

Autumn 2

# Smawthorne Henry Moore Academy Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly joyful and memorable festive period.

We have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the end-of-term Christmas celebrations and have absolutely loved seeing the children perform in their Christmas productions. Their confidence, enthusiasm, and excitement were a delight to watch, and it was wonderful to see how proud they felt sharing their hard work with you. These moments are always so special and really capture the spirit of the season.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers for the incredible support you have shown throughout this time. Your generosity and willingness to help—whether through donations, giving up your time to attend performances, supporting the raffle, or ensuring the children had everything they needed for Christmas parties and festive outfits—has been greatly appreciated. We know that this time of year can be particularly busy and that there has been a lot to remember, so we truly recognise the effort you have made. Your support plays such an important role in making these experiences meaningful and enjoyable for the children, and it has not gone unnoticed.

We hope you enjoy taking time to look through this newsletter and revisiting the highlights of our end-of-term celebrations. As the term draws to a close, we would like to wish all our families a very happy and restful Christmas break. We hope it is a time filled with precious memories, quality time together, and opportunities to relax and celebrate this special time of year.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and we very much look forward to welcoming you back and working together again next term, where no doubt more Smawthorne Experiences will be had and more memories made as a school family.

Merry Christmas from us all!

Warm regards, Mrs Dixon



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# News from our Accomplish Family

We continue to strengthen and develop our relationships with the other schools within our Trust, working closely together to further improve and refine our classroom practice across all settings. As part of this collaboration, we have been extremely fortunate to receive high-quality training to become a Talk Partner school. While the idea of respectful and purposeful talk may sound obvious, this training has provided us with a clear and consistent approach that is now used across all classes. This ensures that all children receive the same messages, experience the same teacher signals, and move through the school with shared expectations for respectful talk and courteous behaviour during lessons. These agreed principles are not only embedded in classroom practice but are also used consistently in assemblies and throughout the wider school environment, helping to create a calm, respectful, and supportive learning culture for all.

In addition to this exciting work, we were delighted to welcome Auckley Primary Academy into our Trust at the start of November. To mark the occasion, we gifted them a basket of stories focused on trees, along with an apple tree to plant within their school grounds. As both of our school logos share a tree, this felt like a meaningful and symbolic way to welcome them and celebrate our growing community. We very much look forward to working closely with Auckley Primary Academy in the future and continuing to build strong, collaborative relationships across our Trust.



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# Attendance::

This half term, our attendance has unfortunately regressed further. We completely understand that there has been a significant amount of illness, particularly at this time of year; however, it is crucial that we now work closely together to improve attendance next term. Strong attendance has a direct impact on children's learning, progress, and confidence, and improving this is something we can only achieve through a shared commitment between home and school.

Our Attendance Officer, Mrs Boyd, will be inviting some families to meet with her next term to unpick any barriers to attendance and to discuss how we can work together to support improvement. We kindly ask parents and carers to be mindful when booking appointments and, wherever possible, to arrange these outside of school hours. Lost learning time cannot be regained.

In addition, please ensure that children arrive at school before 8:45am. Lessons begin promptly at 8:45am, and children who arrive after this time are already missing important learning, putting them at a disadvantage for the rest of the day. Being on time is essential in helping children maximise their learning and make strong progress.



## Be an Attendance Hero...



**H**ere **E**very day **R**eady **O**n time!

Good attendance will help our children to:

- Achieve well and be successful.
- Know the value of hard work and effort.
- Experience the full curriculum.
- Feel more confident and happier about school and learning.

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

As a parent you can support your child to enjoy school life by ensuring they attend school EVERY day, arriving on time.

Children arriving after 8:55am are marked on the register as 'L' (late to school)



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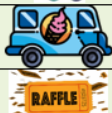

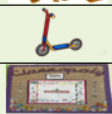





Yearly Attendance		
Year:	Attendance:	Difference to 96% target:
2023-2024	92.38	3.62
2024-2025	93.86	2.14
2025-2026 so far!	92.78	3.22



# School Attendance Matters

While our current attendance figure stands at 92.78%, our school target remains above 96%, and we are determined to work towards this together. Attendance summaries for each child will be sent out shortly after the Christmas break, and we are hopeful to see a positive improvement next term. We will continue to celebrate good attendance through our attendance jars, with stars added each day a class achieves 100% attendance, leading to a class reward once the jar is full. Attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence, and we appreciate your continued support in ensuring children attend school whenever possible.

Together, we can make a real difference in supporting children's learning, progress, and overall success.

Attendance achievement:	Reward/Incentive:	
100% Attendance for the term	Certificate and badge	
100% Attendance for the full year	Certificate, badge and ice-cream van playtime	
96% and above for the term	Raffle ticket for a family voucher	
96% and above for the term	Raffle ticket to win a scooter	
Class 96% and above for the week	Roll of the dice in assembly Classopoly game	
Most money in class Classopoly envelope	Pizza party	
Class 100% attendance for the week	Chocolate fountain treat as a class	
Winning class attendance each week	Attendance teddy – Star and Ace	
100% class attendance for the day	Add a star in the Star Jar, collect a full jar for a treat from the menu!	

Fab Four Weeks of Attendance:  
**Week 2!**

Attend all five days and go into your classes raffle to attend a Pizza Party with a friend of your choice!



**Attendance Matters!**

Fab Four Weeks of Attendance:  
**Week 3!**

Attend all five days and go into your classes raffle to attend an arts and crafts afternoon in The Den!



**Attendance Matters!**

Fab Four Weeks of Attendance:  
**Week 4!**

Attend all five days and go into your classes raffle to win a chocolate Santa!



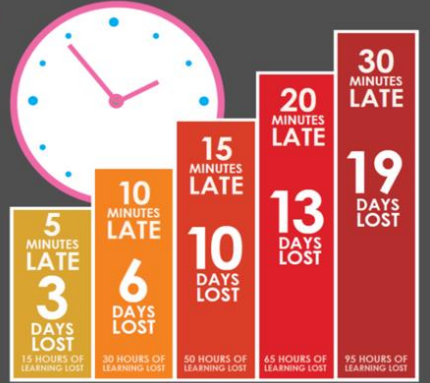
**Attendance Matters!**

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

#AttendanceCounts

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Being just 10 minutes late each day equates to 30 hours of lost learning each year...



