Barton, East Cowton and Ravensworth CE Schools

Cornerstone Schools

Building Futures with Love

Our Christian value this half term: Perseverance

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

School life has returned with a bump after the Christmas break which seems a dim and distant memory. Our youngest children enjoyed a trip to Richmond School to take part in the multi skills as well as enjoying some enhancements to their environment back in school. KS2 have been super busy with their learning using actual artifacts from the Victorian period to deduce what life was like in the nineteenth century. Our children have all been working hard on their handwriting this term and their books are showing significant improvement. Well done team!

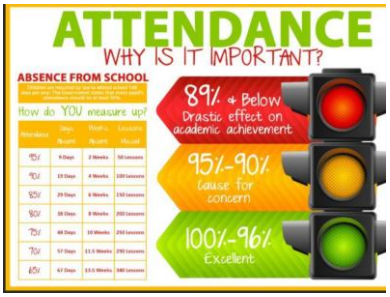
OFSTED

You may have seen in the press that OFSTED have a new inspection handbook which means schools will be inspected in a different way. All three of our schools are in the window to be inspected (our last inspection was in Spring 2022). Below is a link to a video that explains what this will look like in terms of the report that parents will get. I hope you find this useful.

New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents - YouTube

Accessing children's attendance on MCAS

You can check your child's attendance on your MCAS app. Simply click on the attendance button in the app which should show you a pie chart and give you a percentage. The government target for attendance is 96% and above. Anything less than this can mean your child's learning is being impacted by their attendance. Children will always get minor ailments that means they need time off school but ensuring your child attends when they are well is vitally important.



Have a lovely weekend,

Kirstie Petch
Executive Headteacher

Barton CE School

Barton, East Cowton and Ravensworth CE Primary Schools are members of Dales Academies Trust, company number 08372064, registered office at: c/o Oakbridge Church of England Primary School, Alvertune Road, DL6 2GD

National attendance figure: 94.7% Target attendance: 97% Barton attendance this month: 97.5%

Class news from Barton

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. It has been lovely to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm, and they have settled brilliantly into the rhythm of the Spring Term. Classrooms are already buzzing with energy, curiosity, and lots of hard work.

A small group of children have continued their fantastic efforts in our monthly *Mini Police* sessions with PC Diamond. They have been learning all about the important role police officers play in keeping communities safe. This week, the group headed out into the community to put their learning into action by using the speed camera, an experience they found both exciting and eye-opening!

Our Reception and KS1 children also had a brilliant time at the recent Multiskills event at Richmond School. They teamed up with pupils from our fellow Cornerstone Schools of East Cowton and Ravensworth for a fun-filled morning of sports activities. It was wonderful to see the children working together, being active, and representing our school so positively.

This term, we are also focusing on *Healthy Eating* across the school, linking closely with our DT curriculum. Both classes have been exploring what makes a balanced diet and how we can make nutritious food choices. Class 2 have particularly enjoyed their practical lessons on chopping and grating vegetables as they prepare to make their own Spaghetti Bolognese. Meanwhile, Class 1 are busy designing and creating their very own Healthy Wraps, combining creativity with tasty ingredients.

We look forward to sharing even more of the children's fantastic learning as the term continues!

<u>Confirmation Classes</u>

Rev Gillian has asked that we remind you that should you wish your child to be confirmed, classes are being held at Croft Church with Viv Waugh and Rev Gillian. All classes will run from 6.30pm - 7.30pm on the following dates: 18th & 25th March, 15th, 22nd & 29th April 2026. Please contact Rev Gillian if you are interested: gillian.lunn@leeds.anglican.org

