



EGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
EGTON
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Head teacher: Mrs E. Orland B.Ed.Hons.

Friday 25th September 2026

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our visit to Howsham Mill

Yesterday, we had a whole school trip to Howsham Mill, an eighteenth century watermill. What a fantastic site for our trip to enhance the juniors' current science topic, soils! Upon arrival, we explored the mill and looked at historical machinery, the waterwheel and heard about its interesting history and restoration.

The infants used all of their senses in a hands-on exploration of natural materials. They took part in a range of activities such as colour collecting, sound mapping and a texture hunt, before eating delicious chocolate bananas, cooked over a fire!

Meanwhile, the juniors' current soil topic was really brought to life, through investigating what soil is made of, making smores in the firepit and finally testing hardness of rock.



Harvest Festival - **DATE CHANGE**

Please note that due to an unforeseen clash of dates Harvest Festival is now on **Wednesday 14th October at 9.15am** not the Thursday. We will be collecting for the Whitby Food Bank for our Harvest Gifts this year. Please follow the [link](#) to see appropriate items being collected currently. Items may be brought in any time between now and our service. Thank you.

Census Day Lunch 'Best of British' - Thursday 1st October

On Thursday, our school cook will be serving a special 'Best of British' lunch of Chicken Pie, Mashed Potato and Vegetables followed by Apple Crumble and Custard. If your child would like to have dinner that day, they may order it in the usual way in the morning. Thank you.

Message from North Yorkshire Council

Have your say on proposed changes to North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

Following a Post Implementation Review of the updated Home to School Travel policy introduced in 2024, North Yorkshire Council is inviting views on a number of recommended changes. The consultation is open now and runs until 4 November 2026.

The review found that the policy is largely working as intended, helping to create a fairer and more consistent approach to transport eligibility while remaining in line with national guidance and on track to deliver planned savings. It also identified areas where improvements could be made.

Executive member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, said: "We know that school travel arrangements are incredibly important to families and that the changes introduced in 2024 have affected some households more than others.

"When the policy changed, we promised to review how it was working in practice and to listen to the experiences of families.

"We have carefully considered feedback from parents and carers, schools and other stakeholders, alongside appeals, complaints and operational data.

"We would encourage people to take part as this is your opportunity to have your say and help us to shape the future of our home to school travel policy in North Yorkshire."

If any recommendations are approved, they would not take effect before September 2027 and will apply to children starting in Reception and Year 7 in September 2028. Families should continue to make school preference decisions based on the existing arrangements while this process is completed.

Eligibility for free travel would continue to be based on a child's nearest suitable school with available places. The review does not propose a return to catchment-based transport eligibility.

Find out more about the review and take part in the consultation at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/PIRsurvey

Infant Forest School

Next Thursday it is the infants' turn for Forest School. Please ensure they are equipped with long sleeved tops, trousers, wellies and waterproofs as well as hats and gloves if the weather cools. Thank you.

Oktoberfest Fun Run

We have been asked to share the following information with you:

We have fixed the date for the OCTOBERFEST Fun Run this year as SUNDAY, Oct. 11th. Races begin at 2.00 at Whitby School as usual (Airy Hill site). There are races for Years 5 & 6 , Boys and Girls separately, also Years 3 & 4 too and an Open Race, following the usual pattern. Every runner will receive a medal and the first 2 finishers in each race will get a shield. Entries cost £3 each (to cover the cost of medals) and all are welcome.

This is always a really fun event and last year we had a record number of runners and there were lots of smiling faces. Not only did the children enjoy the run and their medal but last year over £1000 was raised for a charity called the Rainbow Dreams Trust. This year we would like to give runners the opportunity to raise money in support of the charity, Operation Smile, which helps children with cleft palate problems. At a relatively small cost and thanks to a simple operation, children suffering from this problem can be completely cured. We would like to do our bit to support the efforts of this charity.

[Please click here for an entry form](#) (copies are also available from the Egton School office), and [here for a sponsorship form](#).

