



Growing together in love and learning'
Sessay CE Primary School Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026...

Welcome back to everyone and what a fabulous start to the new academic year! All our children, old and new have settled in so well to their new year groups. It is so lovely as always to see our older children supporting our youngest and the buzz and love of learning fills our school once again after the summer break. Our new **Reception** children have all settled in amazingly! Welcome to our Sessay family!

Hearing the children's summer holiday news has been a joy. Lots of quality time spent with family and friends, attending many local community events and having outdoor fun, enjoying the beautiful weather.

A huge thank you to all of you who supported our **school maintenance morning** last weekend. The school garden and outdoor EYFS area have been cleared for the Autumn and the bark path has been re-laid.



On Saturday afternoon we took part in **All Saint's Church Thirkleby 175 year celebrations** – Songbirds sang beautifully and it was a delight to see the whole school's artwork up around the church. Peter Wright The Yorkshire Vet talked all about his memories of growing up as a child in our local area, we were all entertained by his funny 'out on the farm' stories!



Clubs started last week and have been very much enjoyed by all. Mrs Woodhead's Monday morning running club was well attended as usual and is always a fantastic, athletic start to the week! Sessay Songbirds has welcomed a number of new children to our school choir. Our new football club where we have welcomed coach Graham Woolston had excellent feedback. Mr Shimwell's Multi Skills club was very energetic and great fun as always and our Sessay band has some new members and have named themselves 'Twilight'. Their first rehearsal was brilliant and I can't wait for their first gig date to be announced!



'Twilight'



SEGG



Healthy Schools

On Tuesday all the children met for our first **Pupil Voice Group** session of the academic year. As you know we believe every child has a voice and it is a time where the children work in mixed age groups across the whole school, ranging from our youngest children in Reception right up to year 6, making a difference and contributing to our whole school community.

SEGG had a busy morning tidying up the school grounds. They weeded the beds, swept up leaves and tidied the shed. They then talked about the jobs they would be focusing on this year and made a list.

Epic improvers did a whole school site tour, making observations to see what we need to do this year. We continued with some work that had been started in the garden and then went into class to make a plan of action about what we want to improve. Top of our list is making some more bug hotels for the garden and getting some tables for the garden area so that we can have groups working outside.

Healthy Schools celebrated last year's achievement of achieving the North Yorkshire Healthy Schools Silver award and discussed what needs to be done to go for GOLD this year! They are going to be focussing on Emotional Health and Wellbeing. The children discussed what Emotional Health and Wellbeing is and what we do already to support this. We then started to think of ideas about how we could improve it even further! Watch this space...

Collective Worship group got straight to work planning their whole school collective worship all about this half term's theme Generosity.

The new **MoneyMakers** created posters for our Macmillan bake sale and they also discussed their ideas to raise money for Children In Need in November.

Epic Improvers



Moneymakers



Collective Worship



Yesterday 10 children from Years 1 and 2 attended the **Thirsk Cluster Mult Skills** event. The children completed a circuit of 9 different activities focussing on different skills many including catching and throwing. All the children showed great determination, positive attitudes and teamwork. Much fun was had by all.



Today we are supporting **The Macmillan Coffee Morning, this year in memory of our much loved Mrs Sanderson.** We are wearing green and enjoying a playtime cake. Thank you to all our bakers and thank you for supporting Cancer Research and your donations.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/husthwaite-and-sessay-ce-primary-schools-partnership-11?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

Also a huge thank you to The Olive Blok Village Shop in Helperby who for every cake sold in the shop today have donated 25p to our Macmillan JustGiving page.

Friday 11th September 2026

Byland, Mrs Bennison and Mrs Fielding.

The class have made a super start to term, and thank you to the Year 1 children for welcoming and supporting our new reception children.

Headteacher's sticker - this week the headteacher sticker goes to ALL of our new reception children. They have made such a wonderful start to school life at Sessay. Mrs Fielding and Mrs Bennison are so proud of you all. A BIG well done!

Bolton, Miss Grayson

Sessay Acorn Award – Olivia for demonstrating impressive knowledge of the seasons and world around her in our first Forest School session.

Headteacher's sticker – Hailey for standing out for having outstanding manners and being so polite to her classmates and teachers.

Mathlete – Jessica for leading her team excellently to a very impressive score during a number bonds game/competition.

Writer of the week – Ted for working brilliantly on beautifully presented handwriting.

Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.

Sessay Acorn Award - Alice for a positive start to the year showing excellent focus and being a good role model.

Headteacher's sticker – Uno for his effort and precision during reading practice answering comprehension questions.

Mathlete – Obi for his work on Roman Numerals.

Writer of the week - Cameron for a fantastic description of the BFG.

Friday 18th September 2026

Byland, Mrs Bennison and Mrs Fielding.

