



CE Primary School 'Growing together in love and learning'

Sessay CE Primary School Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2026...

We have had a fabulous start to the Summer term and have most certainly had some beautiful, sunny weather.



Year 5 and 6 Thirsk Cluster Netball – Our netball team represented the school brilliantly at the Thirsk Cluster competition this week. Despite not all the results going our way, every player showed determination, teamwork and fantastic sportsmanship. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school and we are incredibly proud of them.

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.

Thirsk Garden Centre - As part of our work on 'Growing Things', Byland class had a wonderful visit to the garden centre. Joe gave us a guided tour; we even got to see behind the scenes where the public are not allowed! We then planted strawberry plants to take home, and we learned about what plants need to grow. Then we were treated to hot chocolate, a biscuit and a mini-ice-cream. Many thanks to Joe for his generosity. Our visit ended with an 'I Spy' around the garden centre. It was a brilliant educational visit, and I was so proud of the children. (Mrs Fielding)



A huge thanks to FOSS and FOHS 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 thankyou to Bishopton Vets for sponsoring this event and to Molly and Helen for judging. Congratulations to all the winners! 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 Healthy School team used the session to clear out some planting beds ready to sow seeds and grow food that can be eaten by the school community, such as lettuce. They did a fantastic job of clearing the weeds!

Money Makers are raising money for the school this term and our focus was the Summer Fair. The children got into mixed age groups and planned ideas for some exciting, new stalls and games this year.

Epic Improvers have been working alongside the Collective Worship group in erecting their Outdoor Reflection Area. They have been busy making their planned designs a reality for the whole school community to enjoy. The Collective Worship group began painting the cross and also started planning their Whole School Collective Worship on 'Courage and Challenge' for later in the half term.



SEGG group planted some tomato plants in grow bags and then had a tidy up in the outdoor area. Hopefully we will get a good crop later in the summer.



Byland class had a fabulous visit from Mark Spilman who is a vet. This supported their learning about 'People who help us' and 'Growing Things'. The children loved learning about his varied job, including his special truck containing lots of equipment to deal with large animals. Mark shared a PowerPoint showing x-rays and smaller animals. The children then got to be vets and look after a poorly animal. They did a super job, perhaps some vets in the making! Many thanks for enriching their learning.



Our cricket team put in a fantastic performance at the Thirsk Cluster competition, finishing a very close second. The players showed skill, teamwork and real determination throughout every match. They represented the school with pride and were excellent ambassadors from start to finish.



Friday 17th April 2026

<p>Byland, Mrs Fielding. Sessay Acorn Award – Ivy has come back to school after the Easter holiday full of fun and ready to work hard. She has also impressed me with her writing and reading. Keep up the hard work. Headteacher’s sticker – Lara has impressed both Mrs Fielding and Miss Bennett this week. She has been so grown up in conversations and in her work. A super start to the term, well done. Mathlete - Sienna has shown a super understanding of maths this week. She was quick to spot doubles and near doubles in numbers, and odds and even. Keep up the great work. Writer of the week – Gilly and Lila both deserve this award this week. Gilly has been super quick writing sentences in phonics and Lila has been sounding out and blending words really well. Great work.</p>	<p>Fountains, Mrs Bennison. Sessay Acorn Award – Hailey has had a fantastic start to the summer term. She is so enthusiastic about her learning, and she always puts in 100% into everything we ask of her. Keep up the great work Hailey. Headteacher’s sticker – Jasper has impressed us this week with the super presentation of his work. He is underlining dates and titles with a ruler, and he is remembering to space his work out to keep it lovely and neat. Well done Jasper. Mathlete - Frankie has worked hard in maths this week solving length and height word problems. He told me that he will now be able to measure bits of wood accurately when he is working with his grandad! Great work Frankie. Writer of the week – Martha has worked hard with both her writing presentation and her spellings this week. She wrote a super explanation about the difference between wild and garden plants in science. Well done Martha.</p>
<p>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton. Sessay Acorn Award – We would like to say a big welcome to Uno who has joined our class this week. He has settled in really well which has been lovely to see. Headteacher’s sticker – Edith for a fantastic start to the summer term, lots of effort and enthusiasm – keep up the good work! Mathlete - Obi has clearly been working extremely hard on his times tables recently – his scores have been great this week, well done. Writer of the week – Frankie has uplevelled his story writing this week; adding detail and making some super vocabulary choices. Your work has been a pleasure to read.</p>	<p>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman. Sessay Acorn Award – Alice for the courage to seek support when needed and challenging herself when working independently. Great work Alice! Headteacher’s sticker – Rosie for her positive contributions to class discussions, particularly in maths Mathlete - William N for his creative drawing of 3D shapes on isometric paper. Writer of the week – Jack M for both his letter and number formation, improving both legibility and consistency in sizing.</p>

