

At Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale Schools we are **KIND**:

Kind and accepting
Independent learners
Never giving up
Determined to be our personal best

Under God's guidance, we teach children the importance of *kindness* towards others, tolerance and mutual *respect*. This empowers children to have the *courage* to achieve their personal best.

Psalm 145:17

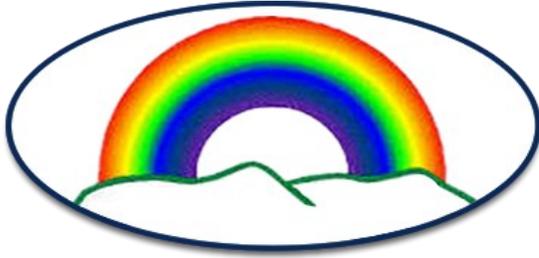
‘The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works’

Luke 2:40

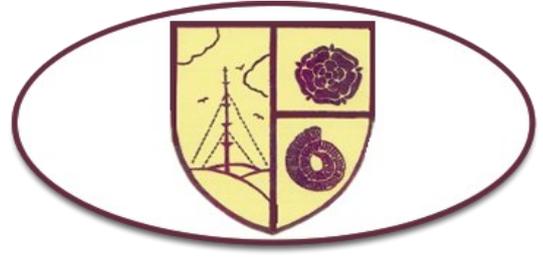
‘And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom...’

We uphold these values through our golden rules:

- Be ready
- Be respectful
- Be safe



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The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale CE Federation Newsletter

Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Things have started to feel Christmassy across the federation this week—both schools have a beautifully decorated tree adorned with decorations made by the children. A big thank you to the Barker family of Chop Gate for their kind annual donation of a tree for each school.

Rehearsals for our nativity play are also in full swing, the schools have been filled with beautiful singing, costume preparation and prop production! If you haven't sent in your child's costume yet please do so ASAP.

Please remember that all children from Reception to Y6 need to be dropped off and collected from Chop Gate Village Hall next Wednesday for the rehearsal day. The performance will take place on Thursday at 2pm—children can be collected for home straight after.

With best wishes for a peaceful weekend,

Mr. M. Scott

Executive Headteacher

Attendance—our whole school target is 96%.

Bilsdale—**92.6%**

Carlton—**94.4%**

National Average—95.4%



Awards

Star of the Week—Ted, Florence, Toby, Lyla, Rory, Aoife, Scarlett S, Zeff, Zara, Lydia, Eve, Sammy, Daisy, Bonnie, Anna, Fonzie, Hugo, Eboni, Arthur, Buddy, Charlie, Rupert, Isabel

Kindness Award— Jasper, Lyla, Ellie, Rocco, Hugo

Handwriting Award—Darcy, Charlie, Penelope, Lydia

Corridor King/Queen— Siena and Beatrix



Awards

TTRS Y3/4 — 1st Beth, 2nd Lucia, 3rd Toby

TTRS Y5/6 — 1st Lauren, 2nd Buddy, 3rd Daisy

Numbots Increase—1st Oscar, 2nd Penelope, 3rd Noah

Numbots Accuracy—1st George, 2nd Scarlett, 3rd Isaac

Vision Award— Louis, Henry, Scarlett S, Zeff, Noah

Headteacher Hot Chocolate— Florence, Ellie, Annie, Daisy



Music of the Week

Next week's music of the week is 'Boléro' by Ravel.



Collective Worship

Why not watch this recorded service to celebrate the second Sunday of Advent as a family—

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGJbGZHoVLI>



Notes

Library

Next Friday, 12th December, is the last library visit for this term. Children will not check out new books, it is a collection only session.



Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for the federation is Matthew Scott. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Bilsdale is Rachel Grundmann and for Carlton is Diane Jeffries. The Safeguarding Lead Governor is John Ford.

