where our schools take part in the big bird watch. This year we will be asking pupils in school to take part and we are attaching on to the newsletter the How to guide and Tally sheet for those at home to take part as well! The RSPB writes on their website ... 'Thanks to people like you taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, we now have over 40 years of data and this has helped increase our understanding of the challenges faced by wildlife. It was one of the first surveys to identify the decline of song thrushes in gardens. This species was a firm fixture in the top 10 in 1979. But by 2019, those numbers had declined by 76% – coming in at number 20. And did you know that house sparrow sightings have dropped by 53% since the first Birdwatch in 1979? However, in the past 10 years their numbers have grown by 10% showing that we are beginning to see some signs of recovery. Results like these help us spot problems. But, more importantly, they are the first step towards putting things right.'



KS2 Map lesson

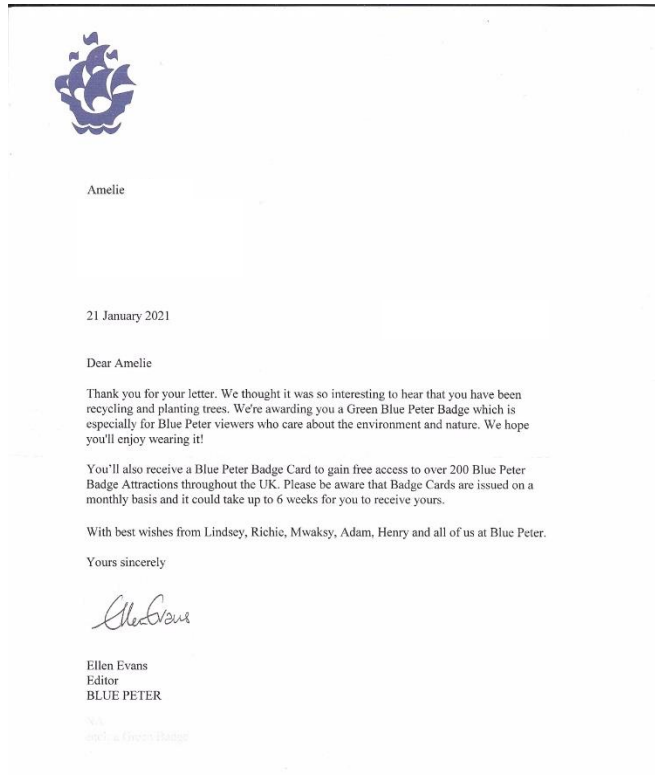
Attached are some materials kindly provided by The Yorkshire Dales National Park. We hope you enjoy the activity.



Blue Peter Badge

Amélie's mum has written in to tell us some lovely news ... 'a letter was in the post to Amélie with the award of a Blue Peter badge, this has made her week. Amélie wrote a lovely letter and drew a wonderful

picture which we sent in, in the first lockdown. She wanted me to share her fortune with you.' Big congratulations to you we're always happy to hear of extra activities the children are taking on during lockdown.









This week's awards from the Headteacher:	
Headteacher's Award, taught at Bainbridge	Matilda: for working very hard at home. She always looks so happy and proud of her achievements.
Headteacher's Award, taught at Askrigg	Ralph: for being incredible throughout lockdown. He communicates with us regularly and has been using his time at home really productively, doing lots of work but also enjoying the outdoors and learning more about the animals he loves so much (I wonder if he's going to be the next David Attenborough!)
Headteacher's Award, taught West Burton	Callum: for working very hard in class, especially with his reading. He has been putting tremendous effort into his reading, confidently sounding out two-syllable words, and showing increased enjoyment.

Have a great weekend!

