



CE Primary School 'Growing together in love and learning'

Sessay CE Primary School Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2026...

We most certainly have had a very busy month in school.

Year 3 and 4 Dynamo Cluster Cricket – We had a fantastic day at Thirsk High school on Friday 8th May. The team performed very well getting better as the tournament went on. A huge congratulations to the team on achieving third place and a bronze medal.



Year 6 SAT's week – Year 6 completed their SATs with resilience, hard work and amazing attitude. We are so proud of all of them. The highlight of each day was of course the breakfast club, and the break time treat which was kindly supplied by parents. On Friday the children all enjoyed an afternoon of fun at Sessay park, where again their impeccable behaviour was commended. Well done to all!

19 May - Years 5 and 6 Bradford, City of Culture educational visit – Rievaulx and Class 3 from Husthwaite had an amazing trip to Bradford, City of Culture on Tuesday. The day started with a reflective and informative visit to the Grand Mosque. We were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed learning more about the Muslim faith with Bilari, our guide for the visit. After the mosque, we went to the Science and Media Museum where we explored all the interactive activities on different floors and took part in a science lab experiment. Mr Chapman needed his waterproof poncho for one of the experiments!! The children enjoyed running through the fountains in front of the Law Courts, following some of the sculpture trail, counting all the monarchs on the buildings around Centenary Square, dining at Pizza Express, before finally visiting the Alhambra Theatre for an unbelievably good performance of *Boy at the Back of the Class* (our class text last term) which was both poignant and very funny. The children enjoyed an ice-cream/ice lolly thanks to FOSS during the interval and then finally boarded the bus back to school. They were all very well behaved and a pleasure to take on this fantastic trip.





Last weekend Byland and Fountains put out our school Sessay Scarecrow Festival masterpiece based on one of their favourite books - *The Scarecrow's Wedding*. Harry and Betty sat proudly outside the school gates for the whole community to enjoy.



Faith and Culture Curriculum Enrichment Day. Byland focussed on Rangoli patterns and how they are an important part in celebrations such as Diwali and weddings in Hinduism. We made patterns using Numicon, coloured paper and in forest school using natural materials.

Fountains focused on stained glass windows. We looked at some windows in Christian churches, which often tell a story, whereas stained glass windows in other religions focus on the use of geometric patterns. We made windows to show our favourite bible stories, and natural objects to make symmetrical windows outside in Forest School.

Bolton made Star of David dream catchers; the Jewish people believe that the Star of David is a protector and each of the six points represents God above us, God below us and God to the north, south, east and west.



Rievaulx looked at How do geometric patterns help communicate beauty and spirituality in Islamic traditions, and how can we recreate that sense of harmony in our designs? We then created our own geometric designs with symmetry, pattern and rotation.

Byland class had their half termly visit to Riverside Court Care Home on Wednesday 20th May. They sang beautifully and some of the residents joined in with the actions. We decorated handprint butterflies that we had prepared at

school and our friends helped to decorate them. We then played games of snap before a final song before we left. Well done Byland for such a happy visit to see our friends and spreading joy.



This week Bolton entertained the whole school community with 2 performances of their Class Ancient Greece production. The acting, singing and dancing entertained all and both audiences improved their knowledge all about this ancient time in history.



Friday 8th May 2026

Byland, Mrs Fielding.

Sessay Acorn Award - Sienna is a superstar member of Byland class. She works hard all the time and is a joy to work with. I especially enjoy seeing the impromptu musical gigs she creates with her friends. Well done Sienna.

Headteacher's sticker – Gilly deserves this sticker for always showing a positive attitude towards his learning. He is keen to answer questions and share his ideas. Well done Gilly.

Mathlete – Lucy is a keen mathematician and is enthusiastic during our lessons. She has been solving counting and ordering problems and helping Motty (our maths puppet) to get his counting right! Keep up the super work Lucy.

Writer of the week – Struan is a keen writer, and it is great to see all the practise he does at home on 'Little Wandle'. He can write sentences independently now using his phonics and tricky word knowledge. Well done Struan.

Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.

Sessay Acorn Award – Wilf for learning all his lines for the class production and in rehearsals, reading them with fantastic expression – well done!

Fountains, Mrs Bennison.