We look forward to another great Octoberfest!

Healthy Eating Policy

Following our parent consultation and our Governors meeting last week our revised Healthy Eating Policy is now in place in line with the [statutory government requirements](#). You can find this in full [HERE](#):

What does this mean for you as a parent in brief?

Acceptable Breaktime Snacks -fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, cheese, unsalted crackers, rice cakes, breadsticks, plain or low sugar biscuits, plain water only to drink

Unacceptable - crisps, sweets, chocolate, cake, pastries, cereal bars, sugary drinks, energy drinks etc

Packed Lunches - a sandwich, wrap, pasta or rice food, a source of protein, cheese, tuna, chicken, egg, hummus etc, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, yogurt, a healthy low/no sugar dessert, water only to drink

We are aware that many of you may already have stocked up on snack items and lunch items that are now not encouraged in schools and so we will phase this policy in over the next two weeks. The policy will be expected to be adhered to in line with government schools policy by Monday 5th October.

Celebrations and Events - The good news is that treats for birthdays, events and special occasions are exempt from the school food standards!

Parent Carer support group, 'Carers Plus' have asked us to share the following information with you:

*The sessions cover a range of topics that we know can be important to parent carers, including **health and wellbeing, money and benefits, SEND/EHCPs and education, autism, ADHD and PDA, mental health and burnout, relationships and sexuality, future planning, and grief and loss.***

Our first session is on Tuesday 22 September 10-12noon: Welcome & Connect

*We would particularly encourage parent carers to come along to the first session. As it's a great opportunity to **find out all about the programme, hear what's coming up, understand how they can get involved and meet other parent carers.***

Parent carers can attend **one session or as many as they would like, but all sessions must be booked in advance, as places are limited.**

 **Kirkham Close Community Centre, Whitby, YO21 1JR**

 **10am–12noon**

To book, parent carers can contact us via: **T:** 01723 850155 **E:** admin@carersplus.net **W:** www.carersplus.net/events

Details on all sessions due to take place are attached to this email.

Bag2School Collection

We will be having a Bag2School collection on Thursday 8th October at Danby and Egton Schools. If you are planning on having a good clear out before Christmas, this is the perfect opportunity whilst also raising money for the Friends of Egton

School. Bag2School is a **free eco-friendly fundraising scheme** that helps schools, businesses, community groups, local councils, and charities **raise funds through textile recycling** as well as spreading textile recycling awareness. [Please click here for a list of acceptable items.](#)



Please can all bags be brought onto the school playground by 9.00am on the morning of 8th October. We do have spare Bag2School bags in school we can send home upon request, though bin bags are fine to use. Please can bags be tied at the top so that items inside do not get dirty or wet, thank you. Please do not bring items in suitcases, bags for life or boxes as these cannot be accepted for collection, thank you.

Wednesday Fun Club

Fun Club will continue to run until half term. This is a free club that is open to all children from Reception to Year 6 and there will be a variety of activities for the children to choose from. If you would like your child to stay, please complete the form [here](#). Please note that the free fun club will finish at 4.30pm and any children needing to stay later will then join After School Club. After School Club is available until 5.30pm and your child's ParentPay account will be charged £6.00 for the session.

Dinners and Breakfast and After School Clubs - September price increase

As is inevitable, with the increased cost of foods, we are having to increase our meal and clubs prices this year. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

- Dinners for Junior children - increase from £2.90 to £3.00 (Infant meals continue to be free of charge through a government scheme)
- Breakfast Club: from £3.00 to £3.50 a day
- After School Club: remains at £2.50 3.30pm - 4.30pm - to include a drink and snack

From £3.00 to £3.50 4.30pm - 5.30pm - to include a drink and light tea, therefore both hours would be £6.00

- Milk prices are also increasing from 15p to 20p/ day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals at present so will not be charged for school dinners whilst the scheme is in place.