Charlotte Harper

Eleanor Harrison

	Pupil of the week	Attendance
<p>Robins</p> 	<p>Pippa for POW for doing so much outdoor learning! - Mrs Johnston</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Owls</p> 	<p>My pupil of the week is Aaron for his beautiful artwork, inspired by local artists (see photo in Owls photos) – Mrs Harrison</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Golden Eagles</p> 	<p>The pupil of the week for the Golden Eagles is Henry. Mrs Richards chose him for working very hard in all his subjects and always being willing to support other children. – Mrs Richards and Miss Collins</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Merlins</p> 	<p>The pupil of the week for the Merlins is Alyssa for working very hard at her home-schooling and sending in some beautiful work. Mr Greenway and I particularly liked her artwork this week. – Mr Greenway and Miss Collins</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Swallows</p> 	<p>James for fantastic work in English and lots of wider learning activities. – Mr Scrafton</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Skylarks</p> 	<p>The pupil of the week for the Skylarks is Benjamin for consistently handing in high-quality, thoughtful work and for getting fully involved with all aspects of home learning ... and for taking great care of his siblings. – Miss Collins</p>	<p>NA</p>

Robins



Which is heaviest?

Lovely bit of writing for Great Grandad's birthday card.



Pippa really enjoyed making her own scales and weighing different objects.

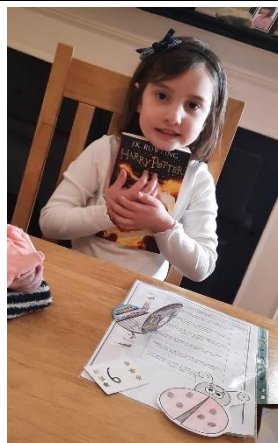
Ben has adventured out in the snow drifts and made no complaints about the big hill!



Otto has been practicing his shapes!



Archie investigated the ice on the paddling pool, 9cm thick!



'Rosie has blown me away with her hunt for 6 today! She found 6 socks, 6 apples and 6 animals in her toy brochure but most impressively she noticed 6 school classes on the school newsletter!'

Alberts 'Three little pigs and the monster truck' picture is so very colourful ☺



'We have been scientists so far this week ... This particular experiment was imitating what our stomach does!'

Aidan has been working on telling the time.



Eli and Noa learnt they can get jelly to set quicker by putting it outside in the snow!

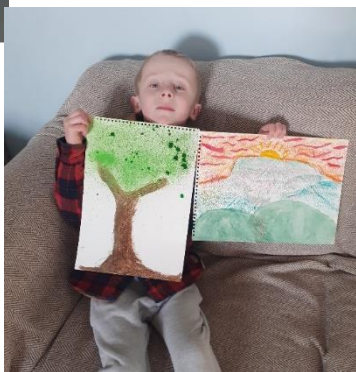
How many spots has your ladybird got?



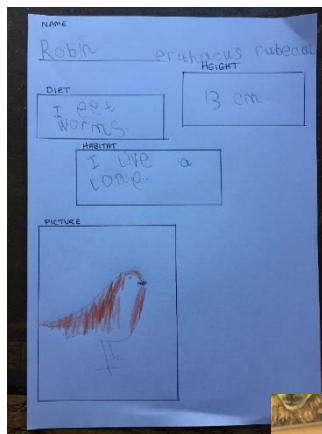
Owls



Beautiful bird painting.



Art sessions provided by Mrs Robinson have been very popular, the children have explored different media to produce masterpieces of the local landscape.



This week the children at home and school have continued to enjoy the work on information texts and preparing for the Big Bird Watch. Another lovely fact file, this time from Jake.



Working on information texts with some Science books



Sylvi's amazing information display on birds!

The bird feeders have been made in the hope we see lots of birds at school and in our gardens today.



Matildas bird feeder.



Isla clocking up the miles with her dog for the Roman challenge!



Golden Eagles



Mum writes ... 'Dec enjoyed a great game of "knock the icicles" off the bridge with his Dad & Ronan at the weekend, then he wanted me to take a photo of him standing in what has become his favourite place, down by the river.'

Fred exploring static electricity in science



Sam and Amelie making a village treasure hunt



Eliza and her sister. Eliza made a bag in DT and then gave it to her sister as a present.



Isaac and his sister Eva trying to discover if Isaac's hair will 'charge' a comb for their science experiment!



Jasmine, using the magic of electricity to separate salt and pepper



Merlins



Coen and Otto doing PE, running, jumping in puddles and stop/starting flow of water! Lots of exploration!

Alyssa's artwork



Eva, finding out that static electricity comes in useful if your pepper and salt are all mixed up!

Harvey, bending water with static electricity



Micheala, cooking up a storm



Ralph's artwork



William's bracelet he created for DT

The Merlins working hard on their Ultimate Warrior challenge.