Sessay Acorn Award – Jasper has demonstrated such a positive attitude to his learning this week. He has been quick to get started with his work and has produced some super writing about our new class text. Well done Jasper.

Headteacher's sticker – Genevieve has worked hard with her write up about our cress experiment in science. She explained in great detail what we did, and why we had to keep certain things the same for it to be a fair test. Well done Genevieve.

Mathlete - Jackson has enjoyed making arrays in maths this week. He was then able to write the corresponding number sentences as well. Great maths Jackson.

Writer of the week – Henry has worked so hard with his cursive handwriting and the overall presentation of his work. He is remembering the horizontal joins, and his letters are accurately formed. Well done Henry.

Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.

Sessay Acorn Award – Mia for her consistently high effort in English this week.

<p>Headteacher's sticker – Josephine for her confidence when performing on the piano or keyboard both in class and in Collective Worship – it is always a pleasure to have children performing to an audience – thank you!</p> <p>Mathlete - Freddie for working extremely hard this week with his work on time, keep up the fantastic effort!</p> <p>Writer of the week – Esme for her improved sentence structure and her consistent use of punctuation in her recent piece of published work, keep it up!</p>	<p>Headteacher's sticker – Ellie for the courage to ask for help when she needed it ensuring she completely understood the concept.</p> <p>Mathlete - Olivia for her work with coordinates.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Henry for his use of the informal register in his dialogue to contrast the more formal narration of his version of the next chapter of our book.</p>
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Friday 15th May 2026

<p>Byland, Mrs Fielding.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Struan seems to enjoy everything that school has to offer. He is an enthusiastic learner and has lots of fun with his friends. I was impressed with your story writing as well. Super week Struan, well done.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Lucy is a hardworking, fun member of Byland class. She is also extremely helpful and kind to her friends, and I am grateful for all the little jobs you do around the classroom. Thanks Lucy and well done.</p> <p>Mathlete - Ivy has been working hard on number this week, focussing on numbers to 20. She can count, order and make numbers to 20. Well done, keep up the hard work Ivy.</p> <p>Writer of the week – EVERYONE!</p> <p>I could not pick just one, as all the children worked incredibly hard on their own version of 'Jack & the beanstalk'. I was impressed with spelling, word choice, creativity and stamina! I am proud of you all, well done.</p>	<p>Fountains, Mrs Bennison.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Marnie has shown great enthusiasm and determination with writing a story in her free time. Her super imagination has really shone through, and she has inspired others to do the same. Great work Marnie.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Jessica has worked hard with writing up her science investigation this week. Her writing was lovely and neat and well organised. Jessica is also so considerate and helpful around the classroom. Well done Jessica.</p> <p>Mathlete - Ralph has worked hard in maths this week with making equal groups and finding a half of a shape. Well done Ralph.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Robyn has worked so hard with her writing this week. She has had some lovely ideas for the beginning of her story based on our class text 'Where the Wild Things Are.' Well done Robyn.</p>
<p>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Alfie for his great sportsmanship over the past couple of weeks with both me and Mr Shimwell; he has been an excellent role model to others, well done!</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Stanley has made some good contributions to our discussions this week comparing the Ancient and Modern Olympics.</p> <p>Mathlete - Alex has worked incredibly hard this week on quarter past and to the hour, keep up the good work!</p> <p>Writer of the week – Elkie for the effort she put into to her factual leaflet on Kielder Water.</p>	<p>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Alfie for his friendship to others by creating fun and imaginative squishy toys for them.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Y5 girls for their independence during SATs week. You showed amazing behaviours for learning.</p> <p>Mathlete - Jack M for holding his own in the TTRS competition we are taking part in across the Elevate MAT.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Ellie for her efficient list making of all the important things the epic improvers have done this year.</p>