**#TheSmawthorneExperience**



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# School Attendance Matters

Here are a few photos from our attendance pizza party for our Week 2 winners and their friend! The children loved this special treat.

Fab Four Weeks of Attendance:

**Week 2!**

Attend all five days and go into your classes raffle to attend a Pizza Party with a friend of your choice!



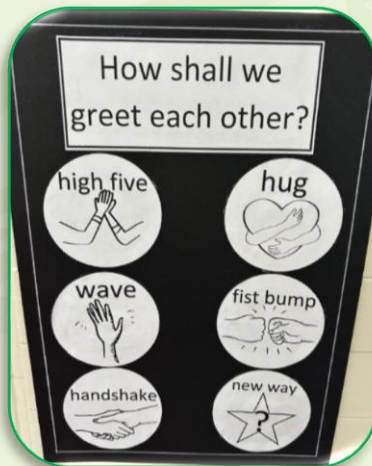
**Attendance Matters!**

#TheSmawthorneExperience



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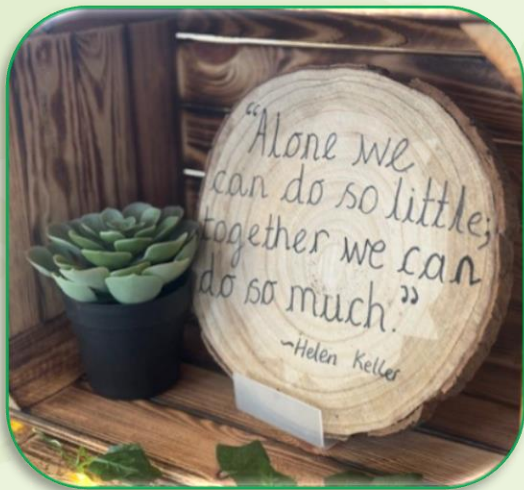
# Our School Rules



We are really proud of our new behaviour system, which is helping us to create a calm, positive and respectful learning environment across the school. Our three school rules – **Ready, Respectful and Safe** – continue to guide everything we do. We are working hard to embed a culture of positive reinforcement through our Recognition Boards, where children are celebrated for consistently doing the right thing and making good choices. Alongside this, we have introduced a new House Points system, recognising pupils for their academic effort, work ethic and focus on learning. The winning house colour will be announced next term. They will enjoy their well-deserved treat after half term, when we'll reset the scores and begin the next friendly competition.



# Lunchtime Links and Play!



At lunchtime, we have been working hard to develop our timetable and activity offer to ensure this important part of the day is enjoyable, purposeful and sociable. Lunchtime is a key opportunity for children to build friendships and practise important life skills, so we have made a number of adjustments to help everyone make the most of this time. Our focus has been on promoting good table manners, kindness, social skills and care for others.

We have also introduced a new and exciting initiative called "Lunchtime Links." This is a whole-school paperchain, built collectively from Reception to Year 6, with each link representing a moment of exceptional manners, respect or safe behaviour. Our aim is to reach 500 links to earn a special whole-school treat. We are currently on **367** links so we will hopefully meet our 500 target when we return from the Christmas break!



# Golden Table



In addition to our Lunchtime Links initiative, the Golden Table has continued to be a great success. Children from each class have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be chosen and to invite a friend of their choice to join them for lunch each Friday.

This special experience creates a real sense of excitement and pride, and the beautifully set table makes it feel like a truly memorable occasion for those involved. The Golden Table remains a positive and inclusive way to celebrate children across the school, and it has been wonderful to see how much the children value and look forward to this opportunity.



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# Introducing our brand new Celebration Assemblies

Our Celebration Assemblies have been a wonderful addition to our school week. Each Friday, parents and carers are invited to join us in celebrating our Star of the Week pupils and hearing about the fantastic reasons behind their selection. During the assembly, teachers share each child's achievements, character strengths, and learning journey so far this year, making it a truly special moment for everyone involved. The feedback from parents has been extremely positive, and it's been lovely to see so many of you joining us to celebrate our children's successes. We look forward to continuing to welcome families into this experience throughout the year. Thank you, as always, for your patience and understanding — as we can only choose one child per class each week, it may take a little time before every child has their turn to shine!



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Our Prospective Parent Open Evening

We recently held a wonderful prospective parent open evening for our Reception 2026 intake, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many new families into our school. We loved having the opportunity to share what makes our school such a special place and to showcase the learning experiences we offer our youngest pupils. Families enjoyed taking part in a treasure hunt around the school, which gave them a chance to explore our learning environments in a fun and engaging way. In addition, curriculum leaders were on hand to share information about their subject areas and answer questions, helping parents gain a clear insight into our curriculum and ethos. Thank you to everyone who attended—we thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and look forward to welcoming some of you back in the future.



## Reception Open Evening

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to our Open Evening for families considering a Reception place for September 2026.

Join us to discover what makes our Academy such a happy, inspiring, and nurturing place for children to learn and grow. During the evening, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet our dedicated teaching staff and leadership team
- Explore our classrooms and learning environments
- Learn about our curriculum and approach to early years education
- Hear about the support and enrichment opportunities available for every child

Date: **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

Time: 4:00 – 5:30

Location: Smawthorne Henry Moore Academy, Ashton Road, Castleford, WF10 5AX

We warmly welcome you to come and experience our vibrant school community first-hand. If you wish to book your place, please email [admin@smawthorneprimary.org](mailto:admin@smawthorneprimary.org) or contact the school office on 01977 558395. We look forward to welcoming you so that you can see what makes our Academy such a special place to start your child's learning journey.

We look forward to meeting you!

