

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

**K**ind and accepting  
**I**ndependent learners  
**N**ever giving up  
**D**etermined 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

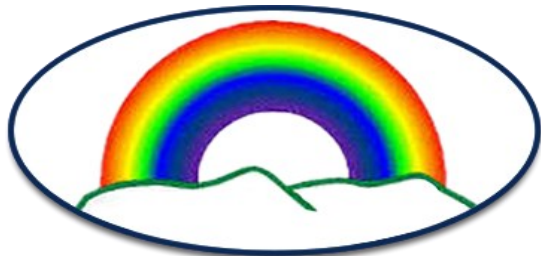
‘The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works’

Luke 2:40

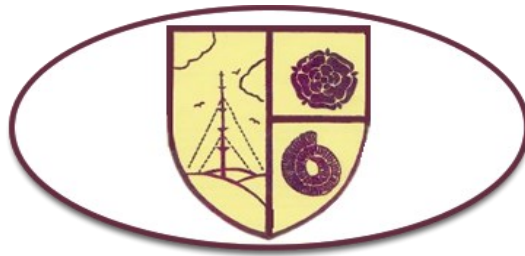
‘And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom...’

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 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy week it's been! Things kicked off on Monday with a visit from the ever-popular Dave from Skip 2B Fit, the children enjoyed their time with him as usual. Thursday saw the return of World Book Day—the children all looked fantastic dressed as red 'Smeds' or Blue 'Smoos' - the whole school enjoyed completing activities linked to Julia Donaldson's 'The Smeds and The Smoos', a story which links perfectly to our vision and No Outsiders.

The week wrapped up with our second annual book fair, thank you to White Rose Books from Thirsk for providing us with this service.

With best wishes for a peaceful weekend,

Mr. M. Scott

Executive Headteacher

Attendance—our whole school target is 96%.

Bilsdale—95.3%

Carlton—**94.2%**

National Average—94.6%



### Awards



**Star of the Week**— Charlie, Miles, Isaac, Eva, Sam, Devon

**Kindness Award**— Aoife, Scarlett K, Willow, Jake

**Handwriting Award**—Charlie, Annie, Lluna, Jessica

**Corridor King/Queen**— Lydia and John

**Spelling Frame**—1st Eliza, 2nd Eva, 3rd Hugo

### Awards

**Vision Award**— Noah, Gene, Zeff, Zara, Isabel

**Headteacher Hot Chocolate**— Rocco, George, Beth, Thomas

### Mathematics Awards

**Numbots**—1st Rocco, 2nd Beth, 3rd Toby

**Y3/4**— 1st Hugo, 2nd Eva, 3rd Devon

**Y5/6**— 1st Sammy, 2nd Jack, 3rd Monty

### Notes

#### Swimming

Reminder—there is no swimming on Monday to allow staff to accompany the children to the choir festival. All KS2 children will have PE all afternoon and should be collected from Carlton.

#### Choir

Those children attending the choir festival will likely return to school at approx. 3.30pm. If you're attending the event you can collect children from the venue at the end. Bilsdale choir children should come to Carlton all day please.

### Collective Worship

A prayer from Collective Worship this week—a teaspoon prayer: Dear Lord, **T**hank you that you offer forgiveness to all, through Jesus. **S**orry for the times when we have been slow to say sorry to others or not quick enough to forgive. **P**lease help us to ask for forgiveness when we make a mistake and to accept and apology kindly. Amen

### 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

### Little Owls and Class 1

We started our week off with a fun and physical Skip2Bfit session with Dave. The children had a great session and enjoyed being active! On Tuesday, we enjoyed reading the story of 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' before learning about the significance of Shrove Tuesday and making our own pancakes. We had so much fun counting how many flips we could all do! The best part of the afternoon was having the opportunity to eat our pancakes.

In phonics this week we have learned two new sounds, th and ng and enjoyed reading Luna's next adventure with a singing sloth. The children were great sound spotters and could identify the sounds within the text.

In maths we have enjoyed working with dominoes and finding more than ten spots and fewer than ten spots - the children all worked so hard in their pairs and impressed Miss Maguire.

We have enjoyed getting used to riding our balance bikes this week and had great fun cycling around the playground in the glorious sunshine! We would like to thank Edward's Daddy and Grandad for building our wonderful bike shed.

A big well done to everyone for a great week of learning in Class 1.

### Carlton and Bilsdale KS1

We have had another busy and fun week of learning in Class 2. The children have discussed the sun, the damage that the invisible ultra violet rays can do to our skin and eyes and how we can stay safe in the sun. They were fascinated to explore the effects of these UV rays on UV beads, watching how they changed colour from white to pinks and purples. After further discussion, the children decided that the beads could keep us safe from harm if we were to wear them as a bracelet, so we would know when to apply sunscreen or find a shady spot when the colours changed.

In Forest School, we enjoyed some sunshine whilst decorating stones with imaginary animals and creatures, adding messages and codes. A fun game was played, helping to consolidate our knowledge of trees and directions.

What a super array of wooden spoon book characters came to visit for World Book Day. The children were so excited to share their creations. We all enjoyed the story of 'The Smeds and the Smoos', finding nonsense words, rhyming words and writing some dialogue between the characters. No matter how different we may be, we can all get along together - a positive message the children took from the story.

### Carlton and Bilsdale KS2

World Book Day saw KS2 diving into the magic of storytelling through two thought provoking texts: 'The Smeds and The Smoos' by Julia Donaldson and 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare. The children took part in engaging activities designed to bring these stories to life. The Smeds and The Smoos, a heart-warming tale of friendship and unity between two very different alien families, inspired children to explore themes of acceptance and diversity. This was demonstrated when the children found out why they were dressed in red and blue.