Friday 22nd May 2026

<p>Byland, Mrs Fielding.</p>	<p>Fountains, Mrs Bennison.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Ted has written an amazing story</p>
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<p>Sessay Acorn Award – Lara is a joy to have in Byland class. It has been so rewarding to see Lara grow in confidence and learning as the year has progressed. I am so proud of you Lara, well done!</p> <p>Headteacher’s sticker – Lila was brilliant at the egg and spoon race when we began practising for sports day on Monday. She was focussed and determined. Super job Lila, well done!</p> <p>Mathlete - Gilly enjoys all things mathematical. This week we have been learning about doubles and number sentences. It is great to see you working with such confidence Gilly, well done!</p> <p>Writer of the week – William has done some super writing over the last couple of weeks. He can work independently using phonics and tricky words. Keep up your super work William, well done!</p>	<p>based on our class text – Where the Wild Things Are. His vocabulary choices, use of adjectives and connectives made his story flow and exciting to read. His writing was incredibly neat too. Great job Ted.</p> <p>Headteacher’s sticker – Alfie is such an enthusiastic and cheerful member of the class and always put in 100% effort into everything we ask of him. He also helps to keep our classroom tidy and organised. Well done Alfie.</p> <p>Mathlete - Alexander has worked hard with finding a half and a quarter of shapes and amounts this week. Well done Alexander – super maths.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Una and Joseph have both written super stories this week. Una your choice of letters as characters was so imaginative – well done. Joseph, you worked hard with your character and setting descriptions. Well done</p>
<p>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Ebony for just being you, always helpful and hardworking, keep up the good work!</p> <p>Headteacher’s sticker – Seb for fantastic concentration whilst doing his craft activity linked to the Jewish star of David.</p> <p>Mathlete - Fynnley for working hard on am and pm time this week.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Leila for some super ideas in RE of things that she would change in the world right now.</p> <p>Can I also give a big ‘shout out’ to everyone in the class for their fantastic Greek play on Wednesday, you should feel very proud of your wonderful performance!</p>	<p>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Jack J for his courage of trying new things; his respect and showing fantastic manners; and his enjoyment on our educational visit to Bradford.</p> <p>Headteacher’s sticker – Harriet for friendship when we went out for tea to allow her friend to have her pizza choice.</p> <p>Mathlete - Connie for her grit and determination when drawing shapes with symmetry</p> <p>Writer of the week – Henry for his R.E. work writing about our visit to the mosque.</p>

This afternoon you are warmly welcome to **Friday Celebration Collective Worship** at St Cuthbert’s Church at 2.45pm, hosted by Mr Chapman.

Have a lovely half term holiday and enjoy the beautiful weather that is forecast.

NOTICES:

- I would like to inform you that **Mrs Sowray** is retiring at the end of the Summer term. Mrs Sowray has been at Sessay for over 16 years and has contributed to all that is so special about our fantastic school, I know she has many fond memories of children and families, past and present and we would like to thank her for all that she has contributed. We wish her a very happy and relaxing retirement.
- **Classes 2026-27.** I would like to inform you that next academic year we will be having 3 classes. We will be having a Reception/Year 1 in Byland, Years 2 and 3 in Bolton and a Years 4, 5 and 6 Rievaulx class. This is due to overall and cohort specific pupil numbers. We are currently recruiting a new Years 2 and 3 Class teacher.
- **HUSTHWAITE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL VACANCIES** Please contact the school office directly or go on our website for further information.
<https://www.husthwaiteprimaryschool.org/about-us/vacancies>
HOOSC obviously will continue as normal and we have advertised and are currently recruiting for this post. We are also advertising for a **School Administrator**. Currently we are sharing Mrs Dixon’s expertise with the Elevate MAT and are looking for someone to take on her Husthwaite administrator role.

- **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 (i.e. the annual household income is **above** £7,400)

Further information on how to apply will follow.

- **May online safety newsletter for parents.** Please see the May 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.

- **A message from Ripon Cathedral Choir:**

If you know of a boy or girl who loves singing and would be interested in becoming a Cathedral Chorister, now is the time to put them and their parents in touch with me!

Simply email: singing@riponcathedral.org.uk

SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES:

4 June	Sowerby Music workshop
8 June	Reception New Starter Parent Meeting 5pm
15 June	Stay and Play 9am-10:30am
16 June	Songbirds Concert
18-19 June	Easingwold Outwood Transition Days
22 June	School Sports Afternoon
25 June	Y6 Ryedale Open Evening
3 July	Bag2School Y6 Ryedale Activities Afternoon
6-10 July	Y6 Thirsk Transition Week
15 July	Federation Day – Carnival Theme
17 July	2.15pm Leaver's Service at St. Cuthbert's 3.15pm School closes for the Summer Holidays

www.sessayprimaryschool.org