

Youlgrave, All Saints' Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Families

This half term has flown by and we're close to a well-deserved half term break. When we create these newsletters each month what shines through is the range of fantastic learning experiences our children get to enjoy and this month has been no exception. In January, the children have engaged with so many interesting visitors including the Police Dog and their handler and Bemma from African Ark. Children have enjoyed wheelchair basketball and different styles of dance. They are learning stories close to home and from other parts of the world and different faiths. We also have the fantastic Young Voices experience to look forward to on Monday, when Key Stage 2 children will experience being part of a choir thousands strong! These are just the highlights but what is also wonderful is that our Roving Reporters say how enjoyable our core learning in English and Maths is too.

Next week we give our very best wishes to Miss Hulme who will be starting her maternity leave. We are so delighted for her and look forward to hearing all about this exciting time for her and her family.

We also say a massive thank you and happy retirement to Miss Tonks. We are so grateful for all her hard work and the way she has led school to great achievements in PE, including the Gold School Games Mark. The children have loved their PE lessons with Miss Tonks and we are so grateful for how she has worked to support school with a thorough handover. We mustn't forget that Miss Tonks has also led a brilliant Art Club after school with so much lovely feedback from children and parents about the super activities the children have enjoyed. Thank you so much Miss Tonks! We are holding an afternoon tea for her, in school on Wednesday, 11th February at 3.30pm. Please join us if you can to add your own personal best wishes.

Finally, I want to say a huge well done and congratulations to all the children who took part in the Youlgrave Pantomime. They all performed brilliantly with so much confidence and enthusiasm. We're so grateful for all your hard work and commitment to this village tradition which is held in such high regard by everyone in the community. What a fantastic example and inspiration you all are! Massive thanks and applause too for school's very own Fairy Godmother, Mrs Collier and to Mrs Teeboon and Miss Carlin who also played crucial roles supporting the production.

Best wishes

Teresa Nicholls

Attendance: Whole school attendance for the year to date is 96% which is significantly above the national average and a great achievement. Thank you very much for all your hard work and lets keep it up. A big well done to Year 4 and Year 1 for achieving 98% and year 3 for being close runners up on 97% this month.

If you ever need help or information on issues relating to attendance please contact me by popping in to school to make an appointment or email:
tnicholls@youlgraveallsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk

Dates for the diary:

- **9th February- Young Voices for Class 2/3**
- **12th February- Class 3 Netball at Bakewell Juniors**
- **13th February- last day of half term**
- **23rd February- back to school**
- **24th February- Compass for YR6 on SATs**
- **24th February- 3.30pm Compass SATs event for parents of YR6**
- **25th February- Puppet Assembly**
- **3rd March- YR6 Bikeability (for those that didn't attend the last session)**
- **5th March- World Book Day**
- **6th March- Assembly by Severn Trent / Water Street for Class 2**
- **INSET Days and Holidays 2026**
- **16th February to 20th February- Half Term**
- **30th March to 10th April- Easter Holiday**

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
94%	98%	96%	97%	98%	96%	96%	96%

Roving Reporter

Reported by Ben and Frankie for Class 2

Hello everyone! We (that's Ben and Frankie) decided to be reporters for the day and interview our friends about what they like in our class. We wanted to tell all the parents what it's really like to learn here!

First, we asked everyone to choose three words to describe our classroom. The most popular words were fun, exciting, and calm. We think that's a pretty good mix!

When I spoke to Ben, he told me something funny. He said he heard Mrs Oldfield say that she likes Mrs Houghton because she teaches her new stuff! We think the teachers learn new things every day just like we do.

We also asked my friends and each other what they enjoy the most at school:

- Ben said he likes to *floss* (the dance, not his teeth!).
- Isla, Rose and Toby loved Art and have enjoyed working with *clay*, especially making horses.
- Maria and Piper have really enjoyed English lessons where they pretended to be reporters writing about flooding in Bakewell. They said it made them feel like real journalists.
- Chester enjoys handwriting lessons and always remembers the phrases "not too droopy, not too tight" when joining letters.
- Clara loves learning about different world faiths, especially *Hindu deities*. She likes finding out what each one represents.
- Ava likes learning French.
- Daniel like maths and his times tables but Logan likes everything but maths.

One of the most exciting things we've done lately is perform our incredible dance to "Rather Be". We practised so hard and everyone said we looked amazing. We hope the grown-ups get to see it too! Mrs Tonks has the video.

Something else special we do in class is repeat our positive phrases. They help us feel confident and ready to learn.

We say:

- *I am strong.*
- *I am brave.*
- *I am smart.*
- *I belong.*
- *I am here to learn.*



These words make us feel happy inside and remind us that we can achieve anything.

We hope you enjoyed reading about what we think of our classroom. We really do love learning here, and we hope you can see why!

School Highlights

Class 1- Recently, Bemma Akyeampong, a Ghanaian author, returned to our school for a visit that enriched children across all year groups. The children engaged enthusiastically with a programme that combined literature, performance, and traditional African art.