Sessay Acorn Award - Lucy is a credit to school and Byland class. She has gone above and beyond to help our new reception children settle into school life. Her kind nature and fun personality has certainly supported their transition into school. Thank you and well done Lucy!

Headteacher's sticker - Lyra has been fabulous in science this week. We are working on animals and classifying them into different groups. She shared her ideas during discussion time and showed great enthusiasm. Super start Lyra. Well done!

Mathlete - Ollie Raven has shown how well he knows numbers. He can recognise numbers to 10 and was so keen to join in all the maths activities this week. A big well done Ollie!

Writer of the week - Sienna has done some beautiful writing this week. We are using the new Year 1 writing books, that have new lines, and Sienna set out her work carefully and accurately. Super writing Sienna!

Bolton, Miss Grayson

Sessay Acorn Award - Rosalie for excellent effort in French and being brave to take part in French conversation in front on the class. Keep up the amazing work, superstar!

Headteacher's sticker – Martha for lots of fantastic contributions during whole class carpet sessions. You are a super listener!

Mathlete – James for an excellent attitude to our maths learning and striving to complete challenge questions. You are working so hard and I am so proud of you!

Writer of the week - Jasper for interesting and thoughtful sentences about our class texts written accurately in the past tense. Well done!

Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.

Sessay Acorn Award - Lily for her effort in each and every subject as well as her kindness towards other.

Headteacher's sticker – Ebony for ensuring her presentation of work across the curriculum is always of a high standard.

Mathlete – Mia for asking questions to help her move her learning on, especially in arithmetic.

Writer of the week – Frankie for his exploration of poetic features in his own composition.

Friday 25th September 2026

Byland, Mrs Bennison and Mrs Fielding.

Sessay Acorn Award - Lara has had an amazing start to Year 1. She has impressed us with how quickly she settles to her work, and she always puts in 100% into everything we ask of her. Keep up the great work Lara – well done.

Headteacher's sticker - Aoife has been such a kind supportive friend to the other children this week. Well done Aoife.

Mathlete - William has impressed us with his work in maths this week, working out missing numbers on a number line and recording numbers as words. He is always keen to challenge himself. Well done William.

Writer of the week - Darcy has worked hard with the formation of our new sounds – s, a, t and p. Great work Darcy – well done.

Bolton, Miss Grayson

Sessay Acorn Award - Jackson for impressing us with your independence this week, especially in writing lessons! We are very proud of you.

Headteacher's sticker - Alfie for super contributions with your fantastic animal knowledge in our science lesson about food chains.

Mathlete - Finlay for impressing us with his excellent effort when completing daily times tables questions.

Writer of the week – Elsie for striving for your writing to be the very best it can be, including using cursive handwriting. Well done, you superstar!

Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.

Sessay Acorn Award - Alex has shown an amazing attitude and great behaviour for learning. He is demonstrating what an organised Year 4 he is becoming. He is also very knowledgeable about the Vikings! Well done Alex, keep it up.

Headteacher's sticker - Poppie for her science work comparing the lifecycles of mammals and amphibians. She is very knowledgeable about living creatures and their habitats.

Mathlete - Rosie for showing perseverance with her maths this week, partitioning numbers to 100,000! She is now confidently using place value to work out calculations.

Writer of the week – Leila has produced some great work using modal verbs to advise about friendships, based on the poems we have been reading.

For your information our Collective Worship Christian value this half term is Generosity. At the beginning of term your child received a school values sheet of ideas in their book bag, should you wish to explore their understanding of this value further at home.

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

Have a lovely weekend.

NOTICES:

- **Communication. Dojo, school admin email and open door policy.** As you know we encourage strong communication between school and home. If you need to contact your child's class teacher please Dojo them a private message, see them before or after school or contact the school office through email or telephone. Staff will respond as soon as possible within school opening hours, 8.30 – 3.30pm. As you know Mr Chapman is our Assistant Headteacher working across both schools in the partnership. Mr Chapman and our senior teachers are in charge in my absence on site at Sessay, please don't hesitate to contact them if they can be of any assistance.
- Being the beginning of the academic year please can we remind all of our **school uniform**.

• <i>School uniform:</i> • <i>Navy sweater/cardigan</i> • <i>White/sky blue polo shirt</i> • <i>Grey or black skirt, trousers or shorts</i> • <i>Grey/white socks or tights</i> • <i>Black sensible shoes.</i>	• <i>PE Kit:</i> • <i>Plain sky blue / white t-shirt</i> • <i>Navy/black shorts</i> • <i>Tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt (for outdoor PE)</i> • <i>Plimsolls / trainers</i>
• <i>Hair: Children with hair below the shoulder must have their hair tied back.</i> • <i>Jewellery:- For safety reasons, jewellery should not be worn in school. If a watch is worn, it is at your own risk. Plain stud type earrings may be worn with pierced ears but must be removed (independently) during PE sessions. This is in line with North Yorkshire County Council's policy.</i> • <i>No nail varnish or makeup.</i>	

We do have some good quality second hand uniform in school for those families that might need this assistance. Please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Lawson in the school office.