Warm regards, Mrs Dixon, Headteacher



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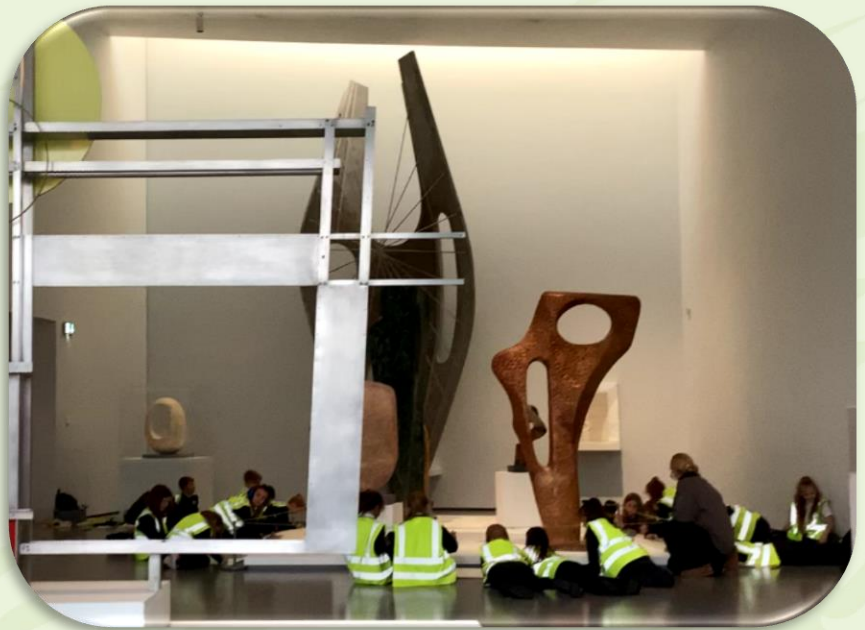


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# Year 4 visit to The Hepworth Gallery

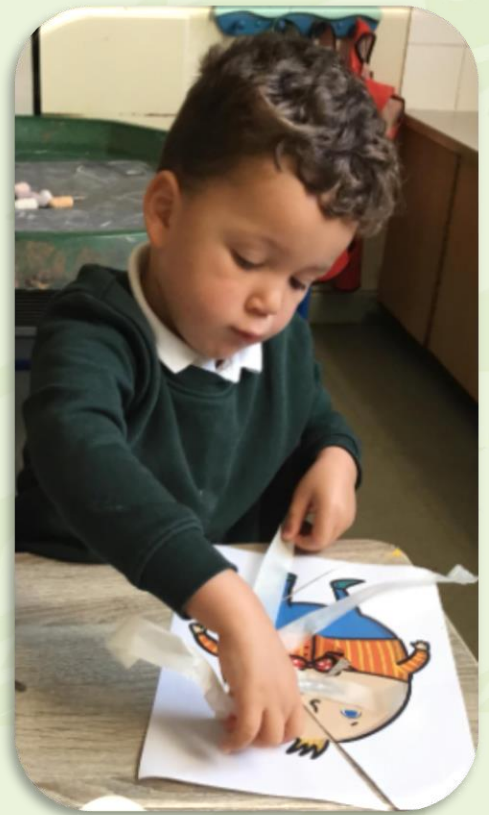


Year 4 had a wonderful visit to The Hepworth Gallery as part of their learning about the artist, Barbara Hepworth. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the gallery, viewing a range of sculptures, and developing a deeper understanding of her work and artistic style. A highlight of the visit was taking part in a creative workshop, which allowed the children to respond to the artwork in an imaginative and hands-on way. The visit was an inspiring experience and provided a valuable opportunity to enrich their learning beyond the classroom, bringing their studies of Barbara Hepworth to life.



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Nursery Rhyme Week



We had a great 'World Nursery Rhyme Week' in Early Years. The children sang a range of Nursery Rhymes, some familiar ones and some new ones which the children learnt quickly and confidently. We enjoyed exploring and engaging in a range of activities linked to a daily rhyme, some of our favourites included: Incy Wincy spider, Twinkle twinkle little star and Humpty Dumpty. Ask your child which Nursery Rhyme was their favourite and encourage them to perform it for you!



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Our Yoga Sessions

We are excited to share that we have introduced yoga into our school timetable! Children in Year 2, Year 3, and Year 5 will be enjoying half-termly sessions, exploring different poses, breathing techniques, and relaxation exercises. Yoga is a wonderful way for children to develop balance, flexibility, and coordination, while also supporting their mental wellbeing. It encourages mindfulness, focus, and self-regulation, helping children to manage stress and build resilience. In addition, yoga promotes confidence, body awareness, and teamwork, making it a valuable and enjoyable addition to our school day. Next half term will be the turn again for Lions, Turtles and Chimpanzees.



# Wraparound – Introducing our new themed nights!

Our Wraparound Service, The Den, continues to be a happy, welcoming space where children can relax, have fun and enjoy a wide range of enriching experiences beyond the school day. Recently, children have loved taking part in special sessions such as Bingo Night, The Teacher Who Came to Tea, and a festive Christmas Party Night, all designed to make their time at Wraparound engaging, memorable and full of smiles. We are excited to be launching new themed evenings in the Spring term and can't wait to share these with you. The Den is here to support families whenever needed, offering care from 7:30am through to 6:00pm — please do ask if you would like to know more.



🎉 What an incredible Bingo Night at Wraparound! 🎉  
Thank you to everyone who joined us for an evening full of laughter, excitement, and amazing prizes. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces enjoying the games together. A huge shoutout to our team for organizing such a fun event. We can't wait to do it again soon! This week is movie week!



#TheSmawthorneExperience

Wraparound - Our Spring Term themed nights!

SMAWTHORNE HENRY MOORE ACADEMY

# THE DEN FUN FRIDAYS



**JAN  
9TH**

Movie  
night

**JAN  
23RD**



THE DEN

Karaoke  
night

**FEB  
6TH**

The  
Teacher  
That Came  
To Tea


**FEB  
13TH**

The Den  
Bake Off

PLEASE BOOK IN VIA PARENT MAIL OR THE OFFICE


#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Embedding our Values through assemblies



**Smawthorne Henry Moore Academy**  
Our Family Values  
Learning Through the Inspirational Work of Others



**Honest Respectful Courteous Resilient Forgiving Generous Responsible**



Our school values underpin everything that we do at SHMA, guiding how we learn, play, and grow together. We make sure these values are taught explicitly through meaningful assemblies. In Autumn 2, our focus was on being responsible. On our return to school, we will be learning through the inspiring stories of Learie Constantine and Malala Yousafzai, learning how responsible behaviours are demonstrated through our actions.