During interactive storytelling sessions, children listened with awe as Bemma introduced them to her recent book. These literary experiences were followed by a dynamic African dance workshop, during which the classroom came alive with rhythm, movement, and vocal expression. They explored sounds and gestures embedded within the dances, fostering imaginative engagement with African culture. After that, the children participated in hands-on Batik-inspired art, experimenting with traditional techniques using paint, cotton cloth and their fingers.



Class 2- Our children have been exploring the importance of animals in art and discovering how different cultures use animal forms for storytelling and symbolism. They particularly enjoyed learning about the traditional Bankura Ghora, a beautifully crafted horse from West Bengal, India. Using their growing clay skills, the children created their own versions, practising techniques such as making slip, scoring surfaces and joining pieces securely with wooden pins. They showed great focus and creativity, taking pride in shaping each detail. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they transformed simple clay into expressive animal sculptures.

Class 3- This half term has been a busy one for class 3. We had a very exciting visit from our local PCSO and his team, including a police dog.

Also, this half term, Hannah from the MAST team has made a start on her delivery of RE sessions to the class. The children will have five sessions with her looking at the stories of the Old Testament.

Finally, Year 6 had the amazing opportunity to take part in an introductory session to wheelchair basketball. The whole of Year 6 had a fantastic time and learnt some new skills.



School Awarded £560 Grant to Enrich Christianity Resources in RE

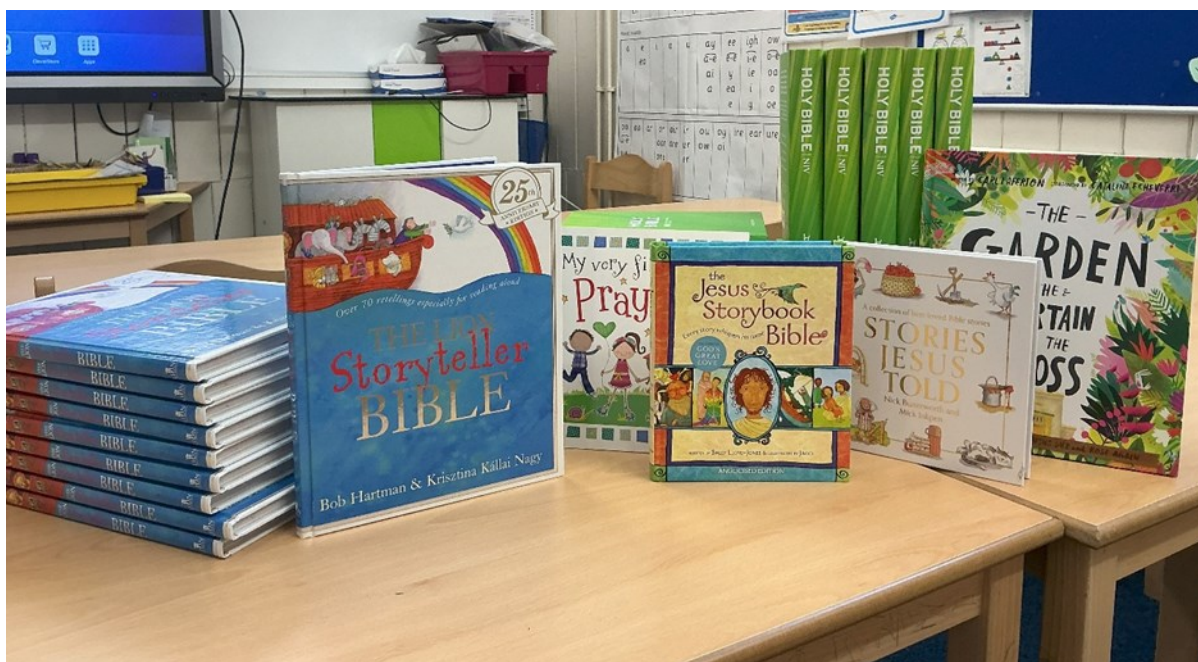
The school is delighted to announce that it has received £560 from the Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme, a programme designed to support the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education.

The Small Grants to Schools Scheme provides grants of up to £600 to enable schools to purchase high-quality Christianity resources for use in RE lessons. These resources help pupils gain a deeper understanding of Christian beliefs, stories, and traditions in an engaging and meaningful way.

Thanks to the generous grant, we have been able to purchase a full class set of Bibles for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, ensuring that all pupils can access their own copy during lessons. In addition, the funding has supported the purchase of a range of beautifully illustrated books retelling the life of Jesus, as well as prayer books to further enhance our RE provision.

These new resources will significantly strengthen our curriculum and provide pupils with opportunities to explore Christianity through age-appropriate texts that bring key stories and teachings to life.

We are extremely grateful to the Jerusalem Trust for their support, which will have a lasting impact on our RE teaching and on the experiences of our pupils.



Safeguarding:

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Teresa Nicholls tnicholls@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk

Francesca Hulme fhulme@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk

If you believe that a child or an adult is at immediate risk of harm and in need of protection then you should call the Police- **999**, straight away.

Parent consultation evenings will be held on Monday 2nd March and Tuesday 3rd March, booking arrangements to follow. If you can't make these dates please let us know and we'll arrange a separate appointment for you.