Barton – Dates for your diary	
Monday & Friday	PE sessions will take place for **ALL** children every **MONDAY** and **THURSDAY.** Please ensure your child has their **SCHOOL** PE kit, suitable trainers and a water bottle
Friday's	Parent Collective Worship 3pm – All welcome!
Monday's	Multi- skills afterschool starts for 5 weeks. Payment to be made on MCAS
Tuesday's	3:30-4:15pm – Year 6 SATS afterschool club (running until May)
Tuesday's	3:30-4:30pm Dance Club (running for 5 weeks)
Thursday 29th January	1pm – Mini Police session
Friday 6th February	Year 5 Chemical Reactions taster at Richmond School – see email sent 29.1.26
Tuesday 10th February	Coffee & Cake in aid of Stroke Association –2:45pm
Friday 13th February	Break up for half term
Monday 23rd February	Children return to school
Tues 24th & Thurs 26th February	Open Door art workshop
Wednesday 25th February	Mini Police
Friday 27th February	KS2 Rivers VR Workshop
Wednesday 4th March	Bag2School collection 9am
Wednesday 4th March	Yr 5 & 6 Archery, Kurling & Boccia – info to follow
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day! Reading cafe at 2:45pm
Tuesday 10th March	Mini Police
Wednesday 11th March	Yr 2, 3, 4 & 5 Waterstones trip
Wednesday 18th March	Making Hot Cross Buns with Rev'd David and Rev'd Gillian

Wednesday 18th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 25th March	Friends' Bingo night 6-7:30pm
Thursday 26th March	Easter service in church – 2:30pm
Friday 27th March	Break up for Easter

East Cowton Primary School

National attendance figure: 94.7% Target attendance figure 97% East Cowton attendance this month: 98%

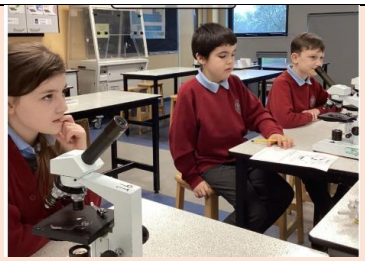
News from East Cowton

Thursday 22nd January saw Class 1 take to the sports hall to complete a series of multi skills challenges. The children travelled to Richmond School where they competed in tasks such as javelin, throwing and dribbling. The children tested their balance, agaility, speed and accuracy and were excellent role models for our school!

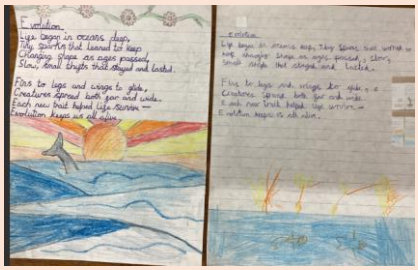
It's been a busy and exciting start to 2026- there are no 'January Blues' here at EC School. Class 2 have embraced their Victorians topic and created a fantastic timeline using multilink cubes. We were amazed at how imense the stone age was, and in comparison, how recent the Victorian era seems. The children have enjoyed handing artifacts that have been kindly leant to us from the Richmondshire museum. They made predictions about what some of the sources are, and were used for- surprisingly, some items are just the same as they were back then!

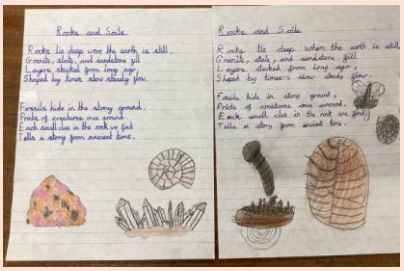
In PE, Miss Brierley has been putting the children through their paces and teaching the children to Celidh dance. I love a bit of Celidh and have felt the need to join in now and again! The children have learnt steps and techniques and have mastered several dances just in time for the Burns night celebrations taking place around the 25th January.

Our Year 5 children recently traded their classrooms for the laboratories at the Richmond School Science Department. During an immersive session on microscopy, the children explored the role of microscopes in science before putting their own skills to the test. From delicate feathers and plant stems to the intricacies of human cells, pupils enjoyed a "close-up" look at the world around them. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience the excitement of secondary school life and ignite their curiosity for future scientific discovery!



On 23rd January it was National Handwriting day- it's been a thing since 1977! To celebrate, we put pen to paper and had a whole school handwriting competition. This accademic year, we've really focused on and worked hard to improve our handwriting and presentation skills. The work produced was beautiful but… we had some winners.