Creating circuits in science. Using trial and error to make a range of circuits.



Sewing in DT

Daily measure of wind direction and weather.



Making Jelly towers as part of our PSHE work.



Swallows

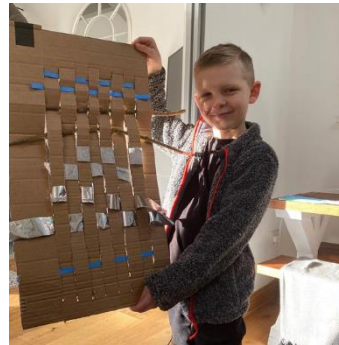


James took part in a treasure trail and managed 2.6 miles of walking. Good job he had snacks with him!

He's also had a go at making Grandma's tiffin. Looks yummy J



Isaac's giant weaving in art.



Making doves in Miss Harper's collective worship.



Tristan, Grayson and Miles damming the stream to make a safe place for the frogs to spawn.



Lily-Anne on sumdog for the maths competition.

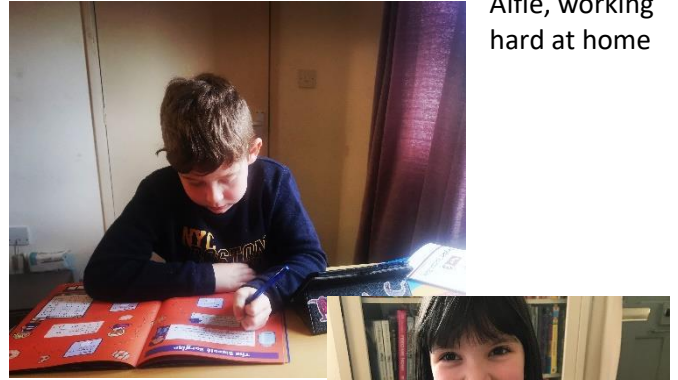


Skylarks

Investigating and making circuits in science.



Alfie, working hard at home



Beatrice, making amazing 'pine cone gnomes'



Making doves in Miss Harper's collective worship.



Ben and Beatrice, creating some outdoor art

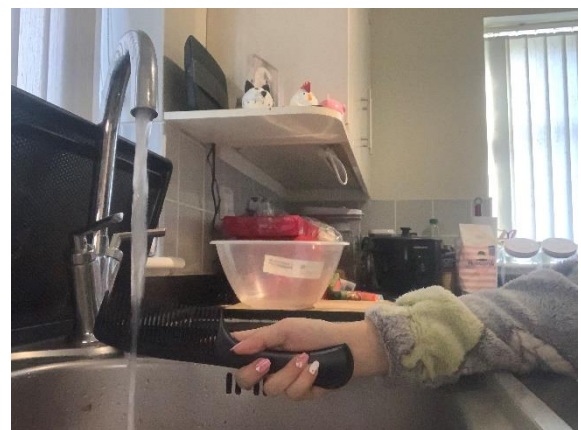


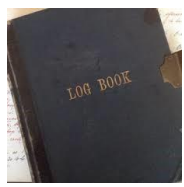
Benjamin, enjoying Mr Stokes' PE challenge

Abigail, getting ready for a winter walk



Thia, using static electricity to bend water





From the Log Books

School log books are held in our schools and they are a marvellous record of social, and educational, history. We will reproduce extracts in this section.

This week's is from **West Burton's** log books:

24.01.2000 – I attended two morning courses for Y6 – Literacy & Numeracy, intended to show ways of incorporating teaching for SATs into Literacy & Numeracy hours. It is upsetting to see education becoming exam based at such an early age.

19.01.1966 – The Grammer School Entrance Examination Stage 1 took place this morning.

Robins and Owls News

Hooray! We have reached February and that month will fly by. Before we know it, it will be spring.

Yes, we still have snow but we have more daylight and Dry January will soon be a distant memory.

I was disappointed to realise that Pancake Day falls in half term but you parents are probably all quite pleased. Nevertheless, I think we will have a trial run of pancakes in school and maybe some races the week before.