Meals, clubs, school trips etc will continue to be charged to your child's ParentPay account. These are usually updated on a Friday or Monday. All new parents will be issued with an activation letter that gives instructions on how to set up a ParentPay account for your child within the next week. If you have any problems or queries, please get in touch.

Milk Consent

Thank you to those who have completed the form. For those who have not yet completed the form and would like their child to have milk on an afternoon, please complete this year's consent form via the link below. Thank you.

[Milk Consent Form](#)

School Dinner Menu

Please click the links below for our Autumn/Spring menus with pupil choices on the three week rolling menus:

[Week 1](#) [w/c 28th Sep, 19th Oct, 16th Nov, 7th Dec, 11th Jan, 1st Feb]

[Week 2](#) [w/c 14th Sep, 5th Oct, 2nd, 23rd Nov, 14th Dec, 18th Jan]

[Week 3](#) [w/c 21st Sep, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 4th, 25th Jan]

Sometimes menus do need to change slightly depending on deliveries etc. If your child has any special dietary requirements or allergies please could you let us know by completing the appropriate form which can be found [HERE](#).

Free School Meals Expansion Programme

As previously communicated, from September 2026 the Department for Education is extending entitlement to free school meals to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. Although eligibility will be granted to all Universal Credit recipients, it is important to note that families do still need **to apply** to receive the meals. For further information and details of how to apply, [click here](#).

Tax Free Childcare - Reminder

Egton School has registered to enable you to have access to Tax Free Childcare for wraparound care at school. Our wraparound service covers both Breakfast Club and After School Club as they are chargeable. For more information on how this works, please use the link below. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you plan to pay for your childcare this way so we can keep an eye out for payments.

[Tax-Free Childcare](#)

Stay and Play Sessions

This term we will be holding two stay and play sessions in the infants for children who are not yet of school age but would like to spend an hour with us to see how things happen at Egton School. These are scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday 13th October 2.15pm - 3.15pm
- Monday 9th November 10.30am - 11.30am

If you know of anyone who would like to come along to these sessions, please ask them to get in touch to book a place. Thank you.

The Friends of Egton School (FOES)

FOES is an enthusiastic group of parents who raise valuable funds for the school through a range of events and activities. Thank you to everyone who attended the first meeting on Monday.

Dates for your diaries:

Annual General Meeting and **FREE** Bingo session and hotdog - Thursday 8th October at 3pm.

Autumn Tuck Shop - Thursday 22nd October from 3.15pm

Children's Movie Night - Thursday 19th November from 3.30pm-5.30pm

Christmas Fair - Friday 27th November 3.30pm-5.30pm

School Term Dates

The list of term dates for the academic year 2025-2026 can be found [HERE](#).

Diary Dates

Please note that our calendar can be found on the school website [HERE](#). This is updated regularly throughout the term.

Swimming	Oct 8th, 22nd Nov 12th, 26th Dec 10th
Forest School Infants	Oct 1st, Nov 5th, Dec 3rd
Forest School Juniors	Oct 15th, Nov 19th, Dec 17th
Wednesday Fun Club	3.30pm - 4.30pm September 23rd, 30th October 7th, 14th, 21st.
Harvest Festival at St Hilda's Church, Egton	9.15am Wednesday 14th October DATE CHANGE
Bag2School collection Click here for a list of acceptable items	9.00am Thursday 8th October
Stay and Play sessions	Tuesday 13th October 2.15pm - 3.15pm Monday 9th November 10.30am - 11.30am
Staff Training Day - school closed	Friday 23rd October
Half term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
School reopens	Monday 2nd November
Parents evenings	3.40pm - 6.30pm Monday 19th October 3.40pm - 5.30pm Wednesday 21st October

Children in Need Day	Friday 13th November
School Photos (Individual and Siblings)	Tuesday 1st December
Christmas Theatre Trip to Stephen Joseph Theatre - whole school	Friday 11th December
Christmas performance dress rehearsal - further details to follow	Tuesday 15th December
Christmas performances	Wednesday 16th December 2.00pm and 6.30pm
Last day of term	Friday 18th December

Next week I will be in Danby on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Egton on Monday and Thursday.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,



Liz Orland
Headteacher

The information below has not changed but is still relevant.