If you have concerns about the safety of a child please speak to one of the staff named above. If you have concerns outside of school hours, please follow [this link](#) to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

News from the Classes

Carlton and Bilsdale EYFS

This week we have stepped into Advent and launched our Christmas topic “Sparkle and Shine.” The children have been full of excitement as we begin exploring the story of Christmas, the joy of giving and the ways people celebrate around the world. In RE, the children began by talking about all the different Christmas celebrations the children know. We looked at photos showing how Christmas is celebrated in many ways, both in families and in churches around the world. The children then enjoyed a discussion on why light is such an important symbol at Christmas. We lit a candle and talked about why Christians describe Jesus as the light of the world. Children shared thoughtful ideas about candles helping people to see, light symbolising hope and how light makes us feel warm and safe.

We continued our festive learning by exploring how Christmas is celebrated in different places and cultures. After recapping the Christmas story, we made a list of the children’s own traditions: foods, decorations, activities and special family events. We then watched a video about Christmas around the world and discussed similarities and differences. Children from different backgrounds were encouraged to share their own traditions and celebrations, helping us learn from each other.

The Christmas spirit is truly underway and we will continue to sparkle as stars in the Nativity and our special EYFS Christmas Sing Along! Thank you for your continued support and for sharing in this magical time of year with us. The children are already shining brightly and we look forward to a wonderful Advent season together. If you have family traditions, photos, or artefacts related to Christmas, we would love for your child to share them in class.

News from the Classes

Carlton & Bilsdale KS1

We began our week with Forest School fun, making Christmas trees with willow and wool. The children all showed great perseverance when learning how to do a round and two half hitches and the Birdy knot, lashing together willow sticks to form a frame. Some children progressed onto wrapping wool around their tree-shaped frames, using a variety of colours to begin their Christmas trees. All the children did so well, helping each other, showing patience and determination. The finished products will look amazing!

In maths, we have explored 2D and 3D shapes, understanding what the terms 'side' and 'vertex' mean. Drawing 2D shapes proved incredibly challenging, as the children discovered that to be successful, they needed to be absolutely precise in their positioning of vertices! Again, real determination and resilience was shown by all as they tried their hardest to draw a range of 2D shapes.

In science we have been looking at how we store and display data. What animal has scales and legs? What animal has no fur or hair and not four legs? These were some of the questions the children had to think about when using a Carroll diagram to sort a range of animals into groups based on their physical characteristics. Using a Venn diagram, the children sorted animals into groups of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Our rehearsals for the nativity are ongoing and I am so delighted with how well the children are learning their words. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy weekend to you all and see you on Monday for another very busy and exciting week.

Carlton & Bilsdale KS2

With Christmas activity all around us, we are particularly pleased with how the children have maintained their focus this week. In maths, Y3/4 are midway through their unit on multiplication and division, learning how facts are related and the patterns within the times tables. A reminder that Y3 are aiming to learn 3, 4 and 8x times tables this year whilst Y4 aim to be fluent with all times table facts. Keep practising and using TTRS. Y5/6 have been steadily working on fractions applying their knowledge of equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

This week, there has been a different focus with writing. Bilsdale and Y3/4 have been reading 'Counting on Katherine' gathering information on Katherine Johnson whose work helped to put astronauts on the moon ready for writing a biography. Y5/6 have been honing their journalist skills writing newspaper articles about the moon landing. Lots of editing and redrafting with the children determined to improve their writing.

We cover different RE units. At Carlton, our key question is "Why is pilgrimage important to some religious believers?". After looking at different worldwide places of Christian pilgrimage such as Lourdes in France, Vatican City and Jerusalem, we have been learning about the importance of Hajj for Muslims. As one of the five pillars of Islam, the children have learnt about the different parts of Hajj and the impact of the pilgrimage on Muslims.

Have you ever heard someone say that a person "inspires" them? Inspiring means that someone encourages you to be better, to try harder or to think in a new way. Inspiring people often make us feel hopeful and help us understand the world differently. In RE, Bilsdale have been learning about why Jesus is inspiring to some people, and we have explored several reasons that Christians look to him as an important example. We looked at Jesus' Miracles like calming a storm, healing the sick, and feeding 5,000 people. These show his kindness and his desire to help others. We then asked the question 'What Makes a Good Teacher?' We decided good teachers are patient, kind, fair, and good at explaining things. Many Christians believe Jesus showed all these qualities and taught people through his actions as well as his words. This led us to look at the parables Jesus told, which are stories with important messages and Jesus taught through parables.