So this week our school bubble has been going for really long walks in our beautiful countryside. And we have had some particularly stunning days to appreciate. So if any of you home learners want to share your marvellous walks with us we would love to hear about them. Ben's mum has already suggested some lovely places to visit. Well she should know – it's their land. The best walks will be with Mrs Iveson as she knows all the relevant information. On returning to school we have had hot milk and hot chocolate. Delicious x

Mrs Harrison has set up a pet shop and we have read The Great Pet Sale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go6dSfm-g6g>

This has been very popular with the children. We have price labels and money and a little hamster that runs around in a ball. We have had to revisit the value of sharing as the hamster has been very popular. So yes, we also have our squabbles in school learning not just home!

I really feel that there is much talk in the news about how our children are suffering; sometimes with the suggestion that it will be irreparable damage. I simply do not believe this of our children and I don't want you to worry. I am not saying it isn't challenging and your children may not be as happy as they should be right now but we can see the amazing things you are doing. The choices you are making that are right for you all. Your children will bounce back if they are not bouncing now. I do not believe that your children will leave primary school without having achieved the best they can.

We so look forward to everyone returning and moving forward. It will be amazing but everything you are doing now is also amazing. Your children (I mean our children) are amazing xxx

Forecast for weekend not too bad. Enjoy xx

Lots of Love Owls and Robins xx

On-site learners News

We have been enjoying preparing for the RSPB Big Bird Watch, making birdfeeders to hang outside to encourage the birds. We followed the instructions carefully using wire, cheese, sultanas and apple.

Nico said " I put lots of fruit on, I'm going to put it on the tree"

Ed "We're going to feed the birds."

Ellie "I used loads of sultanas, I hope the birds come"

Alex "It was tricky threading the cheese!"

Sidney "I hope the birds like them."

After making our bird fact files we are now expert bird spotters, so we're hoping we see lots of birds! (see Owls photo section)

Off-site learners News

Here we are at the end of the first month of 2021.

There has been huge excitement and competitiveness with the Sumdog Maths Challenge including great messages of encouragement and support from classmates to each other.

The teachers have also been very competitive and, behind the scenes, perhaps a little less than supportive of one another! It has all been great fun.

In history, some pupils have been writing a diary of life as a Roman soldier. They had to do 26 mile marches and stand guard on a wall all day long - and we thought we had it bad!

The task for DT was to design your own invention. I feel we have some future contestants for Dragon's Den! Some brilliant ideas that would make life easier and more fun.

The children have written their own acrostic poems for Easter in RE. They have been a joy to read. We really liked this line from Harry's poem: *rays of sunshine, the dark days of winter have gone*. We thought that image was full of hope.

In music, we were learning some new songs with actions, many of them very funny.

William said, "I really liked the music, learning the actions for music. I learnt the 'Tony Nose' song. I liked it because it was something new to me."

The Reader of the Week competition is proving very popular and it has been fantastic to see photos and evidence of the children doing lots of reading.

"I enjoyed Reader of the Week," said Zoe. "I'm reading the Diary of a Wimpy Kid books and I'm on my 6th book. It is called The Ugly Truth."







It has also been really nice to see the children getting outside, despite the cold weather.

Ralph has been enjoying some winter sports. "I have been skating on the ice a lot," he said. "It was so hard you could not even crack it! I am the champion skater now! The ice was very thick and I could not possibly fall in, but the water was only ankle deep underneath anyway."

We are glad the water was so shallow – please make sure you don't take any risks with ice on deep water as it can be very dangerous!

Magda said, "I have been practising my Polish, reading and writing a lot and I helped my mum bake some cupcakes."

Forest Schools and PE

Class	Forest Schools	PE
Robins 	NA	Wednesday
Owls 	NA	Wednesday
Golden Eagles 	NA	Friday
Merlins 	NA	Friday
Swallows 	NA	Thursday and Friday
Skylarks 	NA	Thursday and Friday

Children should attend school each day in a clean uniform and bring as little as possible with them. On PE days they should attend in PE kit (with long trousers if required) and wearing suitable footwear. On Forest schools days If the weather is looking unfavourable, pupils are welcome to take waterproofs and wellies for their Forest Schools session. Please can this be in one bag with their name on it.