Safeguarding Children Telephone Number

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, please note that from the 1st April 2023, the main customer service line for the new North Yorkshire Council will be changing. The new number will be **0300 131 2 131** and will replace the old 01609 780780 number. This will mean that all contacts for referrals for children within North Yorkshire need to go through the 0300 131 2 131 number. **This includes any contacts out of hours for the Emergency Duty Team.**

The contact number for the professionals line will remain the same 01609 535070.

The updated details regarding making a referral for a child in North Yorkshire have been updated on our website (www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/about-us/worried-about-a-child).

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches and Devices

Mobile phone and smart watch technology has advanced significantly over the last few years and continues to evolve. Many phones and smart watches now offer internet and e-mail access, alongside standard functions of messaging, tracking, camera, video and sound recording. We are also seeing an increase in Smartwatch 'look-alikes' which have games and activities on which are proving a distraction to learning and are time consuming for teaching staff to monitor.

Smartwatches and Smart-Watch lookalikes are therefore **not permitted** to be worn to school in line with the recent change in Government guidelines.

However, in line with our passion for helping children to tell the time, a standard analogue or digital wrist watch may be worn. If you are unsure whether your child's watch is appropriate, you are welcome to check in with a member of staff.

Smart Watches and devices that are brought to school for any reason will be kept safely until the end of the school day.

For a reminder of our school uniform please see our website page [here](#)

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[Tax-Free Childcare](#)

My Happy Mind

Just a reminder that you are able to access the [Parent App](#).

The children's engagement in our My Happy Mind project has been a huge success in school so far. Accessing the Parent App would help to reinforce the strategies taught in school at home and strengthen the positive habits that we are trying to encourage in our children.

 **Your unique authentication code is: 121610 for Egton CofE VA Primary**

DfE Guidance on reducing the spread of illnesses this winter

The DfE have asked that the following link is shared with parents as new guidance has been issued:

Please see the NHS Guidance '[Is my child too ill for school?](#)' Pupils shouldn't miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend with a mild cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea or vomiting.

Free School Meal Eligibility

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, before benefits are taken into account.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than
- £16,190

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and currently receives universal free school meals, please check your entitlement. Being eligible will mean that the school receives additional funding for your child which will go towards their learning and any additional support they may need. Please contact the school office if you require any assistance.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, please use the application form which can be found on the NYC website -[Free school meals | North Yorkshire Council](#).

Updated Guidance from the DfE regarding unauthorised leave of absence

Please be advised that there have been some legal changes to the guidance that schools must follow with regards to unauthorised leave of absences during term time. The penalty amounts have been increased and also the introduction of possible legal intervention. Please see below the information from the DfE.

For unauthorised Leave of absence taken within a three-year rolling period, Penalty Notices will be issued as follows:

- *The first Penalty Notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular child will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.*
- *A second Penalty Notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same child will be charged a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.*

PLEASE NOTE:

- ***A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first Penalty Notice.***
- ***In a case where the national threshold is met for the third time (or subsequent times) alternative action will be taken. This will include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other Legal Interventions to address poor attendance.***

As always, any leave of absence other than illness, must be requested in advance by completing a form to the headteacher. These forms are available from the school office.

Contacting the teaching staff

l.tokarski@egton.n-yorks.sch.uk

l.vaughan@egton.n-yorks.sch.uk

l.hall@egton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Please note that staff emails are only monitored during the hours of 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday. For anything urgent outside of these hours please contact the admin email.

admin@egton.n-yorks.sch.uk

Attendance

Just a little reminder that if your child is ill and will be absent from school, we ask that you contact school to let us know on each day that they will be absent, by 9.30am. This can be by telephone on **01947 895369** or by email to admin@egton.n-yorks.sch.uk . If we do not hear anything from

you we will give you a call to check everything is okay as part of our safeguarding procedures.
Thank you.