**We learn about inspirational people to help us understand our school values. They are people who demonstrate our values through their behaviour and attitudes.**

**Honest- We tell the truth**  
**Respectful- We look after each other**  
**Courteous- We are kind and thankful**  
**Resilient- We never give up**  
**Forgiving- We don't hold grudges**  
**Generous- We share with each other**








**Autumn 2 Value: Responsible**  
Learning Through the Inspirational Work of Others:  
**Malala Yousafzai**

Malala Yousafzai is known across the world for her bravery, resilience and hope in the face of terrifying adversity. From playing in the Swat Valley in Pakistan to making speeches at the United Nations, she has become an inspiration for people fighting for justice. When she was a teenager, she was hurt by people who didn't want girls to go to school. But instead of being angry, she chose to forgive and continued to speak kindly and bravely about education for all children.


**Smawthorne Family Values**

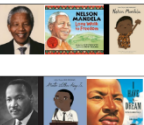

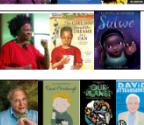
Term	Value	Description	Inspirational Figures:	Photo/Caric Icons to support Learning:
Autumn 1	Resilient	We never give up.	<b>Rosa Parks</b> , called "the mother of the civil rights movement," Rosa Parks invigorated the struggle for racial equality when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama. Parks' arrest on December 1, 1955, launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott by 17,000 black citizens. <b>England Women's Football Team</b> . The Lionesses, have played in the FIFA Women's World Cup six times. They reached the quarter-finals in 1996, 2007, and 2015. They finished fourth in 2015 and third in 2019. Their best result was being runners-up in 2023. The Lionesses are European champions. Sarina Wiegman's team made history in Basel, becoming the first England senior team to win a tournament overseas with victory over Spain in the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Final.	
Autumn 2	Responsible	We are dependable and work to keep our agreed values.	<b>Learie Constantine</b> , Baron Constantine (21 September 1901 – 1 July 1971) was a Trinidadian cricketer, lawyer and politician who served as Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and became the UK's first black peer. <b>Malala Yousafzai</b> is known across the world for her bravery, resilience and hope in the face of terrifying adversity. From playing in the Swat Valley in Pakistan to making speeches at the United Nations, she has become an inspiration for people fighting for justice.	
Spring 1	Honest and Respectful	We tell the truth. We look after each other.	<b>Wangari Maathai</b> was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She was also the first female scholar from East and Central Africa to take a doctorate (in biology), and the first female professor ever in her home country of Kenya. <b>Queen Elizabeth II</b> spent her life serving others and showing respect to people from many different cultures, countries, and communities. Queen Elizabeth showed that being a leader doesn't mean being the loudest – it means being respectful, wise, and caring. She worked hard for her country every day of her life and always tried to bring people together. She met and worked with leaders from all over the world – always showing good manners and fairness.	



**Autumn 2 Value: Responsible**  
Learning Through the Inspirational Work of Others:  
**Learie Constantine**

Learie Constantine, Baron Constantine (21 September 1901 – 1 July 1971) was a Trinidadian cricketer, lawyer and politician who served as Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and became the UK's first black peer. In the UK Parliament, a "peer" is a member of the House of Lords. Peers are not elected, but rather appointed, either as life peers based on expertise and experience or through hereditary titles. They play a crucial role in scrutinizing legislation and holding the government accountable.

Spring 2	Forgiving	We don't hold a grudge.	<b>Nelson Mandela</b> fought against the system of apartheid in South Africa and for the establishment of a multiracial democracy. He advocated for racial equality, human dignity, and equal access to justice for all South Africans. Nelson Mandela was initially jailed for inciting a strike and for leaving the country without a valid passport in 1962. After spending 27 years in prison for standing up against unfair laws in South Africa, he forgave the people who locked him up. Instead of seeking revenge, he worked for peace and unity and became the country's first black president. <b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b> is renowned for his leadership in the American Civil Rights Movement, advocating for equality and justice for African Americans through nonviolent means. He is particularly famous for his powerful speeches, including the iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, and for leading pivotal events like the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	
Summer 1	Courteous	We are kind and thankful.	<b>Honella Bangeman</b> is particularly concerned with the plight of children, their human rights, education and welfare throughout the world. She created her role model initiative "Touching Success" to motivate, raise aspirations and encourage social mobility amongst disadvantaged children. <b>Grata Thunberg</b> is a young girl who cares deeply about the planet and encourages people to protect the Earth from pollution and climate change. Grata Thunberg is a girl from Sweden who became world-famous for speaking up about climate change – that means the Earth is getting warmer and the weather is changing in dangerous ways, like more floods, fires, and melting ice.	
Summer 2	Generous	We share with others.	<b>Tererai Trent</b> is one of today's most internationally recognized voices for quality education and women's empowerment. Tererai, raised in rural Zimbabwe under restrictive cultural norms, taught herself to read and write despite being denied formal education. Inspired by a chance encounter and her mother's support, she buried her dreams of studying in America in a tin can, setting herself on a path to transform her life. <b>David Attenborough</b> , a renowned broadcaster and naturalist, has a fascinating career. He tells amazing stories about animals, nature, and the planet. He has made lots of TV shows that help people learn about the world around them – from tiny insects to huge whales! He travels to jungles, oceans, deserts, and even the Arctic to show us the incredible animals that live there and how they survive. His voice is calm and kind, and he explains things in a way that's easy to understand. David cares a lot about helping the Earth. He teaches us why we need to protect animals and take care of nature, so the planet stays healthy for people and animals in the future.	



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Why is reading so important?

This term we have continued to strive for reading excellence throughout the academy. As a team, we all understand how fundamental reading is to securing the best education for our children; continuously sharing new books and encouraging our learners to explore the ever growing collection of literature that we have.