Diary Dates

Monday 8th December	Urban Kaos Christmas dance day <u>Bilsdale at Carlton all day—all children in PE kit please</u>	All	Letter sent
Wednesday 10th December	Full day rehearsal at Chop Gate Village Hall	Rec-Y6	Letter sent
Thursday 11th December	Nativity at Chop Gate Village Hall, 2pm Families welcome	Rec-Y6	Letter sent
Thursday 11th December	Little Owls closes at 12pm today	Little Owls	Letter sent
Friday 12th December	Library in—returns only	All	n/a
Friday 12th December	Choir performance and Christmas PTFA event	All	Info. sent
Monday 15th December	Christmas Craft Afternoon Families welcome	Rec-Y6	Letter sent
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas service at Bilsdale Midcable Chop Gate School. Families welcome. <u>Please note: changed from the church to school for logistics</u>	Bilsdale	Letter sent
Tuesday 16th December	Children's work on display in classrooms after school	Rec-Y6	n/a
Wednesday 17th December	Pantomime at Yarm School	Rec-Y6	Letter sent
Wednesday 17th December	Little Owls and Reception Sing Along, 2.30pm	Little Owls and Reception	Letter sent
Thursday 18th December	Christmas dinner and jumper day— <u>Bilsdale at Carlton all day</u>	All	Letter sent
Thursday 18th December	PTFA chocolate raffle draw	All	Info. on newsletter
Friday 19th December	Carol service, 2pm. St Botolph's, Carlton Families welcome	All	Letter sent
Friday 19th December	School closes for Christmas No after school care today	All	n/a
Monday 5th January 2026	Staff training day—school closed for children	All	n/a
Tuesday 6th January	School re-opens for all children	All	n/a
Friday 9th January	Library in	All	n/a
Monday 12th January	Swimming and Clubs re-start	All	Info. to follow

Illness

We have seen a recent spike in children being off school due to illness. While this is expected at this time of year, we'd like to encourage parents to use the guide below, and the information on the link, when deciding if children are too ill for school. While we know children need to properly recover if ill, attendance at school is also very important.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

yes

until...

NHS

CHICKENPOX	At least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING	48 hours after their last episode.
HIGH TEMPERATURE	If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.
IMPETIGO	Their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics.
MEASLES	4 days after the rash first appeared.
MUMPS	5 days after their swelling started.
SCABIES	They've had their first treatment.
SCARLET FEVER	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics.
WHOOPING COUGH	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics.



NO



CONJUNCTIVITIS	You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
COUGHS & COLDS	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.
HAND, FOOT & MOUTH	If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.
HEAD LICE	There's no need to keep your child off school. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing your GP.
THREADWORMS	Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend treatment.
SORE THROAT TONSILLITIS	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.
SLAPPED CHEEK	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

ATHLETICS & FOOTBALL COURSE

**KNAYTON
SPORTSHALL
YO7 4AX**

**£60
PER
CHILD**

Ages 4-11

**STARTS MONDAY 5TH
JANUARY 6PM-7PM
OVER 8 WEEKS**

**Hartlepool UTD footballer and
coach Campbell Darcy & GB
international athlete and coach
glen hilton will be coaching the
fundamentals of football and
athletics**



To book and more info: hiltonglen444@gmail.com

The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale PFA

Presents

Choir Extravaganza

Friday 12th December

Carlton Village Hall

3.30pm

Available to purchase:

Reindeer Food

Mince Pies

Tea/Coffee

Hot Chocolate

Free
Entry



Chocolate Raffle

The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale PFA

welcome donations of Chocolate or Sweets for a Raffle to be drawn on
Thursday 18th December 2025

Please leave your donations at the School Office
Tickets £1 available from the School Office
(please tell us if your child does not eat chocolate or has food intolerances)

CRASH BANG WALLOP YOUTH THEATRE
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



SATURDAY 13TH
DECEMBER
10AM - 3PM

AT STOKESLEY TOWN HALL



*with a
special visit
from
Santa!*

