



'Sowing Seeds – Bearing Fruit – Harvesting Potential'
Husthwaite CE Primary School and Apple Tree Nursery Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2026...

We have had a fabulous start to the Summer term and have most certainly had some beautiful, sunny weather, that has even allowed us to picnic outside.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the PSHE meeting last week. It was great to have parents from both schools in attendance. As you know we were sharing the updated information regarding RSE (Relationship & Sex Education) as part of our PSHE Jigsaw curriculum. We got some lovely feedback on how clear and informative the meeting was.

Our **N.E.E.P.S** gig on Tuesday 21st April was fantastic! What an amazing performance! A huge thank you to band manager Mr Houghton, all the staff that supported them and the fabulous audience who all made it such a memorable occasion!



A huge thanks to FOHS and FOSS for organising and hosting a very successful Sessay and **Husthwaite School Dog Show** last Sunday. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon, very much enjoyed by the whole community and our young handlers and doggy friends were all fabulous. A huge thank you to Bishopton Vets for sponsoring this event and to Molly and Helen for judging. Congratulations to all the winners and especially Daisy and Jasper who won best in show! Thank you to those that supported this event and helped raise £590 between both schools.



This week we have had our Summer 1 **Pupil Voice Groups**.

The HEGG and Healthy Schools groups are working together this half term to make a positive difference to our school environment. With lots to be done outdoors, the children have enthusiastically teamed up to weed, rake and plant, showing great teamwork and responsibility. Working outside together not only helped to improve our school grounds, but also boosted wellbeing, with pupils enjoying fresh air, physical activity and time spent caring for their surroundings. It has been a wonderful example of how collaboration can benefit both our environment and our mental health.

Money Makers have been on an exciting journey exploring the power of fundraising! They have been learning all about the amazing impact that raising money for both local and national charities can have, discovering how different charities work hard to support and strengthen our community.

As we look ahead to the summer term, the children are ready to take action. They have created an enthusiastic wish list of school-based activities and resources that really matter to them and will guide their fundraising efforts. We can't wait to see their ideas come to life as they work together to make a difference!

Epic Improvers looked back at the survey we undertook with the school asking the children to suggest which clubs they would like in school. We collated the results and wrote the teachers a persuasive letter asking them to consider running the clubs the children would like to do. The Epic Improvers also looked into the prospect of running a talent show in the final week of the school year.

Alne Cluster Cricket Tournament.

Our Year 3/4 team had a fantastic tournament, winning 3 of their 4 matches and losing just one game by a single run in a very close contest. For many of the children, this was their first school cricket tournament, which makes their achievement even more impressive. They worked brilliantly as a team throughout the day, fielding confidently together, taking turns in different roles and enthusiastically cheering on their batters when they weren't fielding. A brilliant team effort to be very proud of.



The Year 5 team also put in a valiant effort, winning 2 of their 5 matches against some strong and competitive teams. They showed great determination and resilience, playing hard in every game and never giving up, even when faced with tough opposition. Their positive attitude and teamwork were clear throughout the tournament, making it a performance they can be proud of.

As you know this week we had our Church SIAMS Inspection. Miss Henderson our inspector enjoyed her day in school and meeting our whole community. We will send you a copy of our published report when we receive it later this month.

Friday 17th April Awards

Class 1, Mrs Chappell.

Apple Award - Henry, for his amazing progress in maths, excellent recognition of larger numbers, and a developing understanding of how those numbers are made.

Headteacher's Sticker - Archie, for his wonderful knowledge of minibeasts. He filled my whole day with new facts.

Writer of the Week – Freya, for trying hard to write about empathy and showing an understanding of people who feel “invisible”, and how sometimes a small action can make a big difference to a person.

Class 2, Miss Goodchild.

Apple Award – Robert, for his thoughtful answers in History and for making clear links to prior learning.

Headteacher's Sticker – Angus, for the effort he has shown in Art and for working well with his partner.

Writer of the Week – Rhodie-May, for her beautifully written PSHE “Happy Family Recipe”.

Class 3, Mr Chapman and Miss Wilkie.

Apple Award - Wilf B. Wilf has impressed us this week with ‘all the little things’ that it is easy to forget: remembering to put his hand up, listening to instructions first time, reading questions carefully and applying what he already knows to help understand challenging maths. KEEP IT UP!

Headteachers sticker – Eliza W, for creativity, productivity and teamwork during a timed art challenge.

Writer of the week – Ethan, for challenging himself in French and writing several sentences to describe the position of different places within a French town.

Harry the HOOSC Hippo: Sharday, for her wonderful self-taught gymnastics.

Friday 24th April Awards

Class 1, Mrs Chappell.

Apple Award - Congratulations to Primrose for her super attitude to learning. She approaches all activities with enthusiasm and is always excited to learn something new.

Headteacher's Sticker - Well done to Lulu for her excellent effort in PE with Mr Shimwell.

Writer of the Week - George B has been awarded Writer of the Week for his excellent descriptive writing about The Night Gardener. He worked hard to use adjectives to create vivid images for the reader.

Class 2, Miss Goodchild.

Apple Award- Evie-Mae, for her hard work in maths. She has shown great determination during our fractions unit and even when she finds it challenging, she never gives up. Well done, Evie-Mae!

Headteacher's Sticker- Raeph, for his excellent work in phonics, demonstrating progress and effort in both his reading and writing.

Writer of the Week- Angus, for working hard on the first draft of his next published piece and showing commitment to improving his writing.