Year 6: Ace
Year 5: Leon
Year 4: Maddie
Year 3: Isabelle
Year 2: Winter
Year 1: Loki

Health information

We may well have some unwated visitors doing their rounds in school- these critors are commonly know as headlice or nits. Information about detection and treatment can be found here Head lice and nits - NHS

An Invitation

The children at East Cowton School love books and enjoy sharing stories with their friends and families. On the frist Friday of each month, we'd like to invite parents to come into school to join in with 'The Big Read.' We'd like you to read with your child or a small group of children. The focus for this session will be on picture books and short stories so they can see and hear a whole book in the session. You can bring favourites from home or choose from the school library. We'll do this session from 3:10pm-3:30pm starting on Friday 6th February.

East Cowton – Dates for your diary	
Mondays	**Please can children bring their PE kits into school for the whole week.**
Thursdays	**Celebration Collective Worship- 3.05pm- Parents welcome**
Fridays	**East Cowton Early Buds 9-11am in the school hall**
Tuesday 6th January – Tuesday 10th February	Freestyle Football Club- 3.30-4.30 Please fill in the form to sign up and pay via MCAS.

Wednesday 7th January- Wednesday 11th February	Kurling Club- 3.30-4.30 Please fill in the form to sign up and pay via MCAS.
Monday 12th January- Monday 9th February	Art Club- 3.30-4.30 – Now full
1st Friday in the month	'Big Read' 3:10pm-3:30pm See January newsletter for more information
Tuesday 3rd February	Yr 3 /4 Dodgeball at Richmond School- please fill in the online form
Thursday 5th February	Yr 5/6 Dodgeball at Richmond School- please fill in the online form
Friday 6th February	East Cowton February 'Big Read' session 3:10pm-3:30pm
Friday 13th February	Break up for half term
Monday 23rd February	Return to school
Tuesday 24th February	Whole school trip to Beamish- more details to follow
Thursday 5th March	World book day – reading café- more details to follow
Thursday 26th March	Easter Messy Church Service 1pm in school
Friday 27th March	Break up for Easter

Ravensworth CE School

National attendance figure: 94.7% Target attendance figure: 97% Ravensworth attendance this month: 96.3%

Class News

Class 1

What a lovely few weeks it has been in our classroom! We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know one another, discovering new friendships, learning about each child's unique interests, and beginning to build

a classroom community filled with curiosity, kindness, and enthusiasm. The children have taken great pride in helping shape our learning space. From choosing where our cosy reading corner should go, to arranging our creative play areas, everyone has played an important part in creating a room that truly feels like ours.

This week we took part in the RSPB School Birdwatch. The children loved spotting different birds around the school grounds and talking about what they noticed. To help our feathered friends, we made special bird pizzas, reusing overripe bananas, mixing seeds, fruit, and other tasty treats to create natural bird feeders. The children showed wonderful teamwork and excitement as they prepared the mixtures and placed them outdoors, eager to see which birds might visit.

Outside the classroom we also had the opportunity to visit Richmond School for a Multiskills event. The children represented our school impeccably, showing fantastic manners, teamwork, and determination throughout the morning. They demonstrated brilliant perseverance as they tried out lots of new sports skills, from balancing and throwing to speedy obstacle challenges. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they encouraged one another and celebrated each other's achievements.

KS2– A Fantastic Term of Learning

We've had a wonderful and very busy term, full of curiosity, hands-on experiences, and lots of new learning. One of our highlights was our spaghetti-tasting investigation, where the children explored different types of spaghetti and compared their textures and appearances. Their enthusiasm and inquisitive questions made it a memorable activity. In history, we have been discovering what life was like for Victorian children. The class explored a range of paintings, photographs, and audio clips to help them compare past and present. They were fascinated by how different daily life was and enjoyed discussing what they would have found challenging or surprising.