- **Playtime snack.** Please can we remind all we constantly promote healthy eating and being a healthy school. All EYFS and KS1 children are given a free piece of fruit / vegetable at playtime which we encourage all to take advantage of. Please can we ask that any playtime snacks brought in from home are of a healthy variety. Water bottles are for water only, no juice please.
- **School Drop Off** Please can we remind everyone that school starts at/registration is at 8.45am. The wooden gates are officially opened at 8.35am and locked at 8.45am/after all school buses have arrived. Any child arriving after 8.45am is recorded as late (L) and if arrives after registration is closed at 9am, is recorded as unauthorised (U).
- Please can we remind all parents and carers that **holidays during term time will be unauthorised** unless they meet the exceptional circumstances criteria which is now more stringent. Please be aware unauthorised absences can result in penalty fines from NYC.
- All school dinners are now ordered on MCAS. As said last term, we would like to remind you a school dinner is £3.85. If you are a household in receipt of Universal Credit you will **qualify for free school meals**, please apply through the application form on the NYCC website as soon as possible: www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals **PLEASE NOTE WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL – due to children / staff with nut allergies.**
- If you are interested in your child starting individual or small group **music lessons**, please use the following link: <https://northyorks.eepos.fi/#/forms/1> Please remember that if your child is currently in receipt of FSM, support with music tuition cost is available.
- **September online safety newsletter for parents.** Please see the September online safety newsletter attached 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.
- We would like to remind you that '**Be Aware**', the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children online knowledge hub with a section for parents is available to all to help prevent and tackle child exploitation. It is all about child exploitation which sadly is happening here in North Yorkshire. The resources and information on this page have been designed alongside parents and carers from across our county to give you the information you need about child exploitation so you can **Be Aware** of the potential risks.
<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/be-aware-parents-and-carers/>

- **SESSAY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL VACANCY** We currently are seeking a SOOSC Play Worker and Midday Supervisory Assistant, if you know of anyone who would be interested in this post please signpost them to our school office for further information.
- North Yorkshire Council has asked us to share the following with you regarding a **SCHOOL TRAVEL CONSULTATION**. Have your say on proposed changes to North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy. Following a Post Implementation Review of the updated Home to School Travel policy introduced in 2024, North Yorkshire Council is inviting views on a number of recommended changes. The consultation is open now and runs until 4 November 2026. The review found that the policy is largely working as intended, helping to create a fairer and more consistent approach to transport eligibility while remaining in line with national guidance and on track to deliver planned savings. It also identified areas where improvements could be made. Executive member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Annabel Wilkinson, said: "We know that school travel arrangements are incredibly important to families and that the changes introduced in 2024 have affected some households more than others. "When the policy changed, we promised to review how it was working in practice and to listen to the experiences of families. "We have carefully considered feedback from parents and carers, schools and other stakeholders, alongside appeals, complaints and operational data. "We would encourage people to take part as this is your opportunity to have your say and help us to shape the future of our home to school travel policy in North Yorkshire." If any recommendations are approved, they would not take effect before September 2027 and will apply to children starting in Reception and Year 7 in September 2028. Families should continue to make school preference decisions based on the existing arrangements while this process is completed. OFFICIAL Eligibility for free travel would continue to be based on a child's nearest suitable school with available places. The review does not propose a return to catchment-based transport eligibility. Find out more about the review and take part in the consultation at www.northyorks.gov.uk/PIRsurvey

AUTUMN TERM DIARY DATES:

30 September	Elevate SEND Parent drop session, 9am with Mrs Logan-Meredith our Elevate Trust SENDCO, Mrs Dagnall our Local Committee SEND / Inclusion lead and Miss Bennett.
6 October	Lions Free Vision Screening
9 October	Harvest Festival 2.30pm
13 October	Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm
15 October	Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm
16 October	FOSS Non uniform day
20 October	FOSS Pumpkin Disco
22 October	FOSS Pumpkin Carving Competition School breaks up for half term
2 November	School opens for Autumn Term 2 Stay & Play 9-10am
5 November	KS1 Thirsk Cluster Fun Run
12 November	KS2 Thirsk Cluster XCountry
13 November	Children In Need
19 November	Curriculum Enrichment Day – PSHE
20 November	Individual School Photos AM
25 November	Year 6 SATS partnership meeting for parents (Teams) 5pm
27 November	FOSS Non uniform day – in lieu of hamper items
2 December	Elevate SEND Parent drop in 2:45pm
7 December	Byland Nativity Time TBC
8 December	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Fair 3pm
11 December	Autumn Mini Report Cards Out
14 December	Stay & Play 9-10am
17 December	Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's Church 2.15pm School breaks up for Christmas holiday