

2nd February 2026

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and friends,

We have just about dried out after a very soggy week last week but in true Moorside style.... Forest School still went ahead and the children had lots of fun carrying out their outdoor learning, whilst slipping and sliding in the mud!! In fact, Year 1 made use of the very wet weather for their Science investigation, which involved finding out which materials are waterproof.....!



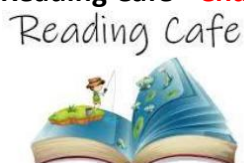
The storm on Tuesday didn't stop our Year 5 children from making it to Ripon Cathedral for The Holocaust Memorial Service. They all represented our school with Moorside pride and enjoyed meeting Rabbi Perez where they shared their RE knowledge about the Jewish faith.



Month of Reading Madness

Please keep sending your 'I spy you Reading' photos into school.... they can be sent to the admin email. We will judge the winning photo on Friday this week!

Reading Café - **Change of Date!**



Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change the date of our Reading Cafe this week - it is now on **Thursday 5th February at 3.20pm** in the hall. We hope you can still make it! Apologies for those of you who now have a clash with another activity!

Attendance

Our attendance last week was 95.01%.....!! We are always aiming for 96% and above, so getting into school on time ready for the register and only taking time off in term time when absolutely necessary is so important! Well done to Year 3 for achieving 100% last week..... we would love to see more classes 'in the green' next week!





w/c	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
05.01.26	92.9%	97.5%	97.7%	94.4%	95.8%	95.3%	97.3%
12.01.26	96.4%	99.6%	94%	96%	96.3%	92.1%	98.3%
19.01.26	100%	94%	93.53%	95.5%	95.19%	95.86%	100%
26.01.26	93.21%	95.60%	95.24%	100%	93.33%	92.07%	95.65%


Internet Safety is always a priority in school but it is even more-so at the front of our minds with Internet Safety day coming up on Tuesday 10th February and Children's Mental Health week from 9th – 13th February. Please see the flyer outlining the links between social media and mental health and appropriate actions below. All social media sites have a minimum age restriction of **at least 13** so primary age children **should not** have their own accounts.



- **Use parental controls:** parental controls can filter content, limit screentime, manage contacts and prevent purchases. Set them up in multiple places: Home broadband/Wi-Fi, mobile networks, phone and tablet settings, and console, game and social apps.
- **Set clear family rules:** agree on when and where phones can be used (e.g. no phones at bedtime or during meals). Create a family agreement covering screentime, app downloads and online sharing.
- **Teach privacy basics:** show children how to keep their profiles private and turn off location sharing.
- **Encourage open conversations:** talk regularly about what apps they are using and who they interact with.
- **Check apps and age ratings:** only download apps from official stores and review age ratings for games and social media platforms.
- **Stay updated:** regularly update phone's software and apps for security and use strong passwords and two-factor authentication where possible.
- **Prepare for emergencies:** teach children how to use emergency numbers and SOS features.




 NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL


 YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY



Money Adventure with Yorkshire Building Society


Book your children onto this fun, confidence-boosting session on smart spending with Yorkshire Building Society.


-  Learn the difference between needs and wants
-  Learn how to handle wants they can't yet afford
-  Learn how to stay in control of their choices



perfect for ages 7-9

Wednesday 18th February, 10.30-11.30am
Free! I Bookings Essential



 **SAVINGS**

ripson.library@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 936623

In this session, children learn the key difference between needs and wants and put their decision making skills to the test as they prioritise what really matters. They'll explore what to do when they spot a 'want' they can't yet afford... and how to stay in control of their choices. A fun, confidence boosting journey into smart spending!

A nature-themed storytime delivered by the brilliant gardeners from Fountains Abbey! Free – everyone welcome! (booking essential). Bring your little ones for a fun and engaging session filled with stories inspired by the outdoors, curious creatures, and the beautiful landscapes cared for by the Abbey's gardening team.