Meanwhile, Romeo and Juliet introduced KS2 pupils to the world of Shakespeare in an accessible and interactive way. Children explored the themes of love, conflict, and misunderstanding, as they re-enacted key scenes and discussed the characters and the tragic events that unraveled. The children were able to identify the links between Romeo and Juliet and The Smeds and The Smoos. Discussions about the importance of communication and resolution in friendships and relationships made this classic tale feel more relevant than ever. This not only helped encourage a love for literature but also provided valuable lessons about acceptance, relationships, and storytelling. We look forward to many more literary adventures in the future.

### Welcome

A big federation welcome to Miss Maguire who joins us from York St John university as part of her second year teaching placement. Miss Maguire will be working in Class 1 so please feel free to say hello if you spot her around school.

## Diary Dates

Monday 10th March	Shine Schools Festival	Choir	Letter sent
Monday 10th March	No swimming today	KS2 swimming group	n/a
Thursday 13th March	Carlton children visiting St. Botolph's church for Collective Worship	Carlton	n/a
Friday 14th March	Whole school movie night. <b>No choir or quiz club tonight</b>	Rec-Y6	Letter sent
Thursday 20th March	Red Nose Day	All	More info. to follow
Friday 21st March	KS2 trip to Sunderland Empire	KS2	Letter sent
Friday 21st March	Library in school—KS2 please leave books for returning in school on Thursday 20th	All	n/a
Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	R-Y6	Letter sent
Friday 28th March	Open Door Art workshop	All	More info. to follow
Friday 28th March	Eco-Church Waste 2 Art entries back to school by today	All	Info. on newsletter
Monday 31st March	No swimming today	KS2 swimming group	n/a
Friday 4th April	Easter service at St Botolph's, Carlton—2pm.	All	More info. to follow
Friday 4th April	Break up for Easter— <b><u>no after school care today</u></b>	All	n/a
Monday 21st April	Bank Holiday—school closed	All	n/a
Tuesday 22nd April	Staff training day—school closed to children	All	n/a
Wednesday 23rd April	Children return to school for summer term	All	n/a

### Quiz competition

A big well done to Rory, Sammy, Jake and Jack who took part in the Quiz Club online national heats yesterday—we were competing against different schools from around the country, many of them independent schools. The boys represented our federation brilliantly and finished with a respectable score of 830 points.



### Thank you

A big thank you to some staff and their families for lots of help around school over the last few weeks—to Mr and Mrs Cawthra for spending time assembling our new balance bikes and to Mr Swales for creating a bespoke Chromebook charging and storage unit.



## Skip 2B Fit



## Bikes

Class 1 were delighted with our new delivery of balance bikes and put them to good use immediately! This investment will ensure that children develop good gross motor skills which are key to balance, co-ordination and beginning to form the fine motor skills required for writing.





## World Book Day

A big well done to all who decorated their wooden spoons as different book characters for our World Book Day competition, they were amazing! Mrs Read and Mrs Myers had the difficult job of choosing winners—congratulations to Penelope and Arthur who each won a £10 book token, kindly donated by NYES Catering.

Well done also to Rory, Bea, Beth and Lydia who were awarded a certificate for a highly commended entry.





## Shrove Tuesday

Class 1 explored Shrove Tuesday earlier this week, they had lots of fun! Thank you to parents who sent in pictures of their pancake creations from home, they looked delicious.





## Reading at Home

With yesterday being World Book Day, it seems like a good time to remind everyone of the importance of reading at home. While hearing your child read their school book is important, reading to them for pleasure is equally important. Why not take some time this weekend to dig out some old favourites and read them with your child—giving them the time to read what they like is the key to the start of reading success.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

## 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

## 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

## 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

## 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

## 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

## 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

## 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

## Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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## Food safety

Please consider food safety when preparing packed lunches, particularly around choking hazards. Foods such as grapes must be cut in half lengthways to prevent choking. This is good practise for all children in school, not just EYFS.



# Early years choking hazards food safety advice

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**For babies and young children, food can be a choking hazard, especially when they do not chew their food well or they try to swallow it whole.**

Choking can happen with any foods, but 'firm foods', bones and small round foods that can easily get stuck in the throat present a higher risk. Therefore, care givers should follow these five essential steps:

- 1** Make sure food is **suitably prepared and served** for babies and children under 5 years old. For suitable foods, see <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/> Introduce babies to solid foods from around 6 months of age.
- 2** **Think about size, shape and texture of food.** Cut food into narrow batons, avoid round shapes and firm foods. Firm fruit & vegetables can be softened by cooking.
- 3** Ensure that babies and young children are **alert and seated safely upright** in a highchair or appropriately sized low chair whilst eating.
- 4** **Babies and young children should be supervised at all times** while eating. You will be able to identify the early signs of choking and prevent harm.
- 5** **Encourage babies and young children to chew food well.** Teach children how to chew and swallow food properly, and ensure they take their time during meals. This will reduce their risk of choking.

**Care givers and parents should be familiar with how to respond to a choking incident** in line with guidance on first aid for children:

**How to stop a child from choking:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/>

**How to resuscitate a child:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>



## Eco Church Spring Challenge

The Eco-Church group are running a new competition for Spring:



- Create a piece of art from waste materials such as egg boxes, newspaper, cardboard packaging, fabric etc.
- Base your artwork on an eco-theme, such as nature, oceans, rivers, farming, energy—there is loads of choice!
- If using card or paper it must be no larger than A3.
- Entries must be back to school by **Friday 28th March 2025.**