Here's a snippet of our achievements from this term:

- We have received coaching from the Trust, Learning Improvement Advisor, Mrs Charlesworth, to ensure that teaching is the best that it can be for our children.
- Our Read, Write Inc consultant Debbie, has been in school to support us in accurately delivering phonics with fidelity to ensure the best outcomes for our children.
- The majority of our Reception children know all 25 single letter sounds and are blending these in readiness for word reading.
- Our Y1 children have had their first practise at a screening check and took this in their stride, applying the Reading routine: Special Friends, Fred talk, Read the Word, to ensure reading accuracy. Keep this up children!
- Our reading pop-up areas have changed regularly throughout the term to promote key events, such as Remembrance Day, Black History Month and the Christmas period. The children love to see the new books and borrow them.
- Reading Cafe has taken place in KS1, where parents have joined their children to share a book.
- Nursery Rhyme week was celebrated in our Early Years unit, and what a pleasure it was listening to the children singing along and acting these out.
- We held a Book Fair, which raised just under £200 for new books for school; as always, we thank you for your support. These were added to the Christmas Books, that were delivered by Santa on the final day of the term.

You can support your child on their reading journey by reading with them, encouraging them to talk about books that they have enjoyed, and by showing that you are a reader too.



#TheSmawthorneExperience

## Safe travels



As always, just a polite reminder to say please do not park on the yellow lines out the front of school, there are new signs to remind you of this. Thank you for working together to all children safe. **Please also be mindful of our neighbours who are also trying to park safely and respectfully.**



## Smoke and Vape free school

Please remember not to smoke or vape around our children, school site, entrances and pavements. We were the first smoke free school in Wakefield but we need your help to continue making smoking and vaping invisible to our children!

Thank you in advance for supporting this mission.



#TheSmawthorneExperience






































# A little view of learning enhancements at SHMA

Our school has been transformed into a truly magical Christmas learning environment, designed to inspire, excite and warmly welcome the children each day. From festive touches to thoughtfully curated displays, every space has been created with purpose, celebrating learning while capturing the joy of the season. We know that the learning environment plays a vital role in supporting children's understanding, confidence and curiosity, and our displays act as an important teaching tool — reinforcing key skills, celebrating achievements and sparking meaningful conversations. The result is a joyful, inviting atmosphere where children feel proud of their work, motivated to learn and wrapped in the magic of Christmas.



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Anti-bullying Week 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Assembly	Odd Socks Virtual Assembly – Power For Good 	Remembrance Day	KS2 assembly – David and Goliath		Celebrating Uniqueness in our Celebration Assembly
Reception	No Matter What 	Walk Tall 	Giraffes Can't Dance 	It's Okay To Be Different 	The Rainbow Fish 
Year 1	It's Okay To Be Different 	Giraffes Can't Dance 	No Matter What 	The Paper Bag Princess 	Walk Tall 
Year 2	No Matter What 	Meesha Makes Friends 	Walk Tall 	The Meanie 	The Paper Bag Princess 
Year 3	Inclusive Ninja 	Kindness is my Superpower** 	Bully Blockers Club 	Bridges 	The Boy With Pink Hair 
Year 4	Bully Blockers Club 	Inclusive Ninja 	The Boy With Pink Hair 	Kindness is my Superpower** 	Bridges 
Year 5	No Matter What 	<a href="#">Here</a> – 11 minutes long Roblox football bully 	Looking after Louis** 	Bullies, big mouths and so-called friends 	Bullies, big mouths and so-called friends 
Year 6	<a href="#">Here</a> – 11 minutes long Roblox football bully 	Bullies, big mouths and so-called friends 	Bullies, big mouths and so-called friends 	Looking after Louis** 	Dare! 

Anti-Bullying Week at SHMA was a powerful and meaningful opportunity to reinforce our shared values and expectations. Through special lessons and assemblies, children explored what bullying is, how it can affect others and, most importantly, why it is never acceptable at our school. In Collective Worship, the story of David and Goliath prompted thoughtful discussion about standing up for what is right and supporting those who may feel smaller or less confident. Daily stories helped deepen understanding and spark important conversations across classrooms. We also marked Anti-bullying week by supporting Odd Socks Day.

Throughout the week, a clear and consistent message was shared: at SHMA, we look after our school family by being respectful, caring and kind to one another, every single day.



# Christmas Coffee Morning:

Our Christmas Coffee Morning was a magical treat just for the children, and what a joyful event it was! Little hands clutched bottles of milk and cups of hot chocolate — the clear best seller of the morning — as the hall buzzed with excitement and festive chatter. The children loved taking part in Name the Elf, sparking lots of smiles and imagination, and the raffle added an extra layer of thrill and anticipation. We were also delighted to be joined by our Chair of Governors, Miss Pollitt, making the occasion feel even more special. With laughter, warmth and plenty of Christmas cheer, the morning was a wonderful celebration and a firm festive favourite.



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Christmas Coffee Morning: A few more



#TheSmawthorneExperience

## Our assembly learning about Christianity:

This half term in Key Stage 2, we have been learning about Christianity through a range of engaging stories and thought-provoking questions. The children have explored well-known stories such as David and Goliath and The Christmas Story, as well as reflecting on the big question, “What does God look like?” These discussions have encouraged pupils to think deeply, share ideas respectfully, and develop their understanding of Christian beliefs. After Christmas, we will continue this learning by exploring the story of Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat and by writing and reflecting on letters to God, considering what questions they might ask.



## Year 3 and 4: Future In Mind Workshops



This half term, children in Year 3 and Year 4 took part in a workshop led by Future in Minds, focusing on mental health and wellbeing. Each class had the opportunity to engage in a dedicated session that explored what mental health is, how it affects us, and practical ways to recognise and manage big emotions. The sessions encouraged open discussion and gave the children useful strategies to help them understand their feelings and support their emotional wellbeing, both in and out of school.



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# The Polar Express

Our magical Polar Express Day was truly unforgettable, filled with wonder, excitement, and festive joy. We gathered together to enjoy the enchanting story, eagerly following the journey all the way to the North Pole, before being delighted by a very special visit from Father Christmas himself. With mugs of hot-hot-hot chocolate in hand, the children soaked up every moment, their faces glowing with smiles and laughter. The excitement in the room was contagious, and it was clear that the children loved every second of this special day.