Friday 24th April 2026

<p>Byland, Mrs Fielding. Sessay Acorn Award – William is such an asset to Byland class. He works hard, has lots of fun, is a great</p>	<p>Fountains, Mrs Bennison. Sessay Acorn Award – James has worked hard this week with both his writing and in science. He wrote some super</p>
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<p>friend and likes to help others. It is lovely to see your progress. Well done William.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Struan has worked hard in all areas this week, but especially writing, where he has remembered capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. Well done.</p> <p>Mathlete - Ollie enjoys maths and has been keen to work on doubles, and odd and even numbers this week. He can also explain his work clearly. Super maths Ollie.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Lucy is developing as an independent writer. It is great to see her confidence grow and I am so pleased with your progress. Well done.</p>	<p>descriptions about the roles of the different parts of the plant. He was also very helpful when his mum brought his chicks in for everyone to see. A great week James – well done.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Gege for her super work in Forest School this week. She produced a lovely piece of 'leaf rubbings' artwork, and she was very knowledgeable about the names of different trees. Well done Gege.</p> <p>Mathlete - Olivia has been working hard with measuring capacity and volume. She has read the scales carefully to accurately measure the correct amount of liquid in millimetres. Well done Olivia.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Billy has worked so hard with his handwriting. His writing is neat and his letters are accurately formed. He is always so enthusiastic to write which is lovely to see. Well done Billy.</p>
<p>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.</p> <p>Acorn Award – Cameron for his fantastic Greek vase, the attention to detail is fantastic!</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Poppie for working hard on her spellings this week and gaining full marks, keep up the good work!</p> <p>Mathlete - Teddy for some great work on money this week, he has been adding, estimating and comparing different amounts of money – well done.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Lily for some super work in English this week; she has been summarising information and presenting her facts clearly using textboxes, a heading and sub-headings.</p>	<p>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Jack M for his science- researching and producing lifecycles of mammals and amphibians.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Billy for his courage of conviction, knowing he was correct in his responses.</p> <p>Mathlete - Mia for her effort in maths recognising and classifying angles.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Rosie for her letter; great use of informal tone and awareness of reader.</p>

Friday 1st May 2026

<p>Byland, Mrs Fielding.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Lila has done some super phonics writing this week. She was quick to write a sentence yesterday and Mrs Fielding was very impressed! Keep up your positive attitude.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Ivy has been working really hard this week on reading and writing. It has been so good to see her using her knowledge of phonics to support her. Well done Ivy.</p> <p>Mathlete - William is a superstar mathematician. We have been learning about money this week and he was quick to make amounts of money. Super number knowledge!</p> <p>Writer of the week – Sienna has lovely handwriting. When doing writing tasks Sienna takes her time and produces neat and careful work. Keep it up Sienna.</p>	<p>Fountains, Mrs Bennison.</p> <p>Sessay Acorn Award – Etta has had a super week! She has worked hard in maths with counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and she has created a beautiful poster about how we can look after our world. Keep up the great work Etta.</p> <p>Headteacher's sticker – Elsie for her super work making her leaf bowl. She listened to the instructions so carefully and really took her time. Well done Elsie.</p> <p>Mathlete - Emmie and Rosalie have worked hard with measuring the temperature of different coloured water and recording their results in a table. Their work was super neat and they also answered some challenging questions about their results. Well done to both of you.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Finlay and Ted have both worked so hard with their writing this week. Finlay has really focused on his spellings and Ted has worked hard using their, there and they're correctly. Well done.</p>
<p>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.</p>	<p>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.</p>

<p>Sessay Acorn Award – Freddie for some great contributions in RE this week and his super illustration of a mosque.</p> <p>Headteacher’s sticker – Charlie for his patience when making his building for the outdoor village in Forest School.</p> <p>Mathlete - Fran for being able to recall lots of facts about time from previous learning as she starts her work on days, weeks, months and years.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Leila for some excellent work in history this week investigating different Greek gods and goddesses – Keep up the good work!</p>	<p>Sessay Acorn Award – Jacob for his enjoyment and challenge at cricket. He developed his skills through the competition taking wickets, fine tuning his communication and really getting stuck into all aspects of the game.</p> <p>Headteacher’s sticker – Connie for helping other pupils in Forest Schools showing great friendship.</p> <p>Mathlete – Henry for his application of knowledge when investigating interior angles of polygons.</p> <p>Writer of the week – Billy for his well-punctuated script writing.</p>
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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 St Cuthbert’s Church at 2.45pm, hosted by Mr Chapman.

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 (i.e. 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.
- **BROMCOM**, our new management information system. Please can everyone ensure they have **downloaded the MyChildAtSchool app (MCAS)**. If you need support in doing this, please pop into the school office on Wednesday 6 May from 3pm.

- **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.
- All our children really enjoyed dressing in red and enjoying a playtime treat for **Comic Relief**. They learnt all about the important work that Comic Relief does in supporting families and communities in the UK and around the world. We raised a fabulous £93! Thank you all for your support.

SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES:

4 May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
6 May	Class photos Bromcom parent support drop in 3pm
11-14 May	KS2 SAT's Week
18 May	Stay and Play 9am-10:30am
19 May	Years 5 and 6 Bradford, City of Culture educational visit
21 May	Y6 Ryedale Literacy Day
22 May	Break up for May half term
1 June	Start of Summer Term 2
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
17 July	2.15pm Leaver's Service at St. Cuthbert's 3.15pm School closes for the Summer Holidays

www.sessayprimaryschool.org