Class 3, Mr Chapman and Miss Wilkie.

Apple Award - Evie for detailed, beautifully presented written work and oral contributions, not just in English and Maths, but across the wider curriculum too.

Headteachers sticker - The Neeps -What a performance! They were so good, I was actually speechless (and that NEVER happens!). You should all be SO PROUD! Talented, organised, working together to produce a fun, professional concert. Absolute stars!

Writer of the week – Charlie, for giving 100%. He had great ideas and worked really hard, organising these to write his letter as part of our learning for our class text, Holes.

Harry the HOOSC Hippo: Niamh, for her great crafting ideas.

Friday 1st May Awards

Class 1, Mrs Chappell.

Apple Award - Charlotte for her insightful contribution to our RE lesson on sacred books. She made thoughtful links between the Bible and the Qur'an and explained why it is important to care for precious objects.

Headteacher's Sticker - Ivor for his super contribution to our STEM session on structures. He shared lots of thoughtful ideas and showed excellent engagement.

Writer of the Week - Arthur for his wonderful sentence about the green bird when writing about our class text Room on the Broom.

Class 2, Miss Goodchild.

Apple Award – Dotty, for her brilliant reading. Her fluency and expression have developed beautifully, and her progress has been a joy to see.

Headteacher's Sticker – Hunter, Robert and Rocco, for their fantastic contributions at their very first school cricket tournament. What a great achievement!

Writer of the Week - Leonard, for his beautifully presented story inspired by one of our class texts, *The Night Gardener*. An amazing effort.

Class 3, Mr Chapman and Miss Wilkie.

Apple Award - Niamh, for working co-operatively, organising her group, listening to suggestions and encouraging younger children during a STEM challenge.

Headteacher's Sticker - Scarlett. An amazing ambassador for the school and the cricket team with her positive behaviour, teamwork and manners!

Writer of the Week - Sare, for detailed and thoughtful writing about good and evil and personal Codes for Living in RE.

Harry the HOOSC Hippo: Hope, for her wonderful drawing on the front cover of her book. We cannot wait to see what the inside will be like!

For your information our Collective worship Christian value this half term is Challenge through the theme of Courage. Your child brought home a school values sheet of ideas at the beginning of this term in their book bag, should you wish to explore their understanding of this value further at home.

This afternoon you are warmly welcome to **Friday Celebration Collective Worship** at 2.45pm in our school hall, hosted by Miss Bennett.

Have a lovely weekend.

NOTICES:

• **Changes to Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026**

Please be aware that from September 2026, the Government will introduce substantial changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. Under the new national criteria, **all families in receipt of Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals**, meaning that more pupils will become eligible.

There will be two categories of benefit-related FSM:

1. **Targeted Free School Meals**

This category continues to be based on the existing income threshold. Pupils will be eligible if their household:

Is in receipt of **Universal Credit**, and

Has an annual household **income of £7,400 or less**

2. **Expanded Free School Meals**

This category applies to pupils who:

- Live in households receiving Universal Credit, and
- Do not meet the income threshold for Targeted FSM (ie the annual household income is above £7,400)

Further information on how to apply will follow.

- Thirsk Children’s Centre The Council and Health Trust are pleased to sponsor Togetherness.co.uk, enabling all local parents and carers to access high-quality NHS-supported learning and wellbeing content completely free of charge. We have been asked to share the attached wellbeing update from the Togetherness team with our whole school community. Togetherness is an online learning platform created by psychologists and health practitioners. It provides clear, accessible guidance on emotional health and wellbeing, and has been shown to support positive mental health, behaviour and relationships for children, young people, and families. Togetherness will create these updates twice per term which we will direct you to.
- **Drop off and pick up.**
Safety for all at drop off and pick up is paramount. School opens at 8.40am, if waiting please ensure the footpaths are used only and not the school or neighbours drive/ front garden bank. Any children that arrive before the blue gate is opened must wait on the footpath leading up to it. Children must be supervised at all times.
- **Local Residents**
Please can we respect our local residents and the environment by ensuring that at drop off and pick up car engines are not left running. As well as respecting driveways and gardens close to the school.
- **BROMCOM**, our new management information system. Please can everyone ensure they have **download the My Child At School app (MCAS)** if you need support in doing this please pop into the school office on Thursday 7th May between 8.40 and 9.00am.
- **April online safety newsletter for parents.** Please see the April online safety newsletter to support you in providing your child with a safe online environment. As always we want to promote having a safe online environment for children both at school and at home.

SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES:

8 May	Y5/6 Football tournament at Easingwold Football Club.
11-14 May	KS2 SAT’s Week
18 May	School photographer for class photos
19 May	Years 5 and 6 Bradford, City of Culture educational visit
20 May (2.00-3.00pm)	Stay & Play
22 May	Break up for May half term
1 June	School opens
4 June	KS2 Space Odyssey Trip to York Museum
5 June	Non uniform day in lieu of Tombola Prizes
9 June (9.00am)	Bags2School collection
16 June (3.20 - 4.20pm)	Explore Joy, please see attached poster from Rev’d Katie and Lucy.
18 June (2.30pm)	Husthwaite Hummingbirds & Music concert
22-26 June	Sports, Health & Wellbeing Week
23 June	Sports Afternoon, Colour Run & Summer Fair
1 July (2.00-3.00pm)	Stay & Play
15 July	Federation Day – Carnival Theme
17 July (9.30am)	Y6 Leavers Service St Nicholas Church
18 July (3.20pm)	School closes for summer