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# The Polar Express



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# Diamond Dash Times tables Challenges:

We are pleased to share an update on Diamond Dash in school. The programme is now well embedded into our weekly timetable and the children have settled into it confidently. They are really enjoying the challenges and are showing enthusiasm, resilience and motivation as they work through the activities. It has been lovely to see their engagement grow as they develop their times table skills and celebrate their progress. Please continue to use Times Table RockStars alongside this to help your child learn their times tables.

## Gold

- A teacher on panel taking turns to ask Qs.
- 2 Minutes on the clock. All correct answers and no hesitation.
- All times tables and division facts up to (and including)  $12 \times 12$ .
- Square numbers and square roots.

Gold Award certificate and badge to be given. Child put forward to the Diamond Dash.

## Silver

- All times tables  $12 \times 12$  on a multiplication grid.
- Division facts on reverse of grid including square roots and square numbers.
- Timed: 8 minutes.
- All correct answers within time.

Silver Award certificate and badge to be given.

## Bronze

- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 times tables on a multiplication grid.
- Division facts on reverse of grid including square roots and square numbers.
- Timed: 7 minutes.
- All correct answers within time.

Bronze Award certificate and badge to be given.

## Sapphire

- 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 times tables in written form.
- Division facts on reverse.
- Timed: 6 minutes.
- All correct answers within time.

Sapphire Award certificate to be given.

## Ruby

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 times tables in written form.
- Division facts on reverse.
- Timed: 5 minutes.
- All correct answers within time.

Ruby Award certificate to be given.

## Pearl

- 2, 5 and 10 times tables in written form.
- Division facts on reverse.
- Timed: 5 minutes.
- All correct answers within time.

Pearl Award certificate to be given.

## Emerald

- 2, 5 and 10 times tables in written form ie.  $7 \times 2 =$
- Times tables can be sat individually, but all three are needed to complete the award.
- Not timed, but teacher discretion to decide whether the children are competent enough to receive the award.
- All correct answers.

Emerald Award certificate to be given.

## Topaz

- Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to the 10<sup>th</sup> number in the sequence ie. In 2s to 20.
- Each one can be taken at a separate time, but competency in all three is required to complete the award.

Topaz Award certificate to be given.



# Handwriting Competition:

Our Christmas handwriting competition has been a wonderful celebration of the pride and care our children are taking in their work. We are seeing a real and encouraging increase in presentation across books, with a strong focus on basic skills and correct letter formation throughout the school. It has been especially pleasing to see children in Years 3–6 striving so hard towards achieving their pen licences, showing determination and growing confidence in their handwriting. The competition showcased fantastic effort from pupils across all year groups — well done to our worthy winners and to everyone who took part for their focus, perseverance and pride in their learning.

Klu Mahomed

Away in Manger, no crib for a  
bed. The little Lord Jesus, laid  
down His sweet head. The stars in  
the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the Baby  
awakes; But little Lord Jesus, I love  
Thee so, crying He makes K

Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem  
Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee  
lie. Above thy sleep and shadow sleep the silent  
stars go by. Yet in the dark streets shineth the  
everlasting light, The hopes and joys of all the years  
are met in this tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch  
of wondering love.  
Oh mornings star together, proclaim the holy  
birth, And praises sing to God the King, and peace  
to men on earth.

Deck The Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly fa-la-la-la, la-la  
la-la  
Tis the season to be jolly fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Don we now our gay apparel fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Troll the ancient carols, come fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
See the blazing Yule before us, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
la-la  
Follow me in merry measure fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la  
While I tell of the Yuletide cheer, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Fast away the old year passes, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Hail the new ye, hark and listen, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
la-la  
Sing we joyous all together, fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la  
Headless of the wick and tither, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

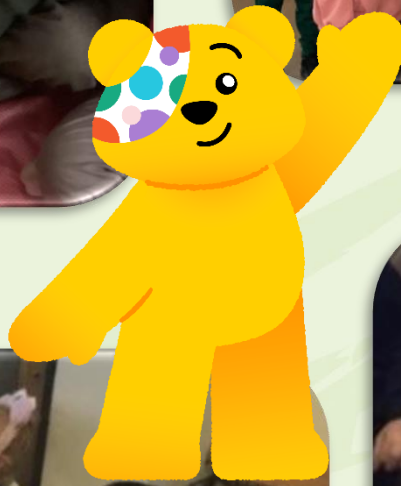
Silent Night, Holy Night  
Elianna-Rose Mawjee wood 13  
Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Saviour, is born!  
Christ the Saviour, is born!  
Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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Jesus, Lord, at thy birth



# Children in Need 2025

Children in Need was a wonderful day of colour, kindness and community spirit at our school. The children looked fantastic in their dress-up outfits, proudly sporting their Pudsey patches and embracing the chance to come together for such an important cause. The atmosphere was full of excitement and generosity, with everyone keen to do their part to help others. Thanks to the incredible support of our families and pupils, we raised a fantastic amount for charity — a brilliant achievement and a true reflection of the caring values we nurture every day.



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## Rainbow Room Resource:



This half term, we have seen some wonderful progress from our children, and it has been a real joy to witness their growth and achievements. One of the highlights has been a fantastic Stay and Play session, where parents were warmly welcomed into our Early Years SEND Rainbow Room to see the provision in action. The Rainbow Room has quickly become a calm, inclusive, and engaging space where children receive tailored support, build confidence, and develop the essential skills they need for a happy and successful start to school life. It has been wonderful to share this learning environment with families and celebrate the progress children are making together.



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# Wraparound Service:

Our Wraparound Service has been significantly enhanced over the course of the year. We now open at 7:30am and close at 6:00pm. The team now offer hot meals at afternoon Wraparound and have sourced additional activities such as air hockey, a pool table, enhanced craft resources and lots more! Pupil voice is extremely positive!

If you would like to hear more or visit Wraparound to see it in action, please just contact the office or speak to Managers Mrs Catherall (AM) or Miss Lumb (PM),



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# Christmas Concerts:

What an absolute joy it has been to welcome you into school and share the magic of our Christmas performances! From our tiniest stars in Preschool, just two years old, to our confident and accomplished Year 6 pupils, every single child shone brightly across an incredible 12 performances. The delight, courage and festive spirit on display were truly heart-warming — whether it was a first wave from the stage, a proudly spoken line, or a show-stopping song delivered with beaming smiles. These moments are so special, and seeing the children grow in confidence and joy as they performed was a wonderful reminder of the magic of this season. Thank you for your warmth, support and applause — together, you made these Christmas celebrations unforgettable.