Friday 20th February from 10.30 - 11.30am at Ripon Library'

A vibrant, hand-drawn style poster for a children's storytime event. At the top, the text 'Storytime' is written in a large, pink, cursive font. Below it, 'AT RIPON LIBRARY' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'with the Gardeners of Fountains Abbey!' is written in a pink, cursive font. A paragraph of text in the center reads: 'This is a chance for children to learn about one of Yorkshire's most iconic landscapes and connect with the natural world with the people who nurture it every day.' To the left of this text is a location pin icon followed by 'RIPON LIBRARY'. Below that is a calendar icon followed by 'FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY'. At the bottom left is a clock icon followed by '10.30am - 11.30 am' and 'Booking essential'. The background features a cartoon illustration of Ripon Cathedral in the center, with a green hill and trees behind it. In the bottom right corner, there is a pink book character with a face and a green book character. The top right corner has logos for 'NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL' and 'National Trust'. The bottom of the poster has a pink banner with the text '©WAG 534623 Ripon Library/norththinks and'. There are also small pink heart icons in the top left and middle right.

Also.... **Don't forget that Sporting Influence are at Moorside** for all of half term week delivering high quality wrap around care with great sporting activities and lots of fun!! To book.... All you need to do is visit: <https://sportinginfluence.com/login>.

As always, if you have any questions about the above or anything that's happening in school, please get in touch with us via the school office - we are always pleased to help. I hope that you all have a great week ahead.

With very best wishes,



Mrs Rowett
Headteacher

Diary Dates:

Thursday 5th February 2026	Reading Café at 3.20pm
w/c 9 th February 2026	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	Safer Internet Day
Friday 13 th February 2026	Break-up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Children Return to School after Half Term Holidays
Wednesday 25 th February 2026	Year 3 and Year 4 Dance Festival
Thursday 26 th February 2026	Tell a Fairy Tale Day
Wednesday 4 th March 2026	Year 1 and Year 2 Dance Festival
Thursday 5 th March 2026	World Book Day
w/c 9 th March 2026	British Science Week
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 3 and Year 4 Trip to the Yorkshire Museum
Friday 27 th March 2026	Break-up for Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April 2026	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 14 th April 2026	Children Return to School After Easter Holidays



I Spy You Reading Competition

Our I Spy You Reading Competition is back by popular demand! You are once-again challenged to read in the most strangest places! We are always surprised by your imagination and cannot wait to discover this year's weird and wonderful reading spaces! Please send your photographic evidence to admin@moorside-pri.n-yorks.sch.uk

The most imaginative will win a prize! 🏆



Growing a Love of Reading Tree

Children in each class will vote for a reading recommendation weekly to add to our 'Growing a Love of Reading Tree' which will be in our school entrance. This visual representation of our reading throughout school will help children to find new reading ideas to love!



National Year of Reading 2026

A Month of Reading Madness!

On Tuesday 6th January 2026, Moorside Primary School and Nursery is launching its 13th annual Reading Extravaganza!



Malala (World Date) - "Some books are the treasure chests - the more you read, the more you find inside."

The Ultimate Character Champion Battle

During the week commencing 12th January, all children in school will take part in THE ULTIMATE CHARACTER CHAMPION BATTLE where they will engage in **debates** with their classmates to persuade them why their chosen character is the BEST! The winner from each class will once again battle it out in a special assembly to crown...

Moorside's 2026 Ultimate Character Champion!



Complete a Reading Passport: Reading what you love!

To start the Month of Reading Madness, we are launching our Reading Passports to help you enjoy reading more of what you love. These passports can be completed throughout the year and signed by adults at home or school. All completed passports will be placed a grand prize draw at the end of the year.



Poetry Performances

Class Performances To round off the month of Reading Madness – the children in each class will work together as a class team to learn a poem 'off-by-heart.' Each class will **perform** their poem during a special assembly on **Friday 6th February**.



Do you know the minimum age restrictions on social media platforms?



X



Whatsapp



TikTok



Pinterest



Snapchat*



Facebook



Twitch



YouTube*



Instagram*



Discord

13



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so entrails young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56086005>
<https://ipr-social.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/>

NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



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