In science, year 3/4 focus has been on soils and rocks. The children particularly enjoyed getting hands-on as they investigated what ingredients make up soil. They showed fantastic teamwork and curiosity as they

examined samples and shared their observations. Whilst year 5/6 focus is Evolution and Inheritance where we have been looking at the work of palaeontologist - Mary Anning, then we explored how we look like we do from our parent's genes and traits, and how and why interbreeding takes place in animals. It has been a brilliant term, and we are so proud of the children's hard work, enthusiasm, and growing confidence.

Ravensworth – Dates for your diary	
Mondays – 3.15-4.15pm	After School Sports Club
Tuesdays – 3.15-4.15pm	Year 6 SAT's Preparation Session
Wednesdays – 3.15-5.30pm	Art/Craft Club with Mrs Dobinson
Fridays	Collective Worship from 2.40pm – all welcome!
Tuesday 3rd February (am)	**Year 3 and 4 Dodgeball** at Richmond School - *pupils to come to school in PE kit*
Wednesday 4th February (pm)	**KS2 History Workshop** – in school
Thursday 5th February (am)	**Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball** at Richmond School – *pupils to come to school in PE kit*
Friday 6th February (am)	Year 5 Science Transition at Richmond School
Friday 13th February	End of half term – **No ASC this day**
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	Half term
Monday 23rd February	Return to school
Wednesday 25th February	Messy Church – details to follow
Thursday 26th February	**KS2 Virtual Rivers Tour** - in school
Wednesday 4th March (am)	**Year 5 and 6 Archery, Kurling & Boccia** – *pupils to come to school in PE kit*
Tuesday 17th March	Parents Evening – details to follow
Wednesday 25th March	Messy Church – details to follow
Friday 27th March	End of term – **No ASC this day**
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	INSET DAY!
Tuesday 14th April	Children return to school

Quick Links for Each School

BARTON

Admin email address: admin@barton.dalesmat.org

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term Dates 2025-2026

The Friends of Barton School easy fundraising link: Easy Fundraising

Wraparound care: Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Uniform: Uniform School Shop

Cool Milk: Cool Milk

Newsletter: 3 school newsletters link

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Barton-CE-Primary-School-107161734680028

EAST COWTON

Admin email address: ecadmin@eckf.dalesmat.org

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch Information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term Dates 2025-2026

Friends of the school link: Friends

Wraparound care: Afterschool Club

Uniform Order: Order direct from School trends via this link: School Trends

Newsletter: 3 school newsletters link

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/East-Cowton-CE-School-101930341769707

RAVENSWORTH

Admin email address: admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch Information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term Dates 2025-2026

Wraparound care: Afterschool Club

Ravensworth School Friends quick fundraising: - www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rsfarichmond/

Uniform: school/uniform/

Newsletter: 3 school newsletters link

Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Ravensworth-CE-Primary-school-100240412148195

Useful Contacts and Links for Parents

SENCO: If your child is struggling and you would like some advice, please contact their class teacher in the first instance, or you can contact Miss Crisp our SENCO on amycrispsenco@dalesmat.org

Keeping Children Safe Online
Whilst children are spending so much time online, we need to make sure we keep them as safe as possible. If you would like some advice on this, please see guidance for parents below:
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/ https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

If you are worried about the safety of a child or want to know more about how to keep your own child safe:
NYSCP (North Yorkshire safeguarding children partnership)
NSPCC
Parents Protect
Parent Zone

Free School meals
If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office or follow this link: Apply for Free School Meals

North Yorkshire local assistance fund
The fund has been established from 1 April 2013 to help families under exceptional pressure to stay together. Awards will be goods in kind, not cash, and will not have to be repaid. warmandwell.org.uk/ For assistance with fuel and heating bills

County Music service
Is your child interested in playing a musical instrument? North Yorkshire County Music Service offer a wide variety of lessons for pupils. For more information on the type of lessons available and costs, please visit www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk to register your interest.

Sports links:
North Yorkshire Club Finder
A great way for schools to 'signpost' their pupils (parents/guardians) to their local clubs. The link can be found here - North Yorkshire Sport - Activity Finder