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## Christmas Dinner:

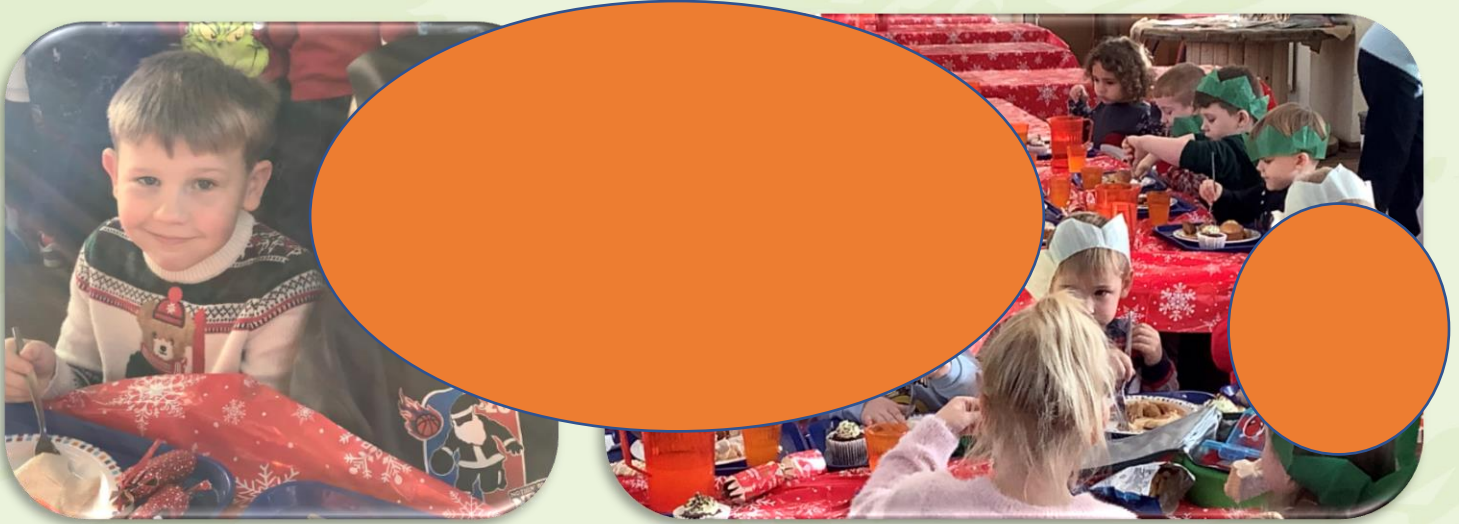


Our Christmas dinner day was a truly heart-warming celebration, filled with smiles, laughter and festive cheer from start to finish. From enthusiastic cracker pulls and impromptu dances in the queue while waiting to be served, to relaxed social time shared across year groups, the atmosphere was buzzing with joy. It was especially lovely to see staff sitting alongside the children, chatting and sharing the moment together, adding to the wonderful sense of togetherness. Topped off by impeccable manners and a genuine “family” feel throughout the hall, it was a day that perfectly captured the spirit of Christmas and community in our school.



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# Christmas Dinner:



#TheSmawthorneExperience

# Christmas Dinner:



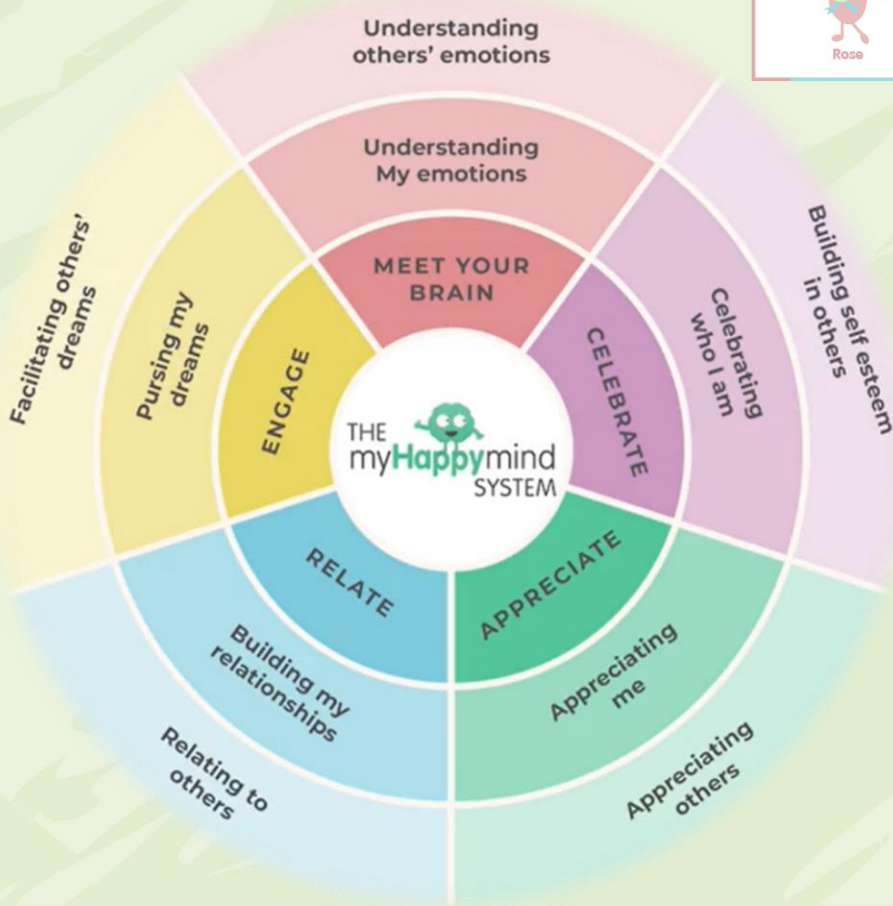
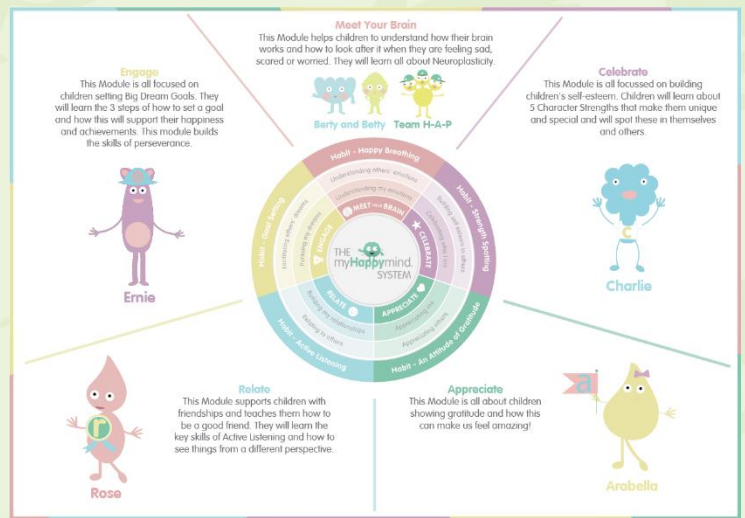
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# Mental Health:

We are pleased to inform you that we are now a silver award accredited myHappyMind school. This half term we have been learning about our Character Strengths though the Celebrate module.

## We have just completed Celebrate

In this module, the children have learnt all about their unique Character Strengths and develop strategies to celebrate them.



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# Mental Health:

We're excited to let you know that a series of Mini Masterclasses are now available on the free **myHappyMind Parent App**, designed to support you with some of the common challenges children face when it comes to their wellbeing and emotions.

Each short video focuses on a specific topic and gives simple, practical strategies you can try at home. Here's a breakdown of what's included:

## Separation Anxiety

Understand what separation anxiety looks like and why it happens. This video offers tips to make goodbyes more manageable and build your child's confidence when they are apart from you.

## Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

This session explains why some children may feel anxious about going to school and how to gently support them back into routines with reassurance and structure.

## Building Self-Esteem

Learn how to recognise and nurture your child's strengths, boost their confidence, and help them develop a more positive sense of self.

## Managing Big Emotions

This powerful video looks at what happens in the brain during moments of stress or meltdowns, introducing the Team H-A-P character your child knows from school. You'll learn how the brain's Fight, Flight, or Freeze response works, and how to help your child calm down and self-regulate using techniques that match what they've already been taught in class.

## Neurodiversity

A gentle, informative explanation of what neurodiversity means, celebrating differences in how children think, learn, and process the world, and how to best support them at home.

These videos are a great way to stay connected to what your child is learning through the myHappyMind programme at school, helping you use the same language and approaches at home.

## Coming soon!

## Sleep

A masterclass for parents on why sleep matters and how simple bedtime habits support children's health, learning and emotional wellbeing.



**Download your FREE myHappymind App to support your child's learning in school!**



...A FREE online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappymind to support your child.

**SCAN ME**



...Want to learn more about the science of happiness? Check out myHappymind founder Laura Earnshaw's best selling book!



**YOU WILL NEED this authentication code to sign up .....**

 myhappymind    myhappymind    myhappymind\_



Does your child struggle with worries or anxiety?

Help your child build confidence with a new digital therapy game



**Free**

- ✓ For 7-12 year olds\*
- ✓ NICE recommended
- ✓ Free instant access

To learn more visit [luminova.app/wakefield](https://luminova.app/wakefield)



In partnership with  

\*Luminova is for children aged 7-12. It is not recommended for use with children under 7 years of age. Please see the app for more information and full terms and conditions. ©2022 Luminova Ltd.

NHS Yorkshire South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

In addition to the myHappyMind app that you can access at home, Mrs Boyd and Mrs Thorpe recommend the Luminova app.



# Safeguarding:

One of our most important jobs is to keep the children safe. Please see our Safeguarding Officers in the poster below. If you are contacted about a concern that has been raised, please always remember that we are working to keep all children safe and work with families to ensure this is the case. We will always aim to be open and honest.

**Safeguarding**

Are you worried? You can talk to any adult in school, we are here to help.

Our school Safeguarding Officers are...

**Ms Pollitt**  
Chair of Governors  
Safeguarding Governor

**Mrs Dixon**  
Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead, E-Safety Leader

**Miss Goldsmith**  
Deputy Headteacher  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

**Mr Forsyth**  
Assistant Headteacher  
Safeguarding Officer

**Mrs Thorpe**  
Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead

**Mrs Boyd**  
Learning Mentor  
Safeguarding Officer  
Attendance Officer

**Miss Hunt**  
SENCo  
Safeguarding Officer

**Miss Ogley**  
Safeguarding Officer

Are you worried?  
Talk to someone.

ChildLine  
0800 1111

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The Children Act 1989 requires that everyone who works with children must report any child who is thought to be at risk of serious harm. The Education Act 2002 requires all schools to have arrangements to safeguard the children. We have procedures in place to do this and a policy that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors must work to. You can request a copy of our safeguarding policy from reception. This can also be found on our school website.

# Diary dates for Spring 1 half term:

## Here are some key dates coming up!

*Monday 5 January:*

- [School re-opens.](#)

- [Induction sessions](#) for new Pre-school and nursery parents and children at 9.00am and 1.00pm

- [Yoga sessions](#) for [Lions, Turtles and Chimpanzees](#) (until 9 February)

*Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 January:* [Year 6](#) residential to [Robinwood](#)

*Monday 12 January:* [Sleep Carousel, Year 3](#), 1.00-3.00pm

*Wednesday 14 January:* [Flu vaccinations](#) 'mop up'

*Wednesday 14 January:* [Sleep Carousel, Year 4](#), 1.00-3.00pm

*Thursday 15 January:* Themed lunch – Into the Wild

*Friday 30 January:* [Inset 3](#) – school closed to children

*Tuesday 10 February:* [Islam workshops](#) for Year 5 and whole school assembly

*Monday 16 to Friday 20 February:* [February half term – school closed](#)

Here's to lots of Smawthorne Experiences for the